

**THE DISCIPLINE**

**OF**

**THE WESLEYAN CHURCH**

**Adopted by the Uniting General Conference of 1968**  
**Edited by the Committee**

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THE DISCIPLINE

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# **PART I. BASIC PRINCIPLES**

## **Chapter I**

### **HISTORY**

#### **A. The Origin of the Wesleyan Movement**

1. The Wesleyan movement centers around the Scriptural truth concerning the doctrine and experience of holiness, which declares that the atonement in Christ provides not only for the regeneration of sinners but for the entire sanctification of believers. A revival of these Scriptural truths concerning Christian perfection and Scriptural holiness took place under the leadership of John Wesley in the eighteenth century, and continues in various ways until the present.

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

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

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

### B. The Organization of The Wesleyan Methodist Connection

6. John Wesley and the early Methodist leaders in America had been uncompromising in their denunciation of human slavery. But with the invention of the cotton gin, the economic advantages of slavery involved many ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in slaveholding. When a

group of ministers in the New England Conference, led by Orange Scott, began to agitate anew for the abolition of slavery, the bishops and others in the church sought to silence them lest the peace of the church be disturbed.

7. The inward compulsion of truth met by the outward compulsion of ecclesiastical authority led to a series of withdrawals of churches and ministers from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The earliest extensive withdrawal was in Michigan, and led on May 13, 1841, to the formation of an annual conference using the name, "The Wesleyan Methodist Church." The withdrawal which had the most far-reaching consequences occurred in New England and New York late in 1842. In November 1842, Orange Scott, Jotham Horton, and La Roy Sunderland withdrew, publishing their reasons in the first issue of *The True Wesleyan*, and they were joined in the following month by Luther Lee and Lucius C. Matlack. A call was issued to those interested in the ultimate formation of a new church, free from episcopacy and slavery, to meet at Andover, Mass., February 1, 1843. At Andover a call was issued for an organizing convention.

8. The organizing convention for the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America was held at Utica, N. Y., May 31 to June 7, 1843. The new organization was a "Connection" of local churches organized in annual conferences. It avoided the episcopacy, and provided for equal ministerial and lay representation in all of its governing bodies. Moral and social reform were strongly emphasized, with slaveholding and all involvement with intoxicating liquors being prohibited.

### C. The Revival of the Wesleyan Experience

11. The Wesleyan Methodist Connection saw the crusade against slavery carried to a conclusion in the Civil War. Afterwards, many felt there was no reason for the Connection as such to continue, and returned to the larger Methodist bodies. Others felt, as was expressed by the 1867 General Conference,

that the effects of slavery were not yet eradicated, and that the historic stand against intoxicating liquors, and the increasingly firm stand against lodges and secret societies, could only be maintained by the continued existence and activity of the Connection.

12. At its first General Conference in 1844, the Connection had adopted an article of religion on "Sanctification," becoming the first denomination to do so. But the doctrine and experience suffered neglect and decline among all branches of Methodism in the mid-nineteenth century. To renew them, God raised up a revival of holiness promoted through literature, evangelistic meetings, and camp meetings that swept throughout Methodism and across denominational lines. The first national camp meeting, which developed into the National Holiness Association, was held in 1867. The revival led to the establishment of several new holiness denominations and to the renewing and redirecting of others.

13. This spiritual revival, promoted vigorously by a corps of itinerant evangelists, soon established holiness as the major tenet of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, which had formerly majored on social and political reform. In 1883, the General Conference adopted a resolution requiring the preaching of entire sanctification, and by 1893 new articles of religion on regeneration and entire sanctification had been adopted by the General Conference, the annual conferences, and the local churches.

#### D. The Development of The Wesleyan Methodist Church

16. The revival of holiness which swept the Wesleyan Methodist Connection introduced a new emphasis on evangelism. The need for organized efforts of church extension and the need to conserve converts led to the gradual development of a more formal organization as a church rather than a connec-

tion. In 1891, the name was changed to the *Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America*, and the denomination moved beyond a leadership largely confined to publications (editor and publisher) to elect a general missionary superintendent. Gradually other departmental executives were added. In 1947, the name was changed to *The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America*, and a central supervisory authority was established with the general conference president as the full-time leader of the denomination, and the Board of Administration as the central and coordinating board of control. In 1957, the denominational headquarters was moved from Syracuse, N. Y., where it had been for over a century, to Marion, Ind. In 1959, the plan for a general conference president was superseded by one calling for three general superintendents.

17. Various ministers and local churches affiliated themselves with The Wesleyan Methodist Church at different times throughout its history. But its home base and missionary work were appreciably augmented by the affiliation of three organizations.

(1) The *Hephzibah Faith Missionary Society* was organized in 1892, and eventually established headquarters at Tabor, Iowa. Its mission field in Letaba and Brakpan, South Africa, came under the direction of The Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1938. Some of its ministers and churches in Nebraska, its Brainerd Indian School near Hot Springs, S. Dak., and its mission field in Haiti became part of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1948.

(2) The *Missionary Bands of the World*, organized in 1885 as the Pentecost Bands, an auxiliary of the Free Methodist Church, became a separate organization in 1895, changed names in 1925, and in 1958 merged its churches in Indiana and its mission fields in central India and Jamaica with The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(3) *The Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada*

was organized in 1888 as the result of the sanctification of several Baptist ministers. In 1966 it merged its churches in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Maine, and its mission fields in Africa with The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

18. The Wesleyan Methodist Church became international with its spread to Canada, and the establishment, development, and acquisition through merger of mission fields in Sierra Leone, India, Colombia, Japan, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Mexico, Taiwan, Australia, New Guinea, Nepal, Rhodesia, and South Africa.

#### E. The Formation and Development of The Pilgrim Holiness Church

23. The Pilgrim Holiness Church came into being as a result of the revival of Scriptural holiness that swept across the various denominations in America in the last half of the nineteenth century, the same awakening that had rechanneled the energies of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection from social and political reform to holiness evangelism (12-13). The awakening crystallized in the establishment of many non-denominational and interdenominational holiness unions and associations and independent churches. Toward the close of the nineteenth century many of like precious faith began to draw together in the unity of the Spirit.

24. A focal point for the beginning of The Pilgrim Holiness Church as an organization was the formation of the *International Holiness Union and Prayer League* in September 1897, at Cincinnati, Ohio, in the home of Martin Wells Knapp. Rev. Seth C. Rees was chosen President, and Rev. Martin Wells Knapp Vice-President. The Union was not thought of as a church, nor intended as such, but was an interdenominational fellowship, marked by simplicity and the absence of restrictions. The primary purpose of the Union was to unite holiness people in promoting worldwide holiness evangelism. A four-fold emphasis was declared concerning the regeneration of sin-

ners, the entire sanctification of believers, the premillennial and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the evangelization of the world. The Union met the need of many people for fellowship and cooperation in the spread of Scriptural holiness and grew rapidly. Extensive revival work was carried on by members of the Union, resulting in the formation of many city missions, churches, rescue homes, and camp meetings.

