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DISCIPLINE
OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA

ORIGIN AND CHARACTER

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

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

§3. The most extensive prior separation took place in Michigan, which resulted in the organiza-
tion of a Conference, but they united in the general organization at Utica, hereafter mentioned, and formed the basis of what is now the Michigan Annual Conference. The first Wesleyan church which was organized as a part of the present Connection, was in Providence, R.I.

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

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

8. It will be seen by the candid reader that the system of government is essentially republican, and is conformed to the Scriptures and primitive usages, in all fundamental matters—under such modifications in what is merely prudential, as are demanded by the circumstances of the times in
which we live. For amplitude of provision to meet all the exigences of an ecclesiastical organization—and for simplicity, rendering it easy to be comprehended, it is believed this little book stands unrivaled.

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

THE CHURCH
SECTION I. ARTICLES OF RELIGION.
SECTION II. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES.
SECTION III. CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY LAW.
SECTION IV. GENERAL RULES.
SECTION V. SPECIAL RULES.
SECTION VI. ORGANIZING CHURCHES.
SECTION I
ARTICLES OF RELIGION

I. Faith in the Holy Trinity

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

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

II. The Son of God

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

Mark 15; Luke 1:27, 31, 35; John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 17; Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:10, 18; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:18, 19; Gal. 1:4; 2:20; 4:4, 5; Eph. 5:2; 1 Tim.
III. The Resurrection of Christ

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

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

IV. The Holy Ghost

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

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

V. The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation

The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures, we do understand the canonical books...
The canonical books of the Old Testament are:

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


VI. The Old Testament

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

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

VII. Relative Duties

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

Lev. 19:18, 34; Deut. 1:15, 17; 2 Sam. 23:3; Job 29:16; 31:13, 14; Jer. 21:12; 22:3; Matt. 5:44-47; 7:12; Luke 6:27-28, 35; John 13:34, 35; Acts 10:34, 35; 17:26; Rom. 12:9; 13:1, 7, 8, 10; Gal. 5:14;
ARTICLES OF RELIGION

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

VIII. Original or Birth Sin

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

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

IX. Free Will

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

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

X. Justification of Man

§17. We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not our own works or desertings: Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a
most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.
Acts 13:38, 39; 15:11; 16:31; Rom. 3:28; 4:2-5; 5:1, 2, 9; Eph. 2:8, 9; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 11.

XI. Good Works

§ 18. Although good works, which are the fruit of faith and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins and endure the severity of God's judgment, yet they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.
Matt. 5:16; 7:16-20; John 15:8; Rom. 3:20; 4:2, 4, 6; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 1:11; Titus 3:5; James 2:18, 22; 1 Peter 2:9, 12.

XII. Sin After Justification

§ 19. Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore repentance is not denied to such as fall into sin after justification; after we have received the Holy Ghost we may depart from grace given and fall into sin, and by the grace of God rise again to amend our lives. And, therefore, they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.
Psa. 32:5; 95:7, 11; Eccl. 7:20; Jer. 3:13-15; Matt. 24:12; John 5:14; Gal. 5:4, 7; Eph. 5:14; Heb. 3:7-13, 15; James 3:2, 8; 1 John 1:8, 9; 2:12; Rev. 2:5.
XIII. Regeneration

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

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

XIV. Entire Sanctification

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

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

XV. The Sacraments

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

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


XVI. Baptism

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

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

XVII. The Lord's Supper

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

§ 18
XVIII. The One Oblation of Christ Finished Upon the Cross

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


XIX. The Rites and Ceremonies of Churches

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

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

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

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


XXI. The Resurrection of the Dead

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

Job 19:25-27; Psalm 17:15; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 20
ARTICLES OF RELIGION


XXII. The Judgment of Mankind

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


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

APPENDIX B

The Reaffirmation of the Doctrines of Our Faith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7th. We reaffirm our faith in the creation of man by the immediate creative act of God, according to the Bible narrative, and not by the process of evolutionary transition from a lower order of animalism to his present physical and intellectual condition;
8th. We reaffirm our faith in the doctrine of the fall of man from that holy state in which he was created, to his present sinful and depraved state, "and of his own nature is inclined to evil and that continually";

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

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

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

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

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

§ 36. The pastoral or ministerial office and duties are of divine appointment; and all elders in the Church of God are equal; but ministers are forbidden to be lords over God's heritage, or to have dominion over the faith of the saints.
¶ 37. The Church has a right to form and enforce such rules and regulations only as are in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, and may be necessary or have a tendency to carry into effect the great system of practical Christianity.

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

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

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

I. Constitutional

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

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

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

3. (a) The right of the churches to receive and expel or discontinue members of the same, is constitutional. That is to say, no pastor or any officer of the church has a right to receive or discontinue a member of the church. It must be done by the action of the church, except where members join another church, or other religious body exercising the functions of a Church, or a secret society. In all such cases their own act separates them from the church, provided that they have been labored with as required by the Discipline, Paragraph 402; in that
case no vote is necessary, and the chairman of the church simply states the facts, and the secretary or leader will write opposite the name of said member the words, "Withdrawn by having joined another religious body."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE NATURE, DESIGN AND GENERAL RULES OF OUR UNITED CHURCHES

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

¶ 44. This was the rise of the Wesleyan Societies in Europe, then of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. Such churches are no other than companies of persons having the form and seeking the power of godliness,—united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.
\[45\] That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each church is divided into smaller companies called classes, according to their respective places of abode. In ordinary cases there should be about twelve or fifteen members in a class, one of whom is styled the leader, whose duty it is to hold with them a weekly meeting to inquire how their souls prosper, and to advise, reprove and exhort, as occasion may require.

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

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

The taking of the name of God in vain.

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

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

The buying or selling of men, women, or children, with an intention to enslave them, or holding them as slaves, or claiming that it is right so to do.
Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother, returning evil for evil, or railing for railing.

The using of many words in buying or selling. 
Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation.
Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us.
Doing what we know is not for the glory of God, as—
The putting on of gold and costly apparel.
The taking of such diversions as can not be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.
The singing those songs or reading those books which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God.
Softness or needless self-indulgence.
Laying up treasures upon earth.
Borrowing without a probability of paying, or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

§ 47. It is expected of all who continue in these churches that they should continue to evidence their desire for salvation:
Secondly, by doing good, by being in every kind merciful after their power, as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible to all men.
To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison.
To their souls, by instructing, reproving or exhorting all we have any intercourse with, trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine that “we are not to do good unless our hearts be free to it.”
By doing good, especially to those who are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing
SECTION IV

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

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

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

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

The public worship of God.
The ministry of the Word either read or expounded.
The Supper of the Lord.
Family and private prayer.
Searching the Scriptures, and fasting or abstinence.

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

SPECIAL RULES

I. Dress and Furniture

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

§ 51. Question 1. Should we insist on the rules concerning dress?
Answer. By all means. This is no time to give encouragement to superfluity of apparel. Therefore, let none be received into the church until they have left off the wearing of gold and superfluous ornaments. In order to this:
(1) In visiting the classes be very mild, but very strict.
(2) Allow of no exempt case; better one suffer than many.

§ 52. Question 2. Should we insist on plain dress?
Answer. Certainly. We should not on any account spend what the Lord has put into our hands, as stewards, to be used for His glory, in expensive wearing apparel, when thousands are suffering for food and raiment, and millions perishing for the Word of life. Let the dress of every member of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection be plain. Let the strictest economy be used in these respects.
§ 53. And we do not only enjoins on all who fear God plain dress, but we would recommend to our preachers and people, according to Mr. Wesley's views, expressed in his sermon on the "Inefficiency of Christianity," published but a few years before his death, and containing his matured judgment, distinguished plainness; plainness which will publicly commit them to the maintenance of their Christian profession wherever they may be.

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

§ 55. Question 3. Should our furniture, as well as our dress, be plain?

Answer. By all means. Let the strictest economy be observed in both. Let no expensive furniture or high-priced carriages be used by Wesleyan Methodists, while there is a single individual for whom Christ died, hungry or naked, or without the Word of Life. And let the same principle of saving all we can, that we may have to give to those who need, govern us in renting or building houses to live in.
11. Special Rules

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

Isa. 3:16-24; Ezek. 13:18; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

II. Secret Societies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We believe that law must be an adjunct of moral means in order to suppress the traffic side of this evil. We believe that the State and the citizen each have solemn responsibilities and duties to perform in regard to this evil. We believe that for the State to enact any law to license or tax the traffic, or derive revenue therefrom, is contrary to the policy of good government, and brings the State into guilty complicity with the traffic and all the evils growing out of it, and is also unscriptural and sinful in principle, and ought to be opposed by every Christian and patriot. We therefore believe that the only true and proper remedy for the gigantic evil of the liquor traffic is its entire suppression; and that all our people and true Christians everywhere should pray and vote against this evil, and not suffer themselves to be controlled by or support political parties which are managed in the interest of the drink traffic.

Prov. 4: 14-17; Isa. 5: 11-23; 28: 7, 8; Matt. 21: 12, 13; 1 Cor. 5: 11-13; Eph. 4: 27, 28; James 4.
§59. Question. Have we any direction to give concerning the use of tobacco?

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

§60. We will not receive any person into full membership in our churches who use tobacco; nor will we receive as licentiates or ministers, nor will we ordain or license to preach, or exhort, persons who use tobacco. Using tobacco by a member of a church or of an Annual Conference after being received, from this date on, is a violation of the law of the Church, and the offending party should be dealt with according to the Judiciary Rules.
SECTION VI

THE CONSTITUTION, ORGANIZATION, RECEPTION AND POWERS OF CHURCHES

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

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

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

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

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

Question 1. Do you cordially accept our articles
of faith and our Church polity as the exponent of your faith and rule of conduct?

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

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

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

Answer. I will.

The elder will say:

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

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

§ 65. The person organizing the same shall report that fact to the President of the Conference within whose bounds said church is organized. If the President of the Conference, his Advisory Board concurring, receives the same he shall declare it a Wesleyan Methodist church and report that reception to the person organizing the same, and said
report shall be made a part of the records of said church. The President shall also report his act of reception to the next session of the Annual Conference, the same to be made a part of the records of said Annual Conference.

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

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

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

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

§ 70. The churches shall have power to receive members on confession of faith who have been baptized, or on certificate or other satisfactory evidence that they have been baptized members in good standing in any other Christian Church; provided, that they are satisfied with the Christian experience of the candidate; but no church shall be compelled to receive members on certificate from any source.
Each church shall at the time of election of Church officers (§ 165, sub-paragraph 4) elect a Church Advisory Committee of not less than three persons, of which the pastor shall be chairman ex-officio, the duties of which shall be:

1. To examine all candidates for church membership and to report to the church, and no church shall by vote receive a person to membership until said person has been examined by this committee and recommended as a suitable person to be received.

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

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

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

Question 1. Have you the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God?
Question 2. Have you the witness of the Spirit that you have been made perfect in love? If not, will you diligently seek this grace?

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

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

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

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

Being received they shall be addressed as follows:

Covenant

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

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

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

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

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

Covenant for Those Uniting on Certificate

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

[Members of the church here arise.]

Response of the Church

We, the members of this church, do cordially receive you as brethren and sisters beloved to our communion and fellowship, and promise to walk with you in love, and watch over you, to instruct, counsel,
admonish and cherish you, with all long-suffering, gentleness and love.

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

§73. The churches may admit to associate relationship persons who give affirmative answers to the following questions:

Question 1. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Question 2. Will you earnestly endeavor to govern your life by our General Rules?

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

§74. Each church shall have a book of records kept by a clerk appointed by the church, in which all the names of the members shall be recorded, the time when received, and whether by letter or on profession of faith; also all withdrawals, dismissals, expulsions, and deaths occurring during each conference year; also a record of all baptisms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

§81. When any member joins another church, or other religious body exercising the functions of a church, or a secret society, no trial or vote is necessary to remove them as members, for the act of joining said religious body or secret society severs their membership. The chairman of the church meeting, after stating the facts, simply authorizes the name to be marked, "Withdrawn by reason of having joined another body."

§82. In all cases of discontinuance the reason for the same must be recorded opposite his or her name.

[Note.—For correct forms of church letters see blank forms in end of this book.]
PART II
OFFICIAL BODIES
SECTION VII. THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.
SECTION VIII. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
SECTION IX. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.
SECTION X. THE BOOK COMMITTEE.
SECTION XI. THE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.
SECTION XII. THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.
SECTION XIII. MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.
SECTION XIV. SUNDAY SCHOOLS.
SECTION VII

THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

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

§ 84. There shall be four regular sessions of the Quarterly Conference held each Annual Conference year, at such time and place as the Quarterly Conference shall determine; provided, that special sessions may be called by the pastor, or by any three members, by giving due notice of the same.

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

§ 86. The Quarterly Conference at its first session of each Conference year shall elect a Committee on Pulpit Supply, each member of which shall continue in office until his successor is elected. If the charge consists of more than one church an equal number of the committee shall be elected from each church. In case of the resignation or death of the pastor this committee with the aid and consent of the President of the Conference and his Advisory Board shall secure a pastor for the remainder of the year. If the pastor does not desire to serve the charge as pastor longer than the present year he shall communicate the same to the Committee on Pulpit Supply not less than sixty days before the next session of the Annual Conference. In case the pastor does not wish to serve the charge for another year, no vote shall be taken as to retaining said pastor. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Pulpit Supply, not less than forty-five days before the next session of the Annual Conference, to ascertain by ballot the desire of the charge of retaining the present pastor, provided said pastor has not given notice as above. Notice of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken shall be given at least two weeks before the vote is taken, a majority vote of those who are present and vote to constitute a call. The committee at its earliest opportunity shall communicate the result of the ballot to the pastor, who, if called, shall reply within one week. When a church or charge shall find it necessary to call a new pastor, the pulpit supply committee shall confer with the President of the Annual Conference who shall furnish
it with the names of known available men. The pul­
pit supply committee shall not propose to the church
or charge the name of any elder or Annual Confer­
ence preacher who is not a member of the Annual
Conference in which the church is located, except
by the consent of the president of the said Annual
Conference and his advisory board. (See paragraphs
130 and 132, sub-paragraph 2.) The church shall
select by ballot, at a meeting announced for said pur­
pose, some one to whom the Pulpit Supply Commit­
ettee shall extend a call on behalf of the church. This
committee shall report to the church the result of
said call; and if it has not been accepted, the church
shall again ballot upon likely candidates, and the com­
mittee shall communicate with the next preacher who
may be called as before described. The actions of
this committee in all business transacted must be sub­
mitted to the church or Quarterly Conference for ap­
proval or disapproval before they become binding,
unless authority to take final action in any specific
manner is given to the committee by the church or
Quarterly Conference.

¶ 87. Where a church or charge judges it best to
waive their rights in selecting a pastor, in such
cases it shall be left to the Annual Conference to ap­
point a pastor for said church or charge, and when
so appointed said pastor shall be received by the
church or charge the same as if they had voted for
said pastor.

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

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

A request for a license to preach or exhort shall be referred to the Church Advisory Committee and pastor for consideration in accordance with Paragraph 71, sub-Paragraph (3), of the Discipline before being granted by the Quarterly Conference or church.

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

Do they know God as a pardoning God?
Have they the love of God abiding in them?
Do they desire nothing but God?
Are they holy in all manner of conversation?
Have they gifts as well as grace for the work?
Have they in some tolerable degree a clear, sound understanding, a right judgment in the things of God—a just conception of salvation by faith? And has God given them a good degree of utterance? Do they speak correctly, readily and clearly?

Have they fruit? Are any truly convinced of sin and converted to God by their labors?
THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE ¶92

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

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

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

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

¶92. Any local preacher who has been recommended as a suitable person to study preparatory to traveling under the direction of an Annual Conference, when employed by the Annual Conference, shall receive a license from said Annual Conference and shall be amenable to said Annual Conference the same as an elder for his official conduct. But no license shall be issued by the Annual Conference to any one who is not appointed to pastoral or definite evangelistic work. All licenses issued by the Annual Conference shall be good for one year only. This
§ 93. Every local preacher shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference of the church where he holds his church membership for his official character, unless he sustain a pastoral relation to another charge by Annual Conference appointment, or has been appointed to definite evangelistic work by the Annual Conference. In such case he shall be amenable to the Annual Conference that gives him employment.

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

§ 95. Every local preacher must have his license renewed once each year, but a recommendation to the Annual Conference need not be renewed so long as the local preacher is not returned to his Quarterly Conference, as above mentioned.
§ 96. The Quarterly Conference shall inquire into the character and usefulness of local preachers and exhorters, and may admonish them, and take away their licenses; or it may renew them each year, when it shall judge their gifts and usefulness justify a renewal. The taking away of a license shall not forfeit their membership in the church, without a charge and conviction of crime, according to our Judiciary Rules.

§ 97. Treasurers of the various departments of church work on a circuit or station shall report in full concerning receipts and disbursements of funds connected with their respective departments, at the last Quarterly Conference of each Annual Conference year.

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

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

§ 100. Each church shall elect by ballot a board of trustees of not less than three in number, whose duty it shall be to secure and hold church property
according to the provisions of the Discipline and laws of the respective states and territories. But the use of the church for religious meetings shall not be withheld from the pastor in charge, or from members, or from class leaders of said church, by said trustees. Where the law of the state or territory permits, all trustees shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. They shall serve for three years, one or more being elected annually (so that the term of all will not expire at the same time), or until their successors are elected; but when any trustee shall cease to be a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church he shall cease to be a trustee, and another person shall be elected to fill the vacancy.

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

§ 102. Stewards. Each pastoral charge shall elect not less than one or more than six stewards. Where a number of churches constitute a pastoral charge the Quarterly Conference shall determine the number of stewards each church shall have, but each church
shall elect its own steward or stewards. In cases where a pastoral charge shall consist of more than six churches, each church shall be entitled to at least one steward. The stewards shall be a Standing Committee of Ways and Means, and shall agree with the pastor on the necessary amount for his support, except in cases where this sum is stipulated when the pastor is engaged. They shall not hold nor sanction the holding of church fairs, festivals, play-parties or other unscriptural methods to raise funds for the support of the gospel, or for the erection of church buildings. Any church, or member thereof, whether lay member, licentiate or elder, who shall attempt to, or succeed in raising means by the above or any other unscriptural methods, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor.

§ 103. The pastor shall call a meeting of the stewards to be held on the day and the place of the first Quarterly Meeting of each Annual Conference year, one hour before the commencement of the regular Quarterly Meeting services. It shall be the duty of the pastor and each steward on the charge to be present at this meeting. The amount of the pastor's salary shall be fixed at this meeting, if it has not been agreed upon at the time of his engagement. The amount being agreed upon the stewards shall at this meeting apportion to each appointment, according to their best judgment, the proportion of the salary it shall raise. The stewards shall, through their Secretary, whom they shall elect to keep a record of all their doings, report the proceedings of this meeting to the Quarterly Conference for its sanction, or if the
charge consists of a single church, a report shall be made to the church. It shall also be the duty of the stewards at each appointment to labor diligently to secure the payment of the pastor's salary in full.

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

1. There shall be a fund for the indigent and sick, to be under the charge of each church for its own needy, or for the needy of the other churches, when three-fourths of the church raising the fund shall vote to so apply it. And when there are no indigent or sick, the funds may, on such vote, be applied to other benevolent purposes.

2. One of the stewards of each church shall be designated by said church as treasurer, to hold and pay out said funds as directed by the church.

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

§ 106. In addition to having charge of the finances of the churches, the stewards shall make all necessary provisions for the administration of the Lord's Supper.

§ 107. Class leaders shall be elected by the classes, by a majority of votes, and may be changed as often as the class shall judge necessary. But it is recommended that there be an election of class leaders as often as once a year.

§ 108. It shall be the duty of each class leader to meet his class once a week, in order to instruct the members in the principles and duties of Christianity;
to comfort them in affliction; to advise them in cases of difficulty, and to exhort them to diligence, and perseverance in doing and suffering the whole will of God.

Each leader shall have the names of all the members of his class entered in a book, kept by him for the purpose, in which he shall note weekly the presence or absence of each member.

