DISCIPLINE

OF THE

WESLEYAN METHODIST

CHURCH OF AMERICA

WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
MARION, INDIANA
1963
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PART I
THE CHURCH
SECTION I

HISTORICAL

§ 1. 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.

§ 2. 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.

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

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

¶ 5. The most extensive prior separation took place in Michigan, which resulted in the organization of a conference, but they united in the general organization at Utica, hereafter mentioned, and formed the basis of what is now the Michigan Annual Conference. The first Wesleyan church which was organized as a part of the present Denomination, was in Providence, Rhode Island.

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

¶ 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 Church, 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 exigencies of an ecclesiastical organization—and for simplicity, render-
§ 9. 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 sayeth 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."
SECTION II

THE CONSTITUTION

Preamble

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

ARTICLE I. NAME

§ 11. The name of this communion is The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

ARTICLE II. ARTICLES OF RELIGION

I. Faith in the Holy Trinity

§ 12. 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.
II. The Son of God

§ 13. 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; 2:16-17; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:10, 18; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:18-19; Gal. 1:4; 2:20; 4:4-5; Eph. 5:2; I Tim. 1:16; Heb. 2:17; 7:27; 9:26; 10:12; I Peter 1:24; I John 2:2; 4:14.

III. The Resurrection of Christ

§ 14. 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.


IV. The Holy Ghost

§ 15. 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 4:14-18; Acts 2:20; Rom. 8:9; II Cor. 3:17; Gal. 4:6.

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

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

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:


The canonical books of the New Testament are:


VI. The Old Testament

§ 17. 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.


VII. Relative Duties

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


VIII. Original or Birth Sin

§ 19. 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; Ps. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-23; Rom. 3:10-12; 5:12, 16-19; Eph. 2:1-4.

IX. Free Will

§ 20. 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. 5:5-8; Eph. 2:3-9; Phil. 2:13; 4:13.

X. Justification of Man

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

Acts 13:36-39; 15:11, 16:31; Rom. 3:28; 4:3-5; 5:1-2, 9; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 11.

XI. Good Works

¶ 22. 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, inasmuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

Matt. 5:15; 7:16-20; John 15:8; Rom. 3:26; 4:2, 4, 6; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 1:1; Titus 3:5; James 2:18, 22; I Peter 2:9, 12.

XII. Sin After Justification

¶ 23. 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.

Ps. 32:5; 95:7, 11; Eccl. 7:27; Jer. 3:13-15; Matt. 24:12; John 5:14; Gal. 5:4, 7; Eph. 5:14; Heb. 3:7, 13, 15; James 3:3, 8; I John 1:8-9; 2:12; Rev. 3:5.

XIII. Regeneration

¶ 24. 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—
THE CONSTITUTION

receiving the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

John 1:13-17; 3:3, 5; Rom. 8:15, 17; Gal. 3:26, 4:5, 6; Eph. 1:5, 2:5, 10; 4:24; Col. 3:10; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:3-4; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:1.

XIV. Entire Sanctification

§ 25. 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. 30:5; Ps. 130:8; Ezek. 36:25-29; Matt. 5:6; Luke 1:76-77; John 17:2-23; Rom. 8:3-4; 11:26; I Cor. 6:11; 14:26; Eph. 4:5, 24; 5:29-37; Phil. 2:5; Col. 4:15; I Thess. 3:10, 12-22; II Thess. 2:13; I Tim. 3:7; Titus 2:12; Heb. 5:12-14, 16:14, 15; James 1:27; 4:8; I Peter 1:19; II Peter 1:4; I John 1:7, 9; 3:8-9; 4:7-16; Jude 24.

XV. The Sacraments

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

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

Matt. 26:26-28; 28:19; Mark 14:23-25; Rom. 2:9-11; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:23-26; Gal. 3:27.

XVI. Baptism

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

Num. 8:7; Isa. 52:15; Ezek. 36:25; Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9; 16; John 3:22, 28; 4:1-3; Acts 2:28, 41; 8:15, 16-19; 10:34; 18:8, 16:5; II Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27-28; Col. 2:11-13; Titus 3:5.
XVII. The Lord's Supper

¶ 28. 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.


XVIII. The One Oblation of Christ Finished Upon the Cross

¶ 29. 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

¶ 30. 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, 15; 17, 21; I Cor. 1:10, 12:25; 14:35; II Cor. 12:17; Gal. 3:1, 13; Col. 2:16-17; II Thess. 3:5, 14; I Tim. 1:4, 6; I Peter 2:19.

XX. The Second Coming of Christ

¶ 31 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

§ 32. 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.


XXII. The Judgment of Mankind

§ 33. 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.

Eccl. 12:14; Rom. 14:9-11; II Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:16; Matt. 10:15; Luke 11:30-33; Acts 10:42; II Tim. 4:1; Heb. 9:27; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-13; II Peter 3:7.

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.

ARTICLE III. GENERAL RULES

§ 34. It is 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 or­
dinary work therein, or by buying or selling.
Drunkenness, or the manufacturing, buying, selling, or
using intoxicating liquors, unless for mechanical, chemical,
or medicinal purposes, or in any way intentionally and know­
ingly 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.
The giving or taking things on usury, i.e., unlawful in­
terest.
Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with
brother, returning evil for evil, or railing for railing.
The buying or selling goods that have not paid the duty.
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 wearing of apparel which does not modestly and
properly clothe the person.
The taking such diversions as cannot 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 and needless self-indulgence.
Laying up treasure upon earth.
Borrowing without a probability of paying, or taking up
goods without a probability of paying for them.

§ 35. It is expected of all who continue in these churches
that they should continue to evidence their desire of 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 them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others, buying one of 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 offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake.

§ 36. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these churches that they should continue to evidence their desire of 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.
Fasting or abstinence.

§ 37. Further, by abstaining from membership in secret societies. We will on no account tolerate our ministers and members in joining or holding fellowship with secret societies, as, in the judgment of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, it is...
inconsistent with our duties to God to hold such relations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 39. Further, by observing the teachings of Scripture regarding marriage and divorce. We regard adultery as the only justifiable cause for divorce. In the case of a divorce for such cause the innocent party may marry again; but the guilty party has by his or her act forfeited membership in
the church. In the case of divorce for other cause neither party shall be permitted to marry again during the lifetime of the other, and violation of this law shall be punished by expulsion from the church (Matt. 5:32; Mark 10:11-12). In the carrying out of these principles, guilt shall be established in accordance with judicial procedures set forth in the Discipline.

¶ 40. 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 rule and the 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.

Article IV. Elementary Principles

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

¶ 42. Christ is the only Head of the church, and the Word of God the only rule of faith and conduct.

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

¶ 44. 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.

¶ 45. All church trials should be conducted on gospel principles only; and no minister or member should be excommunicated except for immorality, the propagation of un-
christian doctrines, or for neglect of duties enjoined by the Word of God.

§ 46. The pastoral or ministerial office and duties are of divine appointments, 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.

§ 47. 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.

§ 48. 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.

§ 49. It is the duty of all ministers and members of the church to maintain godliness and oppose all moral evil.

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

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

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

§ 52. The conditions of full membership are:
(1) Confession of a personal experience in regeneration, and a pledge to seek diligently until sanctified wholly if that experience has not been attained.
(2) Christian baptism.
(4) A covenant to support the church, to live in fellowship with the members thereof, and to seek God's glory in all things.
(5) The approving vote of a majority of the members of the receiving church who are present and voting, provided that when objections are urged against the reception of a member, it shall require a vote of three-fourths of those present and voting to receive.

§ 53. The rights of full membership are:
(1) The fellowship of the saints and the encouragement, admonition, and spiritual guidance of the ministry.
(2) The access to the sacraments and ordinances of the church.
(3) The right to vote and the eligibility to hold any office for which a person in full membership is eligible, if not under discipline.
(4) The right to trial and appeal if charged with failure to maintain the conditions of membership, with the specific provision that joining another religious body shall of itself sever membership in the church.

§ 54. Church membership may be terminated only by one or more of the following:
(1) Voluntary withdrawal.
(2) Joining another religious body or a secret order.
(3) Expulsion after proper trial and conviction.
(4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined by the Discipline.

Article VI. The Ministry

§ 55. The General Conference shall from time to time enact provisions for the training, qualification, and ordination of the ministry. Every Wesleyan Methodist minister must be a member of some Wesleyan Methodist church, and each
elder must be a member of an annual conference. An elder is a minister of the gospel fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

§ 56. The constitutional rights of ministers in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, if not under discipline, shall include the following:

1. To preach the gospel and in the case of ordained elders to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony.

2. To be eligible, in the case of ordained elders, for election to any office in the church for which elders are eligible.

3. To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan Methodist churches subject to the other provisions of this constitution. (Subparagraph 6 below, and paragraph 60, subparagraphs 1 and 2 below.)

4. To enjoy the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which he has been appointed by the annual conference.

5. To serve his assigned pastoral charge without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

6. To transfer in the manner prescribed by the Discipline from one annual conference to another, subject to reception by the annual conference to which he transfers.

7. To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against his character or ministerial conduct, and to appeal the decision of such court.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

§ 57. Pastoral Charges. The members of the denomination shall be grouped into local churches, one or more of which shall constitute a pastoral charge. The following are the constitutional rights of each pastoral charge:

1. To receive and expel or discontinue members subject
to the provisions of the Discipline. This right vests severally
in each local church.

(2) To call its own pastor, subject to confirmation by
the annual conference.

(3) To grant licenses to preach and exhort, and take
away the same.

(4) To recommend local preachers and special workers
to the annual conference.

(5) To elect its own officers and to remove the same
for cause. No pastor or other official has any right to ap­
point an officer or declare an office vacant. This right be­
longs to the church alone, and vests severally in each local
church.

(6) To elect trustees and through such trustees to super­
vise, control, and maintain its property for the use and benefit
of the ministry and members of The Wesleyan Methodist
Church of America and subject to its regulations and appoint­
ments as from time to time legislated and declared. This
right vests severally in each local church.

(7) To be represented in the voting membership of its
annual conference, if not under discipline.

(8) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction
in any matters of controversy between itself and other local,
conference, or general units or agencies of the Denomination.
This right vests severally in each local church.

§ 58. The Annual Conference. The General Conference
shall organize the work at large into annual conferences, which
shall operate under its jurisdiction and promote the interests
of the Denomination, whose voting membership shall include
the following: all elders on the stationed reserve, and super­
annuated lists; all conference preachers elected to elders' or­
ders; all conference preachers serving as pastors of organized
Wesleyan Methodist churches; lay delegates elected by or­
ganized Wesleyan Methodist churches as provided in the Dis­
cipline. In addition the annual conference shall include such
non-voting members as the Discipline shall provide. The
principle of equal representation of the ministry and the laity
in the annual conference sessions shall be maintained.
§ 59. In transacting the business of the annual conference the ministers and lay members shall deliberate as one body; but on the final vote on any question, 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.

§ 60. The constitutional rights of each annual conference shall include the following:

1. The right to take charge of all the ministers and churches within its bounds except such of the general officers of the church as the General Conference shall define (who shall be amenable to the Board of Administration for their official conduct and to their annual conferences for their moral character), and subject to the right of the ministers and churches to enter into pastoral engagements for one year from the next session of the annual conference, or to contract the pastoral relationship at any time during the interval of the sessions of the annual conference when this does not interrupt any arrangement which was sanctioned by the annual conference at its previous session.

2. To alter the agreement entered into by any pastor and charge when it deems this to be for the best interest of the charge or pastor involved or when the general interest of the conference work would be better served by such a change, provided that any such alteration of a previous arrangement between a pastor and church shall be separately reported and passed by vote of the conference, to be effective.

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

4. To receive or decline local preachers and special workers recommended to it by the pastoral charges within its bounds.

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

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

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

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

(9) To be represented in the lay and the ministerial voting membership of the General Conference, if not under discipline.

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

§ 61. General Conference Membership. The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of elders and laymen elected by the several annual conferences, and of such General Conference officials as the General Conference may establish by legislation, provided that it shall at the same time enact provisions to secure such further representation as shall be necessary to continue the principle of equal lay and ministerial membership.

§ 62. General Conference Delegates.

(1) Each annual conference, if not under discipline, shall be entitled to send one elder and one layman as delegates to the General Conference and additional ministerial and lay
delegates according to membership on a basis of representation to be fixed by General Conference.

(2) The delegates shall be elected by ballot. The ministerial delegates must be elders, and at the time of their election, as also at the time of General Conference, must be members of the annual conference which elected them.

(3) The lay delegates shall be chosen from the members of the church in full relation within the bounds of the annual conference they represent, and at the time of the General Conference they must be members of a church within the bounds of the annual conference which elected them.

§ 63. General Conference Sessions.

(1) The General Conference shall meet quadrennially on a date specified by the Discipline and at such place as shall have been determined by the preceding General Conference. However, in case of emergency the Board of Administration shall have power to change both time and place of the General Conference.

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

§ 64. Presidency of the General Conference. The General Conference shall elect by ballot one or more traveling elders to the work of the general superintendency, to which office it may assign any suitable title, and the same shall preside at the various sittings of the General Conference in such order as these may determine; but in case no general superintendent be present, the General Conference shall elect by ballot an elder as president pro tem. A general superintendent’s term shall begin on the date determined by the General Conference.

§ 65. Other Officers. The General Conference shall elect by ballot a secretary and such other officers as it shall decide upon.
§ 66. Board of Administration.

(1) There shall be a Board of Administration to carry out the will of the General Conference during the quadrennium. Such board shall be made up of the general superintendents, and an equal number of elders and laymen chosen by the General Conference to represent equitably the several administrative areas of the Church. The number of the representative members of the Board of Administration shall be set by the General Conference. In addition to the foregoing, the General Conference shall have power to assign ex officio membership on the Board of Administration to such elected officials as it shall deem advisable.

(2) The Board of Administration shall have general supervision of all the activities of the Church during the intervals of the General Conference, and shall constitute or create the basic board of control of each and all of the Wesleyan Methodist societies and institutions now incorporated or hereafter incorporated under the laws of any state of the United States or of any province of Canada or under any other jurisdiction where such is permitted by the laws of said jurisdiction.

§ 67. General Conference Quorum. At all times when the General Conference is in session, it shall require a majority of all the delegates elected by the annual conferences to form a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, until a quorum is obtained.

§ 68. General Conference Voting. 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 except proposed amendments to the constitution, on a call of one-fourth of the members, the house shall divide and 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.
§ 69. The General Conference shall have power to designate a criterion for parliamentary procedure for itself and for the other bodies of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. The General Conference shall have full power to elect its officers and the general officials of the Church and to define their duties and responsibilities, and to make and administer rules and regulations for The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America subject to the constitution and the following restrictions:

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

2. It shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to destroy the principle of equal representation of ministers and laymen in the representative bodies of the Church; or to do away with the right of each General Conference to elect its own officers, or the maintenance of an itinerant ministry.

3. It shall make no rule that shall deny any church the right to receive, discontinue, or expel its own members subject to their right of appeal; or to elect and remove its own officers; or that shall deny to the annual conference the final disposition of all pastoral arrangements, or that shall deny to preachers and churches initial negotiations concerning the same.

4. It shall make no rule that will discriminate against any member or minister on account of ancestry or color. This shall not be interpreted to encourage racial intermarriage.

5. It shall make no rule that will interfere with the supervision of established annual conferences (in distinction from mission conferences) over the ministers and churches within their bounds, except those ministers whom the General Conference makes amenable to itself because of election to the work of the general Church.
(6) It shall not have the power to deprive any member or minister of the right of trial by an impartial committee, or of the right of appeal.

**Article IX. The Supreme Judiciary**

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

§ 71. The Board of Review shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon appeal of the general superintendents, or one-fifth the members of the General Conference.

2. To hear and determine any appeal from the decisions of the general superintendents as to the constitutionality of an action by an annual conference or upon a point of Church law.

3. To hear and determine the legality of any action by any general Church board upon appeal of one-third the members thereof, or by request of the general superintendents.

4. To settle questions in dispute between annual conferences upon appeal by a two-thirds vote of a conference that claims it has a grievance against another conference.

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

§ 72. A decision of the Board of Review shall be final unless the General Conference votes to overrule the same by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

**Article X. Amendments to the Constitution**

§ 73. Upon the recommendation of a two-thirds majority of all the members of the several annual conferences who shall be present and vote on a proposed change of any matter involving the constitution and upon concurrent recommendation of a two-thirds majority of all the members of the local churches who shall be present and vote on the same, the next ensuing General Conference may by a two-thirds
2. Statutory

§ 78. 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.

§ 79. 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 ministry and laity, and further provided that no church or charge shall be deprived of representation.

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

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

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

1. Necessity of Union Among Ourselves

§ 82. Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known) of the evil of a division in principle, spirit, or practice, and the dreadful consequences 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 achieve 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; I Peter 1:22; 3:8; 4:8.

2. Modesty and Economy

§ 83. Should we insist on the rules concerning dress?

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

1. In visiting the classes be very mild, but very strict.
2. Allow of no exempt case; better one suffer than many.

§ 84. Should we insist on plain and modest dress?

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

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

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

Refraining from the wearing of jewelry sets a better example for single men and women, and children. If the mature Christian men and women of the Church do not have a conscience on this matter it will be impossible for the Church to maintain its testimony against worldliness in the younger years.
§ 87. 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.

3. Marriage and Divorce

§ 88. Do we observe any evils which have prevailed in regard to marriage and divorce?

Many Christians have married with unconverted persons. This has produced bad effects; they have either been hindered for life, or have turned back to perdition.

We do not prohibit our people from marrying persons who are not of our Denomination provided such persons have the form and are seeking the power of godliness; but we are determined to discourage their marrying persons who do not come up to this description.

For the teaching of the Church on divorce, see the Constitution, paragraph 39.

4. Christian Stewardship

A. Church Finance

§ 89. Since all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (II Tim. 3:16), and since holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Pet. 1:21), we base our faith upon the inspired Word of God. The Bible gives us all truth that is vital to Christian experience and to the promotion of the cause of Christ at home and abroad.

Since God is a God of system and order in all of His doing, we believe the mind of the Spirit, as taught in the Word, to be that all Christians should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support and furtherance of the gospel. We recommend that such tithes and offerings be brought into the storehouse (the church) for their proper and systematic distribution.

Gen. 14:20; 28:22; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 14:22; Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25; Mal. 3:10-11; Matt. 23:23; John 8:35; Acts 4:34-35; 6:1-3; 1 Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:13-14; Heb. 7:1, 6, 9.
\(90\). 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 freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them. The tenth is figured upon the tither's gross income in salary or net increase when operating a business.

(2) That the Storehouse Plan be adopted as the general financial plan of the Church. The local church is regarded as the storehouse into which our people should bring their tithes.

(3) That the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist shall be the general tithing secretary of the Church. He shall assist the annual conference tithing secretaries in obtaining suitable literature in the promotion of tithing and the Storehouse Plan, furnish the General Conference with statistical information on tithing and the Storehouse Plan and on other items of interest pertaining to this work, and present an annual tithing report to the Board of Administration.

(4) That each annual conference shall elect a tithing secretary who shall cooperate with the general tithing secretary. He shall circulate suitable literature, promote tithing and the Storehouse Plan among the pastors and tithing secretaries of the churches, present the Storehouse Plan to each church of the conference where it is not in operation, and make an annual report of his activities, along with the number of churches operating the Storehouse Plan, to the general tithing secretary and to his own annual conference.

(5) That each church elect a tithing secretary who shall cooperate with the conference tithing secretary. His duty shall be to keep a list of members who tithe, to secure and distribute provided information and literature for instruction on the subject of tithing and the Storehouse Plan, and to take the responsibility to arrange with the pastor at least one public service each year presenting the Storehouse Plan.

(6) That all conference presidents, pastors, and evangelists encourage our people to practice Storehouse Tithing as a means of spiritual blessing as well as of church advancement.
(7) That one service at each General and annual conference be devoted to the study and promotion of tithing and the Storehouse Plan. These shall be directed by the general and annual conference tithing secretaries respectively.

§ 91. The several corporations and departments of the Church shall submit to the Board of Administration, through its Executive Commissions and Executive Board, not less than 30 days prior to the close of the corporate fiscal year, a budget showing the amount needed in their respective departments for the ensuing year. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to aggregate the amounts needed in the various departments of the Church work into one budget of expense, and apportion to the several conferences the amount of this budget. In making this apportionment the Executive Board shall take into account the number of members in each conference and their ability to pay the share assigned to them. At least two weeks before the session of each annual conference the general treasurer should send to each conference president and to each conference secretary a statement of the apportionment for that conference. At the close of each series of conferences the Editor shall publish in The Wesleyan Methodist a statement showing for each conference its membership, its apportionment for each benevolence, and the amount raised on the budget for each benevolence. Every person authorized to receive general funds who receives money that can count on the budget and that has not passed through the hands of a conference treasurer, must give the person from whom he received it a duplicate receipt, or else send a duplicate receipt to the proper conference treasurer.

§ 92. It shall be the duty of each conference at its annual session to apportion the budget of general benevolences assigned to it to the various charges of the conference. In making the apportionment, the conference shall take into account the number of members of each charge and their ability to pay this 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 obligation to the Church when it pays its apportionment in full for each benevolence, or has paid through its treasurer on an undivided basis an amount equal to the sum total of general budget apportionments.

§ 93. It shall be the duty of the pastor and stewards to see to the faithful collection of the share assigned to their charges. All money paid for current expenses of the Educational work, or for the current expenses of the Missionary work, either General Church Extension or World Missions, and pledges and interest (but not principal) paid for these purposes, and all money paid by the WMS, the YMWB, the WY, or the Sunday schools for these purposes may count toward the budget. If any person or society pays money to any person authorized to receive general funds for any of these purposes, a duplicate receipt shall be given, and the pastor and stewards shall accept these receipts as payments on the budget. All money and duplicate receipts collected by the pastor and stewards for the budget shall be sent to the conference treasurer, provided however that money collected definitely for education or definitely for missionary work, and not as undivided budget, may be sent to any person authorized to receive general funds. In this case a duplicate receipt shall be given which shall be sent to the conference treasurer. A charge has met its obligations to the Denomination when it has paid the conference treasurer its apportionment in full for each benevolence, or when it pays an undivided amount sufficient to balance in full its apportionment for each benevolence. The pastor's statistical report to the conference shall contain a budget item showing the amount assigned to his charge for each benevolence, the amount raised definitely for education, the amount raised definitely for missions, and the amount raised as undivided budget. This item must be audited by the conference treasurer before it is accepted by the conference.

§ 94. The General Conference directs:
(1) That the charges be urged to raise the budget, as
SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

far as possible, on the undivided plan.

(2) That the conference treasurer be instructed to remit to the general treasurer, monthly, all money received on general budget apportionments.

(3) That pastors be urged to introduce the Storehouse Plan wherever it is not in operation.

The Publishing Association, through its General Manager, will furnish full information and samples upon application.

B. Wills, Bequests, and Annuities

§ 95. Since all our possessions belong to God, and since we are commanded to “honor the Lord with our substance,” and since we have many Scriptural injunctions and examples that encourage us in giving directions as to what shall be done with our estates after our death, and since state laws often do not distribute our estates as might best glorify God, we recommend that our members prepare immediately in a careful and legal manner, their last will and testament.

Isa. 38:1; Luke 6:38; 16:9; I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:6-9.

§ 96. Furthermore, it is recommended that so far as practicable, our people shall dispose of their property while still living, and we commend to their favorable consideration (and bequests) The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, incorporated; the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America; the Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America; the Superannuated Ministers’ Aid Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America; and the Wesleyan Educational Society. Bequests intended for any of our educational institutions may be made through the Wesleyan Educational Society.

§ 97. 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.

§ 98. The Wesleyan Methodist Church, through its different corporate societies, as the donor may elect, will receive gifts on the following conditions as a basis:

41
## Section IV

**Annuity Rates**

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<th>Survivorship</th>
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At any annual meeting the Board of Administration shall be empowered to amend the annuity rates. It is also provided that local boards of trustees are permitted to make interpolations within the scale of ages between these listed.

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.

§ 99. This area of practical benevolence shall be supervised and promoted by a Committee on Christian Stewardship, amenable to the Board of Administration, reporting to and serving under the guidance of a commission.
SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

At its first session following General Conference, the Board of Administration shall elect to the Committee on Christian Stewardship two ministerial members and four laymen from the Church at large. The Committee shall organize itself, elect such officers as it deems necessary, and the Board of Administration shall designate a department or an officer at World Headquarters to handle the Committee's publicity and correspondence.

Duties of the Committee on Stewardship shall be:

1. To prepare promotional literature on stewardship.
2. To serve as an advisory committee to the general tithing secretary.
3. To study the Church's general stewardship program, bringing any recommendations to the Board of Administration and/or the General Conference.
4. To prepare and make available to interested persons literature on wills and bequests, along with other helpful forms and information.
5. To actively solicit and secure, on behalf of the Church, wills, bequests, and annuities.

5. Temperance and Prohibition

§ 100. 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 has 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. 23:29-35; Isa. 5:11, 22; 28:7-8; Hab. 2:15-16; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:18.

6. Public Morals and Social Concern

§ 101. A Committee on Public Morals and Social Concern is hereby constituted under the following plan. One member is to be designated by the faculty administrative committee of each of our colleges. His name shall be reported to the session of the Board of Administration next following the quadrennial session of the General Conference, or to the Executive Board, for election. The Editor of THE WESLEYAN METHODIST shall serve as general chairman of the Committee.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST is suggested as an appropriate medium of publicity for Committee reports, as well as for such pamphlets or tracts the Committee shall deem advisable to publish, subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

The duty of the Committee shall be to review public affairs and other matters of social concern, and to keep the Church informed of current trends. The Committee shall recommend to the Board of Administration or to the General Conference constructive measures in these areas.

7. National Reform

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

§ 103. That all our ministers and members shall favor the use of the Bible in our public schools.

Deut. 6:7-8; John 5:39.
§ 104. That chaplaincies in the army and navy, and in State and National Congress be not abolished.

I Kings 8:22-53; II Chron. 4:10; II Chron. 14:11-12; I Tim. 2:1-2.

§ 105. That Sunday be observed by cessation from all unnecessary labor, and that the day be devoted to divine worship and rest.


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

Ps. 22:28; 35:3-12; Isa. 9:6; Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 17:14.

8. Peace

§ 107. 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 and 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 plowshares 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. 2:4; Zech. 9:10.
PART II
OFFICIAL BODIES
SECTION V. THE LOCAL CHURCH (QUARTERLY CONFERENCE)
SECTION VI. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SECTION VII. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
SECTION VIII. THE GENERAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
SECTION IX. THE WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
SECTION X. EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
SECTION XI. MISSIONARY SOCIETIES
SECTION XII. CHURCH EXTENSION AND EVANGELISM
SECTION XIII. SUNDAY SCHOOLS
SECTION XIV. WESLEYAN YOUTH
SECTION XV. PENSION PLAN
SECTION V

THE LOCAL CHURCH
(The Quarterly Conference)

1. Organization

§ 108A. 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.

§ 108B. Any society of believers conforming to our 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.

§ 109. A Wesleyan Methodist church may be organized by authority of an annual conference which derives its authority and territory from the General Conference. The organization of a local Wesleyan Methodist church requires subjection to the authority of the judicatories of the Church.

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

§ 111. 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 president 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 hereinafter 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 Discipline.

§ 112. 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 now answer affirmatively those questions proposed to members received into the church? (See paragraphs 115, 119, and 120.)
Answer. I do.

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

Question 3. Will you receive each other as brethren and sisters beloved, and enter into mutual communion and fellowship, and promise to walk with each other in Christian sympathy, to tenderly instruct, counsel, admonish, and cherish
each other with all longsuffering, gentleness, and love?

Answer. I will.

The elder will say:

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

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

§ 113. 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.

2. Membership

§ 114. 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.

§ 115. When members are to be received in full membership in a local church, the church is directed to use the following form:

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

Answer. I do.
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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?

Answer. Yes.

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?

Answer. It is.

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

Answer. I do.

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

Answer. Yes, I will.

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

Covenant

f 116. Being received they shall be addressed as follows:

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

You cheerfully devote yourselves to God in the everlasting covenant of His grace, consecrating all your powers and faculties to His service and glory. And you promise that you will cleave to Him as your chief good; that you will give diligent attention to His Word and ordinances; that you will seek the honor and advancement of His kingdom; and that henceforth, denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, you will live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
THE LOCAL CHURCH

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?

Answer. I do.

Those uniting on certificate from other Wesleyan Methodist churches, if any, will here arise.

Covenant for Those Uniting on Certificate

For those uniting on certificate from other denominations.

§ 117. 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 charity and Christian fidelity. Do you thus renewedly, freely, and solemnly devote yourself to be the Lord’s?

Answer. I do.

Members of the church here arise and the church will vote on the reception of candidates.

Response of the Church

§ 118. 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.

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

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Question 1. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?
Answer. Yes, He does.

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

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.

§ 120. The church may receive as junior members, children and young people between seven and sixteen years of age who give affirmative answers to the following questions:

Question 1. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?
Answer. Yes, He does.

Question 2. Will you endeavor to govern your life by the Word of God and the teaching of the Church?
Answer. I will.

§ 121. Junior members may become associate or full members at any time, following examination by the church Advisory Committee and a vote of the church. Apart from such action by the church, junior membership becomes invalid when one becomes seventeen years of age. The church shall not be assessed budget for junior members. Junior members shall have all the rights and privileges of members in full connection except to vote and hold office in the church. This provision for junior membership shall in no case be considered a substitute for those who are qualified for full membership.

§ 122. Associate and junior members at their request may
THE LOCAL CHURCH

be granted letters as specified for such type memberships. (See paragraphs 452 and 453.)