25. In the annual meeting of the Union held in July 1900, the name was changed to *International Apostolic Holiness Union* in order to express more fully the aim of promoting a return to apostolic principles and practices. Also in 1900 the foreign missionary work began as members of the Union went out as faith missionaries to South Africa, India, Japan, the West Indies, and South America.

26. The Union gradually developed into a church organization in order to provide church homes for the converts and the conservation of the work. In 1905 the name was changed to *International Apostolic Holiness Union and Churches*. The interdenominational features also faded out, and in 1913 the name was altered to *International Apostolic Holiness Church*.

27. In 1919, the Indiana Conference of the *Holiness Christian Church* was received by the General Assembly of the International Apostolic Holiness Church, and the name of the united body was adopted as the *International Holiness Church*. The Holiness Christian Church had its beginning in a revival movement around Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1882, and was organized at Linwood, Pennsylvania, in 1889 as the Holiness Christian Association. By 1919 it was known as the Holiness Christian Church and composed of four conferences, one of which was the Indiana conference that sponsored a missionary work in Central America.

28. The Pentecostal Rescue Mission joined the International Holiness Church in March 1922, and became the New York District. It had originated at Binghamton, N. Y., in 1897, and

had spread until it included missions, rescue work, camp meetings, orphanage activities, churches, and a missionary work in Alaska.

29. In October 1922, the General Assembly, in special session, received *The Pilgrim Church* of California and adopted the name, *The Pilgrim Holiness Church*. The Pilgrim Church was first organized on May 27, 1917, as the Pentecost-Pilgrim Church in Pasadena, Calif. By 1922, a school known as Pilgrim Bible School had been established and a periodical was being published at Pasadena, Calif., and missionaries had been sent out to Mexico.

30. In 1924, a group of several churches known as the *Pentecostal Brethren in Christ* united with and became a part of the Ohio District of The Pilgrim Holiness Church.

31. In 1925, *The People's Mission Church*, with headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colo., became a part of The Pilgrim Holiness Church. It was the outgrowth of revival work that began in 1898 in Colorado Springs and spread through several surrounding states. A Bible school was operated, a periodical published, and a camp meeting maintained at Colorado Springs.

32. In 1946, *The Holiness Church* of California was received by the General Conference into The Pilgrim Holiness Church. This Church, which began in a revival movement in 1880 and was first known as The Holiness Bands, maintained a Bible school at El Monte, California, and a growing missionary work in Peru and Palestine.

33. *The Africa Evangelistic Mission*, with headquarters at Boksburg, Transvaal, South Africa, was received by The Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1962. The Mission carried on work organized into three districts, two of which were located in the Orange Free State and Transvaal in the Republic of South Africa, and a third district comprising extensive work in Mozambique.

34. The growth of The Pilgrim Holiness Church continued

through revival work and evangelism in greater measure than by the uniting of other bodies. An important turning point in the organizational structure was reached in 1930 when the General Assembly unified the administration of the denomination by providing for one general superintendent, one General Board, and a general headquarters at Indianapolis, Ind. In 1958 a plan for three general superintendents was inaugurated. In 1962 the General Conference, known until 1942 as the General Assembly, was designated as the International Conference in recognition of the growth and development of the overseas work.

35. The original purpose of the founders of The Pilgrim Holiness Church to promote worldwide holiness evangelism remained an indelible characteristic. Missionary work was carried on in many lands, and The Pilgrim Holiness Church extended beyond the United States and Canada to the following places: South Africa, including Natal, Transvaal, Cape Province, and Orange Free State; Swaziland; Mozambique; Zambia; the Caribbean area, including Grand Cayman, Jamaica, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Saba, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Barbuda, Barbados, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and Curacao; Guyana; Surinam; Brazil; Peru; Mexico; Philippine Islands; England.

#### F. The Formation of The Wesleyan Church

37. Merger between The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America was proposed at various times, and was voted upon by the General Conferences of the two bodies in 1958 and 1959, failing to pass in the Wesleyan Methodist General Conference by a margin of a single vote. In 1962, the General Conference of The Pilgrim Holiness Church took action expressing renewed interest in union with The Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1963, the General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church took like action, instructing its Committee on Church Union to pursue its work with all due diligence. On June 15, 1966, the Thirty-

Second General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church adopted The Basis for Merger and Constitution, and subsequently the annual conferences and local churches ratified the action. On June 16, 1966, the Twenty-Fifth International Conference of The Pilgrim Holiness Church also adopted The Basis for Merger and Constitution. Thus the formation of *The Wesleyan Church* was authorized. The General Board of The Pilgrim Holiness Church, and the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church cooperated in planning the uniting General Conference, and in preparing the new book of *Discipline* for its consideration. On June 26, 1968, The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America were united to form The Wesleyan Church. The Basis for Merger follows:

### The Basis for Merger

**I. Membership—Mutual Reception.** At the time of merger each person shall enter into the united church with the same membership status as he had in his church before merger. This provision shall also apply to those of ministerial status.

**II. *The Discipline*** shall contain three major divisions:

- (1) The Constitution
- (2) The Statutory Laws
- (3) The Ritual

The Constitution is herewith presented. The Statutory and Ritual portions of *The Discipline* may be amended or changed by a majority vote of the uniting General Conference and succeeding General Conferences.

**III.** There shall be provision for election of equal numbers of lay and ministerial representatives in the general and district conferences. The method of lay and ministerial representation shall be worked out.

**IV.** There shall be a general secretary and a general treasurer for the united church. These offices may be combined.

There shall be various general departments as determined by the General Conferences, and the head of each will be an executive officer.

V. Upon the vote of approval of merger by both denominations the General Board of The Pilgrim Holiness Church and the Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall serve as the planning and polity committee for the uniting conference.

VI. **Conference Boundaries.** All district boundaries shall be left as they are for the present (although this would, of course, involve overlapping jurisdiction for awhile), with the encouragement of the merged group to work out combinations which would be as favorable as possible to the work of the church in each locality.

There would be denominational and district committees to advise and help districts and local churches contemplating such combinations. The realignment of local church boundaries shall be by mutual consent. When merger of two or more churches is agreed upon, final approval shall be by the district or districts involved. In dealing with overlapping or duplication in district boundaries, ultimate realignment shall be subject to the action of the General Conference and shall recognize, insofar as is practicable, the expressed will of the districts involved. When two or more districts are involved in merger, final approval shall rest with the General Board of Administration.