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

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

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

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

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

109. (1) Open with prayer.
(2) Reading of minutes of last session.
(3) Hear and act upon reports of committees.
(4) Hear the reports and examine the character of preachers and exhorters, and renew or take away licenses. Quarterly Conference preachers and exhorters shall be examined and required to report their work at each Quarterly Conference during the year.
(5) Grant licenses to preach and exhort.
(6) Recommend suitable licentiates to the Annual Conference, to study or to be employed under its direction.
(7) Hear the reports of the leaders.
(8) Hear the report of the stewards and adjust the finances.
(9) Miscellaneous business.
(10) Determine the time and place of the next session, except when the Annual Conference authorizes the president or evangelist to arrange the time for holding the quarterly meeting.
§ 110. In order to prevent trouble and provide against debt, it shall be the duty of each church or Quarterly Conference, when it is contemplated to build a house of worship or parsonage:

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

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

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

(4) To secure three-fourths of the amount estimated for said building before letting of any contract; and to build no house of worship or parsonage on any leased ground.

(5) The plans for building churches or parsonages, including location and cost, it is advised, should be submitted to the Conference Board on Church and Parsonage Building and Location and approved before proceeding with the work.

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

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Membership—Organization—Duties

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

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

¶ 113. Every charge or circuit shall be entitled to a lay delegate to the Annual Conference. If the charge or circuit has for its pastor either an elder or conference preacher of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and one or more elders not on the unstationed list reside on the charge or circuit, not sustaining pastoral relations to any other charge or circuit, the charge or circuit shall be entitled to an additional delegate for each elder thus described.—In every case lay delegates to the Annual Conferences must be elected to an Annual Conference of which the church forms a part; and where delegates are
electing to an Annual Conference on account of elders who are not pastors, said delegates must be chosen in the Annual Conference of which the elder on whose account they are chosen is a member. In case said elder resides without the bounds of any circuit in the Conference, his delegate shall be elected from the church of which he is a member.

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

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

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

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

§ 118. The lay delegate to the Annual Conference shall be elected by ballot, by a majority of all the members of the church or the churches who shall attend and vote. No elder or annual conference
§ 119. The election shall be held within three months of the next session of the Annual Conference, and when the charge consists of more than one church it shall be held at the time and place of the fourth Quarterly Conference.

Election of delegates to General Conference. See Section IX.

§ 120. The conference shall elect by ballot a president and vice-president who shall be elders, and shall also elect by ballot a secretary, who shall record the proceedings and the statistics in a book to be kept for such purpose, and shall forward the same to the General Conference: and shall also elect by ballot a board of trustees of not less than five, two of whom shall be laymen, whose duty it shall be to receive, and hold, and dispose of all property within the bounds of the conference, according to the provisions of the Discipline and the directions of the conference unless otherwise provided for by State law. They shall serve for three years, one or more being elected annually (so that the term of all shall not expire at the same time), or until their successors are elected; but when any trustee shall cease to be a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church he shall cease to be a trustee, and the vacancy shall be filled according to provisions in Paragraph 121.

§ 121. The Annual Conference shall also appoint a committee of five persons, three ministers and two lay members, whose duty it shall be to appoint a President in case the office becomes vacant, by death,
resignation, or otherwise, of the President and the Vice-President; also fill vacancies in any Annual Conference office or standing committee, and trustees where the state laws permit.

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

§ 123. Where a number of persons desire to be organized into a Mission Annual Conference they shall meet and all sign a petition for such an organization, and forward the same to the Book Committee. If the Book Committee through its Executive Board judge that the prospects of an organization justify the action it shall instruct the Home Missionary Secretary, or some other competent person, to visit said petitioners and examine said applicants; and if in his judgment a Mission Annual Conference can be organized on a permanent basis he shall report all the facts to the Book Committee or the Executive Board. The persons desiring to be organized shall send a petition signed by the President and Secretary of said organization with his report to the Book Committee or Executive Board.

(1) The Book Committee, or Executive Board, if it deem it wise to do so, shall declare the organization a Mission Annual Conference; and as such it shall become eligible for admission as an Annual Conference by the next session of the General Conference.
Said Mission Annual Conference shall petition the General Conference to be admitted, and it shall set forth in said petition all the preceding facts. Said petition shall be signed by the President and Secretary of said Mission Annual Conference. If the General Conference does not grant said petition, then said organization shall remain a Mission Annual Conference under the care of the Home Missionary Secretary, until such time as the General Conference sees fit to admit it as an Annual Conference.

(2) The proceedings of the Book Committee, or Executive Board, in the above matter shall be presented to the next session of the General Conference by the Home Missionary Secretary, and as such be subject to its approval or rejection. Provided, the General Conference shall have original jurisdiction in all such cases.

(3) A conference organized in the interim of General Conferences shall be known as a Mission Annual Conference. A Mission Annual Conference is a conference that is under the direction of the Parent Mission Society, through the supervision of the Home Missionary Secretary.

(4) The General Conference or the Book Committee may make any conference of less than 500 in membership a Mission Annual Conference.

§124. The Annual Conference shall have power to elect to the office and work of an elder suitable persons from among those who have been traveling under its direction, provided they have been recommended by the Committee on Itineracy and Orders, after it shall have by examination been satisfied that
the candidates possess such literary attainments, Christian experience and ministerial gifts, as qualify them for the office and work of an elder; provided that the candidates shall have been traveling as pastor, assistant pastor, or conference evangelist under the direction of the Annual Conference for two years, and shall have passed a satisfactory examination upon the four years' Course of Study adopted by the General Conference. And it shall inquire into the ministerial character and usefulness of each member. Each Annual Conference shall certify in particular in the case of the transfer of a conference preacher as to his standing in the Course of Study, and as to the time he has served as a pastor, if at all; and it shall be unlawful for an Annual Conference to ignore such a certificate in determining the eligibility of a conference preacher to election to Elders' Orders.

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

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

§127. The Annual Conference shall elect a committee on Itineracy and Orders, the chairman of which at the first election shall be chosen for one year; the second member for two years, and the third member for three years, and the fourth member for four years, and thereafter their successors to be elected yearly for the full term of four years. The President of the Annual Conference may also appoint three lay members each year as members of said committee. This committee shall examine the candidates, who may appear before it from year to year, upon the studies prescribed in Section XIX of the Discipline and report such examinations to the Conference, recommending suitable candidates to be received to study or to travel; and it shall also recommend for ordination such persons as have satisfactorily completed the Course of Study required by the Discipline, subject to the conditions named in Paragraphs 124 and 369.

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

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

§ 130. All ministers and conference preachers who are laboring under the direction of an Annual Conference shall be at liberty to enter into engagements to serve any church or churches for one year, from the next session of the Annual Conference; and it shall be the duty of all ministers, conference preachers and churches, having entered into such engagements, to report the same to the Annual Conference at its next annual session.

§ 131. The Annual Conference shall not interfere with such engagements except for justifiable cause, growing out of the fault of one or both of the parties. The justifiable causes are defined as follows: If the Conference judges that the agreement entered
SECTION VIII

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

(2) No Wesleyan Methodist church shall be permitted to call or employ, as pastor or stated supply, any elder, Annual Conference preacher, or Quarterly Conference preacher who is not a member of the conference in whose bounds said church is located, without consulting with the conference president and his advisory board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 138. The Annual Conference shall have power to adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote its own interests and prosperity; provided, it shall not contravene any Disciplinary regulation established by the General Conference; and all rules and resolutions adopted by an Annual Conference shall continue in force until the Annual Conference shall amend or rescind such rules or resolutions. If three members of an Annual Conference shall take exception to its action on the ground that it violates...
this restriction, the exceptions shall be entered upon the records of the Annual Conference and a true copy of the action complained of shall be sent to the next session of the General Conference for review.

§ 139. The Annual Conference shall obtain answers in writing to the questions given below, blanks for that purpose being furnished by the Publishing House and kept in hand by the Conference Secretaries. In the case of pastors these blanks shall be signed by both the pastor and the circuit delegate. In other cases the blanks shall be signed by the minister alone. These filled blanks duly signed shall be passed to a committee which shall be appointed by the conference early in its session, of which committee the President of the Conference shall be ex-officio the chairman, with whom there shall be associated one elder and one lay member. This committee shall examine all of these reports; and all of them which are found regularly filled out and properly signed and show that the work reported has been done according to the Discipline shall be marked passed and returned to the person having signed it. When the name of the member is called he shall read his statistical report and in connection with it shall state that he has passed in the examination of his character and at the same time make a brief statement of his religious experience. Any of the reports which show that the answers are irregular or the work assigned has not been performed according to the Discipline, shall be marked accordingly and when the name is called and the statistical report is read the member shall report wherein he has failed and it shall require a vote of the conference to pass his character.
§ 140. All complaints against ministerial members of the Annual Conferences shall be made in writing and shall be placed in the hands of the Conference President not later than the first day of the conference session and shall be referred to this committee on examination of character, and when the differences cannot be adjusted between the accuser and the accused by this committee, the case shall be reported by the committee to the conference to be taken care of in the regular way. The President shall state when a name is called whether there is or is not anything against the character of the Brother, according to the facts in the case.

§ 141. Questions to be answered:

1. In case of conference preachers. Did your last Quarterly Conference pass your character and renew your license?
2. Did you have a work assigned you at the last session of this Annual Conference?
3. How soon after the last session of this Annual Conference did you enter upon the work assigned you?
4. Have you continued upon that work during the Annual Conference year?
5. Have you faithfully sought by example and word of mouth to lead the people into the experience of Regeneration, and the experience of Perfect Love, or Entire Sanctification, as a second definite work of grace subsequent to Regeneration, according to articles 13 and 14 in our Articles of Religion?
6. Have you faithfully tithed your income during
the Annual Conference year, and have you presented that subject to your congregations?

(7) What is the present condition of the work?

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

(9) (a) Have you faithfully presented the subject of Missions and Education on your charge? (b) Did your charge elect a Missionary Board? (c) Did your charge meet its financial obligations to the Connection as defined in Paragraph 378? (d) Is there any territory within the bounds of your work that you consider a good field for missionary work? (e) Of how much of this work can you take charge?

(10) Have you taken offerings on your charge for the support of superannuated ministers?

(11) Have you sought to promote the interests of Sunday schools, and to urge upon them the use of our Sunday-school literature?

(12) Have you labored diligently to circulate our books and to place the Wesleyan Methodist in the homes of all the families of the church, and are you ready to hand over to your successor the names of all those who take the Wesleyan Methodist on your charge with the post office addresses of the same?

(13) Have you a copy of the resolutions of this conference, and have you complied with the requirements of each of them? (The conference shall through its Secretary supply each stationed minister with a copy of its resolutions.)
§ 142. All ministers not sustaining a pastoral relation shall answer the questions in sub-paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14.

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

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

§ 145. There may be in each Annual Conference a fund to be known as The Annual Conference Fund, which shall be for the use of the Annual Conference in carrying on its work, and the conferences shall have the right to adopt such methods for securing this fund as may be best adapted to each conference,
provided neither the Word of God nor the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church be contravened. There shall also be an annual offering, or it may be made oftener if desired, in each church and all other scriptural means employed for securing missionary funds in accordance with the section of the Discipline on missions. There shall also be a separate offering taken for educational purposes; and whenever the Publishing Association through the Book Committee shall deem it to be for the good of the cause a special offering shall be asked for that work. In all of the foregoing the pastors of the churches shall be the responsible agents of the various corporations to preach upon and disseminate information and receive offerings as above indicated, except in such conferences as may appoint some special person to do such work.

§ 146. There shall be a fund in each Annual Conference for the support of superannuated ministers, their widows and orphans, to be distributed equally, or according to necessity, by each Annual Conference at its annual sessions. Each Annual Conference shall appoint a responsible treasurer to take charge of said funds, and pay them out on its order signed by its President and Secretary. It is expected that every member of our churches will contribute at least one penny a week to this fund.

The President

§ 147. The President of an Annual Conference is elected from among the elders, by ballot, by a majority of votes, and holds his office one year. It is his duty to preside in the sessions of the Annual Con-
ference as moderator, unless the Connectional Representative has been invited by the Conference to perform these duties; to decide all questions of law and order, subject to an appeal to the Annual Conference, to preside in the meetings of the Committee on Pastoral Relations; to employ and change preachers with the consent of the churches and preachers; and also receive ministers from other denominations during the interval of the sessions of the Annual Conference, subject to the action of the ensuing session of the Annual Conference, at which he shall refer the names of all such ministers to the Committee on Itineracy and Elder's Orders for examination and recommendation as per paragraph 127 and 171.

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

§ 149. The President shall be amenable to the Annual Conference for his official conduct. His decisions on points of law and order made between the sessions of the Annual Conference shall be final, until the next session of the Annual Conference, to which appeal may be taken.

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

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

**Elders**

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

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

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

155. When an elder takes work in another Annual Conference than the one of which he is a member his Conference membership shall be transferred to the Conference where he has taken work.

156. An elder may remove his ministerial membership from one Annual Conference to another, by a letter of standing or transfer from the President of his Conference, certifying to his good standing at the
§ 157. No letter of standing, dismissal, or transfer shall be granted to any elder, or Conference preacher, by an Annual Conference, or the President thereof, except the applicant shall present a written statement from the Agent that no unpaid obligations are owing the Publishing Association or which are unprovided for.

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

§ 159. Members of one Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference who desire to join some other Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference shall not be received without proper credentials.
§ 160. Every Wesleyan Methodist elder must be a member of some Wesleyan Methodist church and Annual Conference. If said elder takes a letter of dismissal from the church, or declares that he has withdrawn from the Church, or leaves for parts unknown, without letting the Church know where he is, then the Annual Conference at its next session, when such facts are known, shall declare said elder withdrawn from the Conference, and may publish that fact in the Church paper. When an elder surrenders his parchments, it will be lawful to publish the fact in the papers that he or she is not an elder in the Wesleyan Methodist Connection. An elder receiving a letter of dismissal with recommendations as is provided for in Paragraph 433 of the present Discipline does not affect his standing in an Annual Conference, unless he fails to use it in joining some other Wesleyan Methodist church. If he joins some other church he should at the same time take a letter of standing from the Conference of which he is a member, and failing to do so, shall be marked withdrawn, as is provided for in Paragraph 134.

§ 161. An elder holding a letter of standing must be able to show by the written statement of the President of his Annual Conference that his character was passed by the Annual Conference at its last annual session in order to make his letter of standing valid to date. When a member of an Annual Conference asks for a letter of standing and declares in writing that he intends to withdraw from the Annual Conference, it shall require a vote of the Annual Conference from which he withdrew to reinstate him.
§ 162. A pastor is an elder, or a conference preacher, who has charge of a particular church, or a number of churches connected as one pastoral charge.

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

§ 164. Pastors should be elders; but local preachers may, in case of necessity, sustain the relation and perform the work of a pastor. When they do sustain said relation by an Annual Conference appointment, the conference shall issue them a license showing their appointment to said work, and their authority to preach. It is desired that local preachers shall be employed as assistants under the charge of an elder.

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

1. To meet the stewards and leaders as often as necessary.
2. To hold love-feasts.
3. To hold quarterly meetings.
4. To call a meeting of each church on his pastoral charge within thirty days of the next session of the Annual Conference, for the purpose of revising
the roll of membership of the same, and the election of church officers, standing committees (except Pulpit Supply Committee, as provided for in paragraph 86), stewards, class leaders, and church clerk. The term of these officers shall expire at the date of the Annual Conference.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(12) To communicate to the Home Missionary Secretary the names and addresses of any of his members who may have moved out of contact with a Wesleyan Methodist Church.
(13) To enforce vigorously but calmly all the rules of the Connection.

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

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

**Evangelists**

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

(2) (a) Conference Missionary Boards and Committees on Elder's Orders should use great care in the selection of evangelists: (1) As to their soundness in doctrine; (2) Their record in this field of activity; (3) Their moral character.

(b) Each evangelist should be required to give a complete statistical report of his work to the Annual Conference to which he belongs according to the following plan:

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

(3) The Annual Conference may appoint evangelists to travel within its bounds, or such portions thereof as it shall designate. Any annual conference so desiring may require the Conference President or evangelists engaged in quarterly meeting work to preside at Quarterly Conferences.

General Evangelists

§ 167. The Annual Conferences shall assign to general evangelistic work only such elders as in their judgment are properly qualified for general evangelistic work, and behind whom the Annual Conference places its endorsement for such work. General evangelists are required to hold at least two evangelistic meetings during the year, if they are continued to be listed as general evangelists. General evangelists should not organize churches or missions outside the bounds of the conference in which they hold their membership, without the consent and approval of the Home Missionary Secretary or the Connectional Missionary Society. And further, general evangelists shall be required to report their work done during the year to their respective Annual Conferences.

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

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

**Connectional Evangelists**

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

**Annual Conference Preachers**

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

(2) When a Conference preacher is employed as a pastor he shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference in the election of all Annual Conference officers and delegates to the General Conference, and other business, excepting in the election to Elder's Orders, and the passing of the character of Elders where a vote is required, and in the election of committees affected by the same. If, at the end of one year he is continued in said employment and has passed two more books on the Course of Study, the President of the Conference shall authorize him to administer the sacraments. Where the law of the State permits, any person employed and authorized as above described shall be permitted to solemnize matrimony while so employed and authorized. The authorization of an Annual Conference preacher, as described above shall not apply to an assistant pastor, and shall cease at any time when the holder thereof shall fail to pass two books of the Course of Study each year, and in no case shall such authority be continued to any individual for more than seven years.

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

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

§ 172. Whenever any minister is received he shall be furnished with a certificate, signed by the President, in the following words, namely:
This is to certify that ——— has been admitted by ——— Conference as a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, he having been ordained according to the usages of the Church of which he has been a member and a minister.

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

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

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

Special Session

§ 175. The president of an Annual Conference shall call a special session when a petition to call the same is presented to him signed by two-thirds of all the pastors of said Annual Conference. It shall meet at the place selected for the next annual meeting, or at any place selected by the president and his advisory board, if it is better to do so. Said call must define the business to be transacted, and no business not
Section VIII

Stated in the call shall be transacted at the special session. When a special session is called the churches or charges must elect delegates in the same manner as is provided for regular sessions.

Statistics

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

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

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

Pastor's Labors. Item I

Time employed (months) .................................. 
Appointments ................................................ 
Number of Church Societies ................................ 

Periodicals. Item II

Wesleyan Methodists taken ................................. 
Missionary Magazines taken .............................. 
Young People's Journals taken ............................ 
Wesleyan Lesson Helps taken:
  Sunday School Banner ...................................
  Junior Class Paper ........................................
  Children's Friend ........................................
  Teachers' Quarterly ......................................
  Senior Quarterly .........................................
  Intermediate Quarterly ...................................
  Junior Quarterly .........................................
  Primary Quarterly ........................................
  Home Department Quarterly ..............................
  Lesson Leaflets .......................................... 
  Our Little Folks Cards ..................................
  Bible Lesson Chart ......................................

Membership. Item III

Received ....................................................... 
Expelled ......................................................
Discontinued ................................................
Died ............................................................
Granted Letters ............................................
Number reported last year ............................... 
Present number ............................................

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Loss .........................................................
Gain .........................................................
Number of members under 14 years of age .........
Associate members ....................................
Baptized ....................................................
Unstationed Elders .......................................
Local Preachers .........................................
Membership Tithing ......................................

Sunday Schools. Item IV
1. Number of Sunday-schools ....................... ...........................
2. Whole number of officers ...........................
3. Whole number of teachers ...........................
4. Whole number in the main school ............... ............................
5. Total number in Sunday-school .................. ............................
6. Average attendance .....................................
7. Number of scholars in Home Department ....... ............................
8. Number on the Cradle Roll ...........................
9. Total number in the Sunday-school ............. ............................
10. Number of scholars converted ....................
11. Number of scholars joining the church ......... ............................
12. Number of departmental superintendents ..... ............................
13. Number in the Teacher Training Course ....... ............................
14. Number of organized classes .....................
15. Number of books in library ....................... ............................
16. Number of Wesleyan Young People's Societies
17. Total membership of Societies ............................

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### SECTION VIII

**Church Property. Item V**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Church Buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of Indebtedness</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash or other values on hand</td>
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</table>

**Amount Contributed. Item VI**

**For Pastors:**
- Salary: $  
- Parsonage Rent: $  
- Marriage and Funeral Fees: $  
- Gifts: $  
- Total Pastor's Receipts: $  

**Amount Contributed. Item VII**

**For Churches:**
- Conference President's Salary: $  
- Conference Evangelists' Salary: $  
- Other Evangelistic Help: $  
- Sabbath School Expense: $  
- Building and Repairs: $  
- Incidental Expenses: $  
- Total for Churches: $  

**Amount Contributed. Item VIII**

**For Benevolences:**
- Undivided Budget: $  
- Home Missions: $  

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Foreign Missions ............... $...
Education ......................... $...
Conference Work .................... $...
Superannuated Ministers' Fund .... $...
Connectional Sunday-school Work ... $...
Orphanage .......................... $...
Other Benevolent Objects .......... $...