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

§ 124. The conditions of full membership are listed in paragraph 52. 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; in such a case he may be declared withdrawn by removal.

(1) No full member may be transferred to the roll of associate or junior members, except at the specific written request for, or written agreement to, such relationship by the person involved. Any member charged with failure to meet the requirements of the Discipline must be dealt with in the manner prescribed by the Discipline.

(2) Associate members and junior members who desire to become full members shall be examined by the local church's Advisory Board and received in the manner prescribed in the Discipline.

For authority of the pastor or clerk to issue letters under certain circumstances see Paragraph 270, subparagraph 14.

§ 125. 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.

§ 126. 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 643, 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 115 and the covenant taken when received.

§ 127. 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.

§ 128. Members living in acknowledged violation of the Discipline are not entitled to vote in any business connected with the church, and by a two-thirds vote of the church who are present and voting may be denied a vote in any business connected with the church, quarterly conference or pastoral supply until such acknowledged violations have been corrected.

§ 129. 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, by a two-thirds vote of the church who are present and voting, 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. This provision does not apply to one serving under annual conference appointment. (See paragraphs 489 and 493.)

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

For correct forms of church letters see blank forms in end of this book.

§ 131. Each church shall have a book of records kept by a clerk elected 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.

3. Procedures and Powers

¶ 132. Order of Quarterly Conference Business

(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 decline to renew 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.

¶ 133. 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. This provision is superseded when an annual conference designates its president, annual conference evangelist, or other officer to preside. See paragraph 136.

¶ 134. When a pastoral charge consists of two or more churches, the business of the charge shall be transacted in a
quarterly conference or a duly called business meeting. The quarterly conference or duly called business meeting 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 or duly called business meeting shall elect a secretary who shall keep a faithful record of its proceedings.

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

§ 136. Constitutional rights of each quarterly conference (local church) are listed in paragraph 57. 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.

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

§ 138. Reports of local preachers, exhorters, stewards, and
§ 139. 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 134 of this section, then all the business provided to be done by the quarterly conference may be done in said church meeting.

§ 140. 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 monies 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.

§ 141. Where a church or charge judges it best to waive its rights in selecting a pastor, in such cases it shall be left to the annual conference to appoint a pastor for said church or charge, and when so appointed said pastor shall be re-
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Received by the church or charge the same as if they had voted for said pastor.

\[142\] In case any church or charge leaves the selection of a pastor open by not entering into an engagement or taking any vote, the annual conference shall appoint a pastor for said church or charge as provided for in paragraph 214, 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.

\[143\] Stations and circuits located on conference lines are authorized to elect to which conference they shall belong, consulting their convenience of travel and associations.

4. Properties and Titles

\[144\] 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 paragraph 145.)

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

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

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

6. To secure approval of plans and methods of financing from said board before construction is started.

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

§ 145. 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 desired.

§ 146. 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.

§ 147. Let the property be deeded to the annual conference (if incorporated). If it is not incorporated it should be deeded to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, simply as a holding corporation, said property to be under the supervision and control and maintenance of the local church; provided if such church cease to exist, said holding corporation shall have power to order the sale of said property, and to appropriate the funds so received to the building of new houses of worship or parsonages for The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, within the bounds of said conference. Said church shall be deemed to have ceased to exist when said property is not used statedly for one and one-half years for the benefit of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

§ 148. Whenev'r a local church shall deem it necessary or advisable to make a 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.

§ 149. In all conveyances of ground for the erection of houses of worship, or upon which they may have been erected, let the following clause be inserted at the proper place: "In trust, that said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and membership of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America; subject to the Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and the annual conference in whose bounds the said premises are situated. In the event of the sale of the premises herein described, these restrictions shall cease and the trustees thereby enabled to give a good and sufficient deed."

§ 150. In all conveyances of ground for the erection of dwelling houses for the use of the preachers, or upon which they may have been erected, let the following clause be inserted at the proper place: "In trust, that said premises shall be held, kept, and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the preachers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, who may from time to time be stationed in said place, subject to the usage and Discipline of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the annual conference within whose bounds said premises are situated. In the event of the sale of the premises herein described, these restrictions shall cease and the trustees thereby enabled to give a good and sufficient deed."

§ 151. In all conveyances of ground for the use of parking lots, or the erection of educational or youth buildings, let the following clause be inserted in the proper place: "In trust, that said premises shall be held, kept, and maintained, for the use of the membership of The Wesleyan Methodist Church
of America, as designated and supervised by the local church, 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 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."

§ 152. Premises used by any local Wesleyan Methodist church for any of its proper religious or related activities may be conveyed to the local church, if properly incorporated, by the annual conference corporation or The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America corporation, depending on which holds title for the use of the local church, providing however, that the deed or other conveyance to the local church corporation contains the following clauses; namely—

"The premises herein conveyed are to be used solely for the religious and related activities of the grantee. If said premises cease to be used for such purposes, or if the grantee cease to be affiliated with The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as required by its Discipline, then title of said premises shall revert to the grantor, which shall have immediate right of re-entry.

"In the event of a bona fide sale or mortgage, nothing herein contained shall prevent the grantor herein from consenting to such sale or mortgage, providing such sale or mortgage is for the ultimate benefit of the grantee and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America."

The provisions of this paragraph are designed to cover special situations where the floating of bonds, the securing of a commercial loan, or some similar situation requires a local deeding of the church property. The paragraph is not intended to be an annulment or contradiction of paragraph 147 with respect to church property.

5. Committees and Officers

§ 153. A List of Local Church Officers and Committees
Advisory Committee 154; 173
Also called Committee on Church Membership 126
Each church shall at the time of election of church officers (paragraph 270, subparagraph 4) elect a church advisory committee of not less than three persons, of which the pastor shall be chairman ex officio, the duties of which shall be:

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

2. The pastor and class leaders, or the church by vote, shall refer all cases of violation of the Discipline to this committee for amicable adjustment. Any cases which cannot be thus adjusted shall be dealt with according to the Judiciary Rules, paragraph 56, subparagraph 7; paragraphs 125, 233, 482-488, 503-506.

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. 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.

§ 155. At a meeting of the membership of the church as provided for in paragraph 370, subparagraph 4, each church shall elect 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 or living in acknowledged violation of the Discipline and seek 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 131 of this section.

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

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

(2) The committee at its earliest opportunity shall communicate the result of the ballot to the pastor, who, if called, shall reply in writing within one week stating definitely whether the call is accepted or declined (unless the committee agrees to an extension which shall not exceed one extra week). If the call is accepted the pastor shall notify the president of the annual conference in writing according to paragraph 210, and the Pulpit Supply Committee shall so notify the members of the church. A failure to definitely accept the call, unless the conditions be acceptable to the charge, shall justify the Pulpit Supply Committee in considering another name.

§ 158. After a pastor has completed one year of service, he may be extended a call for a term of two years, as follows:

(1) The first vote shall always be a one-year call, by simple majority vote.

(2) After the call for one year the Pulpit Supply Committee, with the consent of the pastor, may take a ballot vote on a call for the second year, and by a two-thirds vote the pastor may be extended a call for the second year, said call to be binding on both pastor and church; provided, however, that by mutual agreement between pastor and church the arrangement may be discontinued at the close of the first year.

(3) The annual conference Committee on Pastoral Relations shall review annually the arrangement between pastor and church, and the conference, by vote, may interrupt such an agreement for justifiable reasons. See paragraph 60 (2).
\(159\). (1) When a church or charge shall find it necessary to call a new pastor, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall confer with the president of the annual conference who shall furnish it with the names of all known available persons. But the Pulpit Supply Committee may present the name of any member of the conference, whether it was on the list submitted by the president or not. However, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall not propose to the church or charge the name of any elder or annual conference preacher who is not a member of the annual conference in which the church is located, except by the written consent of the president of the said annual conference and his Advisory Board. (See paragraph 212.)

(2) When consideration is given to calling a new pastor, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall so announce at a regular public gathering of the church society, giving the time, place, and purpose of this meeting, at which it shall ascertain, by ballot, the wishes of the charge concerning the name it presents. The vote may be taken in the next regular meeting of the church. The Pulpit Supply Committee shall present only one name for consideration on each ballot. But as many ballots may be taken in any one duly announced meeting as may be necessary to determine to whom the committee, in behalf of the charge, shall extend the call. When extending the call, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall state the amount of salary or plan of remuneration as set forth in paragraph 164. The committee shall report whether the call is accepted or declined. If the call is accepted, the delegate to the next session of the annual conference shall convey this information to the Committee on Pastoral Relations.

(3) If the balloting fails to produce a call, or if the call is declined, the Pulpit Supply Committee shall proceed again as outlined in subparagraph 1.

\(160\). The actions of this committee in all business transacted must be submitted to the church or quarterly conference for approval or disapproval before they become binding, unless authority to take final action in any specific matter is given to the committee by the church or quarterly conference.
† 161. Trustees. Each local church shall elect by ballot a Board of Trustees according to the laws of the State within whose bounds it is located, whose duty it shall be to secure and maintain church property according to the provisions of the Discipline and the laws of the respective states and territories. Where local trustees hold property it shall be held in trust for the ministers and membership of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America in accordance with paragraphs 149-151. They shall be responsible to the church for the maintenance and improvement of the property of the church. But the use of the church or parsonage shall not be withheld from the pastor assigned to the charge by the annual conference, as it directs; neither shall the property be withheld from the class leaders and members for religious meetings. Unless the law of the state or territory directs otherwise, all trustees must be members of the local Wesleyan Methodist church of which they are trustees. 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 local Wesleyan Methodist church he shall cease to be a trustee thereof, and another person shall be elected to fill the vacancy.

† 162. 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.

† 163. Stewards. Each pastoral charge shall elect a Board of Stewards who shall elect one of their number as chairman. The pastor shall be an ex officio member of this board.

(1) Where a number of churches constitute a pastoral
THE LOCAL CHURCH

charge the quarterly conference shall determine the number of stewards each church shall have, but each church shall elect its own steward or stewards. Each church on a charge shall be entitled to at least one steward.

(2) The charge shall have the option of electing all the stewards annually or of electing them to serve for three years, one or more being elected annually (so that the terms of all shall not expire at the same time) or until their successors are elected.

(3) The stewards shall be a Standing Committee of Ways and Means, and shall agree with the pastor on the necessary amount for his support, at time of his engagement and annually thereafter, as set forth in the following paragraph. They shall not hold nor sanction the holding of church fairs, festivals, play-parties, or other unscriptural methods to raise funds (or the support of the gospel), or for the erection of church buildings. Any church, or member thereof, whether lay member, conference preacher 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.

§ 164. The chairman of the Board of Stewards shall call a meeting of the stewards annually, within 30 days prior to the time of voting on a pastor, for the purpose of fixing the pastor's salary for the ensuing year, or arranging a plan of support when a salary is not paid. The chairman shall notify the pastor of said meeting and it shall be the duty of the pastor to be present thereat. When an amount is agreed upon the stewards shall at this meeting apportion to each appointment, according to their best judgment, the proportion of the salary it shall raise. This action shall be recorded by their secretary, whom they shall elect to keep a record of all their doings and reported by their chairman to the Pulpit Supply Committee, which in turn shall communicate same to a new pastor at the time he is notified of having been called. The secretary of the stewards shall read and submit a written report of the proceedings of this meeting to the quarterly conference for its sanction, or if the charge consists of a single church, a report shall be made to the church. It shall also
be the duty of the stewards at each appointment to labor diligently to secure the payment of the pastor’s salary in full.

§ 165. 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.

§ 166. The stewards shall report to the church or quarterly conference through their treasurer all funds received and paid out during the quarter.

§ 167. It is suggested that an Auditing Committee of one to three members be elected who shall audit the treasurer’s records of all departments of the church, reporting to the quarterly conference every quarter.

B. Officers

§ 168. A church clerk shall be elected to keep complete records of church membership. The clerk may be designated as secretary of the quarterly conference or monthly business meeting. See paragraph 131.

§ 169. The church shall elect a treasurer to hold and pay out funds as authorized by the vote of the church. The treasurer shall be a member of the Board of Stewards by virtue of his office. See paragraph 163.

§ 170. A communion steward shall be elected by vote of the church to make all necessary provisions for the administration of the Lord’s Supper.

§ 171. The class leaders shall be elected by the church by a majority vote.

§ 172. Each church, when its number and circumstances make it advisable, may be divided into smaller companies called classes. In ordinary cases there should be about twelve or fifteen members in a class, one of whom shall be the leader.

The duties of the class leader shall be:

1. To hold with them a weekly meeting to inquire
how their souls prosper; 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.

(2) To report his activities to the appropriate church business meeting; to represent the state of his class; and to inform the pastor of any that are sick or need a pastoral visit.

(3) To visit the sick and those members who frequently absent themselves from the 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. Ordinarily, a class meeting should not continue longer than one hour. It is expected that each member of the church will attend the weekly class meeting.

6. Local Preachers and Exhorters

§ 173. 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 468.

§ 174. 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 154, subparagraph 3, of the Discipline, before being granted by the quarterly conference or church.

§ 175. 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?
SECTION V

Have they gifts as well as grace for the work? Have they in some tolerable degree a clear, sound understanding, a right judgment in the things of God—a just conception of salvation by faith? And has God given them a good degree of utterance? Do they speak correctly, readily, and clearly? Have they fruit? Are any truly convinced of sin and converted to God by their labors? Have they an abiding sense of a divine call to the work?

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

§ 176. A local preacher is a person who is licensed to preach by his quarterly conference. It shall be his duty to preach as opportunity affords, 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.

§ 177. 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 does not obviate the necessity of each preacher holding an annual conference license also holding an effective quarterly conference license. He may take a letter of transfer from one annual conference to another when nothing appears against him.

§ 178. Every local preacher shall be amenable to the quarterly conference or church where he holds his church membership for his official character, unless he sustains 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.

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

§ 180. 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.

§ 181. The quarterly conference or church shall inquire into the character and usefulness of local preachers and exhorters, and may renew their licenses each year, when it shall judge their gifts and usefulness justify such renewal; or it may admonish them; or it may decline to renew the licenses. The failure to have a license renewed shall not affect membership in the church, without a charge and conviction of crime, according to our Judiciary Rules.

§ 182. The quarterly conference or church shall also inquire into the character, ability, and usefulness of any person desiring appointment as an evangelistic singer, chalk artist, children's worker, minister of music, Christian education director, youth director, missionary, and teacher or other special type of Christian work. Those approved for this work shall be given a recommendation to the annual conference. (See paragraph 634.) All such persons shall be amenable to the quarterly conference or church for their conduct. This recommendation must be renewed annually if the person is to continue to receive an appointment from the annual conference. In the interim of the annual conference sessions
the president and his Advisory Board may make such an appointment upon the special request of the quarterly conference or church. Only those appointed by the conference or its president, and furnished certificates according to paragraph 635, shall be listed in the Evangelists’ Slate of The Wesleyan Methodist.

§ 183. When there are members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who feel called to the special ministry of song evangelism, chalk drawing, minister of music, Christian education director, or youth director they shall be certified as such for one year by the annual conference, provided: they have been recommended for such work by the local church of which they are members; they have been questioned on the same basis and under the same procedure as the local preachers (paragraph 175); they give evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; they conform to the standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in the matters of dress and deportment; they have had some experience in their special ministry; and they have been carefully examined by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders’ Orders of the conference of which they are members, regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work.

§ 184. The certificates of evangelistic singers, chalk artists, ministers of music, Christian education directors, and youth directors may be renewed each year by the annual conference of which they are members provided: they are regularly engaged in such work; they have taken the evangelistic singer’s course (two years) or its equivalent, or comparable work in chalk drawing in one of our Colleges (two years) or an acceptable course from another school, or appropriate training in their particular work under the direction of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders’ Orders; and they have been recommended by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders’ Orders.

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

§ 186. 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.
SECTION VI

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. Organization

§ 187. Local Wesleyan Methodist churches within a specified area may be designated as an annual conference by the quadrennial General Conference or its Board of Administration subject to the conditions set forth in our Discipline. The organization of an annual conference requires subjecting to the authority of the General Conference by which it is created.

§ 188. The voting membership of a conference includes all those listed in paragraph 58, subject to the restriction stated in paragraph 267, subparagraph 2.

§ 189. 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.

A. A New Conference

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

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

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

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

B. Mission Annual Conferences

§ 192. (1) A mission annual conference is a conference that is under the direction of the Executive Secretary of Church Extension and Evangelism or the Executive Secretary of World Missions. As soon as a new conference organization has been officially approved by the Board of Administration, it automatically becomes a mission annual conference and shall be under the supervision of the respective Executive Secretary until the next session of the General Conference.

(2) The president of any conference organized during the interim of General Conference shall make official application for admission of said conference member-body of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. He shall present such application to the General Conference session next following the date of organization. In any case where the president is not a delegate to said General Conference session, application shall be presented by the regularly elected min-
isterial delegate, provided however, that the General Conference may take original jurisdiction in all such matters, if it sees fit.

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

(2) A mission annual conference may elect the Executive Secretary as its president, and when such is done he shall perform the duties of president as outlined in the Discipline. If he so desires and the conference board of church extension approves, the executive secretary may designate one of the ministers of the conference to supervise the work of the conference under his direction.

(3) The General Conference or, during the interim, the Board of Administration by a two-thirds vote of all its members, shall be empowered to transfer the supervision of the ministers and churches of a mission annual conference to the related Executive Secretary or to one of the General Superintendents for a specified period of time if such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the work of the conference. This action shall not be taken except for due cause and the conference, through its officers, shall have been given
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

opportunity for a hearing of the issues involved, and this action must be reported promptly to the president of the conference.

§ 194. The Executive Secretary of Church Extension and Evangelism in his supervision of mission annual conferences shall assist in developing the work within each conference financially and otherwise, provided plans have been submitted to him for his approval. An appeal from his decisions may be made at any time to the Board of Administration, whose decision shall be final.

§ 195. A mission annual conference placed under the supervision of the Executive Secretary of World Missions shall consist of such national workers as are eligible according to our Discipline. All missionaries appointed by the Board shall also be members ex officio of the World Mission Conference to which they are sent. Delegates at large shall be elected for these missionaries in order to maintain in the conference the ratio of laymen to ministers. These delegates at large shall be elected by the churches at which said missionaries are stationed. This ex officio relationship shall not sever their fundamental relation to their home conference.

§ 196. It is recommended that the mission annual conferences confer with their respective Executive Secretaries (1) regarding plans for the employment of evangelists to conduct extension efforts, (2) regarding the more important problems of pastoral supply, (3) concerning the location and erection of churches and parsonages, and other matters vitally affecting the work of the conference. Where such is not done, the Board of Administration shall take this fact into account in considering appeals for financial aid for such items from these conferences.

2. Membership

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

§ 198. (1) All lay delegates to the annual conference shall be elected by ballot, by a majority of all the members of the church or the churches who shall attend and vote. No elder or annual conference preacher shall be eligible to be elected as a lay delegate.

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

§ 199. The election shall be held within the time limit determined by 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.

§ 200. 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.

§ 201. Members of one Wesleyan Methodist annual conference who desire to join some other Wesleyan Methodist annual conference shall not be received without proper credentials.
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

§ 202. The ministers of an annual conference shall be listed as follows:

(1) The stationed list shall be composed of all elders and conference preachers who have work assigned to them by the annual conference or its president, or who may be employed by the Denomination in full-time service for the Church.

(2) The reserve list shall be composed of elders who are ready to take work at the hands of the conference.

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

(4) The unstationed list shall be composed of all elders who have no pastoral or official work assigned to them (according to subparagraph 1 above) 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.

3. Procedures and Powers

§ 203. Constitutional rights of the annual conference are listed in the Constitution, paragraph 60.

§ 204. 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. The Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders shall examine such candidates to satisfy themselves that they have such literary attainments, Christian experience, and ministerial gifts, as qualify them for the office and work of an elder, and shall report to the annual conference.

The candidates shall have been traveling as pastor, assistant pastor, or conference evangelist under the direction of the annual conference for two years, (see paragraph 472) or shall have been engaged in religious service which entirely satisfies the Committee on Itineracy and Orders, and shall have passed a satisfactory examination upon the four years’
Course of Study adopted by the General Conference. And it shall inquire into the ministerial character and usefulness of each member. Each annual conference shall certify in particular, in the case of the transfer of a conference preacher, as to his standing in the Course of Study, and as to the time he has served as a pastor, if at all; and it shall be unlawful for an annual conference to ignore such a certificate in determining the eligibility of a conference preacher to election to Elders' Orders. (See also paragraph 246.)

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

(2) The annual conference may assign certified singers and chalk artists, ministers of music, Christian education directors, and youth directors to travel; provided they have completed one of the courses recommended, are properly qualified for general work, and are properly endorsed by the said conference for such work.

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

§ 206. A lay missionary shall have responsibility to the annual conference by which he is commissioned, and shall report annually, but shall have no vote in that annual conference unless serving as a lay delegate to that conference.

§ 207. A licensed or consecrated deaconess shall be amenable to the 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.

§ 208. 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 recommendations 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 Elders' 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 Elders' Orders on the preliminary Course of Study as found in paragraph 468.

§ 209. The annual conference shall take charge of all the ministers and churches within its bounds, except the General Superintendents, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the General Manager of the Publishing Association, the Executive Secretaries of World Missions, Church Extension and Evangelism, and of the Department of Sunday Schools. It shall return to the unstationed list all unemployed elders who shall have remained such for two years. It may fix the boundaries of the circuits and stations, and exercise a general supervision over the pastoral relation existing between ministers and churches, as provided in the following paragraphs.

§ 210. 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 subject to the approval of the president and his Advisory Board (see paragraph 156); provided that no arrangement which received the sanction of an annual conference at its previous session shall be interrupted without the concurrence of the president and his Advisory Board. When a minister shall have made an engagement with any church during the interval
of the sessions of an annual conference he shall immediately report such engagement to the president in writing.

§ 211. (1) 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.

(2) Any minister who desires to change his pastoral relations at the next session of his annual conference shall notify the president in writing, in order that his name may be placed on the list of known available men which shall be furnished to pulpit supply committees by the president. (See paragraph 197, subparagraph 2.)

§ 212. 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. Neither shall any quarterly conference local preacher, or annual conference preacher, be so called or employed, unless he 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. However, in cases of need or emergency, the president of an annual conference may, with the concurrence of his Advisory Board, give written consent to service by waiving the above restrictions. (See paragraph 261.)

§ 213. In the case of ministers completing seminary or formal college or Bible school training and open to pastoral appointment in a Wesleyan Methodist church, exception may be made to the requirement for membership in the annual conference involved, provided the negotiations and arrangements have been approved by the president and his Advisory Board, provided further that their credentials and service rec-
ords are certified by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders, and provided the proper pastoral vote has been taken in the local church.

§ 214. When ministers and churches fail to enter into pastoral engagements it shall be the duty of the annual conference to appoint 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. (See also paragraph 142.)

§ 215. (1) All elders serving as pastors of other than Wesleyan Methodist churches or congregations, unless by the consent of the annual conference, shall be considered as having withdrawn, and shall be so reported.

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

§ 216. Any minister or conference preacher whose name is on the annual conference roll, and who 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.

§ 217. All complaints against ministerial members of the annual conference 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 the Committee on Ministerial 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. (See also paragraph 480.) The president shall
state when a name is called whether there is or is not any­
thing against the character of the brother, according to the
facts in the case.

§ 218. 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 the Committee on Ministerial Character. This com­
mittee 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 per­
son having signed it. When the name of the member is
called he shall read his statistical report or any portion there­
of as the conference may direct, and in connection with it
shall state that he has passed in the examination of his char­
acter 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 ac­
cordingly, 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.

§ 219. The following questions are to be answered by a
pastor and presented in writing to the annual conference.

To the ___________________ Annual Conference,
meeting ___________________ 19...

86
I. Credentials

Did your last quarterly conference pass your character and renew your license?

This question is to be answered only by annual conference preachers.

II. Employment

1. Did you have work assigned to you at the last session of this annual conference?
2. How soon after the last session of this annual conference did you enter upon the work assigned you?
3. Have you continued upon that work during the annual conference year?

III. Labors

1. Have you faithfully sought by example and word of mouth to lead 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 XIII and XIV in our Articles of Religion?
2. Have you, in your relation to the charge, carried out all that the Discipline requires of a pastor, and have you used all proper influence to secure obedience to the Discipline on the part of your churches and members?
3. Have you sought to promote the interest of the Sunday schools, and to urge upon them the use of our Sunday school literature?
4. Have you labored to circulate the publications of The Wesleyan Methodist Church?
5. Have you faithfully presented the needs of the General and Conference Budgets?

IV. Outlook

1. What is the present condition of the work?
2. Is there any territory within the bounds of your work that you consider a good field for missionary work?
3. Of how much of this work can you take charge?
4. Are you ready to take work at the hands of this annual conference?
5. If not, why not? What listing do you desire?

V. Personal Responsibilities
1. In which local church do you retain your membership?
2. Have you faithfully tithed your income during the annual conference year, and have you presented that subject to your congregations?
3. Are you ready to hand over to your successor the names and addresses of the members and friends of the church, and a list of the subscribers to the church publications?
4. Do you subscribe to The Wesleyan Methodist? Do you subscribe to The Wesleyan Missionary? Do you subscribe to The Wesleyan Youth?
5. Have you a copy of the Standing Rules of the conference, and have you complied with the requirements of each of them as they apply to you? (The conference through its secretary shall supply each stationed minister with a copy of its Standing Rules.)

VI. Statistics
1. Are you prepared to report full statistics according to the requirements of the Discipline?
2. Did your charge meet its financial obligations to the General and Conference Budgets as defined in paragraph 93?

Signed __________________________, Minister

VII. Questions To Be Answered by the Delegate
1. Did your church or charge through its stewards make proper provisions for the support of the pastor as directed by the Discipline?
2. Has your church or charge fulfilled its financial obligations to him?
3. Did your church or charge through its stewards agree with the pastor for the financial support for the coming conference year according to paragraph 164 of the Discipline?
4. Has your church met its budget apportionment?

Signed __________________________, Delegate

$ 230. The following questions are to be answered by others than pastors and presented in writing to the annual conference.

To the __________________________ Annual Conference,
meeting ________________________, 19___

I. Credentials

Did your last quarterly conference pass your character and renew your local preacher's license?

This question is to be answered only by annual conference preachers.

II. Employment

1. What appointment or listing were you given at the last session of this annual conference?

2. If on the stationed list, state the nature of your appointment, or work, and give a brief account of your activities (not statistics).

III. Labors

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

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

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

IV. Outlook

1. Are you ready to take appointment at the hands of this annual conference?

2. If not, why not? If no work is assigned, what listing do you desire?
V. Personal Responsibilities

1. In which local church do you retain your membership?

2. Do you subscribe to The Wesleyan Methodist? Do you subscribe to The Wesleyan Missionary? Do you subscribe to The Wesleyan Youth?

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

4. Are you ready to report full statistics of your work according to the requirements of the Discipline? (See paragraph 279.)

5. Have you faithfully tithed your income?

Signed ..........................................., Minister

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

¶ 222. 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 further provided that in the case of mission conferences, the supervisory relationship of the Church Extension and Evangelism Department shall not be contravened. All rules and resolutions adopted by an annual conference shall continue in force until the annual conference shall amend or rescind such rules or resolutions. If three members of an annual conference shall take exception to its action on the ground that it violates this restriction, they may appeal to the Board of General Superintendents for a decision. The appeal shall be made in writing with reference both to the action of the conference and to the Disciplinary paragraph or paragraphs allegedly contravened, copy of the same to be sent to the conference president as well as to the general superintendents. (See paragraph 299, subparagraph 2.)

¶ 223. The local church is subject to supervision by, and
to the regulations of the annual conference. If a local church by majority vote, taken at a business meeting called for that purpose, shall take exception to any conference rule or resolution on the premise that it violates Disciplinary regulations established by the General Conference, it may appeal to the Board of General Superintendents for a decision.

§ 224. 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 of World Missions and General Church Extension. Let the conference have a missionary secretary or some other person deliver an address on the subject of missions.

§ 225A. 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, and further provided that in the case of mission conferences, the supervisory relationship of the Church Extension and Evangelism Department shall not be contravened.

§ 225B. 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 monies 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.

§ 226. 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. All other Scriptural means
shall be employed for securing missionary funds in accordance
with the section of the Discipline on missions. There shall
also be a separate offering taken for educational purposes;
and whenever the Publishing Association through the Board
of Administration shall deem it to be for the good of the
cause, a special offering shall be asked for that work. In all
of the foregoing the pastors of the churches shall be the
responsible agents of the various corporations to preach upon
and disseminate information and receive offerings as above
indicated, except in such conferences as may appoint some
special person to do such work.

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

§ 228. 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 perma­
nent records of the conference.