VII. **College Control and Boundaries.** It is not the intention of the Joint Commission to recommend any scheme of reorganization and realignment of our existing educational institutions that will involve the arbitrary elimination of any one of them. As to the distribution of the districts into school areas, for the time being each district would remain in the school area of which it was a part before the merger. For the present this would involve overlapping territory, and the

united denomination may see fit to continue this policy of overlapping territory, minimizing the element of competition through the offering of complementary programs in the various institutions. But the denomination should encourage the development of combinations which would be as favorable as possible to the work of the Church.

The ultimate reorganization of the school areas should be subject to the action of the General Conference and should recognize insofar as is practicable, the expressed will of the district involved, and provide an equitable division of the membership of the Church among the schools of the Church. The organization of new districts after merger and their assignment to a school area would be subject to the direction of the General Conference, or at its direction to the General Board of Administration.

For better retention of ministerial talent the merged denomination may well decide to retain and utilize certain institutions of Bible college status and also to prosecute an active campaign to direct its students in theological seminary back into pastoral ministries. The essential spiritual tone of the colleges and schools must be a prime consideration. Expansion shall not be encouraged to the extent that non-spiritual faculty members are required or a preponderance of unsaved students are added to the student body.

Emphasis shall be placed upon spiritual values connected with the maintenance of a program of Christian education through the church-related academy.

**(The Basis for Merger shall be incorporated in The Discipline for three quadrennia after the uniting General Conference.)**

## Chapter II

### MISSION OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

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

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

## Chapter III

### CLASSIFICATION OF CHURCH LAW

#### A. Constitutional Law

91. The Constitution is the official document adopted in 1966, by both The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and The Pilgrim Holiness Church, to be the Constitution of The Wesleyan Church, which, as currently revised and amended, is contained in paragraphs 101-185 of *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

92. The Constitution states the doctrines, principles, and basic polity of The Wesleyan Church, and is the fundamental law of the Church. It or any of its parts can only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference and a two-thirds vote of all members of the several district conferences present and voting, as provided for in 185. Constitutional law, therefore, as currently revised and amended, has precedence over all other laws or official actions of any of the governing bodies or officers of The Wesleyan Church, and is the law to which all other legislative and official actions of any governing bodies or officers must conform.

#### B. Statutory Law

94. Statutory law consists of legislation passed by the General Conference by a majority vote, in fulfillment of its duties as set forth in the Constitution and in keeping with the provisions and restrictions of the Constitution, and printed by the order of the General Conference in *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church. Such statutory law is the authority for all of The Wesleyan Church, including its members, ministers, churches, districts, institutions, auxiliary organizations, corporations, general departments and offices, agencies, and any other official bodies of The Wesleyan Church. Statutory law re-

mains in effect until amended, rescinded, or declared unconstitutional.

95. All changes in or additions to the statutory laws take effect when *The Discipline* is published following the adjournment of the General Conference unless an earlier time is ordered by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference. The current edition of *The Discipline* is the only valid authority for statutory law recognized by The Wesleyan Church.

### C. Ritual

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

### D. The Basis for Merger

99. The Basis for Merger is an agreement entered into by The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America in 1966 for the purpose of uniting as one church (37). The Basis for Merger sets forth certain procedures and regulations for the effecting of the merger of the two bodies, and also contains certain provisions for *The Discipline*, the organization and government of the united church, certain rights and privileges of local churches, districts, and other constituent parts of the united church. Having been adopted together with the Constitution by the two churches, at the same time, in the same manner, and in accordance with their respective procedures for the adoption of fundamental or

constitutional law, the Basis for Merger supplements the Constitution during the transitional period of merger, including the merger of local churches, districts, and college areas. The Constitution shall be interpreted in the light of the Basis for Merger where it applies.

#### E. Current Authority

100. The current issue of *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church is the only valid authority for constitutional law, statutory law, and ritual for The Wesleyan Church.

## Chapter IV

# CONSTITUTION

### Preamble

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

102. The name of this communion is *The Wesleyan Church*.

### Article II. Articles of Religion

#### *I. Faith in the Holy Trinity*

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

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

#### *II. The Son of God*

104. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was con-

ceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very Man, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried—to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men, and to reconcile us to God. **Mark 15; Luke 1:27,31,35; John 1:14,18; 3:16-17; Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:10, 18; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:18-19; Gal. 1:4; 2:20;4:4-5; Eph. 5:2; I Tim. 1:15; Heb. 2:17; 7:27; 9:28; 10:12; I Peter 2:24; I John 2:2; 4:14.**

### *III. The Holy Ghost*

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

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

### *IV. The Resurrection of Christ*

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

**Ps. 16:8-10; Matt. 27:62-66; 28:5-9,16-17; Mark 16:6-7,12; Luke 24:4-8, 23; John 20:26-29; 21; Acts 1:2; 2:24-31; 10:40; Rom. 8:34; 14:9-10; I Cor. 15:6,14; Heb. 13:20.**

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

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

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms,

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The canonical books of the New Testament are:

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude, Revelation.

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

#### *VI. The Old Testament*

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

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

#### *VII. Relative Duties*

109. Those two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbors as ourselves, contain the sum of the divine law as it is revealed in the Scriptures: they are the measure and perfect rule of human duty, as well for the ordering and directing of families and nations, and all other social bodies, as for individual acts, by which we are required to acknowledge God as our

only Supreme Ruler, and all men as created by Him, equal in all natural rights. Wherefore all men are bound so to order all their individual and social and political acts as to render to God entire and absolute obedience, and to secure to all men the enjoyment of every natural right, as well as to promote the greatest happiness of each in the possession and exercise of such rights.

**Lev. 19:18,34; Deut. 1:15-17; II Sam. 23:3; Job 29:16; 31:13-14; Jer. 21:12; 22:3; Matt. 5:44-47; 7:12; Luke 6:27-29,35; John 13:34-35; Acts 10:34-35; 17:26; Rom. 12:9; 13:1,7-8,10; Gal. 5:14; 6:10; Titus 3:1; James 2:8; I Peter 2:17; I John 2:5; 4:12-13; II John 6.**

### VIII. *Original or Birth Sin*

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

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

### IX. *The Atonement*

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

**Luke 24:46-47; John 3:16; Acts 3:18; 4:12; Rom. 5:8-11,18-19; 8:34; I Cor. 6:11; 15:22; Gal. 2:16; 3:2-3; Eph. 1:7; 2:13,16; I Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 7:23-27; 9:11-15,24-28; 10:14.**

### X. *Free Will*

112. Man's creation in Godlikeness included ability to choose

between right and wrong. Thus man was made morally responsible for his choices. The condition of man since the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works to faith and calling upon God. Wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God without the grace of God by Christ working in us, that we may have a good will, and working with us when we have that good will. That the grace of God through Jesus Christ is bestowed upon all men, enabling all who will to turn and be saved is clearly taught in both the Old and New Testaments. It is possible that one who is in possession of the highest experience of grace may fall from grace, for there is no such height or strength of holiness from which it is impossible to fall. But by the grace of God one who has fallen into sin may by true repentance and faith find forgiveness and restoration.