Total for Benevolences ........... $...

Totals. Item IX

Total for Pastors ................. $...
Total for Churches ................. $...
Total for Benevolences ............ $...
Total for All Purposes ............ $...

Budget. Item X

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<td>$...</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Missions</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Conference</td>
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Total ......................... $... $...

This Budget agrees with my books.

.............................. Conference Treasurer.
Table of Information, Showing Sources and Distribution of Benevolences.

**Item XI.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Description</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>Y. M. W.</th>
<th>W. H. S.</th>
<th>W. Y. P. S.</th>
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<td>Specially for Japan</td>
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<td>Orphanage</td>
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<td>Other Benevolent Objects</td>
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</table>

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

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

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

Item II. Be sure to ascertain accurately the number of Wesleyan Methodists taken on the circuit, as well as the number of Wesleyan Lesson Helps used.

Item III. In making out the report on membership, the Loss or Gain is the difference between the Present Number and the Number reported last year, and this Loss or Gain should balance with the numbers Received, Expelled, Discontinued, Died, and Granted Letters. If there has been a gain, cross out the word "Loss;" if there has been a loss, cross out the word "Gain."

Item IV. "Number of Scholars Converted" does not mean the number who are Christians, having been converted some time, but the number converted during the past year. "Number of Scholars Joining Church" means the number who have joined during the past year. "Number of Departmental Superintendents" includes the Superintendents of special Departments such as Home Department, Cradle Roll, Mission Department, Temperance Department, Primary Department, etc., but excludes the Main Superintendent. These officers are included in line 2; but line 12 is for special information.

Item V. In giving the value of buildings and parsonage, would it not be wise to have the trustee appraise the property at its present value and not repeat the old figures year after year?

Under the head of "Cash or other values on hand" may be recorded the total value of money on hand for the enlargement or improvement of the church or parsonage, and such other items as the money invested in a church or parsonage lot and building material.
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Item VI. "Salary" should not include anything for Parsonage Rent. If the Circuit furnishes a Parsonage, the rent should be estimated according to the local conditions.

Item VII. All pastors of conferences that do not pay the Conference Presidents or the Conference Evangelists a salary may leave the first two lines blank. "Other Evangelistic Help" should include all that the circuit pays for Evangelistic Help, or outside Pulpit Supply of any kind except any part that has been paid for President's or Conference Evangelist's salary. "Sabbath School Expenses" includes all the Sabbath School pays for their own expenses, but does not include anything the schools pay for outside objects, such as Missions, Education, Sabbath School Extension, etc. Any thing of this kind should be included under "Benevolences."

Item VIII. "Benevolences" should include all that is contributed for any other purpose than Pastor or Local Church. In each line should be placed all that is contributed for that object from all sources combined. Therefore this item includes all that is contributed to these various objects by the Sabbath School; by the Y. M. W. B.; by the W. H. & F. M. S.; and by all other sources. This item also includes all that is contributed to these objects whether it will count on the Budget or not, therefore it includes principal on notes paid during the current year as well as interest, also clothing, produce, books, or anything else that is given as a benevolence. However a very conservative estimate should be made on all that is not cash.

Under "Undivided Budget" include all cash that is contributed from any source and sent to the Conference Treasurer as Undivided Budget. Under "Home and Foreign Missions" include all that is contributed from any source for Home and Foreign Missions. This of course includes all that is given for Missions in general, and all that is given specially for Africa or India, or Japan. It does not include anything included under "Undivided Budget" or "Conference Work." Under "Education" include all that is contributed from any source for Education, not included in "Undivided Budget." Under "Conference Work" include all that is contributed from any source for any branch of Conference work.
except "Superannuated Ministers' Fund," not included in "Undivided Budget." Conference Missions should be included with "Conference Work," not under "Home Missions." Under "Superannuated Ministers' Fund" include all for that special object. Under "Other Benevolent Objects" include all that is contributed from any source for any benevolent object other than the objects already mentioned.

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

Item X. The Budget Item must not be filled out till the Pastor reaches conference and consults the Conference Treasurer. It will then include the parts from Item VIII which can be counted towards the Budget, and which the Pastor has paid to the Conference Treasurer in cash or for which he can show or has sent the Conference Treasurer a receipt. All money paid for current expenses of the Educational work or for the current expenses of the Missionary work, either home or foreign, and pledges and interest (but not principal) paid for these purposes, and all money paid by the Sabbath School, the Y. M. W. B., or the W. H. & F. M. S. for these purposes may count toward the Budget. Before the report is finally handed in, it must receive the signature of the Conference Treasurer indicating that the Budget Item is correct according to his books.

Item XI. This table of information includes exactly the amounts of Item VIII properly distributed, with the sources indicated. The dotted lines indicate the distribution and the columns indicate the source. "Other Sources" include everything not contributed by the Sabbath School, by the Y. M. W. B., or by the W. H. & F. M. S. "Undivided Budget" and "Education" are explained in Item VIII. Under "Missions Undivided" include all that is contributed for Connectional Missions, without specifying whether it is for Home or Foreign Missions. Under "Home Missions" include all that is given specially for that object. Under "Foreign Missions" include all that is contributed for Foreign Missions, without specifying whether it is for Africa or India. Under "Specially for Africa" and "Specially for India" include all that is given expressly for these objects. Under "Conference Fund Undivided" include all that is contributed for Con-
SECTION VIII

Conference Work, without specifying to what branch of Conference Work it is given. Under "Conference Missions," "Conference Incidental Fund," "Church Extension," and "Superannuated Ministers' Fund" include all that is expressly given for those objects. Under "Other Benevolent Objects" include all benevolences that are contributed for any other purpose than those mentioned.

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

13. How is the work supplied?

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

15. Who are the Conference Officers?

President ..................................................
Vice-President ...........................................
Secretary ..................................................
Sunday-school Secretary ..............................
Treasurer ................................................

Signed .................................................

Secretary.

Boundaries of the Annual Conferences

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

¶ 179. Allegheny Conference shall comprise all of the State of Pennsylvania lying west of a line running due south from the western border of Tioga County, except the counties of Potter, Cameron, Elk, and McKean; and that portion of Eastern Ohio included within the following boundary: Beginning at the east corner of Columbiana County and extending west
along the south boundary of Columbiana and Stark Counties, then north along the west line of Stark and Summit Counties to south line of Cuyahoga County, thence east with said south line to Cuyahoga River, thence north with said river to Lake Erie.

\[180.\] The California Conference shall comprise the State of California.

\[181.\] The Canada Conference shall comprise the Dominion of Canada.

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

\[183.\] Dakota Conference shall include North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

\[184.\] India Mission Conference shall include all of our work in India.

\[185.\] Indiana Conference shall comprise the state of Indiana, except that part of Indiana which belongs to the Kentucky Conference, also Will, Kankakee, Iroquois and Vermillion Counties of Illinois down to the Wabash Railway running through Danville, Illinois, to Hannibal, Missouri.

\[186.\] The Iowa Conference shall comprise the state of Iowa, the state of Minnesota, and the state of Nebraska, except the southern tier of counties, and include that part of the state of Illinois north of the Wabash Railway running from Danville, Illinois, to
Hannibal, Missouri, except the counties of Will, Kan­kakee, Iroquois and that portion of Vermillion County north of the Wabash Railway running through Dan­ville to Hannibal, Missouri.

§ 187. The Kansas Conference shall include the States of Kansas and Missouri, and the boundary between the Kansas and Iowa Conferences shall begin at the northeast corner of Nemaha County in Nebraska, thence west to the east line of Fillmore County, thence north to the northeast corner of Fillmore County, thence directly west to the east line of Colorado, then south to the northwest corner of Kansas.

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

§ 189. The Lockport Conference shall be bounded as follows, viz.: Beginning on Lake Ontario at the northwest corner of Monroe county; thence south and east along the west and south boundaries of Monroe County to the Genesee River; thence following said river in the direction to include Mount Morris; thence southeast along the canal to the village of Dansville; thence along the dividing line between Steuben and Allegany Counties to the Pennsylvania line; thence west along said line to the southwest corner of Chautauqua County; thence north along
west line of said county to Lake Erie; thence along said lake, Niagara River and Lake Ontario to place of beginning. Said Conference shall include Potter, Cameron, Elk and McKean Counties of Pennsylvania.

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

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

§ 192. The North Carolina Conference shall comprise the State of North Carolina, except Jackson and Macon Counties, also include the State of Virginia and also the counties of York and Marlboro of the State of South Carolina.

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

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

§ 195. The Ohio Conference includes all the State of Ohio not included in the Allegheny, Michigan and Indiana Conferences.

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

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

§ 198. The Rochester Conference shall be bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of Jefferson County, following along the northern boundary of said county to the east line of Herkimer County, thence south along its eastern boundary to the southwest corner of Hamilton County, thence along a direct line to the eastern boundary of Madison County, thence following along the western boundary of Otsego and Delaware Counties to Susquehanna County, Pa., including said county, and also Sullivan, Bradford and Tioga counties in the State of Pennsylvania, and that part of the state of Pennsylvania not included in other conferences; and also that part of the state of New York west of the east boundary line before mentioned and not included in the Lockport Conference.

§ 199. South Carolina Conference shall include the State of South Carolina except York and Marlboro counties; it shall also include Jackson and Macon counties of North Carolina.
§ 200. The South Georgia Conference shall comprise the State of Georgia south of a line beginning at West Point, Georgia, and running east to the state line, and also the State of Florida.

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

§ 202. The Tennessee Conference shall comprise the State of Tennessee.

§ 203. Tennessee Conference (colored) shall comprise the States of Tennessee and Alabama.

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

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

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

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

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

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

(2) The expenses of the delegates-at-large to the General Conference shall be borne proportionately by the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, and the Wesleyan Methodist Pub-
lishing Association of America, the exact amount to be determined by the Book Committee.

\[ \text{\S} 209. \text{Each Annual Conference shall be entitled to send one elder and one lay member for every five hundred church members, or major fraction thereof within its limits; the basis of computation for such representation shall be the statistical reports from the various charges of the members in full connection on said charges at the last session of the Annual Conference preceding the sessions of the General Conference; provided, that no conference shall be deprived of one ministerial and one lay delegate, provided also that any Annual Conference holding its session within sixty days of the date of the opening of the coming General Conference may elect its delegates at the previous annual session.}\]

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

\[ \text{\S} 211. \text{The General Conference shall meet quadrennially on the fourth Wednesday in June at such place as it shall from time to time select.}\]

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

§ 213. The General Conference shall elect for the quadrennial term by ballot a President, and two Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be a lay member; it shall also elect a Secretary.

§ 214. Decisions on points of law made by the President in the interim of the sessions shall be the interpretation thereof unless disapproved by the Board of Review and General Conference.

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

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

§ 217. The General Conference shall elect by ballot the Connectional Editor, Connectional Agent, Connectional Foreign Missionary Secretary, Connectional Home Missionary Secretary, and Connectional Sunday School Secretary.

(1) The term of office of these Connectional
officers shall begin the fifteenth day of August following the General Conference at which they are elected; but the term of office of the members of the Book Committee shall begin with the rise of the General Conference at which they are elected.

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

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

§ 219. Nevertheless, upon the concurrent recommendation of two-thirds of the members of the several Annual Conferences who shall vote on a proposed change, and the concurrent vote of two-thirds of all the members of the local churches who shall vote on the same, then the next session of the General

*This rule has never been and can never be lawfully interpreted as giving the remotest encouragement to such an intermingling of the races as will lead to or encourage inter-marriage.
Conference may, by a concurrent vote of two-thirds, ratify the same, and it shall become law; and also when the General Conference shall originate and recommend any alterations or constitutional amendments, as soon as two-thirds of the members of the several Annual Conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, and also two-thirds of the laity shall have concurred as before provided, then the same shall become law. It is herein also provided, that all persons who are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection who have not voted on the question in an Annual Conference shall be eligible to vote when the vote is taken in the churches.

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

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

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

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

THE BOOK COMMITTEE AND THE BOOK CONCERN

§ 221. The General Conference at its quadrennial session shall elect a Book Committee consisting of seventeen persons, namely: The Connectional Editor, the Connectional Agent, the Connectional Foreign Missionary Secretary, the Connectional Home Missionary Secretary, and the Connectional Sunday-school Secretary, who shall be members ex-officio; and twelve other persons, six of whom shall be elders and six lay members, three from each school district.

§ 222. This Committee shall be the Board of Managers of all the Connectional Societies, now incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, with offices located at Syracuse, N. Y., said societies now consisting of the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America, the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, the Wesleyan Educational Society, the Superannuated Ministers’ Aid Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America. The Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America is managed by five trustees, who must reside in the State of New York, and shall be subject to the supervision of the Book Committee as is herein afterwards specified.

The duties of said Book Committee are hereby defined as follows:

§ 223. At its first meeting after being elected, it shall elect a President, Secretary, and Executive
Board, consisting of five members. It shall meet annually at Syracuse, N. Y., and as much oftener as the President or any three members of the Book Committee shall deem necessary, provided that it shall be legal on the year of the General Conference for it to meet at the place of the General Conference. Notice of all meetings shall be published in the Wesleyan Methodist, and also be given in writing to the various members of the Committee where they cannot be notified in person by the President or members of the Committee calling said meeting. It shall have power to fill all vacancies and shall, if reasonably practicable, elect some one to represent the district from which the vacancy comes.

§ 224. It shall determine the salary of the Connectional Editor, the Connectional Agent, the Connectional Foreign Missionary Secretary, the Connectional Home Missionary Secretary, the Connectional Sunday School Secretary, and the salaries of all other persons whom it may employ.

§ 225. The Book Committee shall have power to remove the Connectional Editor, the Connectional Agent, the Connectional Foreign Missionary Secretary, the Connectional Home Missionary Secretary, the Connectional Sunday School Secretary, and all other persons whom it may have employed, when it judges that the interests of the Connection require such removal, and shall have power to fill all vacancies that occur among the officials and those employed by it, whether said vacancies occur by death or otherwise, and the persons so employed
shall fill out the unexpired term of those whose places they are appointed to fill.

§ 226. In the transaction of all business, nine members shall constitute a quorum, except in the removal of the Connectional Editor, the Connectional Agent, the Connectional Foreign Missionary Secretary, the Connectional Home Missionary Secretary, the Connectional Sunday School Secretary, when it shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Committee in favor of removal.

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

§ 228. If said Book Committee shall judge that any expenditure of any of the corporate societies has not been judiciously made, or that the laws of the State of New York have been violated, or that the wishes of the donor will be defeated by the acts of the corporate society having the funds in charge, it shall demand correction and on the failure of the person having such funds in charge to correct said violations, it shall be a sufficient cause for removal. If the General Conference does not elect an Invoice Committee and also an Auditing Committee, then the Book Committee shall elect said Invoice and Auditing Committees, but nothing in this clause shall prevent the Book Committee or its Executive Board from electing Special Invoice and Auditing and Investigating Committees, when in the judgment of either the Committee or its Executive Board, it is in the interests of the Connection to do so. If the Presidents of any three conferences think that the Book Committee is not properly supervising the business of the Connection as carried on through the Connectional Societies, they shall notify the President of the Book Committee of their fears, and he shall at once inquire into the matter and report to said Presidents. If in his judgment the business is properly carried on, he shall say so and if after this the Presidents so requesting shall insist on an examination of the business management, the President of the Book Committee shall order said Presidents to select a committee of not less than three persons, and shall at the
same time call the Executive Board together, or ob­
tain their consent in writing, and said Executive
Board shall appoint a similar committee, and the
two committees jointly shall examine the business
thoroughly, and report to the Executive Board. If
it shall appear that said business has been conducted
safely, and according to the laws of the State of
New York and of the Book of Discipline, then the
Presidents demanding said examination, shall pay
all the expenses connected therewith; but should it
appear from the examination, that said business has
not been properly conducted, then all the expenses
of conducting said investigation shall be borne by
the various Connectional Societies, and the evils
found corrected, and if the violations have been wil-
ful, the violators removed from office.

§ 229. The Book Committee shall have power to
direct and review all the business transacted by the
trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or
Church) of America, Incorporate, and should it ap-
pear that said business is not being conducted pro-
perly, or that the laws of the State of New York are
being violated or that the wishes of the donor are
not being carried out, it shall have power to correct
said mismanagement.

§ 230. This Committee shall make or cause to be
made an annual exhibit of the state of all the Con-
nectional Societies, including the Wesleyan Metho-
dist Connection (or Church) of America, Incorpor-
ate, to all the Annual Conferences, but in this report
it shall be required to give only the summaries of
said business. It shall also cause said summary to
be published in the Wesleyan Methodist. The Book Committee shall make or cause to be made to each Annual Conference an annual report of the conditions of the state of the Connectional Societies. The Committee shall also make a full report to the General Conference covering the four years' interim.

§ 231. The Book Committee shall see that the order of the General Conference requiring the publication of one religious newspaper to be known as the Wesleyan Methodist, and Sunday School papers, to be known as the Sunday School Banner, the Junior Class Paper, The Children's Friend, and also the Sunday School Lesson Helps, known as the Wesleyan Lesson Helps, shall be carried out by said Publishing Association. It shall also determine what books shall be printed for the Connection, and fix the prices of the same, and shall also determine what books shall bear the imprint of the Publishing Association, when published for other parties. It shall also see that as much job work is done as is possible, when said job work does not interfere with the publications of the Connection ordered by the General Conference or Book Committee.

§ 232. The Executive Board of the Book Committee, consisting of five persons, shall transact all the business referred to it by the full Board, during the interim of the meetings of the full Board, and shall transact any and all other business the full Board may transact, except that of removing the, Connectional Editor, the Connectional Agent, the Connectional Foreign Missionary Secretary, the Con-
nectional Home Missionary Secretary, and the Con­nectional Sunday School Secretary.

\[233\] It shall see that the pastors and evangel­ists and missionaries perform their duty in extend­ing the circulation of our books and periodicals, in securing subscriptions for the Wesleyan Methodist, and seeing that the same are renewed when a sub­scription expires. The Book Committee shall cause the Connectional Agent to furnish every pastor with a blank, which can be filled with the name of every post-office where the members of the church or cir­cuit over which he is pastor receive mail. The pas­tor shall fill this blank, and return it to the Connec­tional Agent, and upon the receipt of same he shall forward to said pastor the names of all the subscrib­ers receiving the Wesleyan Methodist at the post­offices. It shall then be the duty of each pastor to see said subscribers, and receive money for renew­als, and forward the same to the Connectional Agent.

\[234\] After conferring with the Conference Presidents the Book Committee shall determine the time for the various Annual Conferences to meet and shall notify each Conference President at least three months before the time set for the conference. The Book Committee shall also select some one to attend each Annual Conference as Connectional Representative and publish the same in the Wesley­an Methodist. The Connectional Representative shall present the Connectional interests at the Con­ference and report on all the work of the various corporations of the Connection. He may also pre-
side over the Conference if invited to do so by the Conference.

§ 235. The Book Committee shall determine for each Annual Conference what person shall represent the Connectional interests at that Conference and the persons so agreed upon shall be the only representative at that Conference on Connectional expense. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to prevent any Conference inviting other Connectional Representatives to be present at the expense of the Conference, or to prevent the Educational Society sending an Educational Representative, or to prevent the Missionary Society from sending a representative at the expense of that society.

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

§ 237. The Book Committee may elect a Business Manager for the Publishing Association who shall be held amenable to the Book Committee. The Book Committee shall determine the salary of the Manager, define his duties, and differentiate if necessary his duties from those of the Agent.
§ 238. All property held by all the corporate societies of the Connection, including the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, Incorporated, shall be held in trust by said Connectional Societies, for the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America.
SECTION XI

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

§ 239. The Book Committee shall be the Board of Managers of the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America.

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

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

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

§ 243. The Publishing Association, through its Agent and Board of Managers, shall print all papers and books authorized by the General Conference and Book Committee, and should the facilities be inadequate to do so, the Agent shall report that fact to the Board of Managers, or their Executive Board, together with estimates of what it will cost to provide for carrying out the orders of the Book Committee.
and General Conference and wait their instructions.

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

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

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

THE WESLEYAN EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

§ 247. The Book Committee shall be the Board of Managers of the Wesleyan Educational Society.

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

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

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

§ 251. The Treasurer shall pay out money as authorized by the Board of Managers or the Executive Board, and shall not contract debts or borrow money except as authorized by the Board of Managers or the Executive Board.
¶ 252. The Board of Managers may elect an Educational Secretary and define his duties. Until this is done the Educational Society shall provide for the field work of each school under its control separately. This field work shall include obtaining endowment notes, pledges and funds for school purposes under the Budget plan, securing students, and interesting our people in our schools.