§ 229. 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 Ed
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For the Wesleyan Methodist, who shall publish these items of churchwide significance 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 post office addresses.) (See paragraph 202, subparagraph 1.)
3. Who of the annual conference preachers are on the stationed list? (Give names and post office addresses.) (See paragraph 267, subparagraph 1.)
4. Who of the elders are on the reserve list? (Give names and post office addresses.)
5. Who of the elders are on the unstationed list?
6. Who of the elders are on the superannuated list? (Give names and post office 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 other Christian workers are recognized by the conference?
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

16. What is the summary of the statistics reported from the churches?
### Pastor's Labors. Item I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Stationed Elders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Elders on Reserve List</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Unstationed Elders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Superannuated Elders</td>
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<td>Number of Conference Preachers</td>
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<td>Number of Local Preachers</td>
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<td>Number of Appointments</td>
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<td>Number of Organized Church Societies</td>
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<td>Time Employed (months)</td>
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### Periodicals. Item II

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wesleyan Methodists taken</td>
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<td>Wesleyan Missionaries taken</td>
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<td>Wesleyan Youths taken</td>
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<td>Check Wesleyan Sunday School literature used:</td>
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<td>□ Devotional Quarterly</td>
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<td>□ Adult and Teacher</td>
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<td>□ Senior Youth and Teacher</td>
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<td>□ Junior Youth and Teacher</td>
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<td>□ Junior and Teacher</td>
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<td>□ Primary and Teacher</td>
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<td>□ Aldersgate Kindergarten</td>
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<td>□ Aldersgate Nursery</td>
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<td>□ Aldersgate Adult</td>
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<td>□ Sunday School Banner</td>
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<td>□ High School Signal</td>
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<td>□ Junior Journeys</td>
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<td>□ Aldersgate Kindergarten</td>
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<td>□ Aldersgate Nursery</td>
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<td>□ Devotional Quarterly</td>
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<td>□ High School Signal</td>
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<td>□ Junior Journeys</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Children's Friend</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Membership. Item III

1. Full membership reported last year
2. Full members received this year
   - On profession of faith
   - By transfer
3. Add lines 1 and 2
   (Lines 4, 5, 6, 7 concern Full Members only)
4. Expelled
### The Annual Conference

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<td>7.</td>
<td>Granted Letters</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Members Lost (Add lines 4, 5, 6, 7)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Present Full Membership (subtract line 8 from line 3)</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Junior Members (7-16 years of age)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Total Present Membership (Add lines 9, 10, 11)</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Total Membership Reported Last Year</td>
<td>(Enter on one of the next two lines the difference between lines 12 and 13)</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Gain in Members for the Year (or)</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Loss in Members for the Year</td>
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<td>Number of Seekers</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Persons Baptized</td>
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<td>Infants Dedicated</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Number of Family Altars</td>
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**Sunday School - Item IV**

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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Number of Sunday Schools</td>
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<td>Average Attendance</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Pupils Enrolled</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Officers and Teachers</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Potential Regular Attendance (see notes)</td>
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<td>Cradle Roll Department (not counted above)</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Home Department (not counted above)</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Total Enrollment (add 5, 6, and 7)</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Teacher Training Units Taught</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>WETT Credit Cards Earned</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Number of CYC Chapters</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Total CYC Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Enrollment Vacation Bible School</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Average Attendance Vacation Bible School</td>
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</table>

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### SECTION VI

**Wesleyan Youth. Item V**

1. Number of Locals
2. Active Members
3. Associate Members

**Church Property. Item VI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Church Buildings</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Indebtedness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Parsonages and Auxiliary Buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Parsonages and Auxiliary Buildings</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Indebtedness on Parsonages</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash or other values on hand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Conference Property (campground, president's parsonage, etc.)</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indebtedness on Same</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of Insurance</td>
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<td>Cash or other values on hand</td>
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**Disbursed for Pastor. Item VII**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsonage Rent and Utilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Services—Gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allowances received for travel and/or Car Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor’s Unadjusted Gross Ministerial Receipts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount Spent for Church Travel and/or Car Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Ministerial Income</td>
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**Disbursed for Church. Item VIII**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Evangelistic Help</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School Expense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional Expense of Other Church Auxiliary Organizations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings (do not include borrowed funds)</td>
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</table>
Repairs (do not include borrowed funds) $_____
Amount paid on Indebtedness $_____
Amount paid on Expense of Indebtedness $_____
Church Incidental Expense $_____
Amount Spent by Pastor for Church Travel and/or Car Expense $_____
Total for Church $_____

Distributed for Budget. Item IX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Budget:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brainerd Indian School</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Extension and Evangelism</td>
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<td>$______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pension Plan</td>
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<td>Church Administration</td>
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<td>General Conference Expense</td>
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<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hephzibah</td>
<td>$______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Wesleyan Seminary Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Sunday School</td>
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<td>Total General Budget</td>
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<td>$______</td>
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<table>
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<th>Conference Budget:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President's Salary</td>
<td>$______</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Evangelists' Salary</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Work</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Extension and Evangelism</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Sunday School</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Conference Budget</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>$______</td>
<td>$______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Budget Item agrees with my books.

Conference Treasurer.
Disbursed for Benevolences. Item X

World Missions $ ___ 
Australia $ ___ 
Brainerd Indian School $ ___ 
Church Extension and Evangelism $ ___ 
Hephzibah $ ___ 
Education $ ___ 
Wesleyan Seminary Foundation $ ___ 
Conference Work $ ___ 
Wesleyan Youth $ ___ 
Other Objects $ ___ 
Total for Benevolences $ ___ 

Disbursed Totals. Item XI

Total for Pastor $ ___ 
Total for Church $ ___ 
Total for Budget $ ___ 
Total for Benevolences $ ___ 
Total for All Purposes $ ___ 

NOTES

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

Item I. Unstationed Elders are only those listed as such by the conference. “Appointments” means the number of regular preaching places on the circuit, while “Number of Organized Church Societies” means the number of distinctly organized Wesleyan Methodist churches on the circuit.

Item II. Be sure to ascertain accurately the number of THE WESLEYAN METHODIST, WESLEYAN MISSIONARY, and WESLEYAN YOUTH taken on the circuit. Place check marks in the boxes to indicate which items of Sunday school literature are regularly used by the Sunday school. The conference secretary should place numbers in these boxes to indicate how many circuits in the conference make regular use of each item.

Item III. This item distinguishes between Full, Associate and Junior membership. The directions are given to avoid confusion in these classifications. Lines 1 through 9 relate only to Full Members. Associate membership does not necessarily exclude those
between the age of 7 and 16. Since Junior membership automatically terminates when one reaches the 17th birthday, the church, in the disciplinary manner, should transfer a Junior Member either to Associate or Full relationship before that time if he is to be retained and reported. The transfer of any name to a different classification of membership can be made only by vote of the church. A comparison of lines 12 and 13 will show whether there has been a gain or a loss in the total membership. Lines 18 through 21 give desired additional data. Line 16 refers to those who during the church year have given some public expressions of definite spiritual need and progress in their hunger for God.

Since some infants are baptized and others are dedicated, care should be used to include Baptized infants on line 17. Information for 18, 20, and 21 may be secured from the pastor and the church treasurer.

Item IV. Line 5 is the total enrollment of those meeting regularly in Sunday school. It is not necessarily the sum of lines 3 and 4, for an officer may also be a teacher or may sit as a pupil in a class, thus being counted in line 4 twice or in both lines. In line 5 each person is counted once. A cradle roll class counts in line 5; cradle roll members not enrolled in such a class count in line 6. Line 9 includes pupils joining as junior, associate, or full members of the church during the year. On line 10 place the score total shown on the annual Sunday school report. Score is based upon school organization and operation. Conference Statistical Committee should compute average score for conference, to be reported by the conference secretary.

Item V. This table is regarded as self-explanatory.

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

Item VII. "Salary" does not include anything for Parsonage rent. If a circuit furnishes a parsonage, the rent should be estimated according to local conditions, $400 per year being the minimum in any case. That part of a pastor's travel and/or car expense which is necessitated by his professional duties, and is allowable as a professional expense deduction on his income tax return, should be entered and deducted from the unadjusted gross income even though the church has made no arrangement for a regular expense allowance. The amount deductible should be substantiated by a careful financial record, including the basis of prorating between professional and personal expense.

Item VIII. "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 on regular Pastor's, Conference President's or Conference Evangelist's salary. "Sunday School Expense" includes all the Sunday school pays for its own expenses, but does not include anything the school pays for outside objects, such as Missions, Education, Sabbath School Exten-
Any such items should be reported under "Benevolence." "Building" should include funds invested in property, other than borrowed monies and items reported as "Repairs." "Amount paid on indebtedness" includes only the amount paid on the principal of the debt. "Amount paid on expense of indebtedness" includes all interest, other carrying charges, cost of mortgage papers and all other such expense. Pastor's professional travel and car expense is really expended for the benefit of the church and should be entered in this section.

Item IX. This Budget Item must not be filled out until the pastor consults the Conference Treasurer, as this Item must agree with his books. It will include all that has been contributed to these various objects by the Sunday school, by the YWME, by the WMME, and all other sources, which can be counted toward the budget, and which the pastor has paid to the Conference Treasurer in cash or for which he can show or has sent the Conference Treasurer a receipt. All money paid for current expenses of the Educational work or for the current expenses of the Missionary work, either General Church Extension or World Missions, and pledges and interest (but not principal) paid for these purposes may be counted toward the budget. Under "Undivided Budget" include all cash that is contributed from any source and sent to the Conference Treasurer as Undivided Budget. "World Missions," "Australia," etc. includes all that is contributed from any source for World Missions, Australia, etc. This of course includes all that is given for missions in general, and all that is given specifically for some mission field. It does not include anything included under "Undivided Budget," or "Conference Work." "Education" includes all that is contributed from any source for any branch of Conference work. List other Annual Conference Budget items under proper heads. Where necessary write in special items of your individual Conference Budget on blank lines. Add General and Conference Budget Totals and carry this total to Item XI. 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 X. "Benevolence" includes any funds contributed from any source for any charitable purpose that have not been counted in General or Conference Budget, or other Item. Gifts of produce, clothing, books, or anything else that is given as a benevolence, with any cash for which a Budget receipt or credit was not given, may be included here under its proper head. The pastor should canvass his members for benevolent donations which they have not made through the church before he completes this section.

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

4. Officers and Committees

A. Officers

§ 230. The conference shall elect by ballot a president

100
from among the elders, by a majority of votes, who shall perform the duties outlined in the Discipline and such other duties as the conference may assign. The term of office shall be one year. It is his duty to promote the interests of the departments, and corporations of the Denomination, throughout the conference in the manner and to the extent authorized by the General Conference or the Board of Administration. It is his duty to preside in the sessions of the annual conference as moderator, unless the General Representative has been invited by the conference to perform these duties; to decide questions arising in the administration of the law of the Church as it relates to the work of the annual conference, subject to an appeal to the annual conference; to preside in the meetings of the Committee on Pastoral Relations; to employ and change preachers with the consent of the churches and preachers; and also receive ministers from other denominations during the interval of the sessions of the annual conference, subject to the action of the ensuing session of the annual conference, at which he shall refer the names of all such ministers to the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders for examination and recommendation as per paragraphs 246 and 283. All the president's official acts for the previous year shall be reported to the conference at its first full business meeting.

¶ 231. The respective executive secretaries may be made the president of any mission annual conference if such is the desire of said conference.

¶ 232. The president shall be amenable to the annual conference for his official conduct. His decisions on questions arising in the administration of the law of the Church as it relates to the work of the annual conference made between the sessions of the annual conference shall be final, until the next session of the annual conference, unless a previous appeal is made to the Board of General Superintendents. (See paragraph 299, subparagraph 3.)

¶ 233. A request to the conference president for a ruling on any point of the law of the Church or any resolution of the
conference shall be made in writing, and his ruling shall be in writing. The president of the conference may take sixty days in which to give his ruling provided that period of time does not make the date of his decision come after the first business meeting of the next conference session. In such a case he shall give his decision by the first business meeting of that session and report it to the first business meeting of the annual conference. If the conference votes to sustain his ruling it shall stand, subject to appeal according to the provisions of the Discipline.

If a conference president should neglect or refuse to rule in writing within a sixty-day period after receiving a written appeal for a decision, as set forth above, a written appeal may be made directly to the Board of General Superintendents for a decision on the point or points at issue, subject to the provisions of the Discipline.

§ 234. 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.

§ 235. 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.

§ 236. The conference shall elect by ballot from among the elders one or more vice presidents. The term of office shall be for one year. In the event that more than one is elected, the conference shall designate them as first vice president, second vice president, etc. If the office of president becomes vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the first vice president shall thereupon become president and shall perform the duties of the president.

§ 237. The conference shall elect by ballot one of its members, either minister or layman, as secretary. The term of office shall be for one year. The secretary shall faithfully record all the proceedings of the annual conference including reports, such records to be prepared and kept for use by the annual conference, preferably in the form of printed confer-
ence minutes. Records are also to be forwarded to the General Conference in a way and manner which it shall prescribe.

§ 238. The conference shall elect by ballot a treasurer, either a minister or a layman. The term of office shall be for one year. The treasurer shall receive, hold, and pay out funds as directed by the conference. The conference shall provide proper authorization for the disbursing of funds. In the event a conference treasurer is considered, or may be considered for re-election, such election shall not be held until his audited annual report has been approved by the conference. He shall remit all funds due the General Church Treasurer in the manner prescribed by the General Conference. The books of the treasurer shall be audited annually.

§ 239. The conference Sunday school secretary shall be elected for a term of one year. Duties of the conference Sunday school secretary shall be:

(1) To report to the Executive Secretary of the Department of Sunday Schools at once after his election, and cooperate with him in carrying out the plans of the General Sunday School Board.

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

(3) To arrange for conference, district, and local 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 branch Sunday schools where possible and expedient.

(6) To encourage the organization of leadership 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 Executive Secretary.

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

(9) To place at the disposal of the Executive 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 young person connected with the Sunday schools and their enrollment in church membership.

§ 240. Each annual conference shall elect a World Missions secretary whose duties are:

(1) To report to the Executive Secretary of World Missions at once after his election and cooperate with him in carrying out the plans of the Department of World Missions;

(2) To cooperate with the pastors and assist them in promoting the interests of World Missions;

(3) To work with the Department of World Missions in arranging conventions and other special services;

(4) To aid in the distribution of World Missions literature and information throughout the conference.

§ 241. Additional annual conference officers are:
Tithing Secretary—paragraph 90, subparagraph 4.
Card Call Secretary—paragraph 416, subparagraph 8.
Educational Secretary—paragraph 378, subparagraph 1.
Director of Wesleyan Men—paragraph 60, subparagraph 1.
Director of Christian Youth Crusaders—paragraph 252.
B. Committees

§ 242. The conference shall elect by ballot a Board of Trustees of not less than five, two of whom shall be laymen, whose duty it shall be to receive and hold, and dispose of all property within the bounds of the conference, according to the provisions of the Discipline and the directions of the conference unless otherwise provided for by state law. They shall serve for three years, one or more being elected annually (so that the term of all shall not expire at the same time), or until their successors are elected; but when any trustee shall cease to be a member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or in case of an elder when he ceases to be a member of the annual conference electing him, he shall cease to be a trustee, and the vacancy shall be filled according to provisions in paragraph 243.

§ 243. 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 the death, resignation, or otherwise of both the president and the vice president; also fill vacancies in any annual conference office or standing committee, except as may be provided otherwise in the Discipline, and trustees where the state laws permit. Any vacancy filled by this committee shall be for the unexpired term of the committee or office vacated. This committee shall report all its appointments to the conference.

§ 244. The annual conference shall at the time of the election of its officers elect an Advisory Board, nominated by the president, consisting of one minister and one lay member, provided that in larger conferences the conference may elect three elders and three lay members, with whom the president shall confer between the sessions of the annual conference and secure their concurrence in the removal of a pastor and the appointment of his successor; the reception of a church; relieving any person from appointment sanctioned by the previous session of the annual conference; and also as provided for in paragraph 280. In all other respects
SECTION VI

the president may act independently of the Advisory Board.

§ 245. An annual conference may elect or designate a Board of Administration whose duties shall be to coordinate and promote conference planning and programs. This conference Board of Administration shall not pre-empt specific responsibilities expressly assigned by the Discipline to conference officers or committees.

§ 246. The annual conference shall elect a Committee on Itineracy and Elders' 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 204 and 473. No candidate shall be recommended for Elders' Orders until he has first been carefully and specifically questioned by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders and shall have fully satisfied the committee as to his Christian testimony and as to his full personal commitment, without reservations, to the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

§ 247. 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, listing all elders and conference preachers in proper disciplinary categories as provided for in paragraph 202. The committee may also list those local and conference preachers who are full-time ministerial students in approved colleges or seminaries.

§ 248. The annual conference shall have power to adopt the report as presented, or to amend it; provided, the engagements previously entered into shall not be disturbed, except for justifiable cause as provided for in paragraph 80, subparagraph 2. In those cases where the conference deems it advisable to alter the pastoral contract entered into between a minister and a church or charge, the annual conference may veto the action of the church, and appoint another pastor to the said church or charge, and the said church or charge shall receive the pastor appointed by the conference.

§ 249. 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.

§ 250. The conference shall elect a Committee on Ministerial Character. The president shall be ex officio the chairman. Associated with him shall be at least one elder and one lay member. Responsibilities of this committee are outlined in paragraph 218.

§ 251. 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 committee of local churches on all important in-
vestments 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 Board of Church Extension, or a special committee elected for this purpose. All building plans, as outlined above, is advised, should be approved by this board.

§ 252. Each annual conference shall elect a Conference Sunday School Board which shall be a continuing board. The board shall consist of the conference Sunday school secretary who shall be elected annually for a term of one year and shall be chairman of the board. Four additional members shall be elected for a term of two years and in such a manner as to provide that the term of the entire membership does not expire at the same time. The board shall have the direction of the annual conference Sunday school work, under the direction of the General Sunday School Board. The board shall nominate for election by the annual conference a person to serve as Conference Director of Christian Youth Crusaders. This one may be, but need not be, a member of the board.

§ 253. (1) Each annual conference shall elect a Conference Board of Church Extension and Evangelism and shall under the direction of the parent board have charge of all interests and work of Church Extension and Evangelism within its conference borders and shall carry on such work between sessions of the annual conference, as the conference may instruct, or direct. This Board shall be constituted of not less than three persons, of which the president of the conference shall be ex officio a member and president. The president of the conference WMS may, at the direction of the annual conference, be a member of the Conference Board of Church Extension by virtue of her office. Members shall serve one year or until their successors are elected. However, the board may be elected a continuing board, each member thereof to be elected for a term of three years and in such a manner as to provide that the term of approximately one-third of the membership of the board expires each year.

(2) The Board of Church Extension shall be responsible
for all extension work in the matter of seeking out and evangeli
ing places that offer prospects for organizing Sunday
schools and church societies. They shall work in harmony
with, and coordinate all plans with, the Board of Conference
Trustees. They shall assist in the securing of buildings and
promoting building programs but the Conference Board of
Trustees shall be responsible for all titles of property and
all loans which affect the same. The Conference Board of
Church Extension and Evangelism is a promotion board and
not a managing board, except by vote of the annual confer-
ence. The board may collect and disburse funds for its pro-
motional work but all major funds shall be handled through
the annual conference treasurer’s office. To accomplish this
the board may have a subtreasurer but all funds shall be
reported to and be accounted for by the conference treasurer.

(3) It may employ missionary evangelists between the
sessions of the annual conference and when such are employed
said evangelists shall report to the annual conference the same
as if they had been appointed thereto by the annual conference.
This board shall also make due effort to raise the amount as-
sessed by the parent board as well as secure bequests, dona-
tions and loans for the Wesleyan Investment Foundation.

§ 254. Each annual conference shall elect a Board of
Superannuate Ministers’ Aid who shall have charge of the
care and administration of any such fund of the conference,
subject to the direction of the annual conference.

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

§ 255. In order to have the statistics of the conference as
accurate and as free from mistakes as possible, the conference
Statistical Committee Report shall be reviewed and audited
by an Auditing Committee before it is presented to the con-
ference for adoption.

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§ 256. Additional annual conference committees are:

- Educational Committee—paragraph 378, subparagraphs 3-4.
- Judiciary Committee—paragraph 489.
- Auditing Committee—paragraphs 238, 255.
- Statistical Committee—paragraph 255.

5. Conference Ministers

A. Elders

§ 257. An elder is a preacher of the gospel, fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

§ 258. 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.

§ 259. In case of an emergency, a candidate who may be recommended by the Committee on Itinerary and Elders' Orders may be ordained by the president and his Advisory Board and the Committee on Itinerary and Elders' Orders in the interim of the sessions of the annual conference.

§ 260. 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 nuptial rite of matrimony.

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

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

§ 263. No letter of standing shall be granted to any elder, or conference preacher, by an annual conference, or the president thereof, except the applicant shall present a written statement from the General Manager that no unpaid obligations are owing the Publishing Association or are unprovided for.

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

§ 265. Every Wesleyan Methodist elder must be a member of some Wesleyan Methodist church and annual conference. If said elder takes a letter of dismissal from the church, or declares that he has withdrawn from the church, or leaves for parts unknown, without letting the church know where he is, then the annual conference at its next session, when said facts are known, shall declare said elder withdrawn from the conference, and may publish that fact in the Church paper. When an elder surrenders his parchments, it will be lawful to publish the fact in the papers that he or she is not an elder in The Wesleyan Methodist Church. An elder receiving a letter of dismissal with recommendations as is provided for in paragraph 643 of the present Discipline does not affect his
standing in an annual conference, unless he fails to use it in joining some other Wesleyan Methodist church. If he joins some other denomination he should at the same time take a letter of standing from the conference of which he is a member, and failing to do so, shall be marked withdrawn, as is provided for in paragraph 215.

§ 266. 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.

B. Annual Conference Preachers

§ 267. (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 The Student's Handbook of Christian Theology as given in the first year's Course of Study.

(2) When a conference preacher is employed as a pastor of an organized Wesleyan Methodist church, he shall have the right to vote in the annual conference in the election of all annual conference officers and delegates to the General Conference, and other business, excepting in the election to Elders' Orders, and the passing of the character of elders where a vote is required, and in the election of committees affected by the same. Upon the appointment by the annual conference the president shall authorize him to administer the sacraments, and if, at the end of one year he is continued in said employment and has passed two books in the Course of Study, the authorization shall be renewed. Where the
law of the state permits, any person employed and authorized as above described shall be permitted to solemnize matrimony while so employed and authorized.

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

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

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

(6) The Committee on Itineracy and Elders' 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.

C. Pastors

§ 268. 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. It shall be his duty to promote the interests of all the departments, institutions, societies, and corporations of the Denomination on his charge in the manner and to the extent authorized by the General Conference or the Board of Administration.

§ 269. 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.

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

1. To meet the stewards and leaders as often as necessary.
2. To hold love-feasts.
3. To hold quarterly meetings.
4. To call a meeting of each church on his pastoral charge at a time established by the annual conference, for the purpose of revising the roll of membership of the church, and the election of church officers, standing committees (except Pulpit Supply as provided for in paragraph 156), treasurer, stewards, class leaders, church clerk, Sunday school superintendent, and assistant Sunday school superintendent. The term of office of these church officers shall begin and expire at dates corresponding to the dates of the annual conference's fiscal year, or at dates otherwise determined by the annual conference.
5. To take an exact account of the members of the church and the number of local preachers of his station or circuit; and to report the same to the annual conference that their number may be printed in the minutes of the same.
6. To inform the stewards of the budget apportioned the church or charge for General and conference interests, and to assist in planning ways and means of raising the budget items in full. He shall see that a quarterly report is made to the church of the budget items apportioned and the budget raised on the same. In case any item is in arrears for the quarter, he shall call special attention to that item; and he shall labor diligently to see that it is paid in full by the close of the conference year.
(7) To encourage the moral and financial support of missions, education, and other benevolences by forming such societies and organizations as the Discipline provides, and through cooperation with the designated committees and boards.

(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 keep an up-to-date file of the members by town or city, 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. For such responsibilities, see paragraph 350.

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

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

(14) To inform all members from time to time, that none are to remove from one church to another without a letter of standing granted by the church, and signed by the pastor or clerk; and to inform them that without such certificate they will not be received into the church in other places; provided that where it is impracticable to convene the church a letter from the pastor or clerk will be considered valid; provided further that no charge has been filed against a member at the time the letter is requested.

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

(16) To serve as chairman of all church meetings except those in which his right to do so is superseded by disciplinary provisions. (See paragraph 136.)
§ 271. 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.

D. Evangelists

§ 272. An evangelist is an elder or conference preacher, devoted to traveling and preaching the gospel without any specific pastoral charge, authorized by the Church to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land.

§ 273. Conference Evangelists. Elders or conference preachers of an annual conference may be appointed as conference evangelists. Conference preachers so appointed shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of pastors except the right to vote in the annual business sessions of the conference and shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as pastors insofar as those rules apply to their circumstances. No preacher, however, shall be granted an evangelist's relation to the conference who does not intend to devote 3/5 of his time to the work of an evangelist. If he shall fail to report to his conference at least fourteen full weeks so devoted he shall not be continued in this appointment.

§ 274. General Evangelists. Elders who meet proper and prescribed qualifications may be appointed by their annual conference to general evangelism.

Annual conferences should use great care in the selection of evangelists as to their soundness in doctrine, their gifts and aptitudes for the work of an evangelist, and their moral character. Evangelists should be carefully and specifically questioned as to their Christian testimony, their full personal commitment to and support of the Articles of Religion, the government, the institutions, and the best interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. Each one appointed
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

to general evangelistic work shall be furnished a certificate by the conference making the appointment, showing his authority to do such work (see paragraph 632).

No person shall be continued as a general evangelist who does not give continuing evidence of grace, gifts, and full commitment to the principles, the government, the institutions, and the worldwide purposes and objectives of his church, and who does not devote at least sixteen full weeks of his time in evangelistic meetings. An exception to this rule shall be that retired elders may be listed as Reserve General Evangelists and as such shall be required to devote only eight weekends or the equivalent in evangelistic meetings.

§ 275. (1) General evangelists shall be required to report their work done during the year to their respective annual conferences.

(2) General evangelists transferring from one conference to another may be continued in the general evangelist's appointment only at the option of the conference to which they transfer.

§ 276. General evangelists shall not organize churches or missions outside the bounds of the conference in which they hold their membership without the consent and approval of the Executive Secretary of Church Extension or of the Missionary Society.

When a member of an annual conference wishes to do evangelistic work outside his annual conference, he must first obtain the appointment to General Evangelism by his annual conference, and when an annual conference appoints one of its number to evangelistic work, which is understood to be outside the bounds of the annual conference making such an appointment, the president of said conference shall give the evangelist a certificate to that effect. (See paragraph 632.)

§ 277. The General Conference shall from time to time approve the specific basis for appraising qualifications for general evangelists and the Department of Evangelism shall give direction in the use of this criteria by the annual conferences as a basis of appointment to general evangelistic work.
§ 278. It is to be understood that some conference evangelists qualified for ministry in their own conferences will nevertheless not be qualified for recommendation to the general church. Therefore, the annual conference should recommend to general evangelistic work only such elders as have successfully served either as conference evangelists or pastors for a period of four years and in their judgment are properly qualified to be recommended for general evangelistic work and behind whom the annual conference places its full endorsement for such work. Each annual conference, appointing elders to full-time or reserve general evangelistic work or recommending evangelistic singers and chalk artists, shall provide the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism in writing a proper record of all such appointments and the Department shall furnish the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist from time to time a list of such certified evangelists and special workers.

§ 279. Each evangelist and all others on the stationed list of the conference, except as provided for in paragraph 209, not appointed to pastoral work, shall be required to give a complete statistical report of his or her work at the annual conference to which he or she belongs according to the following plan (Form A):

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


§ 280. 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.

E. Special Workers

§ 281. (1) When there are members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who feel called to the special ministry of song evangelism, chalk drawing, minister of music, Christian education director, or youth director, they shall be certified as such for one year by the annual conference provided: they have been recommended for such work by the local church of which they are members; have been questioned on the same basis and under the same procedure as the local preachers (paragraph 173); give evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; conform to the standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in the matters of dress and deportment; have had some experience in their respective ministries; and have been carefully examined by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders of the conference of which they are members, regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work.

(2) The certificates of the workers listed above may be renewed each year by the annual conference of which they are members provided: they are regularly engaged in such work; have taken the evangelistic singers' course (two years) or its equivalent or comparable work in chalk drawing in one of our colleges (two years), or an acceptable course from another school, or suitable training for their respective ministries under the direction of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders; and have been recommended by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders.

For certificate, see paragraph 835.

§ 282. (1) Candidates taking the course under the direction of the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders must pass at least one book per year and the entire course must be completed within five years from the time of the granting of the first certificate by the annual conference.
(2) The annual conference may assign certified singers, chalk artists, ministers of music, Christian education directors, and youth directors to travel provided: they have completed one of the courses recommended, are properly qualified for general work, and are properly endorsed by the said conference for such work.

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

See also paragraph 415.

F. Reception of Ministers
From Other Denominations

§ 283. 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. Moreover, none shall be received until they have given satisfactory proof of having passed in a satisfactory manner a course of study equivalent to our disciplinary course and shall have joined some Wesleyan Methodist church. 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.
§ 284. In case said ministers shall prove themselves worthy in the judgment of the president and his Advisory Board to be received into The Wesleyan Methodist Church and shall have passed an examination on the Wesleyan Methodist Discipline, the president shall recommend them to the annual conference. Whenever any elder is received from another denomination he shall be furnished with a certificate, signed by the president. See paragraph 627 for proper form.

§ 285. Preachers coming from other denominations, in deacons' 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.

§ 286. 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.

6. Special Sessions

§ 287. The president of an annual conference shall call a special session when a petition to call the same is presented to him signed by two-thirds of all the pastors of said annual conference. It shall meet at the place selected for the next annual meeting, or at any place selected by the president and his Advisory Board, if it is better to do so. Said call must define the business to be transacted, and no business not stated in the call shall be transacted at the special session. When a special session is called the churches or charges must elect delegates in the same manner as is provided for regular sessions.
SECTION VII

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. Organization and Membership

¶ 288. The Discipline of 1843 establishes the General Conference as the governing body of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (then called Connection) of America, declaring, "The General Conference shall have full powers to make rules and regulations for our churches." These powers are understood to be subject to constitutional principles.