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

### *XI. Justification of Man*

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

**Acts 13:38-39; 15:11; 16:31; Rom. 3:28; 4:2-5; 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 11.**

### *XII. Good Works*

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

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

### *XIII. Sin After Justification*

115. Not every sin willfully committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Spirit and unpardonable (Matt. 12:31-32). Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received this grace, we may depart therefrom and fall into sin, and by the grace of God rise again and amend our lives. Therefore, they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent (Mal. 3:7; Matt. 18:21-22; I John 1:9; 2:1).

### *XIV. Regeneration*

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

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

### *XV. Entire Sanctification*

117. Inward sanctification begins the moment one is justified. From that moment until a believer is entirely sanctified, he grows daily in grace and gradually dies to sin. Entire sanctification is effected by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which cleanses the heart of the child of God from all inbred sin through faith in Jesus Christ. It is subsequent to regeneration and is wrought instantaneously when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, and is thus enabled through His grace to love God with all the heart and to walk in all His holy commandments blameless. The crisis of cleansing is preceded and followed by growth in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

When man is fully cleansed from all sin he is endued with the power of the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of all to which he is called. The ensuing life of holiness is maintained by a continuing faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ, and is evidenced by an obedient life.

**Gen. 17:1; Deut. 30:6; Ps. 130:8; Ezek. 36:25-29; Matt. 5:48; Luke 1:74-75; 3:16-17; 24:49; John 17:2-23; Acts 1:5,8; 2:1-4; 15:8-9; Rom. 8:3-4; 11:26; 15:16; I Cor. 6:11; 14:20; Eph. 4:13,24; 5:25-27; Phil. 2:5,7; Col. 4:12; I Thess. 3:10; 4:3,7; 5:23; II Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 3:17; Titus 2:12; Heb. 9:13-14; 10:14,18-22; James 1:27; 4:8; I Peter 1:2,10; II Peter 1:4; I John 1:7,9; 3:8-9; 4:17-18; Jude 24.**

### *XVI. The Gifts of the Spirit*

118. The Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit himself. He is to be desired more than the gifts of the Spirit, or the supernatural endowments which the Spirit in His wise counsel bestows upon individual members of the Church to enable them properly to fulfill their function as members of the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit, although different from natural endowments, function through them for the edification of the whole Church. These gifts are to be exercised in love under the administration of the Lord of the Church, not through human volition. The relative value of the gifts of the Spirit is to be tested by their usefulness in the Church and not by the ecstasy produced in the ones receiving them.

**Luke 11:13; 24:49; Acts 2:38-39; 10:45; Rom. 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:4,11,18, 21-25,29-31; 13:1-13; Eph. 4:11-16.**

### *XVII. The Sacraments*

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

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

**Matt. 26:26-28; 28:19; Mark 14:22-24; Rom. 2:28-29; 4:11; I Cor. 10:16; 11:23-26; Gal. 3:27.**

XVIII. *Baptism*

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

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

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

XIX. *The Lord's Supper*

121. The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but 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.

**Luke 22:19-20; John 6:53,56; I Cor. 5:7-8; 10:3-4,16; 11:28.**

XX. *The Church*

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

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

The Wesleyan Church is a denomination consisting of those

members within district conferences and local churches who as members of the Body of Christ hold the faith set forth in these Articles and acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of its governing body.

**Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Acts 2:41-47; 7:38; 9:31; 11:22; 12:5; 14:23; 15:22; 20:28; I Cor. 12:28; 16:1; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:9-10,21; 5:22-33; Col. 1:18, 24; I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 12:23; James 5:14.**

### *XXI. The Second Coming of Christ*

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

**Job 19:25-27; Ps. 17:15; Isa. 11:1-12; Dan. 12:1-4; Zech. 14:1-11; Matt. 24:1-51; 26:64; Mark 13:26-37; Luke 17:26-37; 21:24-36; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; I Cor. 1:7-8; I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 9:27-28; James 5:7-8; II Peter 3:1-14; I John 3:2-3; Jude 14; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-16; 22:6-7,12,20.**

### *XXII. The Resurrection of the Dead*

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

**Job 19:25-27; Ps. 17:15; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 22:30-32; 28:1-20; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; Acts 23:6-8; Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 6:14; 15:1-58; II Cor. 4:14; 5:1-11; I Thess. 4:14-17; Rev. 20:4-6,11-13.**

### *XXIII. The Judgment of Mankind*

125. The Scriptures reveal God as the Judge of all mankind and the acts of His judgment to be based on His omniscience

and eternal justice. His administration of judgment will culminate in the final meeting of mankind before His throne of great majesty and power, where records will be examined and final rewards and punishments will be administered.

**Eccl. 12:14; Rom. 14:10-11; II Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:16; Matt. 10:15; Luke 11:31-32; Acts 10:42; II Tim. 4:1; Heb. 9:27; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-13; II Peter 3:7.**

#### XXIV. *Destiny*

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

**Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:34-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 13:3; John 8:21,23; 14:3; II Cor. 5:6,8,10; Heb. 2:1-3; 9:27-28; 10:26-31.**

#### Article III. General Rules

130. It is expected of those who are admitted to our churches that they should continue to evidence their desire for salvation, first by doing good, by being merciful after their power, as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible to all men, especially to them that are of the household of faith:

(1) To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison.

(2) To their souls, by instructing, reproving, or exhorting them in love with all possible diligence, that the gospel be not blamed. By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ.

131. It is expected of all who are admitted to our churches that they should further evidence their desire for salvation by continuing:

(1) To reverence the name of Deity and to observe the Lord's Day by divine worship and spiritual edification; and to avoid all unnecessary commerce, labors, travels, and pleasures, which do not contribute to the moral and spiritual ends of this Day.

(2) To abstain from the manufacture, sale, and use of alcoholic beverages and all harmful drugs.

(3) To abstain from the cultivation, manufacture, sale, and use of tobacco.

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

(5) To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in all transactions; to be faithful in all commitments; to contract obligations only with due care to fulfill them.

(6) To respect all duly constituted authority in the home, the church, and the state; except when to do so violates the clear teachings of the Scriptures.

(7) To strive together for the advancement of God's kingdom and for the mutual edification of fellow believers, in holiness, knowledge, and love; to walk together in Christian fellowship, in carefulness, giving and receiving admonition with meekness and affection; to pray one for the other; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy and to demonstrate purity, charity, and courtesy in all manner of conversation.

(8) To dress so as to adorn the gospel in the spirit of I Peter 3:3-4, and I Timothy 2:9-10, giving clear testimony to Christian purity and modesty by properly clothing the body and refraining from superfluous adornment.

(9) To recognize our responsibility to God and the Church by careful use of our time; to engage only in such activities as

may contribute to our spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical well-being and that of those who share in them (Col. 3:17).