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

¶ 254. The General Conference recommends:

1. That each Conference elect a Conference Educational Secretary.

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

3. That each church elect a Church Educational Secretary.

4. That each church have a Church Educational Committee consisting of the Church Educational Secretary as chairman, the Pastor, the local Superintendent of the Y. M. W. B., the local President of the W. Y. P. S., and the local President of the
W. H. & F. M. S. If the W. Y. P. S. is not organized, the Church Educational Committee shall appoint some young person to fill this vacancy.

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

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

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

8. That the duties of the Church Educational Committee be to hold sessions as often as may be
necessary, to solicit students for its school, and to assist in carrying out the plans for raising the Educational Budget of the church.

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

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

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

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

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

14. That the Fall Quarter be called the Harvest Day Quarter and shall be in charge of the Church
Educational Secretary and the President of the local W. H. & F. M. S. All receipts during this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through the W. H. & F. M. S. The third Sunday in October shall be the W. H. & F. M. S. Educational Sunday.

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

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

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

†256. 1. The Conferences of the Connection shall be divided into school districts as follows: Miltonvale District: California, Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin. Marion District: North Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky. Central District: Alabama, South Georgia, North Carolina, North Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee. Houghton Dis-
2. We are aware that most great moves away from the simplicity of the gospel and away from the fundamentals of the faith in the various Churches have had their beginnings in the school systems, and we believe that it must be insisted upon that all our schools should function to produce trained Christian workers for her ranks. General education should be a secondary matter, not the primary object of the Church. No school under Church patronage and support shall be allowed to call in question, much less deny, the position of the Church on any point of doctrine or Church polity. The province of the Church is to declare doctrine and of the school to teach what the Church declares. "We require therefore, that no person be employed to teach in our schools who does not thoroughly believe in and advocate the doctrine of Bible Holiness, as set forth in our Book of Discipline, Appendix B, Paragraph 30, Sub-Paragraphs 9, 10."

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

4. In the corporation of schools it appears that they must function in their business transactions as separate incorporations. This will in no way prevent the carrying out of the foregoing proposals; but
it will only necessitate the election of the members of
the Book Committee as the trustees of the college
corporations and require that all their business trans­
actions be reported to and approved by the Book
Committee.

5. We recommend that the Trustees of each
school corporation shall be the Book Committee.

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

7. Each school district shall have a local Board
of Managers of not less than five, or more than fif­
teen members, who shall be nominated by ballot
by the Annual Conferences of the district at their
annual sessions and elected by the Board of Trustees
of our respective colleges. The delegates from each
district shall determine, at the time of each General
Conference, the number of members of the local
Board and basis of distribution among the confer­
ences of the district; provided that each conference
shall have at least one member on the local board.
The term of office of this local board of managers
shall be four years. The President or Acting Presi­
dent of each of our schools shall be a member of the
local Board of Managers by virtue of his office. No
other member of the faculty of any of our schools
shall be a member of the local Board of Managers.

8. All transactions of the local Board of Managers
shall be reported to the Board of Trustees for their
approval or disapproval, and no action shall be ap­
proved that contravenes our Articles of faith or our Book of Discipline.

9. It shall be the duty of the local Board of Managers to keep all recommendations within the bounds of estimated income submitted to the Board of Trustees at their annual meeting. All exceptions to this rule shall require specific action by the Board of Trustees.

10. They shall make all recommendations as to the election of the faculty and the salaries of the same, except in emergencies the Board of Trustees may act without recommendation.

11. They shall make all recommendations for the loaning of endowments or the investment of the same; but no loan or investment shall be made until approved by the Board of Trustees.

12. All other matters or management or policy may be referred to them or recommended by them, but all actions of the local Board of Managers should be subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees. The local Board of Managers may elect an Executive Board of not more than five nor less than three members whose duties shall be defined by the local Board. The local Board shall meet annually and as much oftener as the president or any three members shall deem necessary.

13. Since the spirit of arbitrary government is contrary to the ideals of our Church, therefore in the future all allotting of new territory should be by petition from the Annual Conference concerned, passed by a two-third vote of said conference and accepted by the Book Committee.
14. We recommend that all our schools shall as far as practical, secure speakers interchangeably between the schools for Commencement exercises and for other special meetings.

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

\[257.\] (1) The Book Committee shall be the Board of Trustees of Houghton College.

(2) The Book Committee shall be the Board of Trustees of Houghton Wesleyan Methodist Seminary.

(3) The Book Committee shall be the Board of Trustees of Central College.

(4) The Book Committee shall be the Board of Trustees of Miltonvale College.

(5) The Book Committee shall be the Board of Trustees of Marion College.
SECTION XIII
MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

I. Parent Board

¶ 258. The Book Committee shall be the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, and shall have its place of business in the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing House in Syracuse, N. Y. It shall hold an annual meeting each year, and special meetings may be called by the President, or by any three members of the Board of Managers. Any person elected by the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society for that purpose shall be elected an honorary member of the Board of Managers with all of the privileges of any member except the right to vote.

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

§ 260. There shall be an Executive Board consisting of five persons to be elected by the full Board at its first regular meeting after the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference, for a term of four years, and this Board shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the full Board.

§ 261. The Missionary Society shall have general charge of all the general missionary work of the Connection, may help such Annual Conferences as are not self-supporting, may enter into contacts with the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society for the care of work and the management of the same and the employment of workers. Contracts shall be binding only when signed by three members of the Executive Board, and when entered into with the Woman's Society must be signed by the President and Secretary of that Society in order to be valid. Written contracts shall be entered into with all missionaries in the employ of this Board.

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

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

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

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

II. Connectional Evangelism

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

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

III. Board of Church Extension

§ 268. (1) There shall be a Board of Church Extension of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, under the direction and Control of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.

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

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

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

\[\| 271.\] Each Annual Conference Missionary Society shall be constituted a Conference Board of Church Extension, and shall, under the direction of the Parent Board, have charge of all interests and work of Church Extension within its Conference borders; and shall make due effort to raise the amount assessed by the Parent Board, as well as secure bequests, donations and loans to the Aid Fund.

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

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

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

1. Number of church members, Sunday School
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children, and size of congregation to be accommodated.

(2) Legal incorporation of the Board of Trustees.

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

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

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

IV. Annual Conference Missionary Societies

¶ 276. Each Annual Conference shall also be a Missionary Society, and shall devote not less than one meeting of its session in considering the work of missions, within its own territory, and also Home and Foreign Missions. Let the Conference have a Missionary Secretary or some other person deliver an address on the subject of missions.

¶ 277. Each Annual Conference shall elect a Missionary Board of not less than three persons, of which the President of the Conference shall be one, and he shall also be President of the Missionary Board. They
shall serve one year, unless a longer term of service has been provided for in articles of incorporation. If a vacancy shall occur during the year, then the remaining members of the Board shall fill the vacancy, provided, it does not occur in the Presidency, and provided further, that where Annual Conferences are incorporated, said vacancies shall be filled as provided for in the articles of incorporation. In case of a vacancy in the Presidency, then the committee appointed by the Annual Conference to fill vacancies shall appoint. If the Annual Conference does not elect a Treasurer, or one is not provided for where an Annual Conference is incorporated, then the Missionary Board shall elect a Treasurer, who shall receive all the funds paid in for the use of said Annual Conference, and shall make full report of the same to the Annual Conference. He shall keep the accounts in a substantial book, in proper form, indicating who paid the money and for what purpose it was paid, and shall turn over the books to his successor in office. This shall not prevent Annual Conferences or Boards of Trustees or Mission Boards from electing sub-treasurers for special funds, but all moneys must first be paid to the Treasurer and by him paid to the sub-treasurers where there are such. All money received by the Treasurer, or sub-treasurer shall only be paid out as the Conference shall order it paid. The Annual Conference, however, may authorize the Board of Trustees or its Missionary Board or any other Board of Managers to pay out money between the sessions of the Annual Conference, by giving such authority as is necessary at the time of its annual session.
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¶ 278. The Missionary Board of each Annual Conference shall be the Board of Managers for said Annual Conference, and shall carry on the work of missions between the sessions of the said Annual Conference, as said Annual Conference may instruct, or direct. It may employ missionary evangelists between the sessions of the Annual Conference and when so employed said missionary evangelist shall report to the Annual Conference the same as if they had been appointed thereto by the Annual Conference.

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

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

V. Constitution of Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America

§ 281. Article 1. Name: This organization shall be known as the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.

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

§ 283. Article 3. Officers:

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

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

(3) These officers shall constitute the Executive Board.
(4) These officers shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) The district organizers shall be advisory members of the Executive Board.

§ 284. Article 4. Duties of Officers:

(1) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board, and shall have general oversight of the work, and shall also be the General Organizer. It shall also be the duty of the President to represent our organization as an advisory member of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America. If possible she shall visit each Annual Conference once during the quadrennium.

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

(3) The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, and have charge of such supply of leaflets and blanks as may be ordered by the Society.

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

(5) The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all moneys of the Society reported to her and shall hold in trust the funds of the Society, paying out the
same on order signed by the President and Secretary.

(6) District Organizers and duties: There shall be five districts constituted as follows: (a) East, comprised of Champlain, Rochester, Lockport, Allegheny, Middle Atlantic, Canada and Michigan. (b) East Central, comprised of Indiana, Kentucky, North Michigan, Ohio, and South Ohio. (c) West Central, comprised of Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin. (d) West, comprised of California, Oregon, and other western states. (e) South, comprised of Alabama, North Carolina, North Georgia, South Carolina, South Georgia, Tennessee, and Tennessee (colored).

(7) An organizer shall be appointed over each district, whose duty it shall be to respond to calls from the Annual Conferences and the local societies, organizing societies and bands, raising funds for missionary purposes, holding missionary institutes, and strengthening the work in general, reporting to and working in harmony with the General Conference President and Executive Board.

(8) It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band to exercise general supervision of the work, in the way of organization, arranging studies, and giving instructions as to ways of working, to receive all moneys from Conference Superintendents and forward the same to the Foreign Missionary Secretary. She shall also represent the Band at the annual meeting of the Missionary Board.

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

§ 285. Article 5. Management:
(1) The management and general administration of the affairs of the quadrennial session shall be vested in the Executive Board and delegates from the Annual Conference Societies.

(2) The Executive Board shall have full power to transact business in the interim of the quadrennial sessions; four of these officers constituting a quorum.

(3) This Society shall work in harmony with the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America. Points of difference shall be adjusted by the Executive Boards of both Societies.

§ 286. Article 6. By-laws: This Society may have the power to enact by-laws which shall not be in conflict with the sense of this Constitution or the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

VI. Constitution of the Conference Society

§ 287. Article 1. Name: This Society shall be called the Woman’s Home and Foreign Missionary Society of Conference.

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

§ 289. Article 3. Membership: The Annual meeting shall be composed of the Conference Missionary Society officers, the presidents of the locals, and one delegate for each local society. Provided, the items
of this article may be considered suggestive rather than compulsory.

290. Article 4. Meetings: The meetings of this Society shall be held annually and may be held at the time and place of the Annual Conference.

291. Article 5. Officers:
(1) The officers of this Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Organizer and Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band who shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and who shall together constitute an Executive Committee to transact business in the interim of the annual sessions. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies in the offices of this Society.
(2) The term of office shall be one year or until successors are elected.

292. Article 6. Duties of Officers:
(1) It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings and supervise the interests and work of the Society.
(2) In the absence of the President the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the office. She shall also assist the President in the management and work of the Society.
(3) The Secretary shall keep a full record of all proceedings of the annual and executive sessions, and shall prepare a full report of the work of the Society for the quadrennial session of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society.
(4) The Treasurer shall give receipts for all moneys received and shall disburse funds by vote of the Conference Society, or according to the desire of those contributing. She shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall render an annual statement of the same.

(5) The Organizer shall earnestly endeavor to extend the Woman's missionary work to every church within the bounds of the conference by personal visit or correspondence.

(6) It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band to exercise general supervision of the work of the Band, arrange studies, give instruction as to ways of working, receive all moneys and lists sent by the local Superintendents and forward the same to the General Superintendent.

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

The local Societies shall disburse all Conference and General Conference funds through the Conference Treasurer who shall in turn remit all General Conference funds to the General Conference Treasurer.

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

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

VII. Constitution of Local Societies

§ 296. Article 1. Name: This Society shall be called the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of

§ 297. Article 2. Purpose: The purpose of this Society shall be to arouse and give direction to a missionary spirit among the people, to devise lawful means to interest them in missionary work, to put forth systematic effort to raise money for the support of the gospel at home and in needy places and to do such other work as may be for the good of the souls and bodies of perishing humanity.

§ 298. Article 3. Membership:

(1) Active membership in this Society is open to any woman signing these articles of organization and paying into the treasury the sum of one dollar annually.
(2) Any man may become an honorary member by a payment of the same.

¶ 299. Article 4. Meetings:
*(1) This Society shall, if possible, hold regular bi-monthly meetings, at one of which we urge mission study.

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

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

¶ 301. Article 6. Officers:
(1) The officers of this Society shall be members of the local society electing, and shall consist of a President, who shall be a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church; Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Work Director, and Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band.

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

¶ 302. Article 7. Duties of Officers:
(1) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Society and shall have general oversight of the work.
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(2) In the absence of the President the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the office.

(3) The Secretary shall keep a record of members, keep the minutes of all meetings, and make an annual report according to printed report blanks, to the Conference Society.

(4) The Treasurer shall receive all moneys raised by the Society and remit the same as directed by the Society.

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

(6) The Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band shall be responsible for the organization of Bands, shall have general oversight of the Band work, and report the same to the Missionary Society. In case no Society exists, the Organizer or Conference Superintendent of Young Missionary Workers' Band shall appoint.

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

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

The quadrennial reports of both Local and Annual Conference Societies shall be from the Annual Conference following the General Conference to the first one preceding the next General Conference.
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VIII. Constitution of the Young Missionary Workers' Band

§ 305. Article 1. Name: The name of this Band shall be the Young Missionary Workers' Band of

§ 306. Article 2. Object: The object of this Band shall be to raise funds for the support of missionaries in the foreign fields and to create a greater missionary spirit among our young people and children.

§ 307. Article 3. Membership: Any person may become a member by paying not less than one cent a week.

§ 308. Article 4. Meetings: It is recommended that the meetings of this Band shall be held on the ——— of each month, ten of which shall be held in the interests of Foreign Missions, one for Home Missions, and one the Educational Rally Day, programs to be rendered and offerings taken for the special interests presented, these offerings to apply on the budget.

§ 309. Article 5. Officers: The officers shall be a Superintendent, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Band, save the Superintendent who shall be elected by the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of ———.

Where no such Society exists the Superintendent shall be appointed by the Organizer or Conference Superintendent.

§ 310. Article 6. Duties of Officers:
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(1) It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to exercise general oversight, assist the other officers in arranging studies, programs, or whatever work the Band may desire to engage in for the furtherance of the gospel in the Dark Lands.

(2) It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings and to perform the duties usually devolving upon a President.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to act in the absence of the President.

(4) The Secretary shall keep a record of members, keep the minutes of the meetings, give notice of meetings, and make an annual report of membership and moneys to the Secretary of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of .

(5) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all dues, collections, etc., raised by the Band, to report the state of the treasury at each meeting, make annual report to the Secretary of the Band, and directly or through the Superintendent, send all moneys in the treasury with an accurate list of names and addresses and amount contributed by each member to the Conference Superintendent of Band work.

¶ 311. Article 7. Election: The election of officers shall be held at the last meeting before the Annual Conference.

¶ 312. Foot-note to the entire set of Constitutions: Methods for raising funds in all these organizations, shall be in harmony with the principles of Wesleyan Methodism.
IX. Constitution and By-Laws of the Senior Missionary Workers' Band

§ 314. Introductory Note: Any group of people wishing to organize themselves into a recognized Senior Missionary Workers' Band shall adopt the following Constitution. The By-laws may be modified to meet local conditions:

§ 315. Article 1. Name: This organization shall be called the Senior Missionary Workers' Band.

§ 316. Article 2. Object: The object of this Band shall be the promotion of missionary work by spreading information, arousing interest, increasing Bible Study, gaining a ministry of prayer, and securing funds and volunteers for missionary service.

§ 317. Article 3. Membership: Any person may become a member by paying the required dues.

§ 318. Article 4. Officers: Section 1. The officers of this Band shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. These officers shall be elected by the Band and must be Christians.

§ 319. Article 5. Committees: Section 1. There shall be an executive committee consisting of officers of the Band and a fifth member as provided for in the by-laws, the President of the Band shall be the chairman of the committee. This committee shall be expected to take the initiative in advancing the interests of the Band.

Section 2. There shall be a program committee composed of three persons elected by the Band. This
committee shall arrange the program for the regular meeting.

§ 320. Article 6. Meetings: There shall be twelve regular meetings: ten in the interest of Foreign Missions, one for Home Missions, and one the Educational Rally Day, programs to be rendered and offerings taken for the special interests presented, these offerings to apply on the budget.

§ 321. Article 7. Finances: Section 1. The Treasurer shall pay to the Conference Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band all regular dues and offerings.

Section 2. Methods of raising funds, as well as business and programs, must be in harmony with the principles of Wesleyan Methodism.

By-Laws

§ 322. Article 1. Special Duties of Officers: Section 1. The Treasurer shall send quarterly to the Conference Superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band all money in the treasury for that purpose.

Section 2. Before January of each year the Treasurer shall send to the General Superintendent a complete list of members with a statement of all other receipts except such as go for local use.

§ 323. Article 2. Fifth Executive Committee Member: The fifth member of the Executive Committee shall be ex-officio, a person of mature years such as the President of the school, the pastor of the local
church, or some one selected each year with the other officers.

§ 324. Article 3. Dues: The annual dues shall not be less than fifty-two cents. It is strongly recommended that the dues be not less than one dollar per member.

§ 325. Article 4. Elections: Section 1. A meeting for the election of officers and standing committees shall be held annually at a time best suited to local conditions. Those elected shall begin their duties immediately.

Section 2. The minimum voting age shall be fourteen years.

§ 326. Article 5. Meetings: Section 1. There shall be regular monthly meetings of the Bands where programs shall be rendered.

Section 2. At each of our School Commencements there shall be an annual meeting of the Band with a special program in charge of the Program and Executive Committees jointly.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by any five members, by two Executive members, or by the President.

Section 4. All programs must be submitted for approval by the Band at least one month before the rendering of said program.

§ 327. Article 6. Honor Roll: In addition to the regular roll, the Secretary shall keep an honor roll, consisting of the names of all members of the local Band who have spent some time in missionary serv-
ice. With each name the Secretary shall write appropriate remarks, such as date of membership in the Band, the field and time of service, the place, date and cause of death, and any special achievements, etc. This roll shall be read before the Band at least once each year.
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SUNDAY SCHOOLS

§ 328. For the moral and religious instruction of our people, and for the promotion of Bible Holiness, and the propagation of other doctrines essential to the development of Christian character, we consider the Sunday school a necessary and indispensable institution of the Church.

§ 329. The Book Committee shall constitute the Connectional Sunday-school Board. The work of the Sunday-school Board shall be to educate the Church in all phases of Sunday-school work, and to provide the means necessary in literature and otherwise, to elevate ideals and improve methods and direct in general the study of the Bible in the Church.

§ 330. The Connectional Sunday-school Secretary shall have general Superintendency of the Sunday schools of the Connection, and shall be Editor of the Sunday school literature and supplies, and shall promote the general interests of the Sunday-school work under the direction of the Connectional Sunday-school Board. The Connectional Sunday-school Board shall have power to define his duties.

§ 331. Each Annual Conference shall elect an Annual Conference Sunday-school Board, constituted of three competent and interested individuals, who shall have the direction of the Annual Conference Sunday-school work, under the direction of the Connectional Sunday-school Board.
§ 332. Each Annual Conference shall elect a Conference Sunday-school Secretary, who shall be a member of the Annual Conference Sunday-school Board, and whose duties are:

(1) To report to the Connectional Sunday-school Secretary at once after his election, and cooperate with him in carrying out the plans of the Connectional Sunday-school Board.

(2) To cooperate with the pastors and local Sunday-school Superintendents and assist them in carrying out the plans of the Conference and Connectional Sunday-school Boards, and to promote the interests of Sunday schools throughout the Conference.

(3) To arrange for Conference, district, and circuit Sunday-school conventions or institutes, and to assist in such meetings.

(4) To arrange for the holding of a service for the promotion of Sunday-school interests at general gatherings, such as camp meetings, conferences, etc.