¶ 289. The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of elders and laymen, who shall be elected by the several annual conferences. The General Superintendents, the Editor of THE WESLEYAN METHODIST, the General Manager of the Publishing Association, the Executive Secretary of the Department of World Missions, the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism, and the Executive Secretary of the Department of Sunday Schools shall also be members of the General Conference by virtue of their respective offices and a delegate at large for each of these Officials shall be elected as follows:

¶ 290. Immediately after the election of the General Officials a Committee of the General Conference shall recommend the conferences from which these delegates at large shall be elected. The conferences shall be considered in alphabetical order, provided that none of the lay delegates shall come from the conferences in which the General Superintendents and the General Officials hold their membership, and provided further 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.
¶ 291. Each annual conference, unless charged with violating or tolerating violations of any rule or section of the Discipline, shall be entitled to one elder and one lay member for every five hundred church members in full membership, 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 membership 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, and 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.

¶ 292. 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 delegate to the General Conference shall be a member of the Church at the time of his election and at the time of the General Conference, and each delegate so elected shall receive a certificate of his election (see paragraph 647). All elders not on the unstationed list shall be eligible to election to the General Conference as ministerial delegates.

¶ 293. Each annual conference shall also elect by ballot sufficient alternate ministerial and lay delegates to the General Conference who shall fill any vacancies in the order of their election.

¶ 294. 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 73) of each branch to pass any question upon which the division has been called.
2. Procedures and Powers

§ 295. (1) 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.

(2) Charges against an annual conference must be filed with the Secretary of the General Conference before the first business meeting of any quadrennial session, and he shall report the fact of said charges to the General Conference at its first business meeting before the delegates in question are seated. The General Conference shall determine to whom the charges shall be referred for adjudication.

(3) Delegates from an annual conference which is charged with violating or tolerating violations of any rule or section of the Discipline shall not vote on any business before the General Conference until such charges shall have been disposed of by the General Conference.

(4) For the authority of the General Conference over a mission annual conference, see paragraph 192, subparagraph 3.

(5) The powers of the General Conference are further defined in the Constitution, paragraph 68 and paragraph 288 above.

3. Officers

§ 296. The General Conference shall elect for the quadrennial term by ballot, from among the elders of the Church, one or more general superintendents who shall constitute the Board of General Superintendents and who shall share the responsibilities of presiding over the sessions of the General Conference in a manner agreed upon among themselves.

§ 297. The General Conference shall elect for the quadrennial term by ballot, from among its members, a secretary who shall record the proceedings of the General Conference sessions, preserve the same, and perform such other duties as may be directed by the General Conference.

§ 298. The term of office of the General Conference officers shall begin with the rise of the General Conference at which they are elected; they shall serve until the adjournment of the next regular session of the General Conference, and
until their successors are elected. The salary of the retiring officers shall continue one month beyond the date of the termination of office.

§ 299. The General Superintendents shall devote their full time to supervising, coordinating, and promoting the various branches of the Church's work, under the direction of the Board of Administration, as follows:

1. They shall preside over the regular, and any special session of the General Conference, in such rotation as they shall determine.

2. They shall act as a board to render decisions on points of law in the interim of the sessions of the General Conference.

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

4. They shall be ex officio members of the Board of Administration and of its Executive Board.

5. They shall meet periodically with the General Officers of the Church for the purpose of coordinating the various departmental activities, and more efficiently promoting the entire Church program.

6. They shall counsel with the heads of all departments, institutions, and organizations authorized by the Church, and receiving support from or through the Church, making such suggestions concerning their work as they feel will increase their efficiency and their contribution to the Church.

7. They shall agree among themselves as to a division of the conferences of the Denomination in such a manner
that each of them shall have a territory for whose care he shall be especially responsible, visiting each of the annual conference sessions in his territory, or appointing someone else in his place. This division and plan of visitation shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

(8) They shall, upon request of any conference they may visit, preside at its meetings and otherwise render such services as may be desired by the conference.

(9) They shall devote as much time to both Area and Conference Ministerial, Missionary, Sunday School, or Youth Conventions as occasion may require and the duties of their office permit.

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

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

§ 300. The General Conference shall elect by ballot the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist.

§ 301. (1) The Board of Administration shall nominate and the General Conference shall elect by ballot the General Manager of the Publishing Association, the Executive Secretary of World Missions, the Executive Secretary of Church Extension and Evangelism, and the Executive Secretary of Sunday Schools.

(2) The general officers of the Church are those elected by the General Conference or the Board of Administration who are designated as ex officio members of the General Conference in paragraph 269.

(3) The term of office of the general officers of the Church shall begin with the rise of the General Conference at which they are elected; they shall serve until the adjourn-
ment of the next regular session of the General Conference, and until their successors are elected. The salary of the retiring officers shall continue one month beyond the date of the termination of service.

(4) It is recommended that the general officers have their homes in the town where our World Headquarters is located, or in some of the nearby suburban towns.

4. Regular and Special Sessions

§ 303. The General Conference shall meet quadrennially on the fourth Tuesday in June at such place as it shall from time to time select. The hour of meeting shall be determined by the Board of Administration. The General Superintendents may change this date when, in the judgment of 60 percent of the annual conference presidents, an emergency has arisen which will warrant such a change of date.

§ 303. 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 General Superintendents shall be officially informed that it has been approved by two-thirds of the annual conferences, they shall issue a call for the same, and it shall be held accordingly.

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

5. Boundaries

§ 305. The General Conference shall determine the number and boundaries of the annual conferences.

See also paragraph 187.

§ 306. The Alabama Conference shall include the State of Alabama and all of the State of Mississippi south of the
northern boundary line of the counties through which U.S. Route 82 passes.

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

§ 308. The Australia Conference shall include the continent of Australia, and all adjacent islands under its mandate and government.

§ 309. The California Conference shall comprise the State of California and the State of Arizona.

§ 310. The Canada Conference shall comprise the Dominion of Canada.


§ 312. The Colombia Conference shall include the Republic of Colombia, South America.

§ 313. The Dakota Conference shall include North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

§ 314. The Florida Conference shall include the territory lying within the State of Florida.
§ 315. The Georgia Conference comprises the State of Georgia.

§ 316. The Haiti Conference shall include all of Haiti.

§ 317. The Illinois Conference shall comprise that part of the State of Illinois north of the Wabash Railway running from the Indiana state line east of Danville, Illinois, to Hannibal, Missouri.

§ 318. The India Conferences: (A) Central India Conference shall include the RajNandgaon and Drug districts; (B) West India Conference shall include Maha Gujerat.

§ 319. The Indiana Conference shall comprise the State of Indiana, except that part of Indiana which belongs to the Kentucky Conference.

§ 320. The Iowa Conference shall comprise the State of Iowa and the State of Minnesota.

§ 321. The Jamaica Conference shall include the Island of Jamaica.

§ 322. The Kansas Conference shall include the States of Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado.

§ 323. 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, Bartholomew, 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.

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

§ 326. The Middle Atlantic States Conference shall be composed of the States of New Jersey, Delaware, and all of the State of Maryland, except that part which is within the Virginia Conference, 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 northwest corner of New Jersey, east through the city of Newburg, New York, to New Haven, Connecticut.

§ 327. The Nebraska Conference shall consist of the State of Nebraska.

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

§ 329. The North Michigan Conference shall comprise all that part of the State of Michigan included within the following boundary: All the area in Michigan north of a line starting from the northwest corner of Ottawa County, thence running due east to the west line of Genesee County, thence south
to a point due west of Lapeer-Oakland County line, thence due east to the St. Clair River.

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

§ 331. The Oklahoma Conference shall include the States of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

§ 332. The Oregon Conference shall include the States of Oregon and Washington.

§ 333. The Puerto Rico Conference shall include all of Puerto Rico.

§ 334. The Rochester Conference shall be bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of Jefferson County, New York, following along the northern boundary of said county to the east line of Herkimer County, thence south along its eastern boundary to the southwest corner of Hamilton County, thence along a direct line to the eastern boundary of Madison County, thence following along the western boundary of Otsego and Delaware Counties to Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, including that part of said county not included in the Middle Atlantic States Conference; and that part of Pennsylvania not included in the Lockport Conference.

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

§ 336. The South Ohio Conference (colored) shall include the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana, and that part of West Virginia not occupied by the Allegheny Conference.

§ 337. The Tennessee Conference shall comprise the State
of Tennessee and all of the State of Mississippi except that part of Mississippi which belongs to the Alabama Conference.

¶ 338. The Virginia Conference shall include the State of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and that portion of the State of Maryland within the circumferential highway (Inter-state No. 495) adjoining the District of Columbia.

¶ 339. The West Africa Conference shall include northwestern Sierra Leone.

¶ 340. The Wisconsin Conference shall include the State of Wisconsin and the city of Anchorage, Alaska.

¶ 341. 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 VIII

THE GENERAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

1. Organization

§ 342. The General Conference at its quadrennial session shall create a Board of Administration consisting of twenty-six persons, namely: the General Superintendents, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the General Manager and Treasurer of the Publishing Association, the Executive Secretary of the Department of World Missions, the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism, the Executive Secretary of the Department of Sunday Schools, the President of the General Woman's Missionary Society, and the General Secretary of Wesleyan Youth, who shall be members ex officio; and sixteen other persons, eight of whom shall be elders and eight lay members. Four of these sixteen shall be nominated by ballot from each of the four school districts in which they reside. The term of office of the members of the Board of Administration shall begin with the rise of the General Conference at which they are elected. If any member of the Board of Administration, except an ex officio member, change his residence from one school area to another during the quadrennium, the Board may, at its discretion, declare the office vacant and fill the vacancy according to paragraph 343.

§ 343. At its first meeting after being elected, the Board of Administration shall elect by ballot one of the General Superintendents as president, and a secretary. It shall also elect from its elected members, two elders and two laymen who with the three General Superintendents shall constitute its Executive Board. The Board of Administration shall meet annually at Marion, Indiana, and as much oftener as the president or any five members of the Board of Administration shall deem necessary, provided that it shall be legal for the Executive Board of the Board of Administration to designate another place for the regular annual meeting, and provided
§ 344. The Executive Board of the Board of Administration, consisting of seven persons, shall transact all the business referred to it by the full Board during the interim of the meetings of the full Board, and shall transact any and all other business the full Board may transact except that of removing and filling the offices of the General Superintendents, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, the General Manager of the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association, the Executive Secretary of World Missions, the Executive Secretary of Church Extension and Evangelism, and the Executive Secretary of the Department of Sunday Schools.

§ 345. The Board of Administration shall organize itself into commissions, each to be under the chairmanship of one of the General Superintendents in accordance with Board designation, the areas of responsibility of the commissions to be so defined as to include all of the principal responsibilities usually discharged by the Board, these commissions to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board, their recommendations to be ratified by the full Board or the Executive Board to be effective.

2. Responsibilities and Jurisdiction

§ 346. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of all the corporate societies of the Church, with offices located at Marion, Indiana, said Societies now consisting of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association, the Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, the Wesleyan Educational Society, the Superannuated Ministers’ Aid Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America,
the Woman's Missionary Society, and Wesleyan Investment Foundation. It shall also be the Board of Managers for Wesleyan Youth, Hephzibah Orphanage, Inc., the Brainerd Indian School, and The Missionary Bands of the World.

§ 347. The Board of Administration shall have the power to remove any of the general officers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and any person whom it may have employed, when it judges that the interests of the Church require such removal, and shall have power to fill all vacancies that occur among the officials and those employed by it, whether said vacancies occur by death or otherwise, and the persons so employed shall fill out the unexpired term of those whose places they are appointed to fill.

§ 348. In the transaction of all business, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum, except in the removal of one of the General Superintendents, when it shall require a three-fourths vote of all the members of the Board in favor of his removal; and in the removal of any of the other general officers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, it shall require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board in favor of removal.

§ 349. The Board of Administration shall see that the order of the General Conference requiring the publication of one religious periodical to be known as The Wesleyan Methodist, and such Sunday school papers and lesson helps as the Board may direct, shall be carried out by the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association. It shall also see that The Wesleyan Missionary and The Wesleyan Youth shall be published by The Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association. It shall also determine what books shall be printed for the Church, and fix the prices of the same, and shall also determine what books shall bear the imprint of the Publishing Association, when published for other parties. It shall also see that as much job work is done as is possible, when said job work does not interfere with the publications of the Church ordered by the General Conference or Board of Administration.
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\section{§ 350.} The Board of Administration shall see that the pastors and evangelists and missionaries perform their duty in extending the circulation of our books and periodicals, in securing subscriptions for \textit{The Wesleyan Methodist}, and seeing that the same are renewed when a subscription expires. The Board of Administration shall cause the General Manager of the Publishing Association 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 General Manager, and upon the receipt of same he shall forward to said pastor the names of all the subscribers receiving \textit{The Wesleyan Methodist} at the post offices. It shall then be the duty of each pastor to see said subscribers, and receive money for renewals, and forward the same to the General Manager.

\section{§ 351.} After ascertaining from the conferences the dates desired for their annual sessions, the Board of Administration shall, upon recommendation of the General Superintendents, set the dates and appoint the representatives for these meetings. The list of the dates and representatives shall be published in \textit{The Wesleyan Methodist}. The person designated to represent the Church interests at the conferences shall report on the work of the various corporations of the Church. He shall hold honorary membership in the conference and may preside over the conference if invited to do so (see paragraph 230). It is recommended that he may preside during the election of major annual conference officers and during consideration of and voting upon memorials and resolutions, and offer such counsel as may be helpful.

\section{§ 352.} The Board of Administration shall serve as a Committee on Discipline Memorials and Revisals. Memorials shall be submitted to the Board by the vote of an annual conference or over the signature of three or more members of the church.

\section{§ 353.} The Board of Administration shall determine the salaries of the general officers of \textit{The Wesleyan Methodist}. 136
Church, and the salaries of all other persons whom it may employ.

§ 354. The Board of Administration shall have supervision over all the Church Societies, and shall review all the business of said societies, to see that each corporate society is transacting its business according to the laws of the states in which they are incorporated and/or authorized to operate and according to the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. In order to do this, it shall have power to require each incorporated society to have its business audited by a Certified Public Accountant or other competent person. Such accountant shall in substance specify that his examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and that, in his opinion, the balance sheet and statements of equity and income present fairly the financial position of said corporate society at a given date and that his report shows the results of the operation of said business for the period covered by the examination.

§ 355. If the Board of Administration shall judge that any expenditure of any of the corporate societies has not been judiciously made, or that the laws of the states in which they are incorporated and/or authorized to operate 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.

§ 356. If the General Conference does not elect an Auditing Committee, then the Board of Administration shall elect said Committee, but nothing in this clause shall prevent the Board of Administration or its Executive Board from electing Special Auditing and Investigating Committees when, in the judgment of either the Board of Administration, or its Executive Board, it is in the interests of the Church to do so.

§ 357. If the presidents of any three conferences think that the Board of Administration is not properly supervising the business of the Church as carried on through the incor-
pated societies, they shall notify the president of the Board of Administration of their fears, and he shall at once inquire into the matter and report to said presidents. If in his judgment the business is properly carried on, he shall say so and if after this the presidents so requesting shall insist on an examination of the business management, the president of the Board of Administration shall order said presidents to select a committee of not less than three persons, and shall at the same time call the Executive Board together, or obtain their consent in writing, and said Executive Board shall appoint a similar committee, and the two committees jointly shall examine the business thoroughly, and report to the Executive Board. If it shall appear that said business has been conducted safely, and according to the laws of the states in which they are incorporated and/or authorized to operate and of the Discipline, then the presidents demanding said examination shall pay all the expenses connected therewith; but should it appear from the examination that said business has not been properly conducted, then all the expenses of conducting said investigation shall be borne by the various incorporated societies, and the evils found corrected; and if the violations have been willful, the violators shall be removed from office.

§ 358. The Board of Administration shall have power to direct and review all the business transacted by the trustees of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Incorporate, and should it appear that said business is not being conducted properly, or that the laws of the state in which they are incorporated and/or authorized to operate are being violated or that the wishes of the donor are not being carried out, it shall have power to correct said mismanagement.

§ 359. There shall be elected by the Board of Administration a general treasurer of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, the Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Superannuated Ministers' Aid Society and its Pension Plan, the Wesleyan Men, and such other corporations as the Board of Administration shall direct. He shall serve also as treasurer of the General Conference.
§ 360. The Board of Administration shall make or cause to be made an annual exhibit of the state of all the incorporated societies to all the annual conferences, but in this report it shall be required to give only the summaries of said business. It shall also cause said summary to be published in The Wesleyan Methodist. The Board of Administration shall make or cause to be made to each annual conference an annual report of the conditions of the state of the incorporated societies. The Board shall also make a full report to the General Conference covering the four years' interim.

§ 361. All property held by the corporate societies of the Church shall be held in trust by said societies and conferences for The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. For directions concerning the securing of titles to church properties, see paragraphs 144-152.

3. Special Jurisdiction

§ 362. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of Hephzibah Orphanage, Inc. at Macon, Georgia, incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia. The Orphanage shall have a local Board of Managers composed of six persons, four of whom shall be elected at large by the Board of Administration. A member of the Board of Administration, elected by the Board, shall be the fifth member of the Board of Managers and shall serve as chairman of the same; the sixth member shall be the person who is serving as the duly elected superintendent of said Hephzibah Orphanage. The first five members of said Board of Managers shall elect the superintendent of Hephzibah Orphanage whenever a vacancy may occur, but this election must be ratified by the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, or its Executive Board. The actions of the Board of Managers shall be subject to review by the Board of Administration, which shall have power to veto any decisions of said Board of Managers. The Board of Administration shall also have power to initiate any actions it may deem to be to the interest of the Home. All members of the Board of Managers of the Hephzibah Orphanage shall be members in
good standing of some Wesleyan Methodist church. Said Board of Managers shall formulate bylaws for the management of said Hephzibah Home, which bylaws shall be approved by the Board of Administration.

§ 363. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of Brainerd Indian School near Hot Springs, South Dakota. The School shall have a local Board of Managers composed of six persons, four of whom shall be elected at large by the Board of Administration. A member of the Board of Administration, elected by the Board, shall be the fifth member of the Board of Managers and shall serve as chairman of the same; the sixth member shall be the person who is serving as the duly elected President of said Brainerd School. The first five members of said Board of Managers shall elect the President of Brainerd Indian School whenever a vacancy may occur, but this election must be ratified by the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, or its Executive Board. The actions of the Board of Managers shall be subject to review by the Board of Administration, which shall have power to veto any decisions of said Board of Managers. The Board of Administration shall also have power to initiate any actions it may deem to be to the interest of the school. All members of the Board of Managers of the Brainerd School shall be members in good standing of some Wesleyan Methodist church. A seventh member, not a Wesleyan Methodist, may be added subject to the approval of the Board of Administration. Said Board of Managers shall formulate bylaws for the management of said Brainerd Indian School, which bylaws shall be approved by the Board of Administration.

§ 364. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Trustees of the Missionary Bands of the World, a corporation registered in the State of Indiana originally under date of March 27, 1926, and reorganized under date of January 9, 1959. The Board of Administration as the trustees of this corporation shall manage its prudential affairs in order to achieve its objectives and fulfill its purposes according to the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as

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from time to time that Discipline may be authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church. The Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America is hereby designated to be the bylaws of the Missionary Bands of the World corporation.
SECTION IX

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

§ 365. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of The Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America.

§ 366. At the first meeting of the Board of Managers of said Association after being elected by the General Conference, it shall elect a president, secretary, treasurer, and an executive board consisting of seven members.

§ 367. It shall meet annually at Marion, Indiana, or as often as the chairman and any three members may decide to be necessary. On the year of General Conference it shall be legal to call a meeting on a date before the meeting of the General Conference and at the place of the General Conference.

§ 368. The General Manager, elected in accordance with paragraph 301, shall be considered the head of the business department of this Association, and shall conduct said business as directed by the Board of Managers.

§ 369. The Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist shall be the head of the editorial department. All improvements that may be needed in editing the paper and the other publications which come under his supervision shall be referred to him and he shall present the same to the Board of Managers or to the Executive Board. At the regular annual meeting of the Board of Administration, the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist shall present a summary of the reports of the annual conferences for the year.

§ 370. The Publishing Association, through its General Manager, shall print or publish all papers and books authorized by the General Conference and/or Board of Administration.
§ 371. The Board of Managers shall cause the business of the Association to be audited; said audit 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 names of the parties shall be given and the authority given by the General Manager for incurring said liability. No money shall be borrowed except upon the authority of the Board of Managers or its Executive Board.
SECTION X

THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

1. The General Educational Society

§ 372. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of the Wesleyan Educational Society.

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

§ 374. The Board of Managers shall meet annually in Marion, Indiana, and as much oftener as the chairman of the Board or any three members thereof may deem necessary, provided that on the year of the General Conference the meeting may be held at the place of the General Conference.

§ 375. At the first meeting of the Board of Managers after the General Conference, a president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected, and also an executive board to consist of seven persons, all for a term of four years.

§ 376. 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.

§ 377. 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 inter-
esting our people in our schools.

2. The Conference Educational Society

§ 378. The General Conference recommends:
(1) That each conference elect a conference educational secretary.
(2) That the duties of the conference educational secre-
   tary be to act as chairman of the Conference Educational
   Committee, to hold at least one annual session of this com-
   mittee, 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.
(3) That each conference have a Conference Educational
   Committee consisting of the conference educational secre-
   tary as chairman, the conference president, the conference
   representatives on the local board, the conference superin-
tendent of the YMWB, the conference president of WY, and
   the conference president of the WMS. If WY is not organ-
ized, the Conference Educational Committee shall appoint
some young person to fill this vacancy.
(4) That the duties of the Conference Educational Com-
   mittee be to hold at least one annual session to consider care-
fully all the educational problems of the conference, to so-
licit students for its school, and to try to have its conference
raise a full educational budget.

§ 379. (1) It shall be the duty of each school president
to see that his school is officially represented at the annual
session of each conference in his school area, and each annual
conference shall provide a public education service at each
annual session, at which time the official school representative
shall present the interests of the school of that area.
(2) The president of each school shall be an ex officio
member of all the committees in his district with the right
to be present and speak but not to vote.
3. The Local Church Educational Society

§ 389. The General Conference recommends:

(1) That each church elect a church educational secretary.

(2) 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.

(3) That each church have a Church Educational Committee consisting of the church educational secretary as chairman, the pastor, the local superintendent of the YMWB, the local president of WY, and the local president of the WMS. If WY is not organized, the Church Educational Committee shall appoint some young person to fill this vacancy.

(4) 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.

(5) That the charges endeavor to raise their educational budget quarterly.

(6) 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, and February.

(7) 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.

(8) That the Spring Quarter be called the YMWB Quarter and shall be in charge of the church educational secretary and the superintendent of the YMWB. All receipts dur-
isng this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through the YMWB. The third Sunday in April shall be the YMWB Educational Sunday.

(9) That the Summer Quarter be called WY Quarter and shall be in charge of the church educational secretary and the president of WY (or substitute). All receipts during this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through WY. The third Sunday in July shall be WY Educational Sunday.

(10) 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 WMS. All receipts during this quarter may be placed to the credit of the church through the WMS. The third Sunday in October shall be the WMS Educational Sunday.

(11) 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.

§ 381. 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.

4. Administration of Educational Institutions

§ 382. The conferences of the Church shall be divided into the following school districts: Houghton District: Allegheny, Canada, Rochester, Champlain, Lockport, Middle Atlantic States, Michigan. Central District: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia. Miltonvale District: California, Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin. Marion District: North
¶ 383. (1) 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 begin­
ings 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 the Church. 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, there­
fore, that no person be employed to teach in our schools who
does not thoroughly believe in and advocate the doctrine of
entire sanctification as set forth in our Articles of Religion.

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

¶ 384. (1) In the operation of schools and colleges the
supervision of the Board of Administration shall imply either
the exercising of the functions of basic trusteeship by the
Board itself or else its activity in the election of Boards of
Trustees for specific institutions.

(2) Therefore the Board of Administration shall itself
constitute the General Board of Trustees or shall appoint the
members of a proper Board of Trustees of each school cor­
poration. This latter provision shall be operative for any of
our institutions whose Local Board of Trustees shall by a
two-thirds vote petition the Board of Administration for this
plan of management and shall present for approval a charter
satisfactory to the Board of Administration and in their judg­
ment conformable to the requirements hereinafter specified. Upon the granting of such request by the Board of Administration in its capacity of Board of Trustees of the given institution and upon their voted adoption of the proposed charter, with resolutions pertinent to its activation, and upon their election of a Board of Trustees for said institution, the alternative plan of trusteeship above mentioned shall take effect.

¶ 385. Each school shall have a treasurer elected for its own work who shall have custody of and, together with the management, responsibility for the finances and assets of said school. He shall keep a careful account of all financial transactions and make a full report to the Denominational Board of Managers annually.

¶ 386. For institutions continuing under the general trusteeship of the Board of Administration the following provisions shall apply:

(1) Each school district shall have a Local Board of Trustees of not less than five members, who shall be elected by ballot by the annual conferences of the district at their annual sessions. An effort shall be made by the electing conferences to maintain parity of lay and ministerial membership on the board. The delegates from each district shall determine, at the time of each General Conference, the number of members of the Local Board of Trustees and the basis of distribution among the conferences of the district; provided that each conference shall have at least one member on the Local Board of Trustees. Each member of the Local Board of Trustees shall reside within the bounds of the conference he represents. The term of office of this Local Board of Trustees shall be four years.

(2) In order to insure a degree of continuity on the board, approximately one-half of the members shall be elected by their annual conference in the session next following the General Conference, and approximately one-half in the third session of the annual conferences following the General Conference.
(3) The president or acting president of each of our schools shall be a member of the Local Board of Trustees by virtue of his office. No other member of the faculty of any of our schools shall be a member of the Local Board of Trustees.

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

§ 387. As previously in the history of our educational institutions, the Board of Administration as General Board of Trustees of the institution thus governed is vested with the following:

(1) Title to property of all the schools.

(2) The function of review of all actions of district boards with the privilege of confirming or annulling the same.

(3) The right of initial jurisdiction whenever it seems it necessary in the interest of the Church.

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

§ 389. The management functions of the Local Board of Trustees in the interest and subject to the authority of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall include the following:

(1) The employment of teachers and staff members; fixing of salaries and duties.

(2) The investment of funds.

(3) The initiation of capital projects.

(4) The binding of the college by contracts and instruments of indebtedness.
(5) Supervision of overall academic policies and standards of conduct in the schools.

(6) Determination of business policies.

(7) All other matters of management or policy may be referred to them or recommended by them, but all actions of the Local Board of Trustees shall be subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees. The Local Board of Trustees 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 it may vote, or as the president or any five members shall deem necessary.

\[ \text{§390. For each institution requesting to be chartered under its own board of trustees, its bylaws and subsequent amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Administration and the following provisions shall apply:} \]

(1) The members of the Board of Trustees shall number at least fifteen and not more than twenty-five, elected by the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as follows: five members (including one General Superintendent) elected from the membership of the Board of Administration, at least seven members elected by the Board of Administration to represent the conferences of the school district served by the institution, up to three members at large elected upon nomination by the Board of Trustees from the membership of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(2) The Board of Administration shall decide the exact number of trustees to be elected to represent the area conferences of a given institution and the basis of their distribution, provided that each conference shall be represented by at least one trustee. An effort shall be made to maintain parity between lay and ministerial trustees, except that no conference with but one trustee shall be arbitrarily assigned a lay trustee. Each trustee shall at the time of his election or re-election reside within the bounds of the conference he represents.

(3) The trustees shall be elected for terms of four years.
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(with re-election permissible), and these terms shall be so spaced that approximately half of the trustee terms shall expire every two years. Each trustee shall continue in office until his successor is qualified in his stead. The qualification of a trustee is not complete until the trustee-elect has in writing signified his acceptance of the responsibility and his personal endorsement of the institution’s statement of faith upon a standard form provided by the Board of Trustees.

(4) Each annual conference of the institution’s district shall be given the opportunity to submit nominations for its representative or representatives on the Board of Trustees, with the understanding that, if the conference chooses to nominate, two nominees shall be submitted for each trusteeship vacancy and that members of the Board of Administration shall also have the privilege of making nominations for each trusteeship, these to be from the church membership of the conference represented. A conference when nominating shall have the privilege of indicating its preference in its nominations.

(5) The proposed charter of the institution shall be held by the trustees of the institution subject to the requirement that the trustees may not at any time sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets without the express approval of the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

(6) The proposed charter shall make the trustees responsible for the observance of the General Regulations for Wesleyan Methodist Schools as from time to time adopted or revised and declared by the Board of Administration. This provision shall be reinforced by a reversion clause applying to the property and assets of the institution where permitted by the law of the state in which the institution is located.

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

¶ 392. 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.

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

§ 394. The Board of Administration shall designate the Board of Review as a committee to receive and act upon complaints against, or questions concerning, the propriety of using a given textbook in our schools. It shall endeavor to correct conditions through the proper authorities of the institution involved, but if it does not succeed, the Board of Administration shall act upon the complaint or question as it deems advisable, and its decision shall be effective immediately. (See paragraph 77.)

§ 395. Unless and until otherwise provided, the trusteeship of the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall continue as follows:

1. The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of Houghton College.

2. The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of Houghton Academy.

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

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

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

6. The Board of Administration shall be the General Board of Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Bible College of Melbourne, Australia.
396. The Wesleyan Methodist Seminary Foundation is the Church agency providing for the advanced training of Wesleyan Methodist ministers. Asbury Theological Seminary is approved by the Board of Administration for this purpose. The provisions of the official affiliation are defined in The Articles of Agreement between The Wesleyan Methodist Seminary Foundation and Asbury Theological Seminary. The program is financed through General Conference authorization. (This explanatory note was inserted by the editors of the Discipline.)
SECTION XI

MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

1. Parent Board

¶ 397. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and shall have its place of business at the Wesleyan World Headquarters, Marion, Indiana. 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.