(10) To make wise use of our material resources, ever mindful of our obligation to Christ's Church and the needs of our fellow men; exercising strict self-discipline in personal indulgences and demonstrating Christian liberality toward those whose distress we may help to alleviate, thus laying up treasure in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21).

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

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

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

(14) To observe 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*.

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

#### Article IV. Elementary Principles

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

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

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

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

139. 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.

140. The Church has a right to form and enforce such rules

and regulations only as are in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, and may be necessary or have a tendency to carry into effect the great system of practical Christianity.

141. 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.

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

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

#### Article V. Membership

145. 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.

146. The conditions of full membership are:

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

(2) Christian baptism.

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

(4) A covenant to support the Church, to live in fellowship

with the members thereof, and to seek God's glory in all things.

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

147. The rights of full membership are:

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

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

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

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

(5) A member in good standing in any Wesleyan church is entitled to membership privileges in any Wesleyan church to which he may wish to transfer his membership, subject to 146:5.

148. 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

150. The General Conference shall from time to time enact provisions for the training, qualification, and ordination of the

ministry. Every Wesleyan minister must be a member of some Wesleyan church, and each elder must be a member of a district. An elder is a minister of the gospel fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

151. The constitutional rights of ministers in The Wesleyan Church if not under discipline shall include the following:

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

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

(3) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the other provisions of this Constitution (151:6; 160:1-2).

(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 district conference.

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

(6) To transfer in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent and the general superintendent of the area in whose bounds the district to which he seeks to transfer is located.

(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

### Local

155. 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 district 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 appoint an officer or declare an office vacant. This right belongs to the church alone, and vests severally in each local church.

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

(7) To be represented in the voting membership of its district 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, or district, or general units or agencies of the denomination. This right vests severally in each local church.

#### District

158. The General Conference shall organize the work at large into districts, 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 superannuated lists; all licensed ministers

elected to elders' orders; all licensed ministers serving as pastors of organized Wesleyan churches; lay delegates elected by organized Wesleyan churches as provided in *The Discipline*. In addition the district 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 district conference shall be maintained.

159. In transacting the business of the district 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.

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

(1) The right to take charge of all the ministers and churches within its bounds, as modified by 176:3e [except such of the general officers of the Church as the General Conference shall define who shall be amenable to the General Board of Administration for their official conduct and to their districts for their moral character, and except the district superintendent who shall be amenable both to the district and to the General Board of Administration], and subject to the right of the ministers and churches to enter into pastoral engagements for one year from the next session of the district conference, or to contract the pastoral relationship at any time during the interval of the district conference when this does not interrupt any arrangement which was sanctioned by the district conference at its previous session.

(2) To alter the agreement entered into by any pastor and charge, or veto the action of the church and appoint another pastor on said charge when it deems this to be for the best interest of the charge or pastor involved or when the general

interest of the work of the district would be better served by such change; and the said church or charge shall receive the pastor appointed by the district conference, provided that any such alteration of a previous arrangement between a pastor and church shall be separately reported and passed by vote of the district conference to be effective.

(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 add to or take from any provision of the Constitution or of *The Discipline*, and provided further that if three members of a district shall take exception to its action on the ground that it violates this restriction, they may make an appeal therefrom through the channels prescribed by *The Discipline*.

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

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

(9) To be represented in the lay and ministerial voting mem-

bership of the General Conference, if not under discipline.

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

### General

**165. General Conference Membership.** The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of elders and laymen elected by the several districts, and each district superintendent and a lay delegate elected on his behalf; 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.

### 166. General Conference Delegates.

(1) Each district, 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 the 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 district which elected them.

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

### 167. 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. How-

ever, in case of emergency the General 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 districts shall request it, or the General 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 session of each district conference.

**168. General Conference Presidency.** The various sittings of the General Conference shall be presided over by the general superintendents 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.

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

**170. 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 districts to form a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, until a quorum is obtained.

**171. 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.

**172. General Board of Administration.**

(1) There shall be a General Board of Administration to carry out the will of the General Conference during the quadren-

nium. Such Board shall be composed of the general superintendent(s) and such other general officers as shall be elected by the General Conference together with 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 such representative members shall be determined by the action of the General Conference.

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

### **173. The General Superintendency.**

(1) The General Conference shall elect by ballot from among the elders one or more general superintendents, who shall be considered as the general spiritual and administrative leaders of the Church.

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

(3) The general superintendents shall preside over the sittings of the General Conference and over the district conferences assigned to their supervision. At the district conference over which a general superintendent is presiding, the district superintendent shall serve by being seated at the presiding officer's table to advise and assist in the chairmanship. In the event a general superintendent is unable to be present at a district conference to serve as chairman, it is the duty of the district superintendent to preside or to take the responsibility for the same unless the district conference invites the general representative to perform these duties.

(4) Further duties of the general superintendent(s) shall be defined by the General Conference.

**Article VIII. Powers and Restrictions  
of the General Conference**

**176.** The General Conference shall have full power:

(1) To designate a criterion for parliamentary procedure for itself and for the other bodies of The Wesleyan Church.

(2) To elect its officers and the general officials of the Church and to define their duties and responsibilities, and these general officers so designated together with the district superintendents shall be amenable to the General Board of Administration for their official duties.

(3) To make and administer rules and regulations for The Wesleyan Church subject to the Constitution and the following restrictions:

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

(b) It shall 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.

(c) It shall make no rule that shall deny any church the right to receive, discontinue, or expel its own members subject to their right of appeal; or to elect and remove its own officers; or that shall deny to the district conference the final disposition of all pastoral arrangements, except those districts in which the General Conference or the General Board of Administration has transferred the supervision to a related

executive secretary or a general superintendent, or that shall deny to preachers and churches initial negotiations concerning the same.

(d) 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.

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

(f) 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**

**180.** 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.

**181.** 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 of 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 a district 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 districts upon appeal by a two-thirds vote of a district that claims it has a grievance against another district.

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

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

182. 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

185. Upon the recommendation of a two-thirds vote of all members of the several district conferences who are present and vote on a proposed change of any matter involving the Constitution, the next ensuing General Conference may by a two-thirds vote ratify the same and it shall become constitutional law. Also, when the General Conference shall originate and recommend by a two-thirds vote any such change, as soon as all members of the several district conferences present and voting shall have concurred by a two-thirds plurality, the same shall be declared constitutional law.

## Chapter V

### SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

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

#### A. Christian Social Concern

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

(1) **Equal Rights.** The Wesleyan Church upholds the right of all individuals to equal opportunity politically, economically, and religiously, and pledges itself to an active effort to bring about the possession of dignity and happiness by all men everywhere (cf. 109; 130; 131:4; 176:3d).