(5) To see that there is an active Sunday school on each charge in his Conference, and establish mission Sunday schools where possible and expedient.

(6) To encourage the organization of Christian Service Training Classes for the training of Sunday school teachers and workers, and to promote the interest of the same in the Conference.

(7) To pay special attention to reports, securing as far as possible correct statistics, these reports to be made on blanks furnished by the Connectional Sunday-school Secretary.

(8) To encourage the use of our own Sunday-
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school literature, and provide leaflets for the organization of the various departments of the local Sunday schools, which may be secured from the Connectional Secretary.

(9) To place at the disposal of the Connectional Sunday-school Secretary full information regarding the Sunday schools of his Conference at least once a year.

(10) To see that proper emphasis is given to evangelism in the various Sunday schools of the Conference, seeking for the conversion of every possible boy and girl and young person connected with the Sunday schools and their enrollment in church membership.

§ 333. Every Sunday school of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be under the supervision of the Local Sunday-school Board, which shall be auxiliary to the Annual Conference Sunday-school Board. The Local Sunday-school Board shall be constituted of the pastor and Sunday-school Superintendent ex officio, the pastor being Chairman, and at least three other members of the church, provided that where there is no pastor the church shall elect an additional member who shall be chairman.

§ 334. (1) The officers of the Sunday school shall be Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and any others that may be necessary in the work of the school. The officers and teachers shall be nominated by the Local Sunday-school Board and shall be elected at a business meeting of the church, held for that
SECTION XIV

purpose. The Local Sunday-school Board shall have the power to declare any office in the school vacant, on account of improper conduct, or habitual negligence of duty, and to recommend suitable persons to fill the vacancy; said persons to be elected by the church. Such action shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board. Each Sunday school should hold a Teachers' meeting each week in which the perplexing questions of the school and work may be discussed, its methods considered and the lessons reviewed; thus giving the school uniformity of instruction and methods, that are so necessary to its success.

(2) The Superintendent shall have general executive control of the Sunday school such as any presiding officer exercises. It shall be his duty to see that all classes are supplied with teachers as the session begins and to maintain reasonable order and supervision of the Sunday school session. He shall see that the literature is being properly used and use all proper influences to maintain the use of Wesleyan Methodist Literature in all departments. He shall discourage the use of any independent literature or supplies not recommended by the Publishing House or the General Sunday-school Secretary and shall seek to carry out all the Denominational recommendations. He shall seek at all times to promote the interest and attendance of the school and to maintain a high degree of spirituality in the program of the school. He should direct the exercises of the opening and closing of the school to maintain variety and interest in the worship and seek to carry out the
work of the Church as directed by the General Secretary.

¶ 335. The pastor shall have general supervision of the local Sunday school, and in this relation shall attend the services of the Sunday school as regularly as possible and assist in conducting the same in every way possible. It shall also be his duty with the cooperation of the Annual Conference Sunday-school Board, to organize Sunday schools wherever, in his judgment, it will be for the good of the work, and to care for the needs of said organizations under the direction of the Annual Conference Sunday-school Secretary, until other satisfactory arrangements can be made. He shall impress upon his members the necessity of cooperation in the Sunday-school work, and to urge upon them especially their duty of attending its services. He shall also preach upon the subject of Sunday schools and impress upon the parents and teachers of the children the need of instruction in the doctrines of the Church to promote the use of our Catechism in the home and in the school, and to see that every child and person, that it is possible to win, shall be won to Christ and to the Church. He shall give his careful and prayerful attention to this department of the church work in a personal as well as a cooperative way.

¶ 336. Every Sunday school in the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be organized upon a graded basis, believing this to be in accord with the creation of our being, and the inherent demands of our nature. The classes should be arranged with reference to the demands of the school, and the scholars shall be graded
according to their ages and qualifications. There should be an Adult Department in the school, a Senior Department, an Intermediate Department, a Junior Department, a Primary Department, and a Little Beginners Department, and in the organization of the school these departments should receive special attention.

§ 337. There should be a Cradle Roll Department in the school which should be under the care of the Cradle Roll Superintendent. She shall be required to report the work quarterly to the Sunday school, which in turn may set apart special days during the year to be known as Cradle Roll Day, at which time the mothers shall be requested to bring the members of the Cradle Roll Department to the Sunday school, and receive instruction from the Cradle Roll Superintendent, pastor, or some other competent person, along lines that will be helpful in fashioning the course of the child.

§ 338. There shall be a Home Department under the care of the superintendent who shall report quarterly to the Sunday school. At least one day each year shall be set apart as Home Department day, which shall be under the care of the Home Department Superintendent and the pastor.

§ 339. There shall be a Temperance Department in every Sunday school under the direction of a competent superintendent. The quarterly Sunday school temperance lessons, literature, programs, addresses and other proper means should be employed to educate the young concerning the direful results of the
use of intoxicating beverages and tobacco, and encourage them to sign the pledge against their use.

§ 340. We recommend a Missionary Department under the direction of a superintendent who is interested in missionary work. Special services may be held for the instruction of our scholars in missionary needs and provide support for the same.

§ 341. We recommend that one Sunday each month be known as Home Missionary Sunday, and that the offering of that day be forwarded to the Conference Treasurer monthly.

§ 342. The organization and development of organized classes in the secondary and adult divisions is permitted where the local Sunday-school Board believes the interests of the school would be benefitted. The organized classes should be enrolled with our general Sunday school department; and it is required that their organization and conduct be in harmony with the general policy of our Church.

§ 343. We recommend and urge the organization of Teacher Training Classes in the schools for the instruction of teachers and others who desire to pursue such a course. It shall be the duty of the Annual Conference Sunday-school Secretary to organize such classes wherever the demand is made, and to promote the interests of the same in the conference. The texts used in this work shall be designated by the Connecational Sunday-school Board, which shall also furnish examination questions upon the courses adopted and arrange for the issuing of certificates and diplomas to the graduates of these courses. We recommend that
§ 344. The Connectional Sunday-school Board shall select such text books for these courses as they may deem appropriate.

§ 345. Every Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school shall use Wesleyan Methodist Literature.

§ 346. The Secretary of each Local Sunday school shall report full statistics of the work, according to blanks arranged by the Connectional Sunday-school Board, to the Quarterly Conference. These reports shall be spread upon the minutes of the Quarterly Conference. They shall then be passed to the pastor of the charge who shall report full statistics of the Sunday school work of the charge to the Sunday-school Secretary of the Annual Conference, who shall make out a statistical report of the Sunday-school work for the Annual Conference and for the Connectional Sunday-school Secretary.

§ 346. We urge upon our people the importance of adopting approved Sunday-school methods in harmony with deep spirituality and our doctrine as a Church. The Sunday school is the church organized for Bible study. The Bible is able to make all ages of human kind wise unto salvation, hence we should inject into our Sunday-school work the spirit of evangelism and expect our scholars to be converted and wholly sanctified through the truth taught and practiced by Spirit-filled teachers. Our aim should be the salvation of the young as well as the old and to lead them into the deeper spiritual relationship with Christ and into useful Christian lives.
PART III
THE MINISTRY
SECTION XV. MATTER AND MANNER OF PREACHING.
SECTION XVI. DUTY OF PREACHERS.
SECTION XVII. PASTORAL VISITING.
SECTION XVIII. DEACONESS WORK.
SECTION XIX. COURSE OF STUDY.
SECTION XV

THE MATTER AND MANNER OF PREACHING AND OF OTHER PUBLIC EXERCISES

§ 347. Question 1. What is the best general method of preaching?
Answer. 1st, to convince; 2nd, to offer Christ; 3rd, to invite; 4th, to build up; and to do this in some measure in every sermon.
Isaiah 1: 18; Acts 4: 12; 24: 25; 1 Cor. 2: 1, 2; 14: 12; Rev. 22: 17.

§ 348. Question 2. What is the most effectual way of preaching Christ?
Answer. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach Him in all His offices, and to declare His law, as well as His gospel, both to believers and unbelievers. Let us strongly and closely insist upon outward and inward holiness in all its branches.

§ 349. To this end:
(1) Let the ministers and lay members of the Annual Conferences meet at least quarterly in Holiness Conventions.
(2) Where it is necessary for the convenience of the churches let the territory be districted by the conference.
(3) Let each conference or district elect a chairman and make it his duty to arrange with the mem-
§ 350. Question 3. Are there any other advices which might be of use to us?

Answer. Yes. 1st. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation. 2nd. Begin at the time appointed. 3rd. Let your whole deportment be serious, weighty and solemn. 4th. Always suit your subject to your audience. 5th. Choose the plainest text you can. 6th. Take care not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. 7th. Avoid everything awkward or affected, either in your gesture, phrase or pronunciation. 8th. Do not usually pray above five or six minutes without intermission. Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of Scripture; and let young preachers often exhort without taking a text.

§ 351. Church service. To establish uniformity among churches, in public worship on the Lord’s Day, it is recommended that the following order be observed:

Let the morning, afternoon and evening services consist of: (1) Singing; (2) Prayer; (3) Reading the Scriptures; (4) Singing; (5) Preaching; (6) Singing; (7) Prayer; (8) Benediction.
If the church should be without preaching we recommend the holding of prayer meetings or class meetings. Parts of the order of service may be changed as particular times and circumstances may require.
Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:25.
SECTION XVI

THE DUTY OF PREACHERS TO GOD, THEMSELVES, AND ONE ANOTHER

¶ 352. The following are the directions given to all elders and preachers, who are engaged in the regular work, under the direction of the Annual Conferences:

(1) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time, neither spend more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

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

(3) Believe evil of no one without good evidence—unless you see it done take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

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

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

(6) Avoid all affectation. A preacher of the gospel is the servant of all.

(7) Be ashamed of nothing but sin.

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

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

(10) The truth that Jesus is both able and willing to heal the bodies as well as the souls of His people, whenever such healing is for his glory, is clearly set forth in God's Word and attested by the experience of hundreds of His people at the present day; we therefore recommend that our preachers instruct the people in regard to this blessed truth as taught in God's Word.

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

§ 354. Question 1. How shall a preacher be qualified for his charge?

Answer. By walking closely with God, and hav-
§ 355. Question 2. Do we sufficiently watch over each other?

Answer. We do not. Should we not frequently ask each other, Do you walk closely with God? Have you now fellowship with the Father and the Son? Do you punctually observe the morning and evening hours of retirement? Do you converse seriously, usefully and closely? To be more particular: Do you use all the means of grace yourself, and enforce the use of them on all other persons? They are either instituted or prudential.

§ 356. The instituted are:

1) Prayer, private, family and public. Do you ask everywhere, Have you family prayer? Do you ask individuals, Do you use private prayer every morning and evening in particular?

2) Search the Scriptures by:
   (a) Reading: constantly, some part of every day; regularly, all the Bible in order; carefully, with notes; seriously, with prayer before and after; fruitfully, immediately practicing what you learn there.
   (b) Meditating at set times, by rule.
   (c) Hearing: every opportunity with prayer before, at, after. Have you a Bible always about you?
   (d) The Lord’s Supper: Do you use this at every opportunity? With solemn prayer before? With earnest and deliberate self-devotion?
   (e) Fasting: Do you use as much abstinence and
fasting as your health, strength, and labor will permit?

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

§ 357. Prudential means:

(1) Do you steadily watch against the world? Yourself? Your besetting sin?

(2) Do you deny yourself every useless pleasure of sense? imagination? honor? Are you temperate in all things? Instance in food: (a) Do you use only that kind and that degree which is best both for body and soul? Do you see the necessity of this? (b) Do you eat no more at each meal than is necessary? Are you not heavy or drowsy after dinner? (c) Do you use tobacco in any form? Do you discourage the use of it in others? (d) Do you use only that kind and that degree of drink which is the best both for your body and soul? Do you choose and use water for your common drink? Do you use tea or coffee?

(3) Wherein do you take up your cross daily? Do you cheerfully bear your cross, however grievous its nature, as a gift of God, and labor to profit thereby?

(4) Do you endeavor to set God always before you? To see His eye constantly fixed upon you?
SECTION XVI

Never can you use these means but a blessing will ensue. And the more you use them, the more you will grow in grace.
SECTION XVII

VISITING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, GUARDING AGAINST THOSE THINGS THAT ARE SO COMMON TO PROFESSORS, AND ENFORCING PRACTICAL RELIGION

§ 358. Question 1. How can we further assist those under our care?

Answer (1) By instructing them at their own houses. What unspeakable need is there of this? Personal religion either toward God or man is too superficial among us. We can but just touch on a few particulars. How little faith there is among us! How little communion with God, how little living in heaven, walking in eternity, deadness to every creature! How much love of the world, desire of pleasure, of ease, of getting money, how little brotherly love!

(2) Family religion is wanted in many branches. And what avails public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels! We must, yea, every preacher must instruct the people from house to house.

§ 359. Our religion is not sufficiently deep, universal, uniform; but superficial, partial, uneven. It will be so till we spend half as much time in this visiting as we now do in talking uselessly. Can we find a better method of doing this than Mr. Baxter’s? If not, let us adopt it without delay. Speaking of this
visiting from house to house, he says: "We shall find many hindrances, both in ourselves and the people."

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

(2) We have a base, man-pleasing temper, so that we let them perish rather than lose their love; we let them go quietly to hell, lest we should offend them.

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

(4) But the greater hindrance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak because the spring of it is weak.

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

But undoubtedly this private application is implied in those solemn words of the Apostle: "I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing; Preach the Word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering."

Oh, brethren, if we could but see this work on foot in all our churches, and prosecute it zealously, what glory would redound to God! If the common luke-warmness were banished, and every shop and every house busied in speaking of the Word and works of
Goel, surely Goel would dwell in our habitation, and make us His delight.

And this is absolutely necessary to the welfare of souls. Look round and see how many of them are still in apparent danger of damnation. And how can you walk, talk and be merry, with such people, when you know their case? When you look them in the face, you should break forth in tears, as the prophet did when he looked upon Hazael. Oh, for God's sake, and the sake of poor souls, bestir yourselves and spare no pains that may conduce to their salvation.

What cause have we to grieve before the Lord that we have so long neglected this good work! If we had but engaged in it sooner, how many more might have been brought to Christ; and how much holier and happier might they have been before now; and why might we not have done it sooner? There are many hindrances and so there always will be. But the greatest hindrance is in ourselves—in our littleness of faith and love.

But it is objected, I. “This will take up so much time, we shall not have leisure to follow our studies.” We answer: 1. Gaining knowledge is a good thing, but saving souls is better. 2. By this very thing you will gain the most excellent knowledge; that of God and eternity. 3. You will have time for gaining other knowledge, too. Only sleep no more than you need; “and never be idle or triflingly employed.” 4. But if you can do but one, let your studies alone. We ought to throw by all the libraries in the world rather than be guilty of the loss of one soul.
It is objected, II. "The people will not submit to it." If some will not, others will; and the success with them will repay all your labor. Oh, let us herein follow the example of St. Paul! 1. For our general business: Serving the Lord with all humility of mind. 2. Our special work: Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock! 3. Our doctrine: Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ! 4. The place: I have taught you publicly, and from house to house! 5. The object and manner of teaching. I ceased not to warn every one, night and day, with tears. 6. His innocence and self-denial herein: I have coveted no man's silver or gold. 7. His patience: neither count I my life dear unto myself. And among all other motives let these be ever before your eyes: (1) The Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood! (2) Grievous wolves shall enter in; yea of yourselves shall men arise speaking perverse things.

Write this upon your hearts, and it will do you more good than twenty years' study. Then you will have no time to spare: you will have work enough. Then, likewise, no preacher will stay with us who is as salt that has lost its savor. For to such this employment would be mere drudgery. And in order to do it you will have need of all the knowledge you can procure, and grace you can retain. The sum is, go into every house in course, urging upon every impenitent sinner the duty of immediate repentance, and teaching every one therein, young and old, to be Christians inwardly and outwardly; make every particular plain to their understanding; fix it in their minds;
write it on their hearts. In order to do this there must be line upon line, precept upon precept. What patience, what love, what knowledge is requisite for this! We must needs do this, were it only to avoid idleness. Do we not loiter away many hours in every week? Each try himself. No idleness is consistent with a growth in grace. Nay, without exactness in redeeming time you cannot retain the grace you receive in justification.
SEC
SECTION XVIII

DEACONESS' WORK

§ 362. Believing the office and work of a Deaconess to be scriptural and also in very great demand in our Church, the office and work of a Deaconess is hereby authorized under the following general plan:

1. A Deaconess is a woman who has been led by the Spirit and the providence of God to forego all other pursuits in life that she may devote herself wholly to the Christlike service of doing good; and who, having received this divine call, has been trained and tested during a probation of at least two years; and after such probation has been approved by the Church and solemnly set apart to this vocation in the Church. No vow of perpetual service is required of a Deaconess and she is therefore set apart for this work by consecration rather than ordination. Her relation as Deaconess being voluntary, she may withdraw from it at any time, but she shall give reasonable notice of her intention.

2. The duties of a Deaconess are various—such as: ministering to the poor and needy; laboring with the sick and dying; comforting the bereaved and sorrowing; seeking the lost and wandering; endeavoring to lead the unsaved to repentance and to Christ; and to take up other Christlike service.

3. No one shall be considered a proper person to be licensed as a Deaconess who does not feel a divine call to special work in the vineyard of the Lord. It shall be required also that in her life the fruits of the
Spirit shall be in evidence. She shall be at least twenty-one years of age and shall not become a licensed Deaconess until she has passed a satisfactory examination in the doctrines of the Bible, the government of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, giving proof at the same time of a correct domestic life. She must declare her purpose also to pursue the Course of Study prescribed for Deaconess, with examinations before the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders of the conference of which she is a member, and shall not become a licensed Deaconess until she has served six months under an experienced Deaconess or Pastor.

4. In case the license of a Deaconess is not renewed, it expires by limitation, and she may no longer serve as Deaconess, or wear the garb.

5. When a probationary Deaconess shall have passed in the prescribed Course of Study, she may upon the recommendation of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders of the conference of which she is a member, be consecrated a Deaconess by said Conference.

6. The garb of a Deaconess shall be a dark blue dress and bonnet of same color, with white ties. This garb shall not be worn, however, until she has been appointed to her work by an Annual Conference.

7. A licensed or consecrated Deaconess shall be amenable to her Annual Conference from which her appointment is received, shall report to her Conference annually, but shall have no vote in the Annual Conference, and for conduct out of harmony with the
Bible and Church Discipline shall be dealt with by the same Disciplinary methods that govern local preachers and Elders in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

8. The Deaconess will receive a living remuneration for her services which must be provided by the church employing her.

§ 363. Course of Study for Deaconesses

First Year
2. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline.

Reading Course
3. "Is the Bible the Word of God?" Scroggie.

Second Year
2. Catechism, Jennings.
Reading Course

1. Life of Hester Ann Rogers
§ 364. We feel deeply the importance of a higher standard for our ministry than we have heretofore been able to maintain. In our denominational youth there have been difficulties in our way, which we trust are disappearing at our approach to a more mature age. At our organization in 1843 our ministry was composed principally of such as had received orders in other denominations, and for several years our largest accessions were from the same sources; and though among them were some very able ministers, others fell below the proper standard of qualification for the sacred office.

The great want of ministers to supply our needy yet spreading fields of labor, led to the reception of too large a portion of such as offered themselves, and also to the ordination of men among ourselves of like deficiencies, and there is now no doubt that our necessities, in some instances at least, betrayed us into an unwise course. But we are satisfied that the time has fully come when we must elevate our ministerial standard to a point which will better correspond to the wants of our denomination, and the demands of the age in which God in His Providence has called us into existence as a distinct religious power. As we all believe in an overruling and guiding Providence, we must suppose that God has an end to secure, by calling us into existence as a denomination, through such trials, conflicts and sacrifices as marked every
step in the process; and we shall act a wise part by preparing ourselves, in every available method, for the achievement of useful ends; and we are confident that no more measure will do more in this direction than to raise up a well-educated and efficient ministry.

§ 365. We therefore require that no Annual Conference receive any local preacher to travel under its direction until he has passed the preliminary course of study before the Committee on Itineracy and Orders, except as proper full credits covering the course are presented to the Committee and approved by them. The preliminary course shall include English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography and English Composition. Any text book of the grammar school may be used.

§ 366. We also require that the Annual Conference ordain no person to the office and work of an elder in the Church of God until they have passed examination by the Disciplinary Course of Study, and have completed the reading courses, under the following conditions:

§ 367. The candidates must be given a written examination upon all the text books. Where candidates have completed the Advanced Theological Course in any of our Connectional schools, their standing shall be accepted in lieu of the Conference Course, however none shall be ordained who have not passed an examination in Wesleyan Methodist Discipline.