¶ 398. At the first annual meeting of the Board of Managers following the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference a president, secretary, and a treasurer of this corporation 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 treasurer shall be the custodian of all the funds and property of the society and shall be responsible for all monies which shall come into his hands. He shall not cancel or surrender any note or obligation held against anyone, except when paid, without the order of the Missionary Board or the Executive Board, nor shall he make any loans or borrow any money except as authorized by the Board of Managers or its Executive Board.

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

¶ 400. The Board of Managers of the Missionary Society shall have general charge of all of the missionary work of the Denomination. Written contracts shall be entered into with all missionaries in the employ of this Board.

¶ 401. 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.

SECTION XI

2. Department of World Missions

§ 402. There shall be a Department of World Missions which shall function under the direction of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society. The Department of World Missions shall supervise and administer the work of the Church on approved mission fields and areas.

§ 403. There shall be an Executive Secretary of the Department of World Missions (elected in accordance with paragraph 301) who shall have the superintendency of the work of the Department of World Missions and be responsible for its financial management under the direction of the Missionary Board. He shall be charged with the responsibility of carrying out the policies and program of the Board of Managers with reference to World Missions. His duties shall be to solicit and secure funds from all available sources; to visit the churches and conferences in the interests of missions; to visit missions and overseas conferences as the need may require; to employ such additional help as needed and authorized by the Board of Managers; to handle all correspondence of the Department; to sign necessary papers pertaining to World Missions; to direct publicity and deputational work; to present missionary candidates, and with the Commission on Missions and the Board of Managers to pass on all candidates proposed for missionary service, as well as on the recall of workers sent to the field; to prepare approved contracts with all workers duly appointed which shall be valid when signed by the president and secretary of the Board of Managers and the Executive Secretary of World Missions; to make full report to the Commission on Missions and to the Board of Managers; to nominate an assistant to be elected by the Board.

3. Annual Conference Missionary Societies

For a description of annual conference missionary societies, see paragraphs 224 and 240 under “The Annual Conference.”
4. Woman's Missionary Society

¶ 404. The Woman's Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized in 1903 under the authority of the General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

¶ 405. The purpose of this organization 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.

¶ 406. The Woman's Missionary Society shall work as an integral part of and in harmony with the Missionary Society of the Church and shall report annually and quadrennially to the Board of Managers through the Commission on Missions.

¶ 407. The Executive Board, comprised of the officers of the Society, shall have power to administer the affairs of the Society during the interim of the quadrennial sessions.

¶ 408. For further particulars see the constitution, paragraphs 519-555.

¶ 409. Methods for raising funds in all Church organizations shall be in harmony with the principles of Wesleyan Methodism.
SECTION XII

CHURCH EXTENSION AND EVANGELISM

1. General Organization and Responsibilities

§ 410. There shall be a Department of Church Extension and Evangelism which shall function under The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. This Department shall be charged with the responsibility of developing, promoting, and supervising a program of aggressive Church Extension and Evangelism in cooperation with the annual conferences of the Church. Moreover, this Department shall be responsible for the promotion and the coordination of the work of general evangelism and general evangelists and shall at all times be guided by the best interests of the general evangelistic work and workers of the Church. The Department shall recommend and promote from time to time such books and reading materials as may be used to further the general interest in evangelism and in other ways seek to extend the evangelistic activities throughout the Church.

§ 411. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Managers of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism. 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. At the first annual meeting of the Board of Managers following the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference, a president, secretary, and treasurer for the Church Extension and Evangelism Department shall be elected for a term of four years. Duties of these officers shall be such as usually belong to such officials, provided however, that the treasurer shall be the custodian of all the funds of the Department and shall be responsible for all monies which shall come into his hands. He shall not cancel or surrender any note or obligation held against anyone, except when paid, without the order of the Board of Managers or its Executive Board. There shall be an Executive Board consisting of seven persons to be elected by the
full Board at its first regular meeting after the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference for the term of four years, and this Board shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the full Board.

§ 412. There shall be an Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism elected, in accordance with paragraph 301, who shall supervise and administer the work of the Department under the direction of the Board of Managers. He shall be responsible for the financial management of the Department. It shall be his duty to solicit funds from all available sources and to visit the churches and conferences in the interest of the work as the need may require. He may employ such additional help as needed and authorized by the Board of Managers. The Secretary of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism shall make a full report of his activities and the financial condition of the work to the Board of Managers at its annual sessions or as the Board directs.

§ 413. To receive financial assistance from the Church Extension and Evangelism Department, application shall be made to the Church Extension and Evangelism Office on forms provided by the Department. The amount of aid, if any, shall be determined by recommendation of the Secretary of Church Extension and Evangelism through the Commission on Evangelism, and approved by the Board of Administration, or its Executive Board. Small grants may be arranged by the Secretary of Church Extension and Evangelism. The ceiling for such grants shall be at the discretion of the Board. Aid may be reduced or discontinued at the discretion of the Board of Administration, or the Executive Board when the circumstances either at the project, or in the Department, warrant such change.

Any agreement for mission conference financial assistance extends only for the current year.

As a general rule, aid to specific projects will be progressively and systematically reduced wherever it is continued beyond the ensuing year.
CHAPTER XII

§ 414. It shall be the duty of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism to prepare for the use of annual conferences and churches such church building plans and general data on construction as in its judgment may be needed by our people for their information in erecting suitable buildings for the church and Sunday school.

2. Evangelists

§ 415. (1) The Board of Managers of the Church Extension and Evangelism Department shall approve forms which shall be used by and for general evangelists and by evangelistic singers and chalk artists as a basis of reporting. Form A shall provide for the report to the annual conference, and Form B shall provide a basis by which the pastor in whose church the services have been rendered shall make a report to the president of the annual conference of which the evangelist, singer, or chalk artist is a member, which form both the pastor and his Advisory Board shall sign.

For Form A, see paragraph 279.

(2) The Board of Administration as the Board of Managers of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism may grant certificates to general evangelists, evangelistic singers, and chalk artists who receive such appointment by their annual conference, if in the judgment of the Board the work will be served thereby.

See also paragraphs 272-280.

3. Wesleyan Card Call

§ 416. (1) Wesleyan Card Call shall operate under the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism.

(2) Membership in Wesleyan Card Call shall consist of those who have signed the Card Call Pledge.

(3) The benefits of the Wesleyan Card Call shall be extended to all conferences of the Church, other than those under the World Missions' Department. It shall be primarily for pioneer projects.
(4) The net receipts of the Wesleyan Card Call shall all go into the regular Card Call channel.

(5) Applications for aid from the Wesleyan Card Call may be made by the local pastor but must have the approval of the conference president; they shall be submitted to the Secretary of Church Extension who shall record them in the order received.

(6) Ordinarily, applications shall be processed in the order in which they are received, but the Executive Board may advance one application above another when it deems it best for the general and local interest of the Church to do so. Several applications may be grouped in one Call at the discretion of the Secretary of Church Extension, and he is permitted to rearrange the order of applications in order to effect a proper grouping when, and as, he may see fit.

(7) The amount of aid granted for any project shall not exceed $1000.00 at any one time and may be limited to $250.00 at the discretion of the Secretary of Church Extension. Either of these limitations may be suspended in any instance by the Executive Board, who shall have authority to change any decisions of the Secretary of Church Extension as it may see fit.

(8) Each conference shall elect a Conference Card Call Secretary to promote the interest of the Wesleyan Card Call and General Church Extension.

4. Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc.

§ 417. The Board of Administration, as the Board of Managers of the Church Extension and Evangelism Department, shall have authority to provide for Wesleyan Investment Foundation, a separate corporation, which shall be operated according to its bylaws. The purpose of Wesleyan Investment Foundation shall be to establish and maintain a revolving loan fund to help finance the acquiring, building, or remodeling of Wesleyan Methodist churches and parsonages, with the understanding that priority be given to new field projects, to borrow money, to lend money, to accept and hold title to
SECTION XII

real estate, to accept gifts, grants, annuities, bequests, and devises for the sole purpose of promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ through the building of Wesleyan Methodist churches and parsonages and to do all things necessary to carry out the foregoing purposes of the corporation.

5. Wesleyan Men

§ 418. For the purpose of fellowship, service, stewardship, and soul winning among the men of our churches and congregations, there shall be an organization, Wesleyan Men, under the authority of the General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America governed by the constitution (see paragraphs 605-618).
SECTION XIII

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

1. Objectives

§ 419. The ultimate objective of our Christian education program is to declare the truth of full salvation through Christ as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, and to guide sinful, fallen men to experience the crises of conversion and entire sanctification, dynamic service to God and man, and continuous growth unto the fullness of the stature of Christ. To accomplish this, we will endeavor:

1. To help each person to recognize the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and to know, believe, and obey its teachings.

2. To help each person to recognize his need of salvation and of God’s provision for it through Christ’s death and resurrection, and to lead him to experience the new birth through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

3. To help each convert to recognize his need for cleansing from the carnal nature and for the sanctifying and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, and to experience this in the crisis of entire sanctification.

4. To help each believer to relate himself to the church as the body of Christ, encouraging him to become a member of a local church and to find his place of service within it.

5. To instruct each person in the fundamentals of the faith, in the history of the Christian church, the importance of the Reformation and the Wesleyan movement, the history of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and its missionary outreach, warning him against the false doctrines of the age and equipping him as a witness for his Lord.

6. To help each person develop a Christian interpretation of life and of the universe, enabling him to see God’s sovereign purpose at work, and training him to be a good
steward of the talents, time, opportunities, and material goods with which God has entrusted him.

(7) To encourage each person to grow toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus, demonstrating Christian attitudes and actions in every relationship of life.

We consider the Sunday school one of the necessary and indispensable institutions of the Church for the realizing of this objective.

2. Supervision

§ 420. The Board of Administration shall constitute the General Sunday School Board. The work of the Sunday School Board shall be to educate the Church in all phases of Sunday school work, and to provide the means necessary in literature and otherwise, to elevate ideals and improve methods and direct in general the study of the Bible in the Church.

§ 421. The Executive Secretary of the Department of Sunday Schools, elected in accordance with paragraph 301, shall have the general superintendency of the Sunday schools of the Church, and shall edit the Sunday school literature and supplies, and shall promote the general interests of the Sunday school work under the direction of the General Sunday School Board, which shall have power to define his duties.

For annual conference Sunday school officers, see paragraphs 239 and 272.

§ 422. 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 consist of the pastor and the Sunday school superintendent ex officio, the pastor being chairman, and at least three other members of the church. These may be elected annually or they may be elected to 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. In case there is no pastor, the church shall elect an additional member who shall be chairman.
§ 423. The officers of the Sunday school shall be superintendent, assistant superintendent, departmental superintendents, assistant departmental superintendents, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, librarian, and others that may be necessary in the work of the school. The superintendent and assistant superintendent must be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and shall be elected by ballot at the annual election of the church as provided in paragraph 270, subparagraph 4. The other officers and teachers shall be nominated by the Local Sunday School Board and shall be elected at a business meeting of the church, held for that purpose. The Local Sunday School Board shall have the power to declare any office in the school vacant on account of improper conduct or habitual negligence of duty, and to recommend suitable persons to fill the vacancy, said persons to be elected by the church. Such action shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board. Each Sunday school should conduct a workers' conference for all teachers and officers at least monthly when the 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.

§ 424. The superintendent shall have, under the direction of the pastor and the Sunday School Board, 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 influence to maintain the use of Wesleyan Methodist literature in all departments. He shall discourage the use of literature or supplies not recommended by the Publishing House or the Executive 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 or 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 Executive Secretary.
§ 425. 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 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.

§ 426. The secretary of each local Sunday school shall report full statistics of the work according to blanks arranged by the General Sunday School Board, to the quarterly conference. These reports shall be spread upon the minutes of the quarterly conference. They shall then be passed to the pastor of the charge who shall report full statistics of the Sunday school work of the charge to the Sunday school secretary of the annual conference, who shall make out a statistical report of the Sunday school work for the annual conference and for the Executive Secretary.

3. Organization

§ 427. We urge upon our people the importance of adopting approved Sunday school methods in harmony with deep spirituality and our doctrines as a Church. The Sunday school is the church organized for Bible study. The Bible is able to make all ages of humankind 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 deeper spiritual relationship with Christ and into useful Christian lives.

§ 428. Every Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school shall be graded and departmentalized according to the Standard of Achievement furnished by the Department of Sunday Schools.

§ 429. There shall be a Cradle Roll Department under the care of a Cradle Roll Superintendent who shall report quarterly to the Sunday school. The Sunday school may set aside, from time to time, a special Cradle Roll Day. At that time the children shall be recognized by the Sunday school, and the mothers may receive instructions from the Cradle Roll Superintendent, or some competent person, along lines that will be helpful in fashioning the training of the child.

§ 430. 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.

§ 431. 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.

§ 432. 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 to secure support for the same.

§ 433. 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 benefited. It is required that their organization and conduct be in harmony with the general policy of our Church.

§ 434. We recommend and urge the organization of leadership training classes in the schools for the instruction of teachers and others who desire to pursue such a course. The texts used in this work shall be designated by the General Sunday School Board which shall arrange for the issuing of certificates and diplomas to the graduates of these courses.

4. Special Recommendations

§ 435. We recommend that one Sunday each month be known as Church Extension Sunday, and that the offering of that day be forwarded to the conference treasurer monthly.

§ 436. Every Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school shall use Wesleyan Methodist literature.
SECTION XIV

WESLEYAN YOUTH

¶ 437. 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, Wesleyan Youth, under the authority of the General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as governed by its Constitution. (See paragraphs 556-604.)

¶ 438. The General Wesleyan Youth Council shall be amenable to the General Board of Administration and report thereto through the Commission on Christian Education.

¶ 439. The General Wesleyan Youth Council shall be composed of four representatives, one from each of the College areas, the counselor elected by the Board of Administration, the Executive Secretary of Wesleyan Youth, and the General Council President of the WY who shall be chairman. Vacancies occurring on the Council during the quadrennium shall be filled by the Council, subject to confirmation of the Board of Administration.

¶ 440. The Executive Secretary of Wesleyan Youth shall be nominated by the Quadrennial WY Convention and elected by the General Conference. The Youth Department shall function under the Commission on Christian Education.
SECTION XV

PENSION PLAN

By action of the General Conference of 1963 added years of service credit may not be earned beyond 1963, no further member assessments will be levied, and no new members may join the Pension Plan. The General Conference action, however, does not affect in any manner service credit previously earned.

By the use of the asterisk (*) paragraphs no longer applicable by reason of the General Conference action of 1963 are marked.

§ 441. The Pension Plan shall be established as follows:

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

*(2) Each member of the Plan shall pay a membership fee of $15.00.

(3) Not more than 50% of the total funds of this Plan shall be loaned and all loans shall be secured by a first mortgage on real estate; and in no case shall it exceed 50% of the appraised value of the real estate. Further regulations governing loans from the Pension Plan Funds may be made by the Board of Administration and when so made may be published by its order.

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

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

§ 442. It shall be maintained as follows:

(1) By gifts, bequests, and endowments.

(2) A budget of $3.50 per year per church member should be paid by the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the fund quarterly.

(3) There shall be paid into the treasury of the Pension Plan one percent of the church budget received by the World Missions and Church Extension Department treasuries, and
one percent of the payroll of the staff members who are members of the Plan, by the treasuries of our several schools, provided that no school shall pay less than one hundred dollars.

(4) Each member of the Plan shall pay one and one-half percent of his total receipts effective January 1, 1960, the same to be paid quarterly.

(5) Rent shall be based on 15% of the cash salary with a minimum of $300.00 credit for rent per year.

§ 443. It shall be administered by the following method:

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

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

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

§ 444. Persons eligible for membership shall be:

(1) Elders and conference preachers who are giving full time to conference appointments. Their time of service shall begin with their first full-time conference appointments.

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

(3) Evangelists who are giving full time in the evangelistic field, and missionaries.
(4) Persons eligible shall participate under this Plan one year after the Plan has been approved by their annual conference and their membership applications have been approved.

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

§ 445. Since the Pension payments depend upon reports of the budget receipts in the annual conferences it is imperative that the annual report be filed with the Department within thirty days from the rise of conference, as no benefits can be paid until this report is received.

§ 446. Basis of benefit payments:

(1) Benefits shall be paid quarterly from the Pension Plan to those who have service credit in it and have made proper application to the Board. Superannuation by the annual conference shall not be required. The minimum age of retirement shall be 65 years, but no benefit shall be paid before actual retirement except in case of total disability. Application for benefits should include a certification of retirement or superannuation from the annual conference. (Board action, September 27, 1963.)

(2) Married members may be paid an annual sum not to exceed $20 per year of service rendered to The Wesleyan Methodist Church subject to certain limitations which provide that one may earn as much as $1,200 and continue to receive full benefit payments. For every $50 (or fraction thereof) over the $1,200 earned from any type of work, benefits based on one year’s service credit will be deducted, provided that such reduction shall in no case be applied to reduce the annual benefit payment below $500, and provided that such deductions shall not be applied after the age of 72 has been attained. (Revised by action of Board of Administration, June 1962.)
(3) Single members and widows of members may be paid an annual sum not to exceed $14 per year of service rendered to The Wesleyan Methodist Church subject to certain limitations which provide that one may earn as much as $1,200 and continue to receive full benefit payments. For every $50 (or fraction thereof) over the $1,200 earned from any type of work, benefits based on one year’s service credit will be deducted, provided that such deduction shall in no case be applied to reduce the annual benefit payment below $500, and provided that such deductions shall not be applied after the age of 72 has been attained. (Revised by action of the Board of Administration June 1992.)

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

* (5) Any individual, eligible for membership and failing to join the Plan, may become a member by paying his enrollment fee provided that, if he shall waive service credit for such years as he has not paid assessments, he may become a member by paying his membership fee.

(6) Claims paid any conference during any conference year shall be reduced by the percentage by which said conference may have failed to pay its full pension budget assignment for the preceding conference year.

* (7) One who has been a member of the Plan for five years or more, when transferring to a conference where the Plan is not in operation, may retain his membership by paying three percent of his assessments.

(8) Should an individual who is superannuated by one annual conference transfer his conference membership to another conference, the benefits paid to him shall be on the basis of payments due to the superannuates in the annual conference by which he was superannuated.

(9) The termination of membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall terminate membership in the Pension Plan.

* (10) If a member ceases to be engaged in work covered by the Pension Plan he may discontinue payment of his as-
assessments and upon retirement be eligible to draw benefits on the years of service rendered under the Pension Plan.

¶ 447. The minimum age of retirement shall be 65 years, but no benefits shall be paid before actual retirement. However, a member may become eligible to receive benefits if he becomes incapacitated for service before his 65th birthday.

* ¶ 448. Should a member fail to complete the payment of his quarterly assessments for the current year by the close of the conference fiscal year, he should be granted a grace period of six months before he forfeits his rights to benefits, but he may be reinstated by the approval of the Board and the payment or adjustment of all unpaid assessments with interest as determined by the Board of Managers. Should a member be compelled to withdraw temporarily from active duty because of ill health either of himself or of some member of his family he may retain his membership in the Plan by paying the average of his past annual assessments, unless he should choose to waive service credit for such a period of temporary retirement; in which case the above assessments would not be paid and he could be reinstated by complying with the requirement of the Board and paying a nominal fee of $5.00.

¶ 449. (1) Should a member withdraw from the Plan he may, if in good standing, draw out of the treasury, by giving the treasurer written notice sixty days in advance, not to exceed seventy-five percent of all assessments minus any unpaid balance on assessments or initial fee he had paid in. All other funds paid into the Plan by said member shall be forfeited to the Plan. (Forty percent refundable, as per General Conference action, June 1963.)

(2) In the case of an elder or conference preacher who, by conference action, is required to surrender his credentials or surrenders his credentials rather than accept trial, he shall forfeit all funds he has paid in as well as all claims to benefits.

¶ 450. Should a widow re-marry, her name is automatically dropped from the benefit roll. In the event of the death of any member of the Plan and also the death or re-
The marriage of his widow, his heirs, legatees, assigns, or estate shall have no right or claim to any interest in the Plan, except as in the case of children under seventeen years of age, who shall in the event of the death of both parents receive benefits until they are seventeen years of age equivalent to that received by the last surviving parent.

§ 451. It is provided that all persons who are on the Superannuate list at the time of the adoption of this Plan shall become members of the Pension Plan without being required to pay the initial membership fee.

§ 452. It is also provided that the balance in the Denominational Superannuate Fund shall be transferred to the treasury of the Pension Plan at the discretion of the General Conference.

§ 453. The General Conference shall retain the right to revise and change the rules of this Plan at any of its quadrennial sessions by a two-thirds vote.
PART III
THE MINISTRY
SECTION XVI  THE DUTY OF PREACHERS
SECTION XVII  PASTORAL VISITING
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SECTION XVI

THE DUTY OF PREACHERS

¶ 454. 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 unto the Lord." Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.

3. Believe evil of no one without good evidence—unless you see it done take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. 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.

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' 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.

§ 455. 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.

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

Answer. By walking closely with God and having His work greatly at heart; and by understanding and loving discipline, ours in particular.

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.

§ 457. The instituted means of grace 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?

(3) The Lord's Supper: Do you use this at every opportunity? With solemn prayer before? With earnest and deliberate self-devotion?

(4) Fasting: Do you use as much abstinence and fasting as your health, strength, and labor will permit?

(5) Christian conversation: 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?

§ 458. Prudential means of grace:

(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? For example, 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 for your body and soul? Do you choose and use water for your common drink?

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

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

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

PASTORAL VISITING

§ 459. Question: How can we further assist those under our care?

Answer: (1) Instruct them at their own house. 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!

Answer: (2) Family religion is wanting 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.

§ 460. 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 unskilful 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 and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering."

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

And this is absolutely necessary to the welfare of souls. Look around 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.

¶ 461. But it is objected, "This will take up so much time, we shall not have leisure to follow our studies." We answer: (a) Gaining knowledge is a good thing, but saving souls is better. (b) By this very thing you will gain the most excellent knowledge; that of God and eternity. (c) You will have time for gaining other knowledge, too. Only sleep no more than you need; "and never be idle or triflingly employed." (d) 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.

§ 462. It is objected, "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! (a) For our general business: Serving the Lord with all humility of mind. (b) Our special work: Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock! (c) Our doctrine: Repentance towards God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ! (d) The place: I have taught you publicly, and from house to house! (e) The object and manner of teaching: I ceased not to warn every one, night and day, with tears. (f) His innocence and self-denial herein: I have coveted no man's silver or gold. (g) 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 attain. The sum is, go into every house in course, urging upon every penitent sinner the duty of immediate repentance, and teaching every one therein, young and old, to be Christians inwardly and outwardly; make every particular plain to their understanding; fix it in their minds; write it on their hearts. In order to do this there must be line upon line, precept upon precept. What patience, what love, what knowledge is requisite for this! We must needs do this, were it only to avoid idleness. Do we not loiter away many hours in every week? Each try himself. No idleness is consistent with a growth in grace. Nay, without exactness in redeeming time you cannot retain the grace you receive in justification.
SECTION XVIII

MATTER AND MANNER OF PREACHING

§ 463. Question 1. What is the best general method of preaching?

Answer: To convince, to offer Christ, to invite, to build up, and to do these in some measure in every sermon. Isa. 1:18; Acts 4:12; 14:25; 1 Cor. 2:1-2; 14:12; Rev. 22:17.

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.

§ 464. 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 members in his territory, for such conventions, and to have the oversight of them.

4. The election of a chairman, secretary, and a treasurer for the convention shall be held annually, or oftener as found necessary, and they shall constitute the Executive Board. Matt. 5:5; Acts 30:37.

§ 465. Question: Are there any other advices which might be of use to us?

Answer: Be sure never to disappoint a congregation. Begin at the time appointed. Let your whole deportment be serious, weighty, and solemn. Always suit your subject to your audience. Choose the plainest text you can. Take care
not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. Avoid everything awkward or affected, either in your gesture, phrase, or pronunciation. 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.

§ 466. 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 singing, prayer, reading the Scriptures, singing, preaching, singing, prayer, and the 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 XIX

COURSE OF STUDY

§ 467. Recognizing the wide and varied interests of an educated society, we feel deeply the importance of setting a high standard for our ministry. It is imperative that Wesleyan Methodist ministers be well trained and educated in order that they may more effectively serve the divergent needs of mankind.

§ 468. 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 Elders' Orders, except as proper full credits covering the course are presented to the Committee and approved by them.

§ 469. 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 on the Disciplinary Course of Study, and have completed the reading courses, under the following conditions:

§ 470. The candidates must be given a written examination upon all the textbooks. Where candidates have completed the Advanced Theological Course in any of our denominational schools, their standing shall be accepted in lieu of the conference course; however, none shall be ordained who have not passed an examination in Wesleyan Methodist Discipline and Parliamentary Law.

§ 471. 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.

§ 472. In the case of students who have satisfactorily completed three years of seminary work in a reputable and recognized seminary acceptable to the conference in which
they are working, an exception may be made for the two-year requirement (paragraph 264) and they may be recommended for ordination upon satisfactory completion of one year’s active service.

¶ 473. Each candidate must also, prior to his recommendation for Elders’ Orders, be examined orally by the conference Committee on Itineracy and Elders’ Orders regarding his personal adherence to each and every one of our Articles of Religion (see also paragraph 246) and his readiness to answer satisfactorily the questions proposed in the ordination vows, according to paragraph 511.

¶ 474. The Board of Administration shall have charge of the Course of Study during the interim of the General Conference. Its duties shall be:

(1) To prepare lists of questions on the Course of Study for candidates for the ministry (paragraph 477), also to prepare the questions on the preliminary examinations to be given local preachers and deaconesses as required by paragraphs 173, 468, 480, subparagraph 3.

(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 Elders’ Orders of their respective conferences.

¶ 475. The Board of Administration shall formulate rules for the government of the annual conference Committee on Itineracy and Elders’ Orders in the use of these questions.

¶ 476. The Board of Administration may make such revisions in the Course of Study as are deemed necessary during the interim of the General Conference provided that no book shall be given a place in the Course of Study that contradicts the Articles of Religion as set forth in the Discipline. The Board of Administration shall have power to remove any book from the Course of Study against which valid objections have been raised by a conference or by individuals. All revisions of the Course of Study during the quadrennium shall be reported to the several annual conference presidents and to the General Conference.
COURSE OF STUDY

§ 477. Course of Study for Candidates for Elders' Orders

I. First Year

1. Exploring the Old Testament (pages 1-208)—W. T. Purkiser, Editor
2. Binney's Theological Compend—Binney and Steele
3. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline
6. Exploring the Christian Faith (pages 1-268)—W. T. Purkiser

Reading Course

1. The Life of Jesus Christ—Stalker
2. Forty-four Sermons—John Wesley
3. From Famine to Fruitage—Banker
4. A Glimpse of World Missions—Clyde W. Taylor
5. A Plain Account of Christian Perfection—John Wesley
6. The Gospel of the Comforter—Steele
7. None of These Diseases—S. I. McMillen

II. Second Year

1. Exploring the Old Testament (pages 209-448)—W. T. Purkiser, Editor
2. Exploring the Christian Faith (pages 269-615)—W. T. Purkiser
3. Foundations of Doctrine—Jessop
4. The Art of Effective Teaching—Eavey
5. On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons—Broadus
6. Progress of World-Wide Missions—Glover

Reading Course

1. Psychology for Pastor and People—Bonnell
2. Jesus Is Coming—Blackstone
3. Missionary Principles and Practice—Lindsell
4. Half Hours With Saint Paul—Steele
5. Heresies Exposed—Irvine
6. Building the Home Christian—Huffman

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III. Third Year

1. Exploring the New Testament (pages 1-226)—Ralph Earle, Editor
2. Student's Handbook of Christian Theology (pages 1-229) — Benjamin Field
3. History of the Christian Church (first half)—Lars Qualben
4. A System of General Ethics—Keyser
6. The World's Most Amazing Book—James Elliott

Reading Course
1. The Young Minister—John B. Wilder
2. Revival Lectures—Finney
3. Our Concern Is Children—Caldwell
4. Helps to Holiness—Brengle
5. All About the Sunday School—Fant and French
6. Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette—Harmon
7. Insights Into Holiness—Compiled by Kenneth Geiger

IV. Fourth Year

1. Exploring the New Testament (pages 227-467)—Ralph Earle, Editor
2. Student’s Handbook of Christian Theology (pages 230-470)—Benjamin Field
3. History of the Christian Church (last half)—Lars Qualben
5. An Introduction to Psychology—Cross
6. A System of Christian Evidences—Keyser

Reading Course
1. Pastoral Work—Blackwood
2. Primer of Evangelism—Fairbairn
3. Further Insights Into Holiness—Compiled by Kenneth Geiger
4. Lectures to My Students—Spurgeon
5. The Holy Spirit—Huffman
6. The Business Administration of a Church—Cashman

The Annual Conference shall accept the standins of Houghton, Miltonvale, Central, Marion and Melbourne Colleges in all of the studies prescribed in the foregoing section, reserving the right to examine all such persons orally or in writing as to doctrinal beliefs and belief in the government of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

§ 478. Course of Study for Christian Workers and Local Preachers

I. First Year
1. The Bible Book by Book (pages 1-109)—J. B. Tidwell
2. The Student's Handbook of Christian Theology (pages 1-229)—Benjamin Field
3. History of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (pages 1-250)—McLeister and Nicholson
4. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline

Reading Course
1. A Plain Account of Christian Perfection—Wesley
2. Insights Into Holiness—Compiled by Kenneth Geiger
3. Binney's Theological Compend

II. Second Year
1. The Bible Book by Book (pages 110-233)—J. B. Tidwell
2. The Student's Handbook of Christian Theology (pages 230-470)—Benjamin Field
3. A Winning Witness—Dobbins

Reading Course
1. Jesus Is Coming—Blackstone
2. Helps to Holiness—Brengle
3. Missionary Principles and Practices—Lindsell
4. All About the Sunday School—Fant and French

(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 the course.)
§ 479. Special Workers

Those who are preparing to serve the Church as special workers (paragraph 281) are referred to the Course of Study for Christian Workers and Local Preachers (paragraph 478) which has been revised and approved. The natural endowment of gifts and aptitudes is first to be recognized by the Committee on Itineracy and Elders' Orders. Training of a more formal nature in these specialized fields, coupled with the Course of Study prescribed either for elders or for Christian workers and local preachers, presents a satisfactory approach to suitable preparation for special workers. The nature and extent of such formal training is left to the judgment of the conference committee.
SECTION XX

DEACONESS WORK

§ 480. Believing this area of service to be Scriptural, we authorize the office and work of a Deaconess 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 Deaconesses 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 annually, it expires by limitation, and she may no longer serve as Deaconess.