(2) **Peace.** The Wesleyan Church, knowing that war results in great suffering for the bodies, minds, and souls of men, staggering economic loss with its legacy of debt for future

generations, and the unleashing of the baser passions of life, urges that men and nations seek by every legitimate means to avoid armed conflict among the peoples and nations of the world. The Wesleyan Church also urges that holy men everywhere pray earnestly for those in authority, so that peace may prevail (I Tim. 2:2), and for the quick return of the Prince of Peace.

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

(4) **Prohibition.** The Wesleyan Church seeks the prohibition by law of the manufacture, sale, purchase, and use of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, and other harmful drugs, unless for mechanical, chemical, or medicinal purposes (cf. 131:2).

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

(6) **Merchandising on the Lord's Day.** The Wesleyan Church opposes the legalization of merchandising on the Lord's Day (cf. 131:1).

(7) **Religion in Public Life.** The Wesleyan Church, believing that it is possible to allow recognition of God and the invoking of His aid in public functions without violating the Constitution of the United States, advocates the enactment of suitable

legislation by the Congress which will strengthen the present provision for the free exercise of religion in national life and allow reference to, or the invoking of the aid of God, in any governmental or public document, proceeding, activity, ceremony, or institution. The Wesleyan Church further affirms its belief in the public school's duty to do full justice to the large place of the Judeo-Christian tradition in our American heritage, and its conviction that the Bible is an appropriate book for reading in the public schools and that the right of students to pray should not be abridged.

(8) **Public School Activities.** The Wesleyan Church protests the inclusion of such questionable items as social dancing in the public school curriculum and maintains the right of its members to seek exemption from participation by their children in all matters that are contrary to Scriptural doctrines and principles as expressed in the Articles of Religion, General Rules, or Elementary Principles of The Wesleyan Church, without prejudice to academic standing.

(9) **Judicial Oaths.** The Wesleyan Church reserves for its members the right to affirm the truth in testimony before the civil and criminal courts rather than to engage in a judicial oath.

### **B. Christian Worship and Fellowship**

189. **Rites and Ceremonies of Churches.** True religion does not consist in any ritual observances such as forms or ceremonies, even of the most excellent kind, be they ever so decent and significant, ever so expressive of inward things. The religion of Christ rises infinitely higher and lies infinitely deeper than all these. Let no man conceive that rites and ceremonies have any intrinsic worth, or that true worship cannot subsist without them. Therefore, it is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same or exactly alike, for they have always been different and may be changed according to the diversities of countries, times, and customs,

provided that nothing be ordained against God's Word.

**Acts 15:10,28-29; Romans 14:2-6,15,17,21; I Cor. 1:10; 12:25; 14:26; II Cor. 13:11; Gal. 5:1,13; Col. 2:16-17; II Thess. 3:6,14; I Tim. 1:4,6; I Pet. 2:16.**

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

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

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

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

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

Within the bounds of Christian liberty, there will be differences of opinion. In such cases, the believer seeks to avoid

offending his brother. The stronger brother is mindful of the opinions of the one with a weaker conscience (I Cor. 8 and 10), and is careful not to put a stumblingblock in his brother's way (I Cor. 10:24; Gal. 5:13). On the other hand, the weak does not criticize the strong (I Cor. 10:29-30), for the conscience of the weak may need instruction.

The recognition and exercise of that liberty which Christ affords will glorify God and promote the unity of the Church.

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

### C. Christian Stewardship

**195. Meaning of Stewardship.** The Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and all things, that men are His stewards of both life and possessions, that God's ownership and man's stewardship ought to be acknowledged, and that men shall be held personally accountable to God for the exercise of their stewardship (cf. 131:10). God, as a God of system and order in all of His ways, has established a system of giving which acknowledges His ownership and man's stewardship. To this end all His children should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support of the gospel.

**196. Storehouse Tithing.** Storehouse tithing is a Scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing

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

**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; Acts 4:34-35; 6:1-3; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:13-14; Heb. 7:1-2,6,9.**

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

**198. Wills, Bequests, and Annuities.** It is essential in the exercise of Christian stewardship that careful thought be given as to what shall be done with one's estate after death. Civil laws often do not provide for the distribution of an estate in such a way as to glorify God. Each Christian should give careful attention to the preparation of his last will and testament in a careful and legal manner, and The Wesleyan Church and its various ministries through the local church, the district, world missions, extension and evangelism, education, and benevolences is recommended for consideration. The general director of stewardship is prepared to assist in these matters (763:19; 767:2; 1325; 1469).

## PART II.

# LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

### Chapter I

## LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

### A. Function of Local Churches

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

### B. Types of Organization

#### 1. Mission

203. A special evangelistic, rescue, or missionary work which cannot appropriately be organized as a pioneer church or church shall be carried on as a mission. A mission may be conducted by an established church subject to the approval of the district board of administration (274:15), by a district (473:25; 486:27), or by the General Department of Extension and Evangelism. It shall not maintain a membership roll, nor receive members.

#### 2. Pioneer Church

205. A new work, or a work which does not meet the requirements for an established church (209), shall be organized

as a pioneer church. It shall be authorized by the district conference (473:25) or the district board of administration (486:27; cf. 404), and shall be governed as follows:

(1) The pastor shall be selected by the district board of administration, and appointed by the district conference, except in the interim of district conference sessions when the district board of administration shall have full power of appointment.

(2) A membership roll shall be maintained, ordinarily for one to eleven members. Candidates for membership shall be examined and recommended by the pastor until such a time as a local advisory council is formed and assumes this duty; and their reception shall be authorized by the district superintendent (511:15).

(3) As soon as qualified members are available, the district superintendent, in cooperation with the pastor, shall appoint a secretary-treasurer and a Sunday school superintendent, who together with the pastor as chairman shall form a local advisory council (cf. 325; 1216:3; 1242:4; 1276:4). They shall exercise the duties and powers of a local church board (316), making all recommendations to the district superintendent or the district board of administration instead of to a local church conference (511:15). All investments in land, buildings, and equipment (486:30; 1421-1422), matters involving employed staff, and other major decisions must be authorized by the district board of administration; and all actions of the local advisory council shall be subject to the review and approval of the district board of administration (486:28). The local advisory council shall be responsible to assist the district superintendent in qualifying the church as quickly as possible for organization as an established church.

(4) All property of a pioneer church shall be held by the district, with titles secured as given in 1422.

(5) A pioneer church shall have no lay representation in the district conference.

### 3. Pastoral Charge

207. A pastoral charge may consist of a single church, or of two or more churches designated by the district conference as a circuit; is supplied as a regular pastoral appointment by the district conference; and transacts business through a local conference of the full members. The constitutional rights of a pastoral charge are given in 155. If the district conference desires to appoint a minister to serve two or more churches that shall continue as separate pastoral charges, it may appoint him as pastor of one church and supply pastor of the other (1158-1159).