§ 368. There must be an average standing of at least seventy-five per centum in the preliminary
course and in each year of the regular course, and no paper shall be accepted which shows a standing less than sixty per centum.

§ 369. Each candidate must also be examined orally regarding personal Christian experience and his personal belief in the doctrines held by Wesleyan Methodists.

§ 370. The Book Committee shall have charge of the Course of Study during the interim of the General Conference. Its duties shall be:

(1) To prepare lists of questions on the Course of Study for candidates for the ministry (§ 373), also to prepare the questions on the preliminary examinations to be given local preachers and deaconesses as required by paragraphs 89, 363, 365 and 374.

(2) They shall send copies of such lists to the secretaries of the several Annual Conferences, to be by them placed in the hands of the chairman of the Committee on Itineracy and Orders of their respective Conferences.

§ 371. The Book Committee shall formulate rules for the government of the Annual Conference Committee on Itineracy and Orders in the use of these questions.

§ 372. The Book Committee shall be required to report to the General Conference on the work done in the Course of Study, and to propose to that body such revisions as may be necessary. No book shall be given a place in the Course of Study that contradicts the Articles of Religion as set forth in our Book
of Discipline. The Book Committee shall have power to remove any book from the Course of Study against which valid objections have been raised by conference or individuals.

§ 373. Course of Study for Candidates for Elder’s Orders

I. First Year
2. Theological Compend—Binney.
3. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline.

Reading Course
1. Life of Christ—Stalker.
2. Wesley’s Sermons (Vol. I)—I-XXXIII.
3. American Wesleyan Missions—Clarke.
4. Plain Account of Christian Perfection—Wesley.

II. Second Year
2. Theology—Elements of Divinity—Ralston.
5. Homiletics—Kearn.
6. Teacher Training Course—Hurlbut.

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Reading Course
1. Wesley’s Sermons (Vol II.)—XXXIV-LVIII.
2. Jesus is Coming—Blackstone.
4. How to Conduct a Sunday School—Lawrence.
5. Advanced American History—Foreman.*

III. Third Year
2. Theology—Elements of Divinity—Ralston.
3. Church History (First Half)—Fisher.
5. History of the Wesleyan Methodist Church—McLeister.
6. All About the Bible—Collett.

Reading Course
1. Revival Lectures—Finney.*
2. Wesley and His Century.—Fitchett.*
3. Love Enthroned.—Steele.
4. Reformation (One Vol.)—Seebohm.
5. Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette.—Harmon.

IV. Fourth Year
2. Theology—Elements of Divinity—Ralston.
3. Church History (Last Half)—Fisher.
4. Psychology—Halleck.
5. Bible Geography—Hurlbut.
Reading Course

2. Revival and Pastor—Peck.
3. Theology of Holiness—Clark.
4. Spurgeon’s Addresses to Students.
5. The Pastorate—Kidder.

* Any standard and approved text book on this subject may be substituted.

(Note: The Annual Conference shall accept the standings of Houghton, Miltonvale, Central, and Marion College in all of the studies prescribed in the foregoing section, reserving the right to examine all such persons orally or in writing as to doctrinal beliefs and belief in the government of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.)
§ 374. A Course of Study for Christian Workers and Local Preachers

I. First Year
2. Binney's Theological Compend.
3. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline.

Reading Course
2. Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection.

II. Second Year
2. Theology. Ralston's Elements of Divinity. (Lee may be substituted.)
3. Theology of Holiness—Clark.

Reading Course
1. Jesus is Coming—Blackstone.
3. Love Enthroned—Steele.

(Due credit will be given for all work completed in this Course that is duplicated in the requirements of the Course for Elder's Orders when the candidates pursue such a course. Also a certificate shall be given upon completion of this course.)
PART IV
SPECIAL DIRECTIONS
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Since all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16), and since holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1:21); and thus there has been given to us the Divine statement of all that is vital to Christian experience and practice, and the promotion of the cause of Christ at home and abroad, and since God is a God of system and order in all of His doings, both in creation and in His plan of redemption, and the carrying forward of the work of the Church in the world, we believe it to be the mind of the Spirit as taught in the Word and therefore should be the practice of all Christians to faithfully observe the law of tithes and offerings for the support and furtherance of the gospel; and we recommend that such tithes and offerings be brought into the storehouse (the church) for their proper and systematic distribution. Gen. 14:20; Heb. 7:1, 6, 9; Gen. 28:22; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 14:22; Acts 6:1-3; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:13, 14; Prov. 3:9, 10; 11:24, 25; Mal. 3:10, 11; Matt. 23:23; John 8:20; Acts 4:34, 35.

We therefore recommend:

1. That all our people pay to God at least one tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation, and free will offerings in addition as God has prospered them.

2. That the Storehouse Plan be adopted as the general financial plan of the Church.
3. That the Connectional Editor shall be General Tithing Secretary of the Connection, whose duty shall be to cooperate with the Annual Conference Tithing Secretaries in obtaining suitable literature on tithing and the Storehouse Plan; to furnish the General Conference with statistical information on the number of churches practicing tithing and the Storehouse Plan and other items of interest pertaining to this work.

4. That each Annual Conference shall elect a Tithing Secretary whose duty shall be to furnish literature on Tithing and the Storehouse Plan to the pastors and Tithing Secretaries of the churches; to present the Storehouse Plan to each church of the Conference urging its adoption where not in operation; and to furnish the General Tithing Secretary with data concerning the number of churches operating the Storehouse Plan.

5. That each church elect a Tithing Secretary whose duty it shall be to keep a tithing roll of all members who tithe and who shall gather statistics and information and helpful literature for instruction on the subject of tithing and the Storehouse Plan, and also hold at least one public service each year for the presentation of this subject.

6. That at each General and Annual Conference, one service be devoted to the study and promotion of tithing and the Storehouse Plan under the direction respectively of the General and Annual Conference Secretaries.

§ 376. The Educational Society and the Missionary Society shall submit to the Executive Board of the
Book Committee, at its June meeting each year, a budget showing the amount needed in their respective departments for the ensuing year. It shall be the duty of the Book Committee to aggregate the amounts needed in the various departments of Church work into one budget of expense, and apportion to the several conferences the amount of this budget. In making this apportionment the Book Committee shall take into account the number of members in each conference and their ability to pay the share assigned to them. As soon as possible after the Executive Board has made the assignments, the Editor shall publish in the Wesleyan Methodist a statement showing for each conference its membership according to the latest statistics, and the apportionment for each benevolence. Two weeks before the session of each Annual Conference the Agent shall send to each Conference President and to each Conference Secretary a statement of the apportionment for that conference. At the close of each series of conferences the Editor shall publish in the Wesleyan Methodist a statement showing for each conference its membership, its apportionment for each benevolence, and the amount raised on the budget for each benevolence. Every person authorized to receive Connectional funds who receives money that can count on the budget and that has not passed through the hands of a Conference Treasurer, must give the person from whom he received it a duplicate receipt, or else send a duplicate receipt to the proper Conference Treasurer.

§ 377. It shall be the duty of each conference at its annual session to apportion the budget of Con-
SECTION XX

nectional benevolences assigned to it to the various charges of the conference. In making the apportionment, the conference shall take into account the number of members of each charge and their ability to pay the share assigned to them. The conference shall state the exact amount assigned to each charge for each benevolence, and the Conference Secretary shall report the same to each pastor within two weeks after the close of the conference session. A conference has met its financial obligations to the Connection when it pays its apportionment in full for each benevolence.

§ 378. It shall be the duty of the pastor and stewards to see the faithful collection of the share assigned their charges. All money paid for current expenses of the Educational work, or for the current expenses of the Missionary work, either home or foreign, and pledges and interest (but not principal) paid for these purposes, and all money paid by the W. H. & F. M. S., the Y. M. W. B., or the Sunday schools for these purposes may count toward the budget. If any person or society pays money to any person authorized to receive Connectional funds for any of these purposes, a duplicate receipt shall be given, and the pastor and stewards shall accept these receipts as payments on the budget. All money and duplicate receipts collected by the pastor and stewards for the budget shall be sent to the Conference Treasurer; provided however that money collected definitely for education or definitely for missionary work, and not as undivided budget, may be sent to any person authorized to receive Connectional funds. In this case
a duplicate receipt shall be given, which shall be sent to the Conference Treasurer. A charge has met its obligations to the Connection when it has paid the Conference Treasurer its apportionment in full for each benevolence, or when it pays an undivided amount sufficient to balance in full its apportionment for each benevolence. The pastor’s statistical report to the Conference shall contain a budget item showing the amount assigned to his charge for each benevolence, the amount raised definitely for education, the amount raised definitely for missions, and the amount raised as undivided budget. This item must be audited by the Conference Treasurer before it is accepted by the conference.

The General Conference recommends:
1. That the charges be urged to raise the budget, as far as possible, on the undivided plan.
2. That the Conference Treasurer be instructed to remit to the proper School and Missionary Treasurers at least quarterly all money received definitely for education, or definitely for missionary work, but that undivided budget may be retained until it is evident where it will be needed to maintain a balance between the benevolences, and should then be distributed so as to maintain this balance.
3. That the pastors be urged to investigate the Storehouse Plan, and to introduce the same wherever practicable.

[Note: Our Publishing House, through its Agent, will furnish full information and samples upon application.—Editors.]
SECTION XXI

PRACTICAL BENEVOLENCE

§ 380. Question. Have we any directions to give concerning practical benevolence among us?

Since the gold and silver, as well as the cattle upon a thousand hills, belong to God; and since every good and perfect gift cometh down from the Father of lights, so that we may say, "It is the Lord that giveth my friends, my wealth, my ease"; and since we are commanded to "honor the Lord with our substance, and the first fruits of all our increase"; and since we have abundant Scripture examples in giving directions as to what shall be done after our "decease"; and since the law of the State frequently gives our life-earnings to "heirs we know not whom," and the fruit of all our toil is turned against the cause of God, and the distinctive reforms we so much love, therefore we earnestly recommend our people everywhere, in case the laws of the State will not dispose of their property to the highest glory of God, were they to die today, to immediately execute, in a careful and legal manner, their last will and testament.

§ 381. Furthermore, it is recommended that so far as practicable, our people shall dispose of their property while still living, and we commend to their favorable consideration (and bequests) the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, incorporate; the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America; the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America; the
PRACTICAL BENEFICENCE

Superannuated Ministers' Aid Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America; and the Wesleyan Educational Society. Bequests intended for any of our educational institutions, may be made through the Wesleyan Educational Society.

¶ 382. Any person making a bequest should be careful to give the incorporate name of the society for which the gift is intended, as given above.
Luke 6: 38; 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2; 2 Cor. 9: 6-8.

¶ 383. The Wesleyan Methodist Connection, through its different corporate societies, as the donor may elect, will receive gifts on the following conditions as a basis.

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<th>Annuity Rates</th>
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These rates of interest are based on cash gifts, and if real estate is offered it must be immediately converted into cash or else the donor accept the inventory that is made by the corporations benefiting by the gift.

Furthermore, all gifts must be kept intact so long as the donor lives, and a sinking fund must be provided whereby the interest on any donation may be.
paid if the interest on its investment is not sufficient to meet the annuity due.

In cases of Survivorship Bonds, the rate is based on the age of the younger.

Payments on annuities may be made either annually or semi-annually as the donor and the corporate society benefiting may agree.
SECTION XXII

SECURING TITLES TO CHURCH PROPERTY

§ 384. The laws of the several states are so various that no specific rule can be given which will meet the requirements of the diversified statutes under which churches have to organize. The following general rules, if attended to, will secure the end aimed at:

§ 385. Before taking a deed, examine the laws of the state and see that the church or society is organized, and trustees appointed according to the requirements of the statute. Also, consult some competent attorney relative to the import of proposed restricting or reverting clauses in deeds.

§ 386. Let the property be deeded to the Annual Conference (if incorporated). If it is not incorporated it should be deeded to the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, simply as a holding corporation, said property to be under the supervision and control and maintenance of the local church; provided if such church cease to exist, said holding corporation shall have power to order the sale of said property, and to appropriate the funds so received to the building of new houses of worship, or parsonages for the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, within the bounds of said conference. Said church shall be deemed to have ceased to exist when said property is not used statedly for one and one-half years for the benefit of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America.
§ 387. Whenever a local church shall deem it necessary or advisable to make sale of their church property that has been deeded to the trustees of said local church and their successors in office, said trustees or their successors in office shall have the right, under the direction of the local church and the Annual Conference to which they belong, to sell and convey by a good and sufficient deed to the purchaser the property of said church. Said trustees or their successors in office shall also have the right to pay all debts against said church property, under the direction of said local church, and to take title to the same. Provided, however, if the said local church does not care to re-invest the money received from such sale, then the trustees of said church or their successors in office shall pay the money over to the Annual Conference to which they belong.

§ 388. In all conveyances of ground for the erection of houses of worship, or upon which they may have been erected, let the following clause be inserted at the proper place: In trust, that said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and membership of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America; subject to the Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and the Annual Conference in whose bounds the said premises are situated. In the event of the sale of the premises herein described, these restrictions shall cease and the trustees thereby enabled to give a good and sufficient deed.
§ 389. In all conveyances of ground for the erection of dwelling-houses for the use of the preachers, or upon which they may have been erected, let the following clause be inserted at the proper place: In trust, that said premises shall be held, kept, and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the preachers of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, who may from time to time be stationed in said place, subject to the usage and Discipline of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds said premises are situated. In the event of the sale of the premises herein described, these restrictions shall cease and the trustees thereby enabled to give a good and sufficient deed.
SECTION XXIII

NATIONAL REFORM

§ 390. It shall be the duty of the ministers and members of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection to use their influence in every feasible manner in favor of a more complete recognition of the authority of Almighty God, in the secular and civil relations, both of society and of government, and the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ as King of nations as well as King of saints. We, therefore require:

§ 391. That all our ministers and members shall favor the use of the Bible in our public schools.
Deut. 6: 7, 8; John 5: 39.

§ 392. That chaplaincies in the army and navy, and in State and National Congress be not abolished.
1 Kings 8: 22-53; 1 Chron. 4: 10; 2 Chron. 14: 11, 12; 1 Tim. 2: 1, 2.

§ 393. That Sunday be observed by cessation from all labor, and the permission of no excursions on the Lord's Day.
Ex. 20: 8; Isa. 56: 1-7; 58: 13, 14; Neh. 13: 15-18; Mark 1: 27, 28.

§ 394. That the name of Almighty God, as the basis of authority in civil government, shall be considered as one of the fundamental principles of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, and that it is the bounden duty of all our ministers and mem-

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bers to use all feasible means to secure such amendments in National and State Constitutions, so that the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shall be inserted in these instruments which lie at the foundation of civil government; as it is Christ by whom kings reign, and princes decree justice.

Psalms 22:28; 33:6-12; Isa. 9:6; Dan. 7:13, 14; Rev. 17:14.
SECTION XXIV

COMMISSION ON PROHIBITION AND
PUBLIC MORALS

¶ 395. A Commission on Prohibition and Public Morals is hereby constituted under the following suggested plan: One member to be designated by the Advisory Board of Faculty of each of our schools, who shall report the same to the next session of the Book Committee following the quadrennial session of the General Conference, or to the Executive Board for election; and in addition the Connectional Editor who shall be General Secretary of the Commission. The Wesleyan Methodist and our school papers are suggested as mediums of publicity for the reports of this Commission; and such pamphlets or tracts as it shall deem advisable to publish, subject to the approval of the Book Committee. It shall be the duty of this commission to make a study of Prohibition and Moral Reforms and to keep the Church informed of the progress being made along these lines; also it may receive instructions from the Book Committee or the General Conference.
SECTION XXV

PEACE

§ 396. Since war results in so much suffering in the bodies, minds and souls of men, is costly in the destruction of property, leaving heavy burdens upon succeeding generations, producing much of the baser passions of life, we urge that men and nations seek by every legitimate means to avoid armed conflict among the peoples and nations of the world.

We urge that holy men everywhere make earnest prayer to God that the time be hastened when swords shall be turned into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks; when men shall learn war no more; that we may obey the Scriptural injunction "love your enemies." Matt. 5: 44; Luke 6: 27, 28; that righteousness under the banner of the Prince of Peace shall prevail.

We are committed to the continuance of constitutional, religious liberty, recognizing the citizen's first duty to God. Micah 4: 1; Isa. 2: 2-4; Zech. 9: 10.

We, therefore, forbid our people bearing arms, except it be in case of invasion by a foreign foe, or a voluntary service on the part of the individual rendering that service.

We disapprove of the present system of compulsory military training as now maintained in public, tax-supported colleges and universities. We hereby recommend that our young men do not participate if such service compromises their religious beliefs.
SECTION XXVI

NECESSITY OF UNION AMONG OURSELVES

§ 397. Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known) of the evil of division, in principle, spirit or practice, and the dreadful consequence to ourselves and others. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we divide, we shall destroy ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

In order to a closer union with each other, let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.

Pray earnestly for, and speak freely to each other.

When we meet, let us never part without prayer.

Take great care not to despise each other's gifts.

Never speak lightly of each other.

Let us defend each other's character in everything, so far as is consistent with truth.

Labor in honor, each to prefer the other before himself.

Rom. 12: 9, 10; 15: 5-7; Phil. 2: 1, 2; 1 Peter 1: 22; 3: 8; 4: 8.
SECTION XXVII

WESLEYAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

§ 398. For the purpose of promoting Christian experience and holy character among the young people of our churches and congregations, and of training them for Christian service through the systematic study of the Word of God and properly directed activities, there shall be an organization under the authority of the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America as governed by the following Constitution:

The General Society

Constitution

Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be The Wesleyan Young People's Society.

Article 2. Government. The management of the Society shall be vested in the Book Committee which shall annually elect a Superintendent and four Area Presidents. The Area Presidents are to be equally divided among the four School Districts and they shall contact the Conference Societies, obtain and report of statistics of the work, and labor for the promotion of Christian experience and holy character among the young people of our churches and congregations. The Book Committee may also designate other duties as it deems advisable and devise means for the financing of this work.

Article 3. Changes in the Constitution. Changes proposed in the Constitution of these societies shall be made only by the General Conference or by the Book Committee.
SECTION XXVII

The Local Society

Constitution

Article 1. Membership:

(1) Active Members. All Christian young people who are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, or Christian young people who are in harmony with the doctrines and standards of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, may become active members.

(2) Associate Members. Any interested young person of good moral character may become an associate member. An associate relationship only may be held also by any interested person of good moral character over forty years of age.

(3) Membership Privileges. In organizing a Wesleyan Young People's Society, all young people who meet the requirements mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs and who sign the constitution are constituted charter members. Thereafter new members shall be reported by the membership committee and received by a majority vote of the Society.

Membership shall carry full privileges of the Society, but only active members shall vote in the business meetings, hold office, or serve on standing committees. The age limits for active membership shall be fourteen to forty years.

Article 2. Officers. The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Journal Solicitor, and their term of office shall be for one year, or until their successors shall be elected; and these officers, and the chairmen of
standing committees, shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. These local officers shall be elected within thirty days of the next session of the Annual Conference and they will take office at the beginning of the Annual Conference year.

(1) The election of officers shall be as follows: A committee on nominations, of which the pastor shall be Chairman, shall be elected by the Society. It shall be its duty to nominate the officers of the Society and the Chairmen of the standing committees, and to report the same to a meeting called for the election of officers. The adoption of their report by a majority vote shall constitute the election.

(2) Whenever a vacancy occurs, said vacancy shall be filled at the next regular meeting by the same elective power that elected or appointed.

(3) The duties of officers. The duties of the President shall be to preside over all business meetings, to have general oversight of the Society and to report the spiritual and financial condition of the Society at its quarterly business meeting.

The duties of the Vice-President shall be to cooperate with the President in every way to carry out the work of the Society and in the absence of the President to perform his duties in office.

The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep a register of the membership roll, and to keep a record of all proceedings in business meetings and executive meetings and to do all such writing and correspondence as shall be necessary for the Society.

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to collect and
hold, subject to the vote of the Society, all money belonging thereto.

Article 3. Executive Committee. The pastor of the church, officers of the Society, and Chairman of the Standing Committees, shall constitute the Executive Committee. The President of the Society shall be Chairman ex-officio.

Article 4. Committees. The Society may have the following committees: Devotional, Membership, Educational and Visiting.

1. The Devotional Committee shall appoint all leaders and have general oversight of the devotional work of the Society. It shall also arrange for and have charge of all special services, such as open-air services and hospital and jail meetings, under the advice and supervision of the pastor.