(5) When a probationary Deaconess shall have passed 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.

§ 481. Course of Study for Deaconesses

I. First Year
1. The Bible Book by Book (pages 1-109)—J. B. Tidwell
2. Wesleyan Methodist Discipline
4. Meaning of Things—J. A. Huffman

Reading Course
1. With Christ in the School of Prayer—Andrew Murray
2. A Winning Witness—Dobbins
3. Helps to Holiness—Brengle
4. The Life of Jesus Christ—James Stalker

II. Second Year
1. The Bible Book by Book (pages 110-233)—J. B. Tidwell
2. A Catechism for The Wesleyan Methodist Church
3. Basic Nursing (Fourth Edition)—Helen Gill

Reading Course
1. The Bible Basis of Missions—Glover
2. A Plain Account of Christian Perfection—Wesley
3. All About the Sunday School—Fant and French
4. From Famine to Fruitage—Banker
PART IV
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
SECTION XXI

JUDICIARY RULES

1. Local Church Jurisdiction

§ 482. 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 so to refer.

§ 483. 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 to do so the committee shall appoint its own chairman.

§ 484. For personal offenses, sinful tempers or words, or neglect of duties, our Lord's directions in Matthew 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 154, subparagraph 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.

§ 485. In all cases of trial a bill shall be made out setting forth the charge or charges, with the specifications in writing, and a copy of the same shall be served upon the accused by the chairman of the court, or the complainant, allowing the accused a reasonable time to prepare for trial, which shall not be less than six days nor more than thirty days. The removal of the accused person beyond the jurisdiction of the judicature during the pending trial shall be deemed presumptive proof of guilt, unless satisfactory evidence be presented of inability to be present. If the accused party confess guilt, no trial is necessary and the church can proceed at once to determine the penalty as is provided for. If the party accused asks for a letter of dismissal before charges are preferred, the church must grant the same. (See paragraph 127.) 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.

§ 486. 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.

§ 487. 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 to 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.

§ 488. 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.

2. Annual Conference Jurisdiction

A. Concerning Ministers

§ 489. 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. 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 the 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. In such cases, however, the annual conference may reinstate the party by a two-thirds vote. (See paragraph 217.)
§ 490. When the president of an annual conference and at least one of the members of the Advisory Board shall determine that an elder or conference preacher is violating any of the orders or resolutions of the conference, and after being labored with refuses to correct his behavior, they shall bring him to trial before the Judiciary Committee: provided, that whenever the president, or the ministerial member of the Advisory Board is the accused person, the other members of the board shall be authorized to act in the case.

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

§ 492. 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.

§ 493. A complaint against a conference preacher holding an annual conference license shall be received and heard in all respects the same as a complaint against an elder, before the committee appointed for the trial of an elder. (See paragraph 217.)

B. Concerning Churches

§ 494. A complaint against an offending church shall be
JUDICIARY RULES

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 conference preacher of our Denomination shall become its pastor until it shall have repented and reformed. Provided, the annual conference at any of its sessions may receive a complaint against any church within its jurisdiction and order a trial or investigation by a committee which it shall appoint; said committee to hold such trial or make such investigation within two months of the closing of that session of conference, and said committee may suspend said church until the next session of the annual conference.

§ 495. 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.

§ 496. If the annual conference, either by original jurisdiction or by approval of the verdict of the Judiciary Committee, suspends or expels an accused church and the church does not exercise its right of appeal, 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.

3. General Conference Jurisdiction

§ 497. The General Conference shall designate five members of the Board of Administration, three elders and two lay members, who shall be thereby constituted a Judiciary Committee to be known as the Board of Review, and this Board of Review shall have authority to hear appeals and to decide questions of law, subject to the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and of the 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 members to an annual conference, either when such members are elected to Elders' Orders or are received from some other Wesleyan Methodist annual conference, or from some other religious body, whenever three elders qualified as in the last preceding provision shall appeal from the action of the annual conference.

3. In all cases of difference between any two or more annual conferences where there is a disagreement, and the aggrieved conference is unable to secure satisfaction by ordinary methods.

4. In all cases where three annual conferences shall unite in an appeal from any action of the Board of Administration when acting with reference to the annual conferences.

§ 498. The decision of the Board of Review in such cases shall be reported to the Board of Administration at its next session, whether it be a regular or special session, and it shall
require a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board of Administration to reverse the decision of the Board of Review in these particular cases. (See paragraph 299, subparagraph 3.) In all cases brought before the Board of Review, the entire case including the charges or question or questions at issue and all of the evidence shall be submitted in writing, and one or more persons may argue the case on each side under such regulations as the Board of Review shall establish, but in no case shall the Board of Review constitute a trial court, and it shall not hear or receive any new evidence; provided, however, that the fact that new evidence and what is intended to prove thereby may be submitted, and this may influence the Board of Review in determining the case when the question at issue is whether a new trial shall be ordered.

§ 499. 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 someone else. When the Board of Review meets in connection with the meetings of the Board of Administration it shall hear and act upon all cases submitted to it without charge to any one, but in cases of special meetings the parties bringing the action shall provide for the expenses of the meeting. In all cases the decisions of the Board of Review shall be made in writing and the principal parties to the case shall be furnished with a copy of the decision within ten days after the decision is rendered. A book of record 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.

§ 500. 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 as directed by the General Conference. If any decisions are repealed by the General Conference and have the effect of
rendering invalid any point of Church law, these changes shall be made a part of the Discipline.

§ 501. 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 Board of Administration to fill his place in connection with that particular case, but this shall not be deemed to cause a vacancy in the membership of the Board. All permanent vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Administration.

§ 502. The status of being under discipline (mentioned both in our constitution and in our statutory law), whether for an individual or for an agency of the church, is defined basically as the status of being declared in violation of one or more rules of the church, whether because of specific action or because of failure to perform lawful duties and obligations. Such declaration must be made by a lawful judicatory of the church and it may relate to defection of character or to dereliction in official actions.

Since the best result of discipline often lies in the amendment of conduct, in cases whose principal import is other than the punishment of impropriety or the clearing of the church's name, the force and effect of being declared under discipline may be postponed by specific declaration of the judicatory subject to re-examination and final decision at a fixed time. And since the right of appeal is essential to our polity, the force and effect of being declared under discipline shall also be postponed if the person or agency affected shall upon conviction indicate intent to appeal to a proper court of appeal allowed by our polity to be open to the convicted person or agency at the time. Provided that if the judicatory which rendered the previous decision shall after a reasonable period of time decide that the appeal has not been expedited through the fault of the convicted person or agency, it shall be lawful for said judicatory to declare its earlier judgment of full force and effect.
4. General Judiciary Rules

§ 503. In any case of dispute about the nonpayment of debts or the settlement of accounts, the proceedings shall be the same as in all other cases, with the exception that the verdict shall be a simple declaration of what is judged to be right between the parties. If either party shall enter into a suit at law against any member of the church (unless the case justify such a measure) before these steps shall have been taken, or shall refuse to comply with such decision, such party shall be cut off from fellowship, on conviction of the fact before the proper court.

§ 504. All trials shall be public when the accused party shall demand it. The accused shall also have the right of objecting to any member of the court, and the remaining members shall allow or overrule the objections. The accused shall likewise be allowed the assistance of any minister or member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as counsel and the court may allow or exclude other counsel at its discretion; of introducing witnesses, and of cross-examining those introduced by the plaintiff, and of making his defense without interruption.

§ 505. 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.

§ 506. 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.
PART V
THE RITUAL
### Section XXII
- **The Lord's Supper**

### Section XXIII
- **Baptism**

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- **Marriage**

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- **Burial of the Dead**

### Section XXVI
- **Ordination of Elders**

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- **Commissioning of Lay Missionaries**

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- **Commissioning of Deaconesses**

### Section XXIX
- **Installation Ceremonies**

### Section XXX
- **Dedication of Churches and Parsonages**

The Ritual of Ordination shall be followed as here prescribed; but a measure of flexibility within the established standards of the Church is permitted in the other Rituals.
SECTION XXII

THE LORD’S SUPPER

¶ 507. General Directions:

Let all our ministers exercise due care to see that no person known to be living an immoral life, or to be guilty of any disreputable practices, be admitted to the Lord’s table among us until he shall have given satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment of life.

All persons properly included in the general invitation may be allowed to partake of the Lord’s Supper among us.

The use of individual communion cups is recommended wherever practicable.

Order for the administration of the Lord’s Supper.

Let the officiating minister read the following (or other suitable) Scriptures:

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” (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” (I Cor. 10:16-17).

“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you. That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped,
saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show 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" (I Cor. 11:23-29).

Let an appropriate hymn be sung. Then shall the elder read:

The Invitation

Ye who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and charity with your neighbors; and ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and, meekly kneeling, make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Then let this general prayer be offered.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail the sinfulness of our lives in times past when our errors offended Thy divine majesty and justly provoked Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our past transgressions against Thy love. The very remembrance of them is exceeding grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, O God, for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, through whose blood we have forgiveness of sins; and grant that we may serve and please Thee in newness of life and purity of heart, world without end, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Or, if preferred, the minister and the people may repeat the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Then shall the elder say:

The Collect

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the elder say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven, and earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

The Prayer

The communicants kneeling at the altar:

O Merciful Lord, we do not presume to come to this Thy table trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy table. But Thou art the same Lord whose purpose is always to have mercy; grant us therefore, gracious Lord, to receive rightly, worthily, and by faith these emblems of the death and suffering of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may be made partakers of His body and blood, and live and grow thereby, and that being washed through His most precious blood, we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

Then may the elder say the prayer of consecration, as follows:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ, to suffer death
upon the cross for our redemption, who made there, by His oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech Thee, and grant that we, receiving these, Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper He took the cup; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me. Amen.

Then may the minister first receive the communion of both kinds himself, and proceed to deliver the same to the other ministers in like manner (if any there be present), and after that to the people also. And when he delivers the bread he shall say:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on Him in thy heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

And when the minister delivers the cup he shall say:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

If the consecrated bread or wine shall be all spent before all have communicated, the elder may consecrate more, by repeating the prayer of consecration.

When all have communed the minister shall return to the Lord's table and place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.

Here the elder may offer extemporeaneous prayer, concluding with this blessing:

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of
God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings
of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Alternate Form for the Lord's Supper

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 re-
mission 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 com-
munion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break,
is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being
many are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers
of that one bread" (I Cor. 10:16-17).

"For I have received of the Lord that which I also de-
ivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, the same night in
which he was betrayed, took bread: And when he had given
thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which
is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the
same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, say-
ing, 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 show 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"
(I Cor. 11:23-29).

Let an appropriate hymn be sung, 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.

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 in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
SECTION XXIII

BAPTISM AND DEDICATION

§ 508. Adult persons and the parents of every child to be baptized shall have the choice of baptism by immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

We will on no account whatever make a charge for administering baptism.

The Baptism of Young Children

The minister shall come to the font, which is to be filled with pure water, and shall call the parents or guardians of the child (or children) to be baptized; and when these have taken their places, with the child (or children) before the font, the minister shall say:

Dearly Beloved, inasmuch as our Saviour, Christ, said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God," and as the holy apostle St. Peter declares that, "The promise is unto you and to your children," therefore this child has been brought hither to be consecrated by this solemn ordinance to the service of his (or her) Creator, to receive the sign and seal of the covenant of grace into which God is mercifully pleased to enter with all His children.

I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of His bounteous mercy He will grant that this child may early become a partaker of the divine nature, and may grow up into Christ our living Head in all things, and come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto perfect spiritual manhood, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; and may God grant you the needed grace that you may properly discharge all the duties you owe to this child which God has given you.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, the aid of all who need,
the helper of all who flee to Thee for succor, the covenant-keeping God, we thank Thee that Thou hast made it our privilege to dedicate our children to Thy service, that they may live to Thy glory, and gain everlasting life. We call upon Thee that this child may be delivered from the power of sin and Satan, and be sanctified by the power of the Holy Ghost, and enjoy the everlasting benediction of Thy heavenly washing. We pray Thee for these parents, that they may realize how great is the responsibility resting upon them touching the proper training of those entrusted to their care. We beseech Thee to grant unto them the aid of Thy Holy Spirit, that both by precept and example they may so lead this child in the narrow way of life, that both parent and child may come to the everlasting kingdom, which Thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the people stand and the minister shall say:

Hear the words of the Gospel written by St. Mark, in the tenth chapter, commencing with the thirteenth verse:

"They brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Then shall the minister demand of the parents (or guardians) severally as follows:

Question: Dost thou, in the presence of God, and of these witnesses, solemnly dedicate this child to the Lord, presenting him (or her) for baptism that he (or she) may live in God's service all his days?

Answer: I do.

Question: Dost thou, so far as thou canst, in the child's behalf, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that in the training of
this child, thou wilt not follow nor be led by them; and so that, as far as in thee lieth, thou wilt prevent the child's following the same?

Answer: I do.

Question: Dost thou believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer: I do.

Question: Wilt thou, out of the same, diligently teach this child the statutes and commandments of the Most High God; and wilt thou train him (or her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Answer: I will.

Then the minister shall take the child in his hands (arms) and say to the parents, or guardians, or friends:

Name this child.

And then, naming it after them, the minister shall sprinkle, or pour water upon it, or, if desired, immerse it in water, saying:

(Name), I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the minister shall say:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Then shall the minister conclude with extemporaneous prayer.

The Baptism of Those of Riper Years

Dearly Beloved, since all men are by nature sinners, and have nothing in themselves by which they can be delivered from the guilt and pollution of sin, and attain to that holiness without which no man can see the Lord, we invite you to join with us in fervent prayer for these persons, that they may have grace always to keep their covenant with God, and that
they may continually enjoy the washing of regeneration, and the
renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Then shall the minister say:

Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all that need,
the helper of all that flee to Thee for succor, the life of them
that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; we call upon
Thee for these persons; that they, coming to Thy holy baptism,
may by this rite truthfully testify to that inner washing through
faith in the precious blood of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and that
they may enjoy the everlasting benediction of this heavenly
washing and come to the eternal kingdom which Thou hast
promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the people stand, and the minister shall say:

Hear the words of the Saviour as recorded in the gospel
written by St. Matthew, in the twenty-eighth chapter. “Co­
ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have com­
manded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the
end of the world. Amen.”

Then shall the minister speak to the persons to be baptized
in this wise:

Beloved, you have presented yourselves for holy baptism.
You have heard how the congregation has prayed that God
would continue His loving favor toward you and bring you
unto His eternal kingdom. And God, the covenant-keeping
God, has promised His only begotten Son whom He yielded
up for our redemption that He would grant these gracious
favors. Wherefore you must promise upon your part in the
presence of this congregation that you, renouncing the devil
and all his works, will implicitly believe God’s holy word and
obediently keep His commandments.

Then shall the minister demand of each of the persons to be
baptized, severally:

Question: Dost thou renounce the devil and all his
works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous
desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that
thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?
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?

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Question: Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Answer: This is my desire.

Question: Wilt thou obediently keep God's will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer: I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

Then shall the minister say:

Almighty and everlasting God, Author of life eternal, grant that the regenerating grace which Thou hast so mercifully vouchsafed to these persons may not have been bestowed in vain. Grant also that they may enjoy that greater baptism of the Holy Ghost to the end that all carnal affections may be destroyed in them and that every Christian grace and virtue may freely live and grow in them. Amen. Almighty God, Father of all mankind, Eternal Son, Deliverer of Thine Israel, Holy Spirit, Guide of Thy people, grant that these persons may have constant victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, and that they may enjoy the fullness of Thy grace and ever remain in the number of Thy faithful and elect children. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister take by the right hand each person to be baptized and placing him conveniently by the font, according to his discretion, shall ask the name and then shall sprinkle or pour...
water upon him (or if he shall desire it, shall immerse him in water), saying:

(Name), I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer, concluding with extemporary prayer and the benediction.

The Dedication of Children

For those who desire to have their children dedicated to God and His service, without the form and ceremony of infant baptism, we recommend that our ministers use the service which follows.

After the singing of a suitable hymn, the minister shall take his place at the altar and shall call to take the places before the altar the parents, or guardians, of the child (or children) to be dedicated to the Lord. These shall take their places, with the child (or children), after which the minister shall say:

Dearly Beloved, inasmuch as our Saviour, Christ, saith, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God"; and as the holy apostle St. Peter declares that, "The promise is unto you and to your children," therefore this child has been brought hither to be consecrated to God and to His service.

I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of His bounteous mercy He will grant that this child may early become a partaker of the divine nature and may grow up into Christ our living Head in all things, and come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto perfect spiritual manhood, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; and may God grant unto you the needed grace that you may properly discharge all the duties you owe to this child which God has given you.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to Thee for succor, the covenant-keeping God, we thank Thee that Thou hast made it our privilege to dedicate our children to Thy service, that they
may live to Thy glory, and gain everlasting life. We call upon Thee that this child may be delivered from the power of sin and Satan, and be sanctified by the power of the Holy Ghost, and enjoy the everlasting benediction of Thy heavenly washing. We pray Thee for these parents, that they may realize how great is the responsibility resting upon themouching the proper training of those entrusted to their care; we beseech Thee to grant unto them the aid of Thy Holy Spirit that both by precept and example they may so lead this child in the narrow way of life, that both parent and child may come to Thy everlasting kingdom, which Thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the people stand and the minister shall say to the parents, or guardians, of the child which is brought for dedication:

You have brought this child whom God has given you to be dedicated to God and to His service. By this act you therefore signify your faith in the Christian religion, and also your desire that he (or she) shall receive the benefits of consecration to God, and of the prayers of the church and congregation, and may early learn to know and follow the will of God; and thus doing may live and die a Christian, attaining in the end of this earthly life to everlasting life in the kingdom of God.

But in order that this may be accomplished, it will be your duty as parents (or guardians) to early teach this child the fear of the Lord; to watch over his (or her) education, that he (or she) may not be led astray by false teachings or doctrines, to direct his (or her) mind to the Holy Scriptures as expressing the will and authority of God for all mankind, also to direct his (or her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (or her) from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lieth, to "bring him (or her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Question: Will you endeavor to do so, by the help of God?

Answer: I will.

Then shall the minister read the following Scripture lesson:

And they brought young children to him, that he should
touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them (Mark 10:13-16).

Then shall the minister ask the name of the child, and placing his right hand upon the child’s head shall say:

(Name), I dedicate thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The minister shall then offer the Lord’s Prayer or some other appropriate or extemporaneous prayer.
§ 509. In order to maintain the dignity, simplicity, and spiritual significance of the marriage ceremony we recommend the use of the following forms.

Form of Marriage Ceremony

At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:

Dearly Beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and His Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence and first miracle that He wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of St. Paul to be honorable among all men and therefore is not by any to be taken in hand unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore, if any can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

If no impediment be alleged, the minister shall say unto the persons to be married:

Believing, then, that you have duly considered the solemn
obligations you are about to assume, and that you are prepared to enter upon the same discreetly, advisedly, and in the fear of God, I shall propose to you the marriage covenant.

Then the minister shall ask the man:

(Name), will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

The man shall answer:
I will.

Then shall the minister say unto the woman:

(Name), Will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

The woman shall answer:
I will.

Then shall the minister ask:

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

Answer: I do.

Then the minister shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and, using their given names, to say after him:

I, (man's name), take thee, (woman's name), to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my faith.

Then shall they loose their hands, and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the minister:

I, (woman's name), take thee, (man's name), to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in
health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my faith.

Then the minister shall join the right hands together and say, using their given names:

Forasmuch as [ ] and [ ] have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Those whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder.

Then the minister shall pray. The following form is suggested:

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil":

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; send Thy blessing upon this man and this woman, whom we bless in Thy Name; that as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And the minister shall add this blessing:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

And the ceremony shall conclude with this benediction:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Sacred music may be arranged at appropriate places in the marriage ceremony.

Alternate Form of Marriage Ceremony

My friends—The ordinance of marriage was instituted by the Almighty in the Garden of Eden, and is one of the most solemn and binding of obligations, because it involves the sacred relations of the home and the family. Your happiness for the future will largely depend upon the fidelity with which the marriage vows are cherished and kept. There must be mutual affection the one for the other, and the marriage covenant must be kept in purity of spirit, as well as in actual word and deed, would you reap the full fruition of happiness in your marriage.

If, with full and free consent, and thoughtful determination to keep the marriage covenant, you desire to enter the holy estate of marriage, you will acknowledge the same by taking the other by the right hand.

With their hands joined the minister will say:

Do you take each other to live together as husband and wife in the holy relationship of marriage, pledging before God and these witnesses, to love, honor, and cherish each other, in sickness and health, for better or for worse; and forsaking all others, to cleave to each other only, so long as you both shall live?

Both to answer: I will.

Then the minister shall place his right hand upon their joined hands and say:

Since you have taken the marriage covenant before God, and in the presence of these witnesses, I now declare you to be husband and wife in accordance with the laws of the State of ________, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and may God keep you faithful in every duty forever. Amen.

Then the minister shall offer an appropriate prayer.
SECTION XXV

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

† 510. At the house or at the church the minister may say:

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

"I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:25-27).

"We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (I Tim. 6:7; Job 1:21).

Then shall follow the reading or singing of a hymn.

The Scripture Lesson

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee" (Ps. 39:4-7).

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God . . . For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night . . . we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly"
away. ... So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Ps. 90:1-2, 4, 9b-10, 12).

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order; Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. ... Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible body shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abound­ing in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (I Cor. 15:20-26, 51-58).

Let an appropriate prayer follow the Scripture lesson.

The message, if one be desired, should follow the prayer.

After the reading of the appropriate verses, or the singing of a hymn, the minister shall conclude this part of the service, with this prayer.

The Collect

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Him shall not die eternally; we meekly beseech Thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of right-
BURIAL OF THE DEAD

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

At the Grave

When the casket has been placed, the minister may say:

Man that is born of woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up and is cut down like a flower: he fleeth as it were a shadow and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor but of Thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not Thy merciful ears to our prayers, but spare us, Lord, most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from Thee.

If preferred, the following may be used:

The Committal

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of the world the soul of the departed we therefore commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the resurrection and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose second coming the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and shall be
made like unto His glorious body according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto himself.

The service at the grave shall be concluded with:

The Benediction

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Heb. 13:20-21)

We will on no account make a charge for burying the dead.
SECTION XXVI

THE ORDINATION OF ELDERS

§ 511. When the time appointed for ordination shall have come, one of the elders shall present unto the conference president those who are to be ordained. 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 follows:

The Collect

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit hast 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 Saviour, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

The Epistle

Ephesians 4:7-13

Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same 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 climbeth 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.
ORDINATION OF ELDERS

And that done, the president shall say unto them as hereafter follows:

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, whereunto 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 admonish; to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for His children who are in the midst of this evil world that they may be saved through Christ forever.

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 selfsame cause how ye ought to forsake and set aside, as much as ye may, all worldly cares and studies.

We have 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 mediation of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that by daily reading and weighing the Scriptures ye may wax ripper 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.

The President: 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.
ORDINATION OF ELDERS  §511

The President: Do you cordially accept our Articles of Faith and agree to declare and defend them? And do you acknowledge your obligation to promote the institutions established and approved by The Wesleyan Methodist Church?

Answer: I do, in the fear of God.

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

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

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, hast 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.
ORDINATION OF ELDER

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, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

They shall continue to kneel, and the president shall deliver to each one of them the Bible into his hands, and shall say:

Take thou authority to preach the Word of God and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation.

Then the 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, that Thy Word spoken in their mouths may have success and that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and to receive what they shall deliver out of Thy most holy Word, or what agrees to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds we may seek Thy glory, and the increase of Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.
§ 512. Devotional exercises and suitable addresses may precede the following order of service, which may be varied as occasion may require. Doctors, nurses, teachers, wives of ordained missionaries, office workers, and other lay missionaries under appointment by the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the denomination, upon recommendation of the Department of Missions to the conference president, are to be commissioned prior to their departure for service as follows:

Presentation of candidates. Let a pastor or some designated official present the candidates to the president.

Appropriate hymn and Scripture reading

Prayer

Address to the candidates

Questions:—Do you believe you are called of God to do the work of a missionary (doctor, teacher, etc.)?
—Do you promise to perform faithfully the duties of this calling?
—Do you cordially accept the articles of religion and elementary principles of The Wesleyan Methodist Church?
—Do you promise, with God's help, to observe to the best of your ability the principles of the Department of World Missions?
—Will you accept the direction of those whom the Church may set over you in the prosecution of your work?

Congregation and candidates shall kneel during a prayer of consecration. When the candidates and congregation arise, and the minister, taking the right hand of each, shall say:

“I commission you for a term of service in the office of lay missionary in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Dismissal with benediction.

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SECTION XXVIII

THE COMMISSIONING OF DEACONESSES

§ 513. Presentation of candidates. Let the pastor or some designated official present the candidates to the president, saying: "We present these sisters to be commissioned to the work of a deaconess in the Church."

Hymn No. 344 in Hymns of the Living Faith, or another appropriate selection.

Responsive Reading:

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, 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 thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it.

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 shouldst be born of a
woman; who also in the tabernacle of the testimony, and in
the temple didst ordain women to be keepers of thy holy
gates—do Thou now also look down upon these Thy servants
who are to be set apart to the office of deaconess, and grant
them Thy Holy Spirit that they may worthily discharge the
work which is committed to them, to Thy glory and to the
and praise of Christ, to whom be praise and adoration
forever. Amen.

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 op­
portunities. Released from other cares you give yourself
without reservation to the service of the Lord, ready for any
duty which may fall to your lot. Like our blessed Master,
you will henceforth go about doing good, ministering as He
did to the wants of a suffering, sorrowing, and sin-laden
world. You are to minister to the poor, visit the sick, pray
with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering,
comfort the sorrowing, save the sinning, and be ever ready
to take up any other duty for which willing hands cannot
otherwise be found. Such a ministry is one which confers
upon you great honor, but also a solemn responsibility. You
have not entered upon it lightly, and now doubtless in the
sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have already
consecrated yourselves to this office and work. What you
have done alone with God, you do now formally and pub­
licly in the presence of the Church.

Question: Do you believe that you have been led by
the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work
and to assume the duties of this office?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you, in the presence of God and of this
congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of a
deaconess in The Wesleyan Methodist Church?
Answer: I do.

Question: Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?

Answer: I so accept it, and will so walk in its light.

Question: Will you strive to walk so close to your Saviour's side, and so ever be filled with His Spirit, that you will carry His blessed presence to the hearts and homes of those to whom you minister?

Answer: I will endeavor 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.

Hymn No. 263 in *Hymns of the Living Faith* or another appropriate selection.

Invocation: May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you evermore. May His holy anointing impart to you grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and evermore. Amen.

The candidates arise and the minister, taking the right hand of each candidate in turn, shall say:

I commission thee to the office of deaconess in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dismissal with benediction.
SECTION XXIX
INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

1. Installation of a Conference President

§ 514. President ______: Today you stand before us along with these duly elected officers. You have been prayerfully selected by the members of the ______ Annual Conference, as their leader. It is to you the members of this conference, representing the various charges within its boundaries, are investing their confidence and trust for the coming year. This is, indeed, a position of significance and it is only as God is with you that you will be enabled to fill it.

Many will be the problems faced, many the responsibilities carried, many the difficulties encountered, yet with Paul it will be your privilege to know that you may be "troubled . . . yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair . . . ." And, alongside these graver experiences, there may be the satisfying reward of steady progress under the smile of God and some glorious victories because He has led the way through.

In counseling, may He grant needed grace; in decisions, may He impart of His wisdom; in labors, may your secret be His all-sufficient strength; in administration's numerous phases, may He be your "very present help." The support and cooperation of this body is assured you in the days that lie ahead. Together may you build a conference that knows its best days spiritually, numerically, and materially as well.

The Discipline of our Church sets forth the privileges and duties of members, ministers, and conference officials. In electing you president of the ______ Conference, your brethren have expressed confidence in your loyalty to the doctrines, polity, and institutions of the Church.

Question: In accepting the office of president of the ______ Conference, do you hereby solemnly covenant to discharge your duties to God, to The Wesleyan Methodist
Church, and to all the members of the ______ Conference, according to the Discipline and in the fear of God?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

Question: Do you as officers representing the ______ Conference covenant to support the president of the conference and to discharge your several duties to God, to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, and to all the members of this conference, according to the Discipline, and in the fear of God?

Answer: We do, God being our helper.

Charge: As representative of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, I charge you with this responsibility and present you with this credential and declare you to be formally installed as president of the ______ Annual Conference, and entitled to the rights and privileges thereunto pertaining.

Prayer by the Denominational Representative.