#### a. Church

209. **Authorization for Organization.** The organization of a pioneer church as a fully established church, or of a group of believers who have applied to a district superintendent for organization as a Wesleyan church, empowering it to assemble for business as a local church conference and to elect a local church board, and investing it with all the rights, powers, and duties of a local church as given in the Constitution (155) and as set forth elsewhere in *The Discipline*, may be authorized by the district board of administration and effected by the district superintendent when it meets these requirements:

(1) Twelve or more persons who are full members or are approved and ready to be received as full members when the organization shall be effected. An established church shall be reclassified as a pioneer church if its full membership drops to ten or fewer (cf. 473:25; 486:27; 1531).

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

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

(4) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church as required in 1418, or steps taken to accomplish the same (1425).

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

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

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

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

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

Answer. "I am."

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

Answer. "I will."

(4) A declaration made by the presiding officer:

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

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

(6) The report of the organization by the district superintendent to the next regular session of the district board of administration, and to the next regular session of the district conference (473:25; 511:14).

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

#### b. Circuit

**212. Relationship of Circuit and Church.** A circuit is a pastoral charge in which a district conference has grouped two or more local churches under one pastor, and designated them as a circuit, with business to be transacted by a circuit conference. Each church on the circuit shall be organized and shall conduct its business according to the regulations for an established church, and shall exercise its constitutional rights to receive, expel, and discontinue its members, to elect its own officers and trustees, and to have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in matters of controversy between itself and other units or agencies of The Wesleyan Church (155:1,5,6,8). The circuit shall exercise all of the constitutional rights of a pastoral charge which are not reserved to the local church (155:2-4,7), and take charge of all matters of circuit business

as given in 213-216.

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

(1) To call the pastor and set the terms of his service (155:2; 278-292).

(2) To license local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses; and to recommend local preachers, deaconesses, and special workers to the district conference for study and for license (155:3-4).

(3) To elect lay delegates to the district conference (155:7; 442-445).

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

(5) To determine all matters involving two or more of the churches on the circuit, including the authorization of transactions involved in the purchase, erection, encumbrance, sale, or other disposition of a circuit parsonage or other property (1437-1439).

**214. Circuit Advisory Council.** The circuit advisory council shall direct circuit affairs between sessions of the circuit conference, bearing the same relationship to the circuit conference that the local church board bears to the local church conference (316). It shall consist of the pastor as chairman, the circuit secretary as secretary, the chairman of the circuit board of trustees, the treasurer of each local church, and such other representatives as the circuit conference shall determine are

needed to assure proper representation. It shall elect one of its members as vice-chairman, and shall meet at least quarterly at such time and place as it shall determine. It shall nominate the pastor, make recommendations on all matters over which the circuit conference has authority, and carry out and administer the decisions of the circuit conference.

**215. Circuit Trustees.** The circuit board of trustees shall consist of three to five members elected by the circuit conference. They shall organize themselves and carry on their work under the direction of the circuit advisory council in the same manner as the board of trustees for a local church (348-351), except that they shall have jurisdiction only over that property owned by the circuit, such as the circuit parsonage (cf. 1437-1439).

**216. Circuit Committees.** The circuit advisory council may appoint such committees as are necessary to the proper conduct of circuit affairs, including a nominating committee to nominate the circuit officers (cf. 331-332).

#### **4. Local Churches in a Pioneer Area**

**218.** Missions, pioneer churches, churches, and circuits located in pioneer areas shall be authorized, organized, and governed according to the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Extension and Evangelism, which shall be in harmony with *The Discipline* (cf. 1451).

## Chapter II

### MEMBERSHIP

#### A. Categories of Membership

##### 1. Full Membership

226. Those persons shall be admitted to full membership in The Wesleyan Church who meet the conditions set forth in the Constitution (146:1-5).

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

(2) Candidates for full membership who have satisfactorily passed the local church board's examination, shall be voted upon by the local church conference unless the local church conference has delegated this right to the local church board (146:5; 274:1). It shall require a majority vote of those present and voting to receive, and if objections are urged against the reception of a member, it shall require a three-fourths vote of those present and voting.

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

227. The rights of full membership are set forth in the

Constitution (147). No full member shall be transferred to any other category of membership except at the specific written request for, or written agreement to such relationship, by the person involved. Any full member charged with failure to uphold the Articles of Religion or to observe the General Rules must be dealt with by judiciary process as given in *The Discipline* (1501-1519).

## 2. Preparatory Membership

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

230. A preparatory member shall have all the rights of a full member except to vote and to hold office (cf. 147). Preparatory membership shall be for not less than three months nor for more than one year. It shall be the duty of the pastor and the local church board to assist a preparatory member in qualifying for full membership. At the end of a year, the preparatory member must either qualify for full membership, being received into full membership as given in 226, or by vote of the local church board he shall be transferred to the associate membership list or be dropped from the roll, unless the local church board shall by vote extend the time. A transfer to the associate list will not require any further public confession.

## 3. Junior Membership

231. Those children and youth thirteen years of age and

under, who have been saved from their sins, shall be received promptly after their conversion as junior members. The local church board, having provided for their examination concerning their Christian experience and their intention to develop toward spiritual maturity, may, if satisfied, receive them by majority vote. Junior members shall be formally received according to the manner given in 1628ff.

**232.** A junior member shall have all the rights of a full member except to vote and to hold office (cf. 147). He may become a full member at any time he is qualified and received as given in 226. If a junior member has not qualified for full membership by his thirteenth birthday, every effort shall be made by the pastor and the local church board during the following year to prepare him for full membership. When he is fourteen, he must either become a full member, or by vote of the local church board he shall be transferred to the associate membership list. A transfer to the associate list will not require any further public confession.

#### **4. Associate Membership**

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

**234.** An associate member shall have all the rights of a full member except to vote and to hold office (cf. 147). An associate

member may become a full member at any time he is qualified and received as given in 226.

### **B. Reception of Members**

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

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

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

### **C. Transfer of Membership**

243. When any full member, preparatory member, junior member, or associate member shall request a letter of transfer to another Wesleyan church, the pastor and local church secretary shall grant it on the proper form as given in 1801-1803, providing the member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Both pastor and secretary shall sign the letter, and shall send it by registered or certified mail to the pastor and

local church secretary of the church to which the member is transferring. The letter shall be presented to the local church board of the receiving church at its next session, but not later than thirty days from the date of issuance, and acted upon in the manner indicated in 244. When the member has been duly received, the second part of the form shall be completed by the receiving church and forwarded to the church granting the transfer. The date the return letter is received shall mark the expiration of membership in the church granting the letter, and in the official membership record the local church secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date, and *Withdrawn by letter of transfer.*

244. The receiving church shall handle transfers as follows:

(1) Preparatory, junior, and associate members shall be received without action by the receiving local church board or local church conference.