2. The Membership Committee shall be on the lookout for new members and report to the Society such names as are acceptable for membership.

3. The Educational Committee shall have charge of the Educational meetings of the Society, planning for and directing the same under the advice and supervision of the pastor.

4. The Visiting Committee shall visit the sick and absent members of the Society.

Article 5. Missions. It is recommended that the missionary activities be under the direction of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, and that all missionary contributions be paid through that Society.

Article 6. Reports. Upon the organization of a local Society the Secretary shall report to the President of the Conference Society and the Superintendent of the General organization, giving the date and
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

place, the number of charter members, and the names and addresses of the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Once a year thereafter the Secretary shall report to the Conference Society Secretary, on a blank furnished by the Conference Society, full statistics of the local Society’s work.

Article 7. Finance. During the first month of each Conference year each Society is requested to send to the General Treasurer the sum of one dollar for the year to be used for the promotional work of the organization.

By-Laws

1. The regular business meetings of the Society shall be held on dates fixed by the Society.

2. The annual meeting for the election of officers shall be held at the beginning of the Conference year.

3. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the President or pastor at such times as may be necessary.

4. The following Order of Business is suggested for the business meetings:

   1. Devotional exercises.
   2. Roll call.
   3. Reading of minutes.
   4. Reports of committees.
   5. Appointment of committees.
   7. Reception of new members.
SECTION XXVII

8. New business and special exercises, such as the reading of papers and hearing of addresses.


5. The By-Laws may be amended or added to at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of all members present, provided that such amendment or additions have been announced at the previous meeting and are in accord with the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and have been approved by the Executive Committee of the Society.

The Annual Conference Society

Constitution

Article 1. Name. This organization shall be known as "The Wesleyan Young People's Society of the Conference."

Article 2. Membership. All members of local societies are considered members of this Society.

Article 3. Organization. The Conference shall be divided into districts. A district shall consist of local societies (preferably 3 to 6) which are located in adjacent geographical parts of the Conference.

Article 4. Officers and Executive Committee. Section 1. Conference Organization. There shall be a Conference Young People's Society President, Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer; these four, together with the President of the Annual Conference, shall the Executive Committee of the Annual Conference Society. The Executive Committee shall be ex-officio members of the business meeting of the Annual Convention.
Section 2. District Organization. There shall be a District Executive Committee in each district. The chairman of this committee shall be one of the pastors of the district. The committee shall consist of three members.

Article 5. Government. The government of this Society shall be as outlined in this constitution and in the by-laws which may be adopted, except that all actions taken by the Society shall be subject to the approval of the Book Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Article 6. Amendments. This Constitution may be amended by the action of the Book Committee. Upon a two-thirds vote at any regular annual business meeting a suggestive amendment may be submitted to the Book Committee.

By-Laws

Article 1. Section 1. Duties of Executive Committees. The Conference Executive Committee shall make all arrangements for the annual convention. The District Executive Committee shall make all arrangements for the district conventions.

Each Executive Committee shall choose one of their number to act as Secretary-Treasurer for their respective organizations.

Section 2. Duties of Officers. The President of the Conference Young People's Society shall preside at all sessions of the annual convention and perform the duties falling to the President of an organization. The Secretary of each Conference Society shall report annually on blanks to be furnished by the General
SECTION XXVII

President, full statistics of the Conference Society's work.

The Chairman of the District Executive Committee shall preside at the district conventions and perform the duties falling to the President of such an organization.

Article 2. Term of Office. The term of office for the President of the Young People's Society and all members of the Executive Committees shall be one year.

Article 3. Section 1. Elections. The President and members of the Conference Executive Committee (except the President of the Annual Conference) shall be elected at the regular annual business meeting of the Society.

Section 2. All members of the District Executive Committee shall be elected at the district convention next preceding the annual convention.

Article 4. Section 1. The Annual Business Meeting shall be composed of delegates from each local Society, not to exceed the number of five from any one Society.

Section 2. The Annual Business Meeting shall be held at any time convenient during the Annual Convention or at the Annual Conference session.

Article 5. Section 1. District Business Meeting. All members attending the District Convention shall have equal voice and vote.

Section 2. School District Meeting. When the several Annual Conference Societies which comprise
a school district may so desire, they are given the
privilege of organizing a District Convention to hold
inspirational and evangelistic meetings, annually or
otherwise, at any place to be selected within the Dis­
trict. The Executive Committee of said District
Convention is to be composed of one member from
each Annual Conference in the District. All mem­
ers of local societies within the District shall be en­
titled to membership in the District Convention and
all present shall have a vote in the business of the
Convention.

Article 6. Section 1. Vacancies. The Chairman
of the Executive Committee shall have power to fill
vacancies occurring between conventions. These ap­
pointments to hold until the next regular convention.
(This applies to both committees.)

Section 2. In case of a vacancy occurring in the
chairmanship of the District Executive Committee
the President of the Annual Conference of the Church
shall appoint a successor.

Article 7. Amendments. Amendments to the By­
Laws may be made at any regular business session of
the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote.
PART V
JUDICIAL
ADMINISTRATION
SECTION XXVIII: JUDICIAL RULES.
SECTION XXVIII

JUDICIARY RULES

§ 399. A Church, when it shall judge it expedient, may appoint a judicial committee of not less than six persons, who shall remain in office one year, unless displaced by the church. This committee shall be a standing court to hear all complaints, and to try all charges against any lay member of the church; provided that all cases shall be first stated to the church; and by it referred to the judicial committee; provided also that the church shall have power to refer any case to a special committee, of males or females, as it shall deem best to secure the ends of truth and justice; provided also that the fact of a church having a judicial or other committee shall not be construed into a necessity of the reference of a case to any committee, unless the church at any regular or called meeting shall vote to so refer.

§ 400. The pastor shall be the chairman of the judicial committee; but when the pastor is the plaintiff, or when the church has no pastor, it may appoint some other person to preside; and in the case of its neglecting so to do the committee shall appoint its own chairman.

§ 401. For personal offenses, sinful tempers or words, or neglect of duties, our Lord's directions in Matt. 18:15-17 shall be followed; and in case the person aggrieved shall report the alleged offense, before these previous steps shall have been taken, he
shall be deemed guilty of evil speaking, and without amendment he shall be brought to trial on charge for this offense. But for public offenses, such as holding and propagating heretical doctrines, flagrant disobedience to the order and Discipline of the Church and for open immoralities, the parties so offending may be proceeded against without previous labor, provided that the directions given in paragraph 71, sub-paragraph 2, have been complied with. If any member of the Church Advisory Committee should be connected with the case as to render them incapable of serving, the church, if it judges best, may elect a special committee in the case.

§ 402. When any member of our Church shall join any secret society, and after being labored with refuses to withdraw from said secret society, the person so offending shall without trial be declared withdrawn from the Church.

§ 403. In all cases of trial a bill shall be made out setting forth the charge or charges, with the specifications, in writing, and a copy of the same shall be served upon the accused by the chairman of the court, or the complainant, allowing the accused a reasonable time to prepare for trial, which shall not be less than six days. The removal of the accused person beyond the jurisdiction of the judicature during the pending trial shall be deemed presumptive proof of guilt, unless satisfactory evidence be presented of inability to be present. If the accused party confess guilt, no trial is necessary and the church can proceed at once to determine the penalty as is provided for. If the
party accused asks for a letter of dismissal before charges are preferred, the church must grant the same. See Paragraph 78. The church may grant a letter of dismissal, even after charges are preferred. When charges are preferred and the party says they are ready for trial, then no time need be given for them to prepare.

§ 404. A complaint against any lay member of the church shall be presented to the pastor; but if there be no pastor, or if he neglect to attend to the complaint, the charges shall be presented to the judicial committee; and if there be no judicial committee, the charges shall be presented to the church at one of its meetings, and the church may proceed to try the complaint, or refer it for trial to a special committee which it may appoint for that purpose, and in all cases of conviction before a committee an appeal to the church shall be allowed, whose decision shall be final.

§ 405. A complaint against an elder shall be presented to the chairman of a standing committee of four elders, which shall have been elected by the previous Annual Conference, and shall consist of the most discreet and experienced men in said conference, who shall have power to select three lay members of similar character residing near the accused elder, who shall together with said elders constitute a judiciary committee for the trial of all such cases; and in case of the incapacity of any ministerial member of said committee to serve as above, by reason of sickness, removal, death, or other cause, then the President of the conference shall have power to fill such vacancy.
Said committee shall constitute a court for the trial of the complaint, with power to acquit, censure, or suspend until the next session of the Annual Conference, whose decision shall be final. When a Minister is tried on a charge of immorality, and the Committee shall find that this charge is not sustained by the evidence, but that the Minister has been proven guilty of "high imprudence and unministerial conduct," it may declare this fact, and subject the offender to reproof, suspension, or deprivation of Ministerial Office and Credentials. Provided that in such cases the Annual Conference may reinstate the party by a two-thirds vote.

§ 406. When the President of an Annual Conference and at least one of the members of the Advisory Board shall determine that an elder or licentiate is violating any of the orders or resolutions of the conference, and after being laboring with refuses to correct his behavior, they shall bring him to trial before the judiciary committee; provided, that whenever the President, or the ministerial member of the Advisory Board is the accused person, the other members of the board shall be authorized to act in the case.

§ 407. The Annual Conference shall also have original jurisdiction, and may proceed to try any complaint against an elder; provided, that in its judgment sufficient notice shall have been given to the accused, and sufficient time allowed him to prepare for trial; or it may refer the complaint to a committee which it may appoint as above; or to a special committee composed of four elders and three lay members which the Annual Conference shall appoint, to
be tried during its session, or after adjournment, as it shall direct; or it may refer the complaint, to be presented and tried, as first provided for in this rule.

§ 408. When an elder or a minister shall have been convicted of the crime of fornication or adultery he shall be expelled from the Annual Conference of which he is a member, and shall never be restored to membership in any Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference; and no Annual Conference shall elect to Elders' Orders or receive from any other conference or Church any one who has been convicted of these crimes after entering the ministry. But this shall not prohibit membership in a Wesleyan Methodist church when the guilty person repents.

§ 409. A complaint against a conference preacher holding an Annual Conference license shall be received and heard in all respects the same as a complaint against an elder, before the committee appointed for the trial of an elder.

§ 410. A complaint against a local preacher who is acting under the authority of a Quarterly Conference shall be presented to the pastor and by him brought before the Quarterly Conference, or if the pastor refuse or neglect to attend it, it shall be presented to the Quarterly Conference at one of its meetings, and the Quarterly Conference may proceed to try the person on the complaint, or refer the person for trial to a committee which it may appoint for that purpose. In all cases an appeal from the findings of the committee may be taken to the Quarterly Conference, whose decision shall be final. In cases where one
church constitutes a pastoral charge, the church shall conduct the trial under the rules governing a Quarterly Conference as stated above.

411. A complaint against an offending church shall be presented to the chairman of the standing committee previously elected by the Annual Conference for the trial of an elder, which committee, having selected three lay members as in the case of the trial of an elder, shall meet at the place where the accused church usually worships, or in its vicinity, and shall constitute a court for the trial of the complaint, before whom the church by its representatives shall appear. If the committee judge the church to be guilty of having violated any of the Elementary Principles, or General Rules, or any rule or section enacted by the concurrent action of the General and Annual Conferences and churches it shall so declare; and if the church shall not give satisfaction by correcting the evil, the case shall be presented at the next session of the Annual Conference, whose decision shall be final. If the Annual Conference judge the church guilty it shall withdraw fellowship from the same, and no minister or licentiate of our Connection shall become its pastor until it shall have repented and reformed. Provided, the Annual Conference at any of its sessions may receive a complaint against any church within its jurisdiction and order a trial or investigation by a committee which it shall appoint; said committee to hold such trial or make such investigation within two months of the closing of that session of conference, and said committee may suspend
said church until the next session of the Annual Conference.

§ 412. If the Annual Conference approves of the verdict of the Judiciary Committee in any case of suspension or expulsion of an accused church, a committee shall be appointed by the Annual Conference whose duty it shall be to call together the loyal members of said church, and declare them to be the Wesleyan Methodist church in that place. Said committee shall report its action to the President of the Annual Conference who shall report the same to the Annual Conference at its next session.

§ 413. If the President or Secretary of any Annual Conference shall receive a complaint against a church within two months preceding the time already appointed for an Annual Conference session he shall cite such church to appear at the approaching session of the Annual Conference by representation for the investigation or trial.

§ 414. In any case of dispute about the non-payment of debts, or the settlement of accounts, the proceedings shall be the same as in other cases; with the exception that the verdict shall be a simple declaration of what is judged to be right between the parties. If either party shall enter into a suit at law against any member of the church, unless the case justify such a measure, before these steps shall have been taken, or shall refuse to comply with such decision such party shall be cut off from fellowship, on conviction of the fact before the proper court.
§ 415. All trials shall be public when the accused party shall demand it; the accused shall also have the right of objecting to any member of the court, and the remaining members shall allow or overrule the objections; the accused shall likewise be allowed the assistance of any minister or member of the Wesleyan Connection as counsel, and the court may allow or exclude other counsel at its discretion; of introducing witnesses, and of cross-examining those introduced by the plaintiff; and of making his defense without interruption.

§ 416. No deposition or certificate from an absent person shall be received as testimony in any trial, unless the party against whom it is sought to be introduced has had a proper opportunity to cross-examine the person signing it, upon the contents thereof.

§ 417. The proceedings in all trials shall be taken down by a secretary appointed by the court, who shall furnish a copy of the decision when demanded by either party; and on an appeal the minutes of the court below shall be read in evidence, and any new proof touching the same facts shall be heard, but no new charges or allegations shall be introduced.

§ 418. The General Conference shall designate five members of the Book Committee, three elders and two lay members, who shall be thereby constituted a Judicary Committee to be known as the Board of Review, and this Board of Review shall have authority to hear appeals and to decide questions of law, subject to the Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America and of the General
Conference of said Church, in the following cases and particulars: (1) In all cases of the trial of an elder or an Annual Conference preacher where three elders who have served under conference appointment during the year last preceding the trial and appeal shall join the defendant in an appeal from the action of an Annual Conference under the Judiciary Rules for the trial of an elder or an Annual Conference preacher. (2) In all cases involving the validity of the reception of member to an Annual Conference, either when such members are elected to Elder's Orders or are received from some other Wesleyan Methodist Annual Conference; or from some other religious body, whenever three elders qualified as in the last preceding provision shall appeal from the action of the Annual Conference. (3) In all cases of difference between any two or more Annual Conferences where there is a disagreement, and the aggrieved conference is unable to secure satisfaction by ordinary methods. (4) In all cases where three Annual Conferences shall unite in an appeal from any action of the Book Committee when acting with reference to the Annual Conferences. The decision of the Board of Review is such cases shall be reported to the Book Committee at its next session, whether it be a regular or special session, and it shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Book Committee to reverse the decision of the Board of Review in these particular cases. In all cases brought before the Board of Review the entire case including the charges or question or questions at issue, and all of the evidence shall be submitted in writing, and one or more persons may argue the case on each side under such
regulations as the Board of Review shall establish, but in no case shall the Board of Review constitute a trial court, and it shall not hear or receive any new evidence; provided, however, that the fact that new evidence and what is intended to prove thereby may be submitted, and this may influence the Board of Review in determining the case when the question at issue is whether a new trial shall be ordered. The Board of Review shall have authority to affirm, reverse, or remand a case for a new trial. It shall select one of its number to act as chairman, and it may select a secretary from its own number or employ some one else. When the Board of Review meets in connection with the meetings of the Book Committee it shall hear and act upon all cases submitted to it without charge to any one, but in cases of special meetings the parties bringing the action shall provide for the expenses of the meeting. In all cases the decisions of the Board of Review shall be made in writing and the principal parties to the case shall be furnished with a copy of the decision within ten days after the decision is rendered. A book of record shall be furnished at the expense of the Publishing House in which shall be recorded all cases acted upon and the decisions rendered, and all documents pertaining to cases brought before the Board of Review shall be kept on file. Four members shall constitute a quorum, and it shall require four votes to reverse any judgment rendered by a lower court. The records of this Board of Review shall be submitted to the General Conference at each regular session and when approved by the General Conference all decisions of this Board of Review shall become the
law of the Church until repealed by the General Conference, and in the edition of the Discipline following each General Conference these decisions which have been approved by the General Conference shall be made a part of the Discipline. In any case where any member of this Board of Review is an interested party to the case the remaining members shall consider objections to his sitting as a member of the Board and where justice demands may select some other member of the Book Committee to fill his place in connection with that particular case, but this shall not be deemed to cause a vacancy in the membership of the Board. All permanent vacancies shall be filled by the Book Committee.
PART VI
THE RITUAL
SECTION XXIX. FORM OF ORDIATION.
SECTION XXX. CONSECRATION OF DEACONESS.
SECTION XXXI. BAPTISM.
SECTION XXXII. THE LORD'S SUPPER.
SECTION XXXIII. MARRIAGE.
SECTION XXXIV. BURIAL OF THE DEAD.
SECTION XXXV. THE DEDICATION OF CHURCHES.
SECTION XXIX

THE FORM AND MANNER OF ORDAINING ELDERS

[When the day appointed is come, there shall be a sermon or exhortation, declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted elders.]

419. Then their names being read aloud, the President shall say unto the people:

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

Then shall be said the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, as followeth:

The Collect

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit has appointed elders in the Church, mercifully behold these Thy servants, now called to this office, and replenish them so with the truth of Thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve Thee in this office to the glory of Thy name, and the edification of Thy Church, through the
merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

The Epistle
Ephesians 4: 7-13

Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same that also ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

The Gospel
St. John 10: 1-16

Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To Him the porter openeth, and the sheep hear His voice, and He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when He putteth forth His own sheep He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. And a
stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him, for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them, but they understood not what things they were which He spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again: Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep; but he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine. As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep, and other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also must I bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

[And that done, the President shall say unto them as hereafter followeth:] You have heard, brethren, as well in your private examination, as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel and the writings of the apostles, of what dignity and what great importance this office is, where-
unto ye are called. And now again we exhort you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you have in remembrance into how high a dignity, and to how weighty an office ye are called; that is to say, to be messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord; to teach and premonish; to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for His children who are in the midst of this evil world that they may be saved through Christ forever.

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance, how great a treasure is committed to your charge; for they are the sheep of Christ which He bought with His death and for whom He shed His blood. The church and congregation, whom you must serve, is the spouse and His body. And if it shall happen the same church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence ye know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider with yourselves the end of the ministry toward the children of God, toward the spouse and body of Christ; and see that you never cease your labor, your care and diligence, until you have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge, unto the agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life.

Forasmuch, then, as your office is both of so great excellency and of so great difficulty, ye see with how
great care and study ye ought to apply yourselves, as well that ye may show yourselves dutiful and thankful unto that Lord who has placed you in so high a dignity, as also to beware that neither you yourselves offend. Howbeit ye cannot have a mind and will thereto of yourselves; for that will and ability is given of God alone; therefore ye ought and have need to pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit. And seeing that ye cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious ye ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners both of yourselves and them that especially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures; and for the self-same cause how ye ought to forsake and set aside, as much as ye may, all worldly cares and studies.

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time and that you have clearly determined by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you; so that as much as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father, by the meditation of our only Savior, Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that by daily reading and weighing the Scriptures ye may wax riper and stronger in your ministry; and that ye may so endeavor yourselves, from
time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that ye may be wholesome and godly examples, and patterns for the people to follow.

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

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the office and work of an elder in the Wesleyan Methodist Church?

Answer. I think so.

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

Answer. I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God’s grace.

The President. Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine, and sacraments, and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded?
Answer. I will do so by the help of the Lord.

The President. Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God’s Word, and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole, within your charge, as need shall require and occasion be given?

Answer. I will, the Lord being my helper.

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

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

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

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

The President. Will you maintain, and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are, or shall be committed to your charge?

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

Let Us Pray

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, who of Thine infinite love and goodness toward us, has given us
thy only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the author of everlasting life; who after He had made perfect our redemption by His death, and had ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world His apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors, by whose labor and ministry He gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world to set forth the eternal praise of Thy holy name; for these so great benefits of Thy eternal goodness and for that Thou hast vouchsafed to call these Thy servants here present, to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind we render unto Thee our most hearty thanks; we praise and worship Thee; and we humbly beseech Thee by the same, Thy blessed Son, to grant unto all who either here or elsewhere call upon Thy name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto Thee, for these, and all other of Thy benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of Thee and Thy Son by the Holy Spirit, so that as well by these Thy ministers, as by them over whom they shall be appointed Thy ministers, Thy holy name may be forever glorified, and Thy blessed kingdom enlarged through the same, Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

[When this prayer is done the President or officiating elder, with the elders present, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receiveth the order of elders—the receivers humbly kneeling upon their knees and the President saying:]

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Ghost, for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God.
And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of His holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Then the President shall say:

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

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

(The President or officiating elder shall then, in behalf of the conference, give to each of the persons ordained the right hand of fellowship, welcoming him to the work and labors of the ministry, adding such remarks as he may deem fitting, followed by the benediction.)