It is suggested that the president, along with at least the vice president, secretary, and treasurer, be included in this installation.

2. Installation of a College President

§ 515. The inauguration of the president by the chairman of the General Board of Trustees.

President ________, you have been chosen as the leader of ________ College. Under your guidance and leadership the Church has placed not only the physical plant which is about us, the loyal faculty who have served therein, but also the sons and daughters from our homes who have been nurtured in the Christian traditions. They are the foundation both for tomorrow’s Church and your future constituency. As president of ________ College, yours is both a priceless heritage and a grave responsibility. You are to be the one to whom all institutional personnel are responsible. It is your task to interpret the college program to the faculty, the student body, the Local Board of Trustees, the constituency, and the general public. Yours is one of many educa-
nional institutions which through an unending stream of trained youth constantly conditions the thought life of America. The heritage, the doctrines, and the ideals of The Wesleyan Methodist Church will be projected to succeeding generations only as you dedicate yourself to their preservation in the present. If free American institutions are to endure, you must carry a flaming torch of democratic idealism.

In the discharge of these responsibilities you will need, in some measure at least, the calm spirit of a Moses, the physical strength of a Samson, the patience of a Job, the wisdom of a Solomon, the prophetic vision of an Isaiah, the resoluteness of a St. Paul, and the constant abiding presence of the matchless Christ whose Great Commission closed with the immortal words: “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

You have been called to this important task because we have confidence in your leadership, in your ability, in your Christian integrity, and in your consecration to the sacred task before you.

We pledge to you our cooperation, our financial support, and our prayers for the days which are ahead. As president of the General Board of Trustees, I hereby place in your hands the official seal of the institution as the insignia of your authority and declare you formally installed as president of ______ College.

3. Installation of a Pastor

§ 516. An appropriate message may be delivered by the conference president or another designated by him preceding the installation of the pastor.

President to Pastor: Read II Timothy 4:1-5.

President to Church: Read John 15:1-8.

Prayer: O Lord, merciful God, who has made known to us Thy will that we should pray Thee to send forth laborers into Thy harvest, we earnestly beseech Thee to send forth into the world continually true teachers and ministers of Thy Word, and so to enlighten their minds with the knowledge
of Thy truth, that they may faithfully make known the whole counsel of God unto salvation, to the glory of Thy name and the saving of souls; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

President to Church: Dearly beloved, we are here assembled in the sight of God to install the Reverend ______ who has heeded your call to become the pastor of this church and whose installation has been duly authorized by the ______ Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

The Pastor, accompanied by the members of the Pulpit Supply Committee standing behind him, shall then present themselves before the altar.

President to Pastor: Dear brother, the duties of your holy office are clearly set forth in the Word of God. As an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are first of all to preach both Law and Gospel, as they are comprehended in the Holy Scriptures and defined in the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. This you are to do without the addition of private opinion, as the apostle admonishes, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (I Pet. 4:11).

Whatever is contrary to sound doctrine shall be refuted with all due restraint as the Scripture warns, "The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves" (II Tim. 2:24-25).

Those who are committed to your pastoral care are to be diligently admonished to walk in the commandments of the Lord blamelessly. The erring are to be warned with the fidelity which the Word of the Lord demands of faithful pastors, as the prophet Ezekiel was instructed, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel" (Ezek. 3:17).

You are also to be the steward of the Holy Sacraments which you are to administer to the comfort of troubled souls. In view of the Saviour’s gracious word, "Suffer the little children to come unto me" (Mark 10:14), the youth of the church must in a special sense be the object of your pastoral instruction and care.
The measure of faithfulness with which you are to seek the erring is set forth in the Holy Scriptures in the words of St. Paul who said, "I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31).

The example of holy men of God will impel you to pray diligently for your people and to be a pattern unto them in faith and good works.

Do you therefore earnestly purpose to fulfill with all diligence these duties, and thus be able in this life to answer before the Church of God, and in the life to come to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ?

Pastor Answers: Yes, I do so purpose, by the help of God.

The Congregation rises.

President to Church: And now, dearly beloved, I admonish you to receive as your pastor the Reverend —— whom God has given you. Accept the Word of God as preached by him, whether it be for your comfort, your admonition, or your instruction, even as Christ hath said, "Take heed therefore how ye hear" (Luke 8:18).

Use all diligence that your children receive instruction in the Christian faith and are present with you in the services at God's house, in accordance with the counsel of the Apostle Paul to Christian parents to bring children "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4):

Pray for your pastor that his ministry may tend to the salvation of many souls and that through his labors, you, together with him, may be saved.

Honor and esteem him who is to minister to your souls. As St. Paul exhorteth, "Know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Do you now, as becometh a Christian church, accept these obligations? Then answer by saying, "Yes, by the help of God."

Church Answers: Yes, by the help of God.

President to Pastor: Upon these, your solemn mutual
promises, I now install you, the Reverend _______ as pastor of the _______ Wesleyan Methodist Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer: An appropriate prayer by the president, closing with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

President to Pastor and Church: The Lord bless you that you may bring forth much fruit and that your fruit may remain.


The congregation may at this time come forward and greet the pastor and his wife at the altar.

Benediction by the pastor.
SECTION XXX

DEDICATION OF CHURCHES AND PARSONAGES

1. Churches

¶ 517. 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:

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 minister shall read the twenty-fourth Psalm, which follows:

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Then the minister shall read the eighty-fourth Psalm, which follows:
DEDICATION OF CHURCHES

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.
Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.
They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob.
Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.
For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.
The officiating minister shall then read or cause to be read the following:

Dearly beloved in the Lord: Forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the law as under the gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for His glorious majesty and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in His service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father; let us not doubt but that He will also favorably approve our
godly purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg His blessing upon this our undertaking, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

After the singing of a suitable hymn the following prayer shall be offered to God:

The Prayer of Supplication

Regard, O Lord, the supplication of thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to Thee in this house of baptism, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from Thy wrath and from eternal death and received as a living member of Christ's church, and may ever remain in the number of Thy faithful children.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and being filled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of His passion.

Grant, O Lord, that by Thy Holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by the Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that whosoever shall draw near to Thee in this place, to give Thee thanks for the benefits that they have received at Thy hands, to set forth Thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto Thee, and to seek the blessed grace of entire sanctification, and ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadfastness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind that Thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give them whatever in Thy infinite wisdom Thou
shall see to be most expedient to them; all which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour.

After singing another appropriate hymn let a sermon suited to the occasion be preached, to be followed by the prayer of dedication as follows:

The Prayer of Dedication

O most glorious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto Thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech Thee, in Thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this place to Thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking; receive the prayers and intercessions of all these Thy servants who shall call upon Thee in this house; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve Thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with a solemn apprehension of Thy divine majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that so approaching Thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before Thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

It is much to be desired that all money required for the erection and completion of a house in which to worship God shall be fully provided before the day of dedication; but where this is not done, appeals may be made either just before or following the sermon. No building shall be dedicated to God until approved as financially secure by an authorized Committee of the Annual Conference.

2. Parsonages

§ 518. Brother Beloved: In behalf of the trustees of this church, and of the church and congregation here assembled, and for the glory of God, I hereby present to you this parsonage to be dedicated as a home for the minister of God to this church.

Then shall the minister read Psalm 24.

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 homes for God's ministers, separated to a special minis-
try in things spiritual in order to fill men's minds with greater re-
verence for God in His glorious majesty and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in His service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our Heavenly Father; let us not doubt but that He will also favorably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this building as a home for those called to minister in holy things, and let us faithfully and devoutly beseech His blessing upon this our undertaking, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Prayer of Supplication

Regard, O Lord, the supplication of Thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall dwell in this house shall be so yielded and dedicated to Thy service as "vessels sanctified and meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work," that their ministry shall be a heavenly benediction to all they meet.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall enter this the home of Thy ministering servants shall be made to sense Thy presence and as they depart shall be strengthened to walk in Thy holy commandments, and that all who minister to the material comforts of Thy servants in this home shall by Thee be richly rewarded.

Grant, O Lord, that all who come to this home for spiritual counsel and comfort, shall by Thy blessings be made to both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in holy estate of matrimony in this home may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that at the family altar of this home when prayer with thanksgiving and supplication shall be offered that they may receive from Thy hand such things as are requisite and necessary. Also, that as Thy servants study and search Thy Word that divine illumination for life and duty may be given as in Thy infinite wisdom Thou
shall see to be most expedient for them; all of which we ask for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Then shall follow an appropriate discourse.

The Prayer of Dedication

O most gracious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto Thee anything belonging to us; yet we beseech Thee, in Thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this home to Thy service, and to prosper this our undertaking; receive the prayers and intercessions of all Thy servants who shall call upon Thee in this home; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve Thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with a solemn apprehension of Thy majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that those who dwell in this home may walk before Thee with lowliness and devotion, with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, that they may always perform a service acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
PART VI
CONSTITUTIONS
SECTION XXXI
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
SECTION XXXII
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SECTION XXXI

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

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

§ 520. 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.

§ 521. Article 3. Relationship to the Church: The Woman's Missionary Society, although separately incorporated, shall work as an integral part of and in harmony with the Missionary Society of the Church, and shall make a full financial report annually and quadrennially.

1. General WMS

§ 522. Article 4. Meetings. Quadrennial Sessions: There shall be a Quadrennial Session of the Society, composed of the Executive Board, Area Chairmen, Conference Society Presidents, and duly elected delegates from the conference societies.

§ 523. Article 5. Areas: There shall be five areas as follows: (a) Eastern, comprised of Champlain, Rochester, Lockport, Allegheny, Middle Atlantic States, Canada, and Michigan. (b) East Central, comprised of Indiana, Kentucky, North Michigan, Ohio, South Ohio, and Illinois. (c) West Central, comprised of Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. (d) West Coast, comprised of California, Oregon, and other western states. (e) Southern, comprised of Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, and Australia.
§ 524. Article 6. Officers:

1. The officers of this Society shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Literature Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY, and 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. There shall be a Women's World Fellowship Secretary who shall be nominated by the Executive Board and elected by the Quadrennial Session.

5. An area chairman shall be nominated by the delegates from each area and elected by the Quadrennial Session. The area chairmen shall be advisory members of the Executive Board.

6. These officers shall be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

7. The term of office of the general officers shall begin with the rise of the General Session at which they are elected; they shall serve until the adjournment of the next regular session of the general body, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

§ 525. Article 7. 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. She shall also be general organizer. She shall be a member of the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. She shall present an annual general and financial report to said Board of Administration, and a quadrennial report to the General Conference. If possible she shall visit each annual conference once during the quadrennium.

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

3. The Literature Secretary shall be in charge of the
literature of the Society and shall promote the sale and use of the same. She shall prepare for the Executive Board an annual report covering the work of her department. She shall also prepare a quadrennial report for the General Session.

(4) The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Quadrennial Session, and of the meetings of the Executive Board or any business transacted by them during the interim.

(5) The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all monies of the Society reported to her and shall hold in trust the funds of the Society, paying out the same on order signed by the President and Secretary. She shall make monthly remittances of all Education, World Missions, and Church Extension funds to the respective treasurers. She shall prepare both annual and quadrennial financial reports for the Board of Administration and the General Conference.

(6) The Editor shall be responsible for preparing The Wesleyan Missionary for publication and for promoting its circulation. She shall be chairman of a three-member editorial committee nominated by her quadrennially from the Executive Board and elected by them. She shall report annually to the Executive Board and quadrennially to the General Session of the Woman’s Missionary Society.

She shall be a member of an Advisory Editorial Committee composed of the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist, chairman; the Executive Secretaries of World Missions and Church Extension and Evangelism; the chairman of the Commission on Education, and the Editor of The Wesleyan Missionary. This committee shall coordinate planning in the magazine promotion of the work of the Church.

(7) The Executive Board of the Woman’s Missionary Society shall have power to administer the affairs of the Society during the interim of the Quadrennial Sessions, and to fill vacancies. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

(8) It shall be the duty of the area chairman to arrange for an area convention during the quadrennium, to promote the work of the Society, reporting to and working with the General President (and Executive Board) of the Woman’s Missionary Society.
(9) The General YMWB Superintendent shall preside at the quadrennial meeting of the conference Young Missionary Workers' Band superintendents and shall present the interests of the Young Missionary Workers' Band at the meeting of the Executive Board of the Woman's Missionary Society of which she is a member. She shall exercise general supervision of the work under the direction of the Woman's Missionary Society. She shall edit the Young Missionary. She shall be treasurer of all funds received from conference YMWB superintendents and other sources. She shall make monthly remittances as designated to the General Treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society, ten percent of undesignated missionary funds to be retained in the general treasury to become part of the General Fund. She shall report annually to the Executive Board and quadrennially to the General Session of the Woman's Missionary Society.

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

§ 526. Article 8. Bylaws: This Society may have the power to enact bylaws which shall not be in conflict with the sense of this Constitution or the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

§ 527. Article 9. Memorials: All memorials relating to the revision of the Constitution of the Woman's Missionary Society must first be presented to the Executive Board of the same.

2. Constitution of the Conference Society

§ 528. Article 1. Name: This Society shall be called the Woman's Missionary Society of ________ Conference.

§ 529. Article 2. Purpose: It shall be the object of this Society to secure systematic cooperation throughout the conference in the interest of missions.

§ 530. Article 3. Membership: The annual session shall be composed of the conference missionary society officers, presidents of the local societies, and one delegate for each local society.
Article 4. Meetings: This Society shall meet annually.

Article 5. Officers:

1. The officers of this Society shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers’ Band who shall be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and who shall together constitute the Executive Committee to transact business in the interim of the annual sessions. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies in the offices of this Society.

2. These officers shall be elected annually by ballot.

3. There shall be a Reading Course secretary, a Women’s World Fellowship secretary, and a Wesleyan Missionary solicitor, who shall be elected by the conference.

Article 6. Duties of Officers:

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

2. In the absence of the president the vice president shall perform the duties of the office. She shall also assist the president in the management and work of the Society.

3. The secretary shall keep a full record of all proceedings of the annual and executive sessions.

4. The treasurer shall give receipts for all monies received and shall disburse funds quarterly or oftener to the General Woman’s Missionary Society Treasurer by vote of the conference, or according to the desire of those contributing. She shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall render an annual statement of the same to the conference society. She shall prepare a statistical report from the treasurer’s books quadrennially for the General Session of the Woman’s Missionary Society.
(5) The conference superintendent shall preside at the annual meeting of the local Young Missionary Workers' Band superintendents. She shall have general supervision of the work of the local bands, give instructions to the local superintendents, receive and record money sent by them and forward the same at least quarterly to the General Superintendent. She shall bring to the annual conference of the Woman's Missionary Society a general and financial report of the year, and shall forward financial reports to the General Superintendent on authorized forms.

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

(6) The duties of the Reading Course secretary, Women's World Fellowship secretary and Wesleyan Missionary solicitor shall be outlined in the Plan of Work.

§ 534. Article 7. All funds received as membership dues shall be remitted as such to the conference treasurer, who shall remit the same to the General Treasurer for the General Fund.

§ 535. Article 8. Delegates: At the last annual session preceding the General Session of the 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 Woman's Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, providing that each conference society shall be entitled to not less than two voting members in the General Society. Delegates shall be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

§ 536. Article 9. Bylaws: This Society shall have the right to enact bylaws not conflicting with this Constitution or the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

3. Constitution of Local Societies

§ 537. Article 1. Name: This Society shall be called the Woman's Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist
Church of ________. Where feasible, circles may be organized within the society.

§ 538. Article 2. Purpose: The purpose of this Society (and circles when so organized) 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 souls and bodies of perishing humanity.

§ 539. Article 3. Membership and Dues:
(1) Active membership in the Society shall be open to all women. Honorary membership shall be open to all men.
(2) Dues shall be one dollar per year.
(3) In annual reporting, only paid up members shall be reported.

§ 540. Article 4. Meetings:
(1) This Society shall, if possible, hold regular bi-monthly meetings, at one of which we urge mission study. When a society is organized into circles, each circle shall, if possible, hold regular bi-monthly meetings, at one of which we urge mission study. The combined circles shall hold quarterly meetings to transact business and for the annual election of officers and delegates.
(2) The annual meeting for the election of officers shall be held during the month preceding the close of the fiscal year. Officers shall take office at the time other church officers do.

§ 541. Article 5. Funds: This Society shall send to the treasurer of the conference society the membership dues and specified funds, and may designate the department to which other funds are to be disbursed.

§ 542. Article 6. Officers:
(1) The officers of this Society shall be members of the local society electing, and shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and superintendent of the
Young Missionary Workers' Band. The president, vice president, and superintendent of the Young Missionary Workers' Band shall be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church except in the case of a pioneer work when the local Woman's Missionary Society president, in consultation with the pastor, may nominate these officers.

(2) These officers shall be elected annually by ballot, and shall constitute the Executive Committee.

(3) A Reading Course secretary, Women's World Fellowship secretary, Work Director, and Wesleyan Missionary solicitor shall be elected by the Society.

(4) Circle officers shall consist of chairman, co-chairman, and secretary-treasurer, who shall be nominated by the local Woman's Missionary Society Executive Committee and elected at the local annual Woman's Missionary Society election of officers.

§ 543. Article 7. Duties of Officers:
(1) The president shall preside at the meetings of the Society and shall have general oversight of the work.
(2) In the absence of the president the vice president shall perform the duties of the office.
(3) The secretary shall keep a record of members, and keep the minutes of all meetings.
(4) The treasurer shall receive all monies raised by the Society and remit the same as directed by the Society and shall make an annual report according to printed report blank to the conference society.
(5) The duties of the Reading Course secretary, Women's World Fellowship secretary, work director, and Wesleyan Missionary solicitor shall be outlined in the Plan of Work.

§ 544. Article 8. Delegates: At the annual election of officers of the local society, one delegate shall be elected who, with the president shall represent the Society at the annual session of the conference Woman's Missionary Society. This delegate shall be a member of The Wesleyan Methodist
Church except when there might have to be alteration on a pioneer field.

§ 545. Article 9. Committees: There shall be a program committee, and such other committees as shall be deemed necessary.

4. Constitution of the Young Missionary Workers’ Band

A. The General YMWB Constitution

§ 546. Article 1. The name of this organization shall be the Young Missionary Workers’ Band, auxiliary to the Woman’s Missionary Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

§ 547. Article 2. The purpose of this organization shall be (1) to lead boys and girls to Christ, (2) to train them for Christian service by the study of the Bible and missions, (3) to promote among the boys and girls of our congregations a true interest in Christian missions, and (4) to raise funds for worldwide evangelism.

§ 548. Article 3. There shall be a quadrennial meeting of the conference Young Missionary Workers’ Band superintendents at the time and place of the General Conference of the Church for the purpose of inspiration and for promotion of the general interests of the organization.

§ 549. Article 4. The Young Missionary Workers’ Band shall function under the general direction of the Woman’s Missionary Society. The organization through its General Superintendent and Treasurer shall submit to the Executive Board of the Woman’s Missionary Society monthly and annually a report of all offerings received and disbursements made to the General Treasurer of the Woman’s Missionary Society.

Note: For duties of the General and Conference YMWB Superintendents see paragraph 525, subparagraph 9, and paragraph 533, subparagraph 5.

§ 550. Article 5. There shall be a meeting of local superintendents at the time of the annual conference for the purpose of inspiration, fellowship, and instruction. Workshops for the promotion of the Band may be held during the year.
B. The Local YMWB Constitution

§ 551. Article 1. The Band shall be called The Young Missionary Workers' Band of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

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

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

§ 552. Article 2. (1) Active membership shall include all children of age thirteen or younger who pay the membership dues of not less than one cent per week.

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

§ 553. Article 3. (1) Twelve meetings a year shall be held for the active members of the Band, ten of which shall be held in the interests of World Missions, one for Church Extension, and one for Education. Public services shall be planned quarterly, when advisable. At these meetings, offerings may be taken for special interests presented.

(2) Monthly meetings shall be held, at which time the programs outlined in the Young Missionary shall be employed.

§ 554. Article 4. It shall be the duty of the local superintendent: to supervise the monthly meetings of the Band according to the general purposes of the organization; to keep a record of dues and offerings received; to forward the same quarterly to the conference superintendent. She shall make out an annual report of the Band on forms supplied. She shall present a written report of the spiritual and financial status of the Band at the time of the quarterly business meeting of the church.

§ 555. Article 5. This Constitution may be amended by the usual disciplinary procedure.
SECTION XXXII

WESLEYAN YOUTH CONSTITUTION

§ 556. 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, Wesleyan
Youth, under the authority of the General Conference of The
Wesleyan Methodist Church of America as governed by the
following Constitutions:

1. The Local Wesleyan Youth Constitution

§ 557. Article 1. Name: The organization shall be called
Wesleyan Youth of the __________ Wesleyan Methodist
Church.

§ 558. Article 2. Object: The object of the organization
shall be to reach unsaved and unchurched youth for Christ
and the Church, to build up its members in Christian expe-
rience and in holy character, to instruct them in the doctrines
of the Bible and of the Church, to train them for Christian
service through properly directed activities. The organization
shall ever maintain a missionary emphasis.

§ 559. Article 3. Membership:

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

(2) Associate Members. Young people of good char-
acter who desire to attend and participate in the spiritual and
social activities of WY may become Associate Members.

(3) Campus Members. When young people absent from
the home local attending college desire to continue their
membership in the home local, they shall be enrolled and
counted in the college community WY as "Campus Members" with all privileges which obtain in the home organization.

(4) Service Members. Service personnel may exercise the same privileges as described under Campus Members above.

(5) Honorary Members. Older members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who desire to be affiliated with WY may be elected by the local or by one of its departments as honorary members thereof.

§ 560. Membership Age. The age for active and associate membership shall be from 13 to 40 years.

§ 561. Membership Pledge Cards. All active and associate members shall be received by vote of the local upon the signing of the membership pledge.

§ 562. Membership Roll. The Executive Council shall examine the membership roll at the close of each conference year and make appropriate recommendations to the local.

§ 563. Membership Privileges. Membership shall carry full privileges except that only active members shall be eligible to hold office, serve as chairmen of standing committees, or as delegates to the annual conference convention.

Pledge of Active Membership

§ 564. Acknowledging Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord, and desiring to become affiliated with Wesleyan Youth as an active member, I will endeavor to govern my life by the Word of God and the teaching of the Church, and, I promise to attend faithfully the services of Wesleyan Youth, to do my best to advance its interests and to take part in its activities as opportunity is afforded me.

Pledge of Associate Membership

§ 565. Desiring to become affiliated with Wesleyan Youth as an associate member, I promise to attend the services of WY and to participate in the activities of the local as opportunity is afforded me.
§ 566. Article 4. Officers:

(1) The officers of the local shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, a Wesleyan Youth sales manager, and an adult counselor. Their term of office shall be for one year or until their successors shall be elected. The president, the chairman of the devotional and program committee, and the adult counselor shall be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, providing that an organization on a pioneer work or mission not yet organized as a Wesleyan Methodist church may waive these requirements except for adult counselor. In case of college church organization, this provision on church membership may be waived, except for the adult counselor, and two of the other officers, when agreeable to the president of the college and the pastor of the college church.

(2) Local officers shall be elected within thirty days of the close of the conference year and shall take office at the beginning of the new conference year.

(3) The election of officers shall be as follows: A committee on nominations of not less than five active members of WY, and including the pastor as chairman, shall be elected by the local. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate the officers of the local and the chairmen of the standing committees and to report the same to a meeting called for the election of officers. More than one name may be submitted for the office of president. Members of standing committees may be elected in such a manner as the organization may designate. The adoption of the report of the nominating committee by a majority vote and the confirmation of the entire organization by a business meeting of the church shall constitute the election.

(4) Any vacancies that may occur during the year shall be filled in the same manner as outlined in the preceding paragraph.

(5) The president shall submit a written report of the spiritual and financial status of the local to each regular quarterly business meeting of the church.

§ 567. Article 5. Departments:
(1) When the best interests of the local youth program can be more efficiently served, WY may organize into the following groups or any combination of these groups:

- Adult (ages 25-40)
- Senior Youth (ages 15, 16, 17)
- Young Adults (18-24)
- Junior Youth (ages 13, 14)

(2) The officers of each department, or combination of departments, shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and a Wesleyan Youth sales manager. There shall be an adult counselor for the Junior Youth department and for the Senior Youth department.

(3) The officers of each department so organized shall be elected in the same manner and subject to the same regulations as prescribed for the election of officers for a local in paragraph 566. However, Junior and Associate members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be eligible to hold office in the Junior Youth and Senior Youth departments.

(4) The officers and committees for any department shall be within the age range of that department.

(5) The executive committee of each department shall consist of the officers of the department, and the chairman of the standing committees. The adult counselor shall be a member of the executive committee in the Junior Youth and Senior Youth departments. The chairman of the department shall be chairman of the executive committee ex officio.

(6) Any vacancy that may occur during the year shall be filled in the same manner as outlined in paragraph 566, subparagraph 3.
Article 7. Organizing New Locals:

In organizing a new local the interested group shall be called together. The pastor or some other person designated as temporary chairman shall outline the aims and purposes of WY and shall acquaint the group with the Constitution, after which opportunity shall be given for the group to sign the membership pledge either as active or associate members. As soon as the roll of charter members is complete the group may proceed to organize in the same manner as outlined in paragraph 566 of the Constitution.

Upon completion of the organization, the secretary shall report to the president of the Conference WY and the Executive Secretary of the General WY giving the date and place of organization, the number of charter members, and the names and addresses of the president, secretary, and treasurer, whereupon a Certificate of Organization will be issued from the General WY office.

Article 8. Relation to Conference and General Organizations:

Each local shall keep full statistics and shall report the same annually on regular report forms to the annual conference Convention and to the General WY Department and otherwise shall cooperate in every way with the annual conference organization and the General WY Department in the promotion of the work. All money raised by the local for denominational purposes shall be channeled through the conference treasurers and the General Office of WY.

Article 9. Amendments:

This constitution may be amended as outlined under THE GENERAL WESLEYAN YOUTH CONSTITUTION, Article V, Revisions or Amendments, paragraph 598.

Article 10. Bylaws:

The local shall have the right to enact bylaws not conflicting with this constitution and the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.
The Local Wesleyan Youth Bylaws

¶ 573. Article 1. Meetings:

(1) The devotional meetings of the local WY shall be held Sunday evening preceding the regular evening church service, or at such other time as may have been approved by the executive council and voted by the group. At least one meeting each month or twenty-five percent of the total yearly services shall be in the interest of missions with an offering.

(2) Regular business meetings of the local shall be held monthly or quarterly.

(3) Regular business meetings of the departments shall be held monthly or quarterly.

(4) The local or department shall decide at its first business meeting of the year how many shall constitute a quorum.

(5) Special meetings of the local may be called by the president or pastor at such times as may be necessary.

(6) Special meetings of any department may be called by the chairman or the pastor at such times as may be necessary.

(7) Recommended order of business:

   Devotional exercises
   Roll call
   Reading of minutes
   Reports of committees
   Appointments of committees
   Report of the treasurer
   Reception of new members
   New business and special exercises such as reading of papers and hearing of addresses.

   Adjournment.

(8) The executive council of the local shall meet at least once each quarter to plan the total program and to receive reports of the various departments. The council shall have charge of all cooperative undertakings of the departments, such as, young people's revivals, Christian service training classes, projects, social meetings, etc.
§ 574. Article 2. General Dues:

There shall be an annual assessment of two dollars ($2.00) per active member. This money shall be forwarded through the annual conference WY treasurer to the Executive Secretary for the purpose of financing the General WY Department.

§ 575. Article 3. Duties of Officers:

(1) The president shall preside over meetings of the local, of the executive council, and of the planning conference. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees. He shall see that all officers, standing committees, and chairmen of departments (if organized) know their duties and shall help to advance the work of the WY in every way possible. He shall cooperate with the adult counselors in the junior youth and senior youth departments. He shall promote the general goals. He shall see that the treasurer's books are properly audited. Where two or more departments are organized he may serve as chairman of one of the departments.

(2) The vice president shall cooperate with the president in every way to carry on the work, and in the absence of the president shall perform his duties in office. Where two or more departments are organized it is suggested that the vice president give special attention to the promotion of one of these departments.

(3) The duties of the secretary shall be to keep a register of the membership roll, to keep a record of all proceedings in the business meetings of the local, of the executive council, and of the planning conference. The secretary shall prepare report forms and furnish complete statistics to the annual conference organization at its annual business meetings and to the general organization.

(4) The treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate record of all monies paid into the local and its departments.
He shall stimulate and direct the finances. He shall disburse money only as voted by the group. He shall be prepared to make a financial report to the business meetings and to the meetings of the executive council and shall prepare a quarterly report which he may either present himself or give to the president to present at the regular business meeting of the church. All treasurers of departments shall receive and keep an accurate record of all money collected by the department and shall deposit it with the treasurer of the local. The treasurer shall pay out department funds as directed by the department.

5. The Wesleyan Youth sales manager shall be responsible for new and renewal subscriptions to the periodical and shall promote the circulation of The Wesleyan Youth in the local, the church, and the community. He shall send a current subscription list to the conference Wesleyan Youth sales manager including names, addresses, local church, and expiration dates.

6. The adult counselor for the intermediate department and the adult counselor for the senior department shall attend all meetings of their respective departments including social activities and all meetings of the executive committee of the department; shall counsel with the department concerning all activities in keeping with the aims and purposes of Wesleyan Youth. The counselor shall encourage and guide all standing committees in their tasks as needed and shall advise with the devotional committee from time to time and approve any programs for use which do not appear in the regular published series. The adult counselor shall work at all times in harmony with the pastor of the church and shall seek the highest spiritual welfare of each member.