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

[Devotional exercises and suitable addresses may precede the following order of service, which may be varied as occasion may require.] 420. 1. Presentation of Candidate (or Candidates). Let the pastor or some official of the church present the candidates to the person presiding with these words: We present these sisters to be consecrated for the office of Deaconess in the Church of God.

2. Hymn No. 309 from the Church Hymnal, or some other appropriate selection.

3. Responsive reading.
   Leader: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.
   Congregation: For ye know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.
   Leader: Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
   Congregation: Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house.
   Leader: So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty: for He is thy Lord; and worship thou Him.
   Congregation: Let thy work appear unto all ser-
vants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

4. Prayer: O Eternal Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the creator of man and of woman, who didst not disdain that Thine only begotten Son should be born of a woman; who also is the tabernacle of the testimony, and in the temple didst ordain women to be keepers of Thy holy gates—do Thou now also look down upon these Thy servants who are to be set apart to the office of Deaconess, and grant them Thy Holy Spirit that they may worthily discharge the work which is committed to them, to Thy glory and to the glory and praise of Christ, to whom be praise and adoration forever. Amen.

5. Address to the Candidates: Dear sisters, we rejoice with you that in the good providence of God an open door of usefulness has been found for you in the service of the Church of Christ. In our Master's vineyard there are various forms of labor, and to each disciple some fitting task is assigned; but to you are accorded peculiar privileges and priceless opportunities. Released from other cares you give yourself without reservation to the service of the Lord, ready for any duty which may fall to your lot. Like our blessed Master, you will henceforth go about doing good, ministering as He did to the wants of a suffering, sorrowing, and sin-laden world. The Church now solemnly sets you apart for her special service. You are to minister to the poor, visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering, comfort the sorrowing, save the sinning, and be ever ready to take up any
other duty for which willing hands cannot otherwise be found. Such a ministry is one which confers upon you great honor, but also a solemn responsibility. You have not entered upon it lightly, and now doubtless in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have already consecrated yourselves to this office and work. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the Church.

Question: Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work, and to assume the duties of this office?
Answer: I do.

Question: Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of a Deaconess in the Wesleyan Methodist Church?
Answer: I do.

Question: Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?
Answer: I so accept it, and will so walk in its light.

Question: Will you strive to walk so close to your Savior's side and ever be filled with His Spirit, that you will carry His blessed presence to the hearts and homes of those to whom you minister?
Answer: I will endeavor so to do.

Question: Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may set over you in the prosecution of your work?
Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

6. Hymn.
CONSECRATION OF DEACONESS

(Congregation and candidate, kneeling, after a brief season of silent prayer, unite in singing:

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my life, my God, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

[The congregation rise and remain standing while the candidates remain kneeling.

7. Invocation. May the Spirit of the Living God descend upon you and abide with you evermore. May His holy anointing impart to you grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and evermore. Amen.

[The candidates arise, and the minister, taking the right hand of each candidate in turn, shall say:]

I admit thee to the office of Deaconess in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

8. Dismissal with benediction.

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BAPTISM

¶421. Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice either of immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

Of Infants

The parents or parent of the child presented for baptism shall be asked the following questions:

Question: Hast thou renounced the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou dost not follow or art not led by them?

Answer: I have renounced them all, and by God's help will endeavor not to follow or be led by them.

Question: Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord; that He took man's nature in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and was born of her; that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; that He arose again on the third day; that He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and that He shall come again at the end of the world to judge the quick and the dead? And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the communion of saints, the remission of sins, the regeneration of our fallen nature, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death?
BAPTISM

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Question: Wilt thou have this child baptized in this faith?
Answer: This is my desire.

Question: Wilt thou, then, diligently teach it God's holy Word, and cause it to walk in obedience to His holy will and commandments, until it come to years to assume in its own person the faith, vows and obligations of baptism?
Answer: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

[Then shall the minister baptize the child and conclude the service with an appropriate prayer.]

Or This Form May Be Used:

By this act of presenting this child for consecration to God, you thereby signify your faith in the Christian religion, and that baptism is an ordinance of the same, and also your desire that he (or she) shall receive the benefits of consecration to God, and of the prayers of the church and congregation, that he (or she) may early learn to know and follow the will of God; and thus doing may live and die a Christian, attaining in the end of this earthly life to everlasting life in the Kingdom of God.

But in order that this may be accomplished in the life of this child, it will be your duty as his (or her) parents (or guardians) to early teach him (or her) the fear of the Lord; to watch over his (or her) education, that he (or she) may not be led astray by false teachings or doctrines, to direct his (or her) mind to
the Holy Scriptures as expressing the will and authority of God for all mankind, also to direct his (or her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (or her) from evil associates or habits; and, as much as in you lieth, to "bring him (or her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Question: Will you endeavor to do so, by the help of God?
Answer: I will.

Then shall the minister read the following scripture lesson:

"And they brought young children unto Him, that He should touch them: and the disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:13-16.

Then shall the minister ask the name of the child N. M., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The minister shall then offer an appropriate prayer:

Of Such As Are of Riper Years

The minister shall demand of each of the persons to be baptized severally:

Question: Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world,
with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow or be led by them?

Answer: I renounce them all.

Question: Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; and that He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; that He arose again on the third day; that He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead? And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the remission of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death?

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Question: Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Answer: This is my desire.

Question: Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

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

[Then shall the minister baptize by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, as the candidate may choose, saying:]

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

[Then shall be said an appropriate prayer, or the Lord's prayer.]
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Matt. 28: 19; Mark 1: 9-16; 16: 16; Acts 2: 38.
THE ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

¶422. We recommend to our ministers the follow­ing directions in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

(1) Let the officiating minister read the following, or some other appropriate passage of scripture.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

"And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it:

"For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

"But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."—Matt. 26:26-29.

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

"For we being many are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread."—1 Cor. 10:16, 17.

"For I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you. That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread:
SECTION XXXII

"And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

"After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

"For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.

"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."—1 Corinthians 11: 23-29.

(2) Let an appropriate hymn be sung.

(3) After which the elder shall say:

Ye who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and charity with your neighbor, following the commandments of God; and ye who do earnestly and truly repent of your sins, and from henceforth will walk in His holy ways; draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your confession to Almighty God.

(4) Then shall a general prayer be offered by the minister, in the name of all those who are minded to receive the holy sacrament, both he and all the people kneeling humbly upon their knees. The minister shall then proceed to distribute the bread, using the following words:
The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on Him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

Then the minister shall take the cup, which shall contain only unfermented wine, and shall say:

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

Then shall the elder offer appropriate prayer, or the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
SECTION XXXIII

MARRIAGE

§ 423. Question. Do we observe any evils which have prevailed in regard to marriage and divorce?

Answer 1. Many Christians have married with unconverted persons. This has produced bad effect; they have either been hindered for life, or have turned back to perdition.

We do not prohibit our people from marrying persons who are not of our Connection, provided such persons have the form and are seeking the power of godliness; but we are determined to discourage their marrying persons who do not come up to this description.

Answer 2. We regard adultery as the only justifiable cause for divorce. In the case of a divorce for such cause the innocent party may marry again; but the guilty party has by his or her act forfeited membership in the Church. In the case of divorce for other cause neither party shall be permitted to marry again during the lifetime of the other, and violation of this law shall be punished by expulsion from the Church. When the violator of this law is a minister he shall surrender his credentials immediately to the President of the Annual Conference.

We recommend that the following form of marriage ceremony be used:

Form A

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in
the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony; which is commended of Saint Paul to be honorable among all men, and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause why they may not be lawfully joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

[And also speaking unto the persons who are to be married, the minister shall say:]

I require and charge you both, as you will answer at the day of Judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why you may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, you do now confess it. For be you well assured, that if any persons are joined together otherwise than as God's Word doth allow, their marriage is not lawful.

But believing that you have duly considered the solemn obligations you are about to assume, and that you are prepared to enter upon the same discreetly, advisedly and in the fear of God, I shall propose to you the marriage covenant.

M.—Will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy state of Matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health;
and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

[The man shall answer.]

I will.

[Then shall the minister say unto the woman.]

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

[The woman shall answer.]

I will.

[Then the minister shall pray. The following form is suggested.]

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; send Thy blessing upon this man and this woman, whom we bless in Thy Name; that as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
[Then shall the minister join their right hands together, and say:]

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

[Then the minister shall speak unto the company.]

Forasmuch as M.— and N.— have consented together in holy wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[And the minister may add this blessing.]

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

Form B

Or this form may be used:

My friends—The ordinance of marriage was instituted by the Almighty in the Garden of Eden, and is one of the most solemn and binding of obligations, because it involves the sacred relations of the home and the family. Your happiness for the future will largely depend upon the fidelity with which the marriage vows are cherished and kept. There must be mutual affection the one for the other, and the marriage covenant must be kept in purity of spirit, as
SECTION XXXIII

well as in actual word and deed, would you reap the full fruition of happiness in your marriage.

If, with full and free consent, and thoughtful determination to keep the marriage covenant, you desire to enter the holy estate of marriage, you will acknowledge the same by taking the other by the right hand.

With their hands joined the minister will say:

Do you take each other to live together as husband and wife in the holy relationship of marriage, pledging before God and these witnesses, to love, honor and cherish each other, in sickness and health, for better or for worse; and, forsaking all others, to cleave to each other only, so long as you both shall live?

**Both to answer: I will.**

Then the minister shall place his right hand upon their joined hands and say:

Since you have taken the marriage covenant before God, and in the presence of these witnesses, I now declare you to be husband and wife in accordance with the laws of the State of ———, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and may God keep you faithful in every duty forever. Amen.

Then the minister shall offer an appropriate prayer.
SECTION XXXIV

THE ORDER OF THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

(The following or some other solemn service may be used.)

¶ 424. The minister going before the corpse shall say:

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

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

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

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

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of the world the soul of the departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the resurrection and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, at
whose second coming the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and shall be made like unto His glorious body according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.

[Then may be said:]

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

[Then shall the minister offer an appropriate prayer.]
SECTION XXXV

THE DEDICATION OF CHURCHES

[When the minister is ready to open the service the chairman of the board of trustees, or some one designated by the trustees, shall present the building to be dedicated in the following language:]

§ 425. Beloved Brother: In behalf of the trustees of this church, and of the church and congregation here assembled, and for the glory of God, I hereby present to you this building to be dedicated to the service and worship of God.

[Then the preacher shall read the twenty-fourth Psalm, which follows:]

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein:
For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.
Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? and who shall stand in His holy place?
He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Thy face, O Jacob.
Lift up your hands, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

[The officiating minister shall then read or cause to be read the following:]

Dearly beloved in the Lord; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the law as under the gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for His glorious Majesty and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in His service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father; let us not doubt but that He will also favorably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg His blessing upon this our undertaking, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

[After the singing of a suitable hymn the following prayer shall be offered to God:]

Prayer

Regard, O Lord, the supplication of Thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to Thee
in this house of baptism, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from Thy wrath and from eternal death and received as a living member of Christ’s Church, and may ever remain in the number of Thy faithful children.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and being filled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of His passion.

Grant, O Lord, that by Thy Holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by the Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives’ end.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that whosoever shall draw near to Thee in this place, to give Thee thanks for the benefits that they have received at Thy hands, to set forth Thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto Thee, and to seek the blessed grace of entire sanctification, and ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devo-
tion of mind that Thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give them whatever in Thy infinite wisdom Thou shalt see to be most expedient to them: all which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Savior.

(After singing another appropriate hymn let a sermon suited to the occasion be preached, to be followed by the prayer of dedication, as follows:)

Dedicated Prayer

O most glorious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto Thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech Thee, in Thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this place to Thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking; receive the prayers and intercessions of all these Thy servants who shall call upon Thee in this house; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve Thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with a solemn apprehension of Thy divine Majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that so approaching Thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before Thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Note.—It is much to be desired that all money required for the erection and completion of a house in which to worship God shall be fully provided before the day of dedication, but where this is not done, appeals may be made either just before or following the sermon. No building should be dedicated to God until free from debt.
PART VII
FORMS
FORMS, CREDENTIALS, LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, ETC.

§ 426

Form of a License to Exhort

This certifies that A--- B--, a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of C--- has been and is hereby duly authorized to hold public meetings for the promotion of the cause of God, and to exercise himself as an Exhorter in the Church of Christ.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference (or Church) of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of D---, this--- day of---.

This license to be renewed yearly.

E--- F---, Chairman.

C--- D---, Secretary.

§ 427

Form of Transfer

The bearer, A--- S---, a member in good standing in the O--- Annual Conference, having requested to be transferred to the M--- Annual Conference, is hereby duly transferred.

C--- S---,

President of the M--- Annual Conference.

To E--- H---,

President of the O--- Annual Conference.

January 1, 19---.
FORMS

(This license is good for one year only.)

Form of a Local Preacher's License

To Whom It May Concern:

This may certify that A-- B--, the bearer, having been duly recommended by the church of which he is a member, and having been examined concerning his gifts, graces and usefulness, is judged by us to be a proper person; therefore he is hereby authorized to preach the gospel according to the usages of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, as a Local Preacher.

Done at the Quarterly Conference, (or Church) of—, this— day of—, A. D., 19—, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

C--- D---, Chairman.

Form of Annual Conference License to Preach

To All Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that A-- B--, the bearer, has been received by the — Annual Conference to travel under its direction, and has been appointed by said conference to pastoral labors therein; therefore he is hereby authorized to preach the gospel according to the usages of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America.

Done by the — Annual Conference this — day of — A. D., —, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

C--- D---, President.

E--- F---, Secretary.
FORMS

¶ 430

Form of a Certificate for an Unstationed Minister or Preacher, Who Desires to Remove to Another Circuit, Station or Conference

The bearer, S— B—, an unstationed minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, being desirous of removing from this circuit, is entitled to receive from the undersigned this certificate of his good standing.

F—— Circuit, January 1, 19—.

W—— P——, Preacher in Charge.

¶ 431

Form of Elder's Credentials

To Whom It May Concern:

Be it known that C—— D——, having been duly elected by the —— Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, has been this day set apart, by the imposition of hands and prayer, to the office and work of an Elder in the Church of God so long as his life and doctrines shall comport with the Holy Scriptures. And he is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, solemnize matrimony, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God's heritage, but as being an example to the same.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the aforesaid Annual Conference held at ——, this —— day of ——, A. D., 19—.

E—— C——, Pres. E—— F——, Sec'y
Recommendation for Admission to Travel

To the members of the C—— Annual Conference, next to be held at D———, on the — day of — next.
The Quarterly Conference (or Church) of ——, being acquainted with the gifts, grace and usefulness of our brother E—— F——, do hereby recommend him as a suitable person to be received to travel under your direction.
Done this —— day of ——, 19——, by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or Church) and signed in its behalf.

G—— H——, Chairman.
E—— F——, Clerk

Form A
Certificate of Membership*

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, has been up to this date an acceptable member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in C———, and being desirous of removing from said church, is hereby dismissed and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.
Given on behalf of the aforesaid church the—— day of ——, A. D. ———
E—— F——, Pastor (or Clerk.)

*It is understood that this form of certificate dismisses the bearer from membership in the Church.
FORMS

Form B

Church Membership Transfer

The bearer, A—— B——, a member in good standing in the ——— Wesleyan Methodist Church, being desirous of transferring his membership to the ——— Wesleyan Methodist Church, is hereby transferred.

———, Pastor (or Clerk).

Note.—This dismisses the member from the church granting the transfer when he is received by vote of the church to which the member is transferred.

To be returned to the Pastor or church issuing the above letter.

To the Pastor or Church Issuing the Above Letter:

The member of your church, ————, to whom you issued a letter of transfer to ——— Wesleyan Methodist Church, has been received by vote of this church into its membership, and we send you this notification in completion of this transaction. 

Address, ——— Date, ———

———, Pastor

Certificate of Election to General Conference

This will certify that A—— B—— was duly elected a Ministerial or Lay) Delegate to the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, to be held at D———, beginning ———.

Done by the ——— Annual Conference this ——— day of ———.

E—— H———, Chairman

C—— W———, Secretary
Authorization to Administer the Sacraments

To All Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that the bearer, the Rev. —— having been appointed to definite, active work by the ——— Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, is hereby authorized to administer the sacraments and to solemnize matrimony for the period of one year from the date given below, provided he remains in pastoral or definite evangelistic work under the direction of the conference; but should he abandon his work, then this certificate must be returned to the President of the said Annual Conference, and the authority given in this certificate ceases at once.

Given by the President of said ——— Annual Conference, this ———day of ———, 19——.

———, President

Form of Letter of Dismissal

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, has been up to this date a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at C———, and being desirous of withdrawing from said church, is hereby dismissed.

Given on behalf of the aforesaid church this ——— day of ——— A. D. ———

D——— E———, Pastor, (or Clerk)
FORMS

§ 437

Form of Recommendation of Local Preacher to be Received by an Annual Conference to Study Under Its Direction

To the members of the ______ Annual Conference, next to be held at ______ on the ______ day of ______ next. The Quarterly Conference (or church) of ______, being acquainted with the gifts, grace, and usefulness of our Brother (or Sister) ______ do hereby recommend him as a suitable person to be received to study, preparatory to travel under your direction.

Done this ______ day of ______, 19----, by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or church) and signed in its behalf.

________, Chairman

________, Clerk

N. B. Please designate whether the licentiate is a Brother or Sister by the use of an ink line through either the word Brother or Sister.

§ 438

Certificate of Election to Annual Conference

This certifies that ______ ______, the bearer, was duly elected by the ______ charge a Delegate to the C_______ Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, to be held at D_______ on the ______ day of ______ next.

Done by the members of said charge, assembled this ______ day of ______, 19----.

________, F_______, Chairman
FORMS

§ 439

Form of a Certificate for a Stationed Minister or Preacher, who Desires to Remove to Another Conference

The bearer, J—— L——, having fully complied with engagements to the ——— Annual Conference, living a good moral character, and desiring to remove to another conference, is entitled to this certificate of good standing.

A—— S——,
President of the M—— Annual Conference.
January 1, 19——

§ 440

Letter of Standing of Elder

This certifies that A—— B——, the bearer, an Elder, being in good standing in the C—— Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, and being desirous of residing for a time without the bounds of said conference, is entitled to this certificate of his good standing.

Given at C—— this ——— day of ———, 19——.
A—— B——, President

[Limited to one year.]
§ 441

Recommendation for Deaconess Work

To the members of the C— Annual Conference, next to be held at D—, on the — day of — next:

The Quarterly Conference (or Church) of E—, being acquainted with the gifts, grace and usefulness of our Sister A— B—, do hereby recommend her as a suitable person for Deaconess work under the supervision and direction of the Annual Conference.

Done this — day of —, 19-, by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or Church) and signed in its behalf.

G— H—, Chairman
E— F—, Clerk

§ 442

Form of a Certificate for a Minister From Another Denomination

This is to certify that A— B— has been admitted by C— Conference as a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, he having been ordained according to the usages of the Church of which he has been a member and a minister.

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

\section*{\textbf{Probationary Deaconess License}}

To All Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that A--- B--, the bearer, has been received by the --- Annual Conference as a probationary Deaconess, to study and to labor under its direction, looking forward to consecration as a Deaconess in the Wesleyan Methodist Church; therefore she is authorized to do the work and bear the name of Deaconess, subject to the usages and provisions for such work and office in the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America.

Done by the --- Annual Conference this --- day of ---, 19--, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

\begin{center}
C--- D---, President
E--- F---, Secretary
\end{center}

\section*{\textbf{Deaconess Credentials}}

To Whom It May Concern:

Be it known that A--- B--, having been duly elected by the --- Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church), of America, has this day been set apart by consecration to the work and office of a Deaconess of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection.

Signed by order and in behalf of the aforesaid Annual Conference, held at ---, this --- day of ---, 19--.

\begin{center}
C--- D---, President
E--- F---, Secretary
\end{center}
### Form of a Register of Marriages to be Kept by the Quarterly Conference

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<th>When Married</th>
<th>Where Married</th>
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<td>Dec. 9, 19—</td>
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### Form of a Register of Baptisms to be Kept by the Quarterly Conference

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