§ 576. Article 4. Committees:

1. Each local or department of a local may have a devotional and program committee, a missionary committee, an evangelistic committee, a visiting committee, a membership committee, an educational committee, a social life committee, and such other committees as may be necessary for properly conducting its work. It is recommended that par-
ticular attention be given to filling the social life committee with qualified Christian young people.

§ 577. Article 5. Duties of Committees:

(1) The devotional and program committee shall have full responsibility for planning and promoting the regular devotional meetings, assigning leaders, advertising and encouraging variety in the services, shall be responsible for the spiritual emphasis in the meetings and shall carry a concern for the highest Christian development of each member of the local (or department).

(2) The missionary committee shall be responsible for all missionary services carried on within the local (or department) and shall seek to impart missionary inspiration and challenge to the members of the local.

(3) The evangelistic committee shall sponsor gospel team activities, house-to-house visitation, jail services, street meetings, and other similar activities.

(4) The membership committee shall be on the alert to seek out and recommend to the local young people interested and qualified for membership.

(5) The visiting committee shall visit the sick and absent members of the local and otherwise contact young people in the community concerning the interests of the local (or department).

(6) The educational committee shall have charge of the educational meetings of the local (or department) planning for and directing the same under the advice and supervision of the pastor.

(7) The social life committee shall be responsible for carefully and prayerfully planning all social occasions such as outdoor picnics, seasonal home gatherings, birthday celebrations, and such similar activities as are approved by the adult counselor and/or the pastor of the church.

§ 578. Article 6. Delegates:

When the local is organized into two or more departments, delegates to the Annual Conference Convention shall be chosen from the various departments as far as possible.
§ 579. Article 7. Amendments:
These bylaws may be amended or added to at any regular meeting of the local by a two-thirds vote of all members present provided that such amendments or additions have been announced at the previous meeting, are in accord with the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, do not conflict with the Constitution of Wesleyan Youth, and have been approved by the executive committee of the local.

2. The Annual Conference Wesleyan Youth Constitution

§ 580. Article 1. Name:
All local Wesleyan Youth organizations within the boundaries of each conference shall be known as "Wesleyan Youth of the Conference."

§ 581. Article 2. Conference Convention:
(1) There shall be an Annual Conference Convention of Wesleyan Youth in each conference which shall not only receive reports, make recommendations, conduct the election of officers, and carry on any other business pertaining to the conference WY but shall be planned as a time of inspiration, fellowship, and Christian challenge. Other conference conventions for the promotion of the aims and purposes of Wesleyan Youth may be held during the year.

(2) The Annual Conference Convention shall be composed of the officers of the Conference WY, the district chairmen, presidents of locals, the president of the annual conference, and two elected delegates from the active membership of each local in the conference. When the active membership in any local exceeds twenty-five there may be one additional delegate elected. Locals with two or more age departments, will, as far as possible, choose delegates from each department.

(3) One delegate within the active membership range of WY may be appointed by the pastor of each church in the conference not having a fully organized local.

(4) Where an Annual Conference Convention deems advisable for the best interest of the conference youth program,
§ 582. Article 3. Officers:

The Annual Conference Convention shall elect by ballot, subject to the confirmation of the annual conference of the Church, or the annual conference president and his Advisory Board, the following officers for the period of one year or until their successors are duly elected: a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a Wesleyan Youth sales manager. All conference officers shall be members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and active members of a local within the bounds of the conference at the time of their election.

§ 583. Article 4. District Organization:

(1) The Annual Conference Convention may organize the conference into districts with preferably three to six locals located in proximity to each other in each district and shall fix the boundaries of the districts.

(2) The chairman of each district shall be an active member of a local within the district, and shall be elected by the Annual Conference Convention.

(3) There shall be two other members of the executive committee of the district who shall be elected at the first district convention following the Annual Conference Convention and shall serve until the close of the following Annual Conference Convention or until their successors are elected. The district chairmen may be members of the conference WY executive council.

(4) Voting in the district conventions shall be confined to active members from the local organizations of the district who are present.

§ 584. Article 5. Conference Executive Council:

There shall be a conference WY executive council which shall be composed of the conference WY officers, and the president of the annual conference who is a member ex officio. The Wesleyan Youth sales manager may be a member of the executive council by election of the Annual WY Con-
§ 585. Article 5. Vacancies:
The conference executive council shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur within the council between annual conventions subject to the confirmation of the annual conference at the president and his Advisory Board.

§ 586. Article 7. Relation to Annual Conference:
The election of officers, plan of work, financial undertakings, and all other actions of the conference WY shall be concisely presented in written form to the annual conference in session or to the conference president and his Advisory Board by the WY president for the purpose of information, coordination, and the confirmation of the decisions of the Annual Conference WY Convention.

§ 587. Article 8. Amendments:
This constitution may be amended as outlined under GENERAL WESLEYAN YOUTH CONSTITUTION, paragraph 598.

The Annual Conference Wesleyan Youth Bylaws

§ 588. Article 1. The Annual Convention:
The Annual Convention of the Conference Wesleyan Youth shall convene at a time and place designated by the previous convention or by the conference executive council upon the approval of the annual conference of the church in session or the conference president and his Advisory Board.

§ 589. Article 2. Duties of the Convention:
(1) The Annual Conference WY Convention shall elect all officers as designated in Article 3 of the Conference Wesleyan Youth Constitution. In the case of the president, nominations shall be by a nominating ballot, and election by a
majority vote by ballot of the members of the convention present and voting. Other officers may be nominated to the convention, by the method suggested by the convention, and shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members present and voting.

(2) At the Annual Conference Convention preceding the General Quadrennial Convention delegates shall be elected to the Quadrennial WY Convention as specified in paragraph 596, subparagraph 3 of the General WY Constitution. All delegates elected shall be active members of some local organization within the bounds of the conference and shall as far as possible represent all age departments of Wesleyan Youth.

(3) The convention shall receive reports from conference officers, chairmen of standing committees, district chairmen, and presidents of local organizations.

(4) Convention committees which may be named are: Nominating, Finance, Missionary, Evangelistic, Stewardship, Literature, Goals and Methods, Junior Work, Senior Work, Young Adult Work, Resolutions, and others.

(5) Standing committees may be ordered to serve in the various fields mentioned above as may be required.

¶ 590. Article 3. Duties of Officers:

(1) President. (a) The president shall preside at the meetings of the conference convention and at the business meetings of the conference executive council. (b) He shall have general oversight of the conference WY work in cooperation with standing committees and district chairmen. (c) He shall actively promote the organization of a local in each church of his conference. (d) He shall give as much time as possible on the field and otherwise to the active promotion of the work of WY within his conference.

(2) The vice president shall cooperate with the president in every way possible to carry on the work of the conference WY. In case of absence, resignation, or death of the president, he shall become president. It is recommended that the vice president be named chairman of one of the standing committees.
(3) The secretary shall keep an accurate record of all the proceedings of the annual conventions and of the meetings of the conference executive council, and shall attend to all matters of correspondence for the conference organization. The secretary shall send to the Area President and General WY office within thirty days after the annual business meeting a full directory of the names and addresses of the local presidents and secretaries together with the annual conference WY statistics for the organization and the names and addresses of the newly elected conference WY officers, and district chairman.

(4) The treasurer shall receive and, upon the order of the council, shall disburse all monies of the conference organization, keeping a systematic record of the same, and rendering a full report to the Annual Conference Convention of Wesleyan Youth and to the annual conference for audit and approval. The treasurer is directed to remit all monies received for general work to the General Office at least quarterly.

(5) The Wesleyan Youth sales manager shall be in charge of the promotion of subscriptions to The Wesleyan Youth, both at the Annual WY Convention and throughout the year.

§ 591. Article 4. Duties of the Conference Executive Council:

(1) The executive council shall promote the work of the conference WY according to the policies outlined and the program adopted by the Conference WY Convention and confirmed by the annual conference of the church or the conference president and his advisory board.

(2) Business meetings of the executive council may be called by the WY president or the annual conference president at such times as may be necessary.

(3) The executive council shall through its president and secretary keep in contact with the General WY Office and cooperate with the general program in every way possible.

(4) The executive council shall always give proper recognition to the annual conference president as head of all
conference work and shall conduct its program in harmony with the other departments and with the principles and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) The executive council shall serve as a program committee for the planning of all conference conventions including times of inspiration, fellowship, instruction, or evangelism.

(6) The executive council shall publish a directory of conference WY officers and all members of the executive council, a list of the names and addresses of all local presidents and secretaries, a table of conference WY statistics, and important official actions of the Conference WY Convention which should be made a part of the published record. It is highly recommended that arrangements be made with the annual conference to have this record included in the published minutes of the annual conference.

§ 592. Article 5. Duties of the District Committee:

(1) The district committee shall serve as a program committee and the district chairman shall preside at the rallies.

(2) The time and place for the district rallies shall be arranged by the district committee unless planned for in a previous rally.

(3) One district rally is recommended every three months, unless geographical distances or other circumstances make this number prohibitive.

§ 593. Article 6. Amendments:

These bylaws may be amended as outlined under The General Wesleyan Youth Constitution paragraph 598. Further bylaws which do not conflict with the Constitution and the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be enacted by the Annual WY Convention.

3. The General Wesleyan Youth Constitution

§ 594. Article 1. Name:

The name of this organization shall be Wesleyan Youth. All conference and local Wesleyan youth shall constitute the General Wesleyan Youth.
Article 2. Official Organ:

The Wesleyan Youth shall be the official organ of Wesleyan Youth. The editor of The Wesleyan Youth shall be named by the General Council, subject to the approval of the Board of Administration.

Article 3. Quadrennial Convention:

1. There shall be a Quadrennial Convention and Leaders' Conference of Wesleyan Youth which shall be held at the time and place of the General Conference of the Church, at which time officers shall be elected, and business conducted, and as time will allow, services of inspiration and training will be provided.

2. The length of this convention, the exact time it shall convene, and the general planning for the program shall be arranged by the General WY Council in consultation with the Board of Administration of the Church.

3. The Quadrennial Convention shall be composed of members of the General Council and delegates as follows: Each conference WY president shall be a delegate ex officio. Each conference shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each three hundred active members, or major fraction thereof. These delegates, with adequate alternates, shall be elected by ballot at the last regular annual business meeting preceding General Conference, provided that any annual conference holding its session within sixty days of the date of the opening of the coming General Conference, shall elect its delegates at the previous annual session. Every conference WY shall be entitled to at least one delegate in addition to the president. In the case of inability of the president to serve as delegate, the vice president shall automatically become the ex officio delegate.

4. Delegates to the Quadrennial Convention shall be, at the time of serving, members of a local WY organization in the conference from which they were elected and members of a Wesleyan Methodist church.

Article 4. General WY Organization:

1. The Board of Administration shall be the Board of Administration of the Church.
Trustees of the WY which shall be financially amenable to the Board as specified in paragraph 354 of the Discipline. The General WY shall submit to the Board annually a statement of estimated income and expense for the ensuing year. The recommendations of WY as to projected plans and policies shall require the approval of the Board in order to be effective.

(2) An Executive Secretary shall be elected for the period of the quadrennium as follows: He shall be nominated by a majority vote by ballot of the Quadrennial Convention and shall be elected by a majority vote of the General Conference. More than one nomination may be submitted. He shall be ex officio a member of the General WY Council. He shall not have reached his 46th birthday at the time of his election.

(3) The Quadrennial Convention shall elect by majority vote, by ballot, a General Council President, subject to confirmation by the Board of Administration. Each Area President shall call a caucus of delegates of his Area during the Quadrennial Convention at which time the Area President from each of the four educational zones of the Church shall be nominated by a majority vote by ballot of the caucus for the next quadrennium and confirmed by the Quadrennial Convention and the Board of Administration. Each of the five above officers shall be a member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and an active member of WY and under forty years of age at the time of his election. They shall serve on the General WY Council. The term of office of these five members shall begin with the rise of the Quadrennial Convention at which they are elected.

(4) One member of the Board of Administration of the Church shall be appointed by the Board of Administration as a member of the General WY Council to serve for the quadrennium.

(5) The General WY Council shall fill any vacancy that may occur on the Council during the quadrennium subject to confirmation by the Board of Administration.

(6) The General WY Council shall promote the work.
of Wesleyan Youth according to policies outlined by the Quadrennial Convention and in harmony with the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

§ 598. Article 5. Revision or Amendments:

1) Revisions or amendments to this Constitution may originate: (a) from any Annual Conference WY Convention, (b) from the floor of the Quadrennial Convention (if introduced by noon of the second day of business), or (c) from the General WY Council.

2) Revisions originating with an Annual Conference WY Convention shall be forwarded to the General WY Council by January 1, preceding the next Quadrennial Convention. Those originating on the floor of the Quadrennial Convention shall be immediately referred to the General WY Council.

3) The General WY Council shall be the Quadrennial Convention Committee on Revisions.

4) The Committee on Revisions shall report on all proposed amendments to the Constitution.

5) The Constitution is amended when the proposed revision reported by the Committee on Revisions has been approved by the Quadrennial Convention and ratified by the General Conference.

The General Wesleyan Youth Bylaws

§ 599. Article 1. General Council:

1) All members of the General Council may serve as official representatives of Wesleyan Youth in rallies and conventions, or at other times as opportunity affords or when called upon to do so.

2) The Area President and the Conference WY presidents of each educational district shall constitute an Area Council of that area and shall be presided over by the Area President. The educational districts may further organize and elect officers as may be feasible and necessary for the best interests of the work in the area and the total program of Wesleyan Youth.
Article 2. Duties of Council:

(1) The General Council shall name the Editor of The Wesleyan Youth, and set the editorial and circulation policies of The Wesleyan Youth. These provisions are subject to approval by the Board of Administration.

(2) The General Council shall elect one of its members to serve as recording secretary. He shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Quadrennial Convention and of all business meetings of the General Council.

(3) The Board of Administration shall determine the salary of the Executive Secretary of Wesleyan Youth.

(4) The General WY Council shall give general promotion to the work of Wesleyan Youth in harmony with the standards and principles of the Church. The General WY Council shall at all times be amenable to the Board of Administration or to the General Conference of the Church.

Article 3. Meetings of the Council:

(1) The annual business meeting shall be held each year at such time as the Council may previously designate. The place of the Council meetings may be determined by the General Council President and the Executive Secretary if not previously arranged by the Council.

(2) Special meetings for business may be called by the Executive Secretary or by the General Council President with consent of the representative of the Board of Administration who is a member of the Council.

(3) Four members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. One of these four may be the representative of the Board of Administration of the Church, who is a member of the Council.

Article 4. Duties of Officers:

(1) Executive Secretary: (a) The term of office of the Executive Secretary shall begin with the rise of the General Conference at which he is elected. (b) He shall be the executive officer of the General WY and as such shall have supervision of all departments of the General WY work and shall execute the plans adopted from time to time by the
General WY Council and the Board of Administration of the Church. (c) He shall, in conference with the General WY Council, work out from time to time recommendations as to projected policies and procedures and shall present same for confirmation to the Board of Administration or its Executive Board. (d) He shall be responsible for the financial management of the Department and for preparing and submitting to the Board of Administration an annual financial report and such other reports as shall be required by said Board. (e) He shall officially represent the General WY in at least two Council meetings of each Area during the quadrennium and may represent the Department in conventions, rallies, and annual conferences or other assemblies of the Church. (f) He shall maintain contact with other departments of the Church and work in harmony with them. When deemed advisable he may maintain contact with other denominational or interdenominational young people’s organizations. (g) It is expected that he maintain an office for the Department, and that he employ such help as may be needed and authorized by the Council to carry on properly the work of the General WY. (h) He shall supervise the General WY promotional material, the issuing of pamphlets and other necessary materials for the promotion of the work of WY throughout the area, conference, and local organizations. (i) He shall work cooperatively with the Editor of The Wesleyan Methodist in supplying material for space therein as may be previously arranged in harmony with the general editorial policy. (j) He shall judiciously and economically conduct the affairs of his office, keeping all expenditures within the limits set by the budget and always have the best interests of WY in mind. (k) He shall render a full report to the annual meeting of the General WY Council and a quadrennial report to the Quadrennial Convention and General Conference of the Church. (l) He shall perform all other duties in keeping with his office as ordered by the General WY Council and the Board of Administration. (m) Should the work of the Executive Secretary become unsatisfactory or his conduct unbecoming he may be removed from the office at any time by a majority vote by ballot of the Council and Board of Ad-
ministration in joint session, provided that he shall be noti-
fied beforehand and given opportunity to defend his position
or correct his error in conduct.

(2) General Council President: (a) The General Council
President shall preside at the meeting of the Quadrennial
Convention and at the meetings of the General WY
Council. (b) He shall take an active interest in the entire
program of Wesleyan Youth and shall devote as much of his
time to the promotion of the general work as his other duties
may permit.

(3) Area President: (a) He shall organize and preside
over all meetings of the Area Council. (b) He shall preside
over all area conventions and group meetings. (c) He shall
visit each annual conference youth convention in his area
at some time during the quadrennium. (d) He shall take an
active interest in the entire program of Wesleyan Youth and
shall cooperate with the General Council President and the
Executive Secretary in the promotion of the General organ-
ization. (e) He shall represent the area in all general group
meetings and his expenses for these services shall be paid
from the general treasury. (f) He shall assist in conventions,
rallies, and youth camps as far as time permits and his serv-
ices are requested. He shall be remunerated for his services
by the group requesting them. (g) He shall render a report
to the annual meeting of the General Council and his Area
Council, and a quadrennial report to the General Convention.

§ 603. Article 5. Committees:

(1) The General WY Council shall elect an Exec-
utive Committee, a Topic and Lesson Committee, and such
other committees as may be deemed necessary for advancing
its work. The election of the Topic and Lesson Committee
shall require confirmation by the Board of Administration to
be final. (a) The Executive Committee of the Council shall
be composed of the member of the Board of Administration
of the Church who is a member of the Council, the General
Council President, the Executive Secretary, and one member
elected by the Council. (b) The Executive Committee shall
meet and conduct the business of the General Council be-
SECTION XXXII

tween annual sessions when it is impractical or impossible to call the entire Council together. Carefully prepared minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the remaining members of the Council.

(2) The Topic and Lesson Committee shall be elected to serve for the quadrennium. It shall be composed of the Executive Secretary as Chairman and two other members of the Council. The duties of this committee shall be to arrange the topics and subjects for the devotional meetings of the WY and supervise the selection of writers for these lessons.

† 604. Article 6. Amendments:
These bylaws may be amended as outlined in paragraph 598.
SECTION XXXIII

WESLEYAN MEN

General Wesleyan Men

¶ 605. Article 1. Name: The organization shall be called Wesleyan Men of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

¶ 606. Article 2. Purpose and Objectives:

(1) The established purpose of this organization is evangelism.

(2) The general objectives of the organization are fellowship, stewardship, service, and soul winning.

¶ 607. Article 3. Relationship to the Church: The Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America shall be the Board of Managers for the organization. The organization shall function under the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism. It shall, through the General Director, make a full and complete annual financial report to the Board of Administration, and at any other time requested by the Executive Board.

¶ 608. Article 4. General Officers: There shall be a General Director of Wesleyan Men. He shall be a lay member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. He shall be elected quadrennially by ballot by the Board of Administration.

The General Treasurer of Wesleyan Men shall be the General Treasurer of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Extension and Evangelism, and the General Director of Wesleyan Men.

¶ 609. Article 5. Duties of the General Director: The General Director shall have the general supervision of Wes-
leyan Men, subject to the oversight of the Board of Administration. He shall diligently promote the organization of Wesleyan Men in the various conferences and churches of the Denomination, and shall endeavor to interest the men of the Denomination in the organization. He shall be given sufficient space in THE WESLEYAN METHODIST for publicizing and promoting the interests of the organization. He shall render annual and quadrennial reports to the Board of Administration.

Conference Wesleyan Men

§ 610. Article 1. Conference Officers:

(1) There shall be a Conference Director of Wesleyan Men. He shall be a lay member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. He shall be elected annually by his annual conference, and shall be required to report his activities annually to his conference, and to the General Director.

There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the Conference President, the Conference Director of Wesleyan Men, and the chairman of each district, and at least one additional lay member.

(2) The treasurer of the annual conference shall be treasurer of Wesleyan Men of the conference. He shall report to the General Director on such forms as may be furnished for that purpose.

District Wesleyan Men

§ 611. Article 1. District Organizations:

(1) The annual conference may organize the conference into districts embracing locals in proximity to each other.

(2) The chairman of each district shall be an active member of a local within the district, and shall be elected by the annual conference.

(3) There shall be two other members of the Executive Committee of the district who shall be elected at the first district meeting following the annual conference and shall serve for one year, or until their successors are elected. The district chairmen shall be members of the Conference Executive Council.
Local Wesleyan Men

§ 612. Article 1. Name: The name of the organization shall be Wesleyan Men of _________ Wesleyan Methodist Church.

§ 613. Article 2. Purpose and Objectives:
(1) The established purpose of this organization is evangelism.
(2) The general objectives of the organization are fellowship, stewardship, service, and soul winning.

§ 614. Article 3. Membership and Dues:
(1) The membership of the organization shall be open to all men of good character, who shall pay the sum of $2.00 annually.
(2) Each local shall send to the Conference Treasurer annually the sum of $1.00 per member, of which 50¢ shall be forwarded as general dues to the General Treasurer, and 50¢ retained as conference dues to be used in the conference for Wesleyan Men, upon proper conference authorization.

§ 615. Article 4. Local Officers: The officers of the organization shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be, wherever it is practical, members of good standing in the local Wesleyan Methodist church, and shall be elected annually by ballot at the last meeting of Wesleyan Men in the conference year.

§ 616. Article 5. Duties of Local Officers:
(1) President. It shall be the duty of the president of the organization to preside at the regular business meetings. He shall also have the general supervision of Wesleyan Men, under the general oversight of the pastor of the church. He shall be a member ex officio of all committees.
(2) The vice president shall assume the duties of the president in the case of death or resignation of the president.
(3) The secretary shall keep correct records of the activities of the organization.
SECTION XXXIII

(4) The treasurer shall receive, disburse, or hold in custody all funds of the organization, and shall make a financial report to all regular meetings of the local Wesleyan Men.

§ 617. Article 6. Committees: Committees may be elected as needs require.

§ 618. Article 7. Amendments: The Constitution may be amended by due disciplinary process.
PART VII
FORMS
SECTION XXXIV
MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

¶ 619. Exhorter's License

This certifies that ______, a member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of ______ has been and is hereby duly authorized to hold public meetings for the promotion of the cause of God, and to exercise himself as an Exhorter in the Church of Christ.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference (or Church) of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of ______, this ______ day of ______, 19____.

This license is to be renewed yearly.

Chairman

Secretary

¶ 620. Local Preacher's License

To Whom It May Concern:

This may certify that ______, the bearer, having been duly recommended by the church of which he is a member, and having been examined concerning his gifts, graces, and usefulness, is judged by us to be a proper person; therefore he is hereby authorized to preach the gospel according to the usages of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, as a Local Preacher.

Done at the Quarterly Conference (or Church) of ______ this ______ day of ______, A.D., 19____, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

Chairman

¶ 621. Recommendation to Study

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, graces, and usefulness of our
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____.

_______ ______, President

_______ ______, Secretary

§ 627. Ministers From Other Denominations

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

Given under my hand and seal at ______, this ______ day of ______, A.D., 19____.

_______ ______, President

Letters of Standing

§ 628. Unstationed Minister

The bearer, ______ ______, an unstationed minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, being desirous of removing from this circuit, is entitled to receive from the undersigned this certificate of his good standing.

_______ Circuit, ______, 19____.

_______ ______, Preacher in Charge
§ 629. Stationed Minister

The bearer, __________, 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.

________________________
President of the ______ Annual Conference
_________ 19____

§ 630. Elder

This certifies that __________, the bearer, an Elder, being in good standing in the ______ Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, and being desirous of residing for a time without the bounds of said conference, is entitled to this certificate of his good standing.

Given at ______ this ______ day of __________, 19____
________________________
President

This certificate is valid for one year.

§ 631. Letter of Withdrawal

This certifies that __________, the bearer, has been up to this date an elder in the ______ Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, and being desirous of withdrawing from said Denomination is hereby dismissed and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

Given at ______ this ______ day of __________, 19____
________________________
President

Footnote: This certificate may be granted without recommendation at the discretion of the president and his Advisory Board.
SECTION XXXV

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

§ 632. General Evangelist

This certifies that _______ _______ the bearer, is an Elder in good standing in the _______ Annual Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and was appointed to General Evangelistic work for a period of one year from the date hereto affixed, under the provisions of paragraphs 272-280 of the Wesleyan Methodist Discipline.

_______ _______, President
_______ _______, Secretary

Date _______

This certificate must be renewed annually.

§ 633. Lay Missionary

This certifies that _______ _______, the bearer, has been duly commissioned as a lay missionary by _______ Conference to serve under the appointment and direction of the Department of World Missions of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Date _______
Valid Until _______

_______ _______, President
_______ _______, Secretary

§ 634. Recommendation to Special Work

To the members of the _______ Conference next to be held at _______ on the _______ day of _______ next.

The Quarterly Conference (or Church) of _______ being acquainted with the gifts, graces, and usefulness of _______, do hereby recommend _______ (him or her) as a suitable person to be appointed as _______. (state type of special work)
work) and to travel under your direction.

Done this ______ day of 19____ by the aforesaid Quarterly Conference (or Church) and signed in its behalf.

_______, President

_______, Secretary

§ 635. Special Worker

This certifies that _______ ______, the bearer, an acceptable member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, feeling called to serve in the field of ______ (state sphere of service), and having met the provisions of paragraph 281 in the Discipline of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, is appointed thereto for a period of one year from this date.

Done by the _______ Annual Conference in session at _______ on the _______ day of _______, 19_____.

_______, President

_______, Secretary

§ 626. Recommendation to Deaconess Work

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, graces, and usefulness of our Sister _______ ______, 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.

_______, Chairman

_______, Clerk
§ 637. Probationary Deaconess

To All Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that _______ _______ 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 of the Wesleyan Methodist Church; therefore she is authorized to do the work and bear the name of Deaconess, subject to the usages and provisions for such work and office in the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

Done by the _______ Annual Conference this _______ day of ________, 19___, and signed by its order and in its behalf.

_______ _______, President
_______ _______, Secretary

§ 638. Deaconess

To Whom It May Concern:

Be it known that _______ _______ having been duly elected by the _______ Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, has this day been set apart by consecration to the work and office of a Deaconess of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Signed by order and in behalf of the aforesaid Annual Conference, held at _______ this _______ day of ________, 19___.

_______ _______, President
_______ _______, Secretary
SECTION XXXVI

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

§ 639. Associate Members

This certifies that _____ _____, the bearer, has been an Associate Member of the _____ Wesleyan Methodist Church and being desirous of removing from this church is hereby granted this certificate of Associate Relationship.

______ _______ Pastor

______ _______ Secretary

Date ________

Associate members in The Wesleyan Methodist Church have all the rights and privileges of full membership, except to vote and hold office.

§ 640. Junior Members

This certifies that _____ _____, the bearer, age _____, is a Junior Member in the _____ Wesleyan Methodist Church, and being desirous of removing from this church is hereby granted this certificate of Junior Membership.

______ _______ Pastor

______ _______ Secretary

Date ________

For a Junior member to continue in the fellowship of The Wesleyan Methodist Church beyond his 17th birthday, he must apply for associate or full membership and be received in the prescribed manner. Junior members have all the rights and privileges of full membership, except to vote and hold office.

Certificates of Transfer

§ 641. Local Church

The bearer, _____ _____, 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)
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. The following is to be returned to the Pastor or church issuing the above letter.

To the Pastor or Church Issuing the Above Letter:

The member of your church, ________, to whom you issued a letter of transfer to ________, Wesleyan Methodist Church, has been received by vote of this church into its membership, and we send you this notification in completion of this transaction.

_____, ______, Pastor

Address, __________ Date, ______

§ 642. Annual Conference

The bearer, ________, a member in good standing in the ________ Annual Conference, having requested to be transferred to the ________ Annual Conference, is hereby duly transferred.

________, President of the ________ Annual Conference

To ________, President of the ________ Annual Conference

______, 19____

Certificates of Dismissal

§ 643. Certificate of Recommendation

This certifies that ________, ________, the bearer, has been up to this date an acceptable member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in ________, 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., 19____

______, ________, Pastor (or Clerk)

* It is understood that this form of certificate dismisses the bearer from membership in the Church.
§ 644. Certificate of Membership
This certifies that the bearer, has been up to this date a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in and being desirous of removing from said church, is hereby dismissed and granted this certificate of membership.
Given on behalf of the aforesaid church this day of , A.D., , , Pastor (or Clerk)

§ 645. Certificate of Withdrawal
This certifies that the bearer, has been up to this date a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at , and being desirous of withdrawing from said church, is hereby dismissed.
Given on behalf of the aforesaid church this day of , A.D., , , Pastor (or Clerk)
§ 646. Annual Conference Delegates

This certifies that _____ _____, the bearer, was duly elected by the _____ charge a Delegate to the _____ Annual Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, to be held at _____ on the _____ day of _____ next.

Done by the members of said charge, assembled this _____ day of _____, 19___

_____ _____, Chairman

§ 647. General Conference Delegates

This will certify that _____ _____, was duly elected a Ministerial (or Lay) Delegate to the General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, to be held at _____, beginning _____

Done by the _____ Annual Conference this _____ day of _____, 19___

_____ _____, Chairman

_____ _____, Secretary
### Marriage Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Man's Name</th>
<th>Woman's Name</th>
<th>When Married</th>
<th>Where Married</th>
<th>Minister's Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>19</td>
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### Baptism Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's Name</th>
<th>When Born</th>
<th>When Baptized</th>
<th>Minister's Name</th>
<th>Parents' Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
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