(2) Full members shall be received, subject to the approving vote of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated this right to the local church board (146:5). The transfer of full membership may be questioned by the receiving church if it is evident that the person involved is not in a state of grace or is living in open violation of the Articles of Religion or the General Rules.

(3) The membership of a pastor, and of such members of his family as so desire and have the proper credentials, shall be automatically transferred to the church to which he is appointed, or if the pastoral charge consists of more than one church, to the church of his choice.

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

#### D. Termination of Membership

247. Full membership in The Wesleyan Church may be

terminated only by one or more of the following (148):

- (1) Voluntary withdrawal.
- (2) Joining another religious body, or joining a secret order.
- (3) Expulsion after proper trial and conviction (1578:5).
- (4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined in 253-254.
- (5) Death.

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

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

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

251. When any member joins another denomination, or other religious body exercising the functions of a church, or a secret society, no trial is necessary to remove such a member. The pastor, having investigated and ascertained the facts, shall

report the same to the next session of the local church board, and upon the board's order the local church secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the session and, *Withdrawn through having joined another body.*

252. When any member moves away from the church of which he is a member, and it is evident that distance will not permit his full and regular participation in the life of the church, the pastor shall encourage him to transfer his membership to the Wesleyan church nearest his new residence. To that end, the pastor shall notify the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism of the name and address of the member (cf. 837:20).

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

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

board. The secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the vote and, *Discontinued by vote for persistent neglect.*

#### **E. Record of Membership**

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

## Chapter III

### LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

#### A. Composition and Function

261. The full members of a local church, duly called and assembled together to do business, constitute the local church conference. It is the highest governing body of a local Wesleyan church, and exercises those powers granted to the local church by the Constitution (155), and other powers specifically granted to the local church conference by the General Conference as set forth in *The Discipline*.

#### B. Sessions

##### 263. Regular Sessions.

(1) **Annual Sessions.** The local church conference shall meet annually, near the close of the fiscal year, as established by the district conference (473:19), at least thirty days prior to the annual session of the district conference, at a time arranged by the district superintendent and the pastor and announced from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance. (Cf. 267.) Reports shall be made by all the officers and departments of the church; the officers, local church board, trustees, and delegates to the district conference shall be elected; and such other business shall be transacted as necessary (cf. 272).

(2) **Quarterly Sessions.** The local church conference may choose to meet quarterly at such times as the district superintendent and pastor shall arrange, unless the district superintendent shall delegate full authority for setting such dates to the pastor in writing. Such quarterly sessions shall be announced from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when

such is available, at least two weeks in advance of the appointed time. One of the quarterly sessions shall coincide with the annual session described in 263:1, at which time the elections shall be held. At the three other sessions, reports shall be given and other business transacted as necessary (cf. 272).

#### **265. Special Session.**

(1) **General Business.** The local church conference may be called into special session by the pastor, or in times of emergency by the district superintendent, for the transaction of any business other than the election of officers, with announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be given not less than one week before the appointed time. Notice shall also be given one week in advance in the church bulletin, when such is available. The requirements for special sessions dealing with legal or property matters are set forth in 1431:1.

(2) **Reception of Members.** In those churches in which the local church conference must vote on the reception of full members (146:5), the pastor may call a special session for such a vote, with announcement from the pulpit in one regular service in advance of the appointed time.

(3) **Pastoral Vote.** The vice-chairman of the local church board (310), when authorized to do so by the local church board, and having notified the district superintendent, may call a special session of the local church conference to vote on the call or recall of a pastor, with announcement from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance of the appointed time, except that during negotiations for calling a new pastor the announcement need be made only from the pulpit and in only one regular service in advance of the appointed time.

## C. Organization and Procedure

### 1. Officers

**267. Chairman.** The district superintendent or his representative shall preside over the local church conference whenever present. In their absence, the pastor shall preside, except over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a pastor. The vice-chairman of the local church board (310) shall preside over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a pastor, if the district superintendent or his representative is not present, and may preside, at the pastor's option, over sessions or portions of sessions dealing with salary schedules which affect the pastor. In emergencies, when the pastor is absent or incapacitated, the vice-chairman may preside over other sessions with the written permission of the district superintendent.

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

### 2. Procedure

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

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

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

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

the church, including the following items:

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

#### D. Duties and Powers

274. The local church conference has duties and powers:

- (1) To approve by vote the reception of full members and to expel or to discontinue full members unless it delegates full authority concerning membership to the local church board (146:5; 155:1). Such authority may be withdrawn from the local church board at any annual session of the local church conference.
- (2) To call or recall a pastor (155:2; 279:1; 296), or to terminate a recall (292:2-3).

(3) To authorize a nominating committee, which shall be chaired by the pastor, to which the local church board shall elect three members, and to which the local church conference may, at its option, elect three additional members (331-332).

(4) To elect the church officers, which shall consist of the lay leader (if any), the local church secretary, the local church treasurer, the Sunday school superintendent, the trustees, members at large of the local church board, and lay delegates to the district conference (155:5-7).

(5) To receive reports from the pastor(s), church officers, local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, and other persons, boards, and committees as desired, and as listed in 272:2-5.

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

(7) To license local preachers and exhorters (155:3), and deaconesses, and to renew or revoke such licenses. (Cf. 316:19; 1106; 1107; 1109:2; 1182).

(8) To recommend local licentiates and special workers to the district conference for study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing (537:2), and for district license (155:4). (Cf. 316:20.)

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

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

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

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

(13) To authorize the purchase or sale of property, the

erection or major remodeling of buildings, and all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property, subject to the prior approval of the district board of administration, according to the procedure set forth in 1431-1434.

(14) To petition the district board of administration for the incorporation of the local church when it is deemed necessary as set forth in 1301, and to authorize the local church board to incorporate the church when such incorporation has been approved by the district board of administration (486:30).

(15) To authorize, subject to the approval of the district board of administration, the establishment and operation of a mission (cf. 203; 316:5; 486:27), a branch Sunday school, or a pioneer church, in order to share the benefits of the gospel with others.

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

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

(18) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other local, or district, or general units or agencies of the denomination (155:8; 1525:4; 1530:1; 1543:1).

## **Chapter IV**

### **PASTORS**

#### **A. Function**

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

#### **B. Manner of Pastoral Voting**

##### **1. Jurisdiction in Pastoral Voting**

278. All matters related to voting on securing or retaining a pastor are the concern of a pastoral charge (207), whether it consist of a single church or a circuit. In most instances, a pastoral charge will consist of one local church, and the following paragraphs are so written. If a circuit is involved, the vice-chairman of the circuit advisory council (214) assumes leadership in all negotiations, the circuit advisory council fills the role of the local church board, and the circuit conference rather than the local church conference votes the call or recall.

##### **2. Regulations for All Pastoral Voting**

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

(1) All pastoral votes shall be taken at a duly announced session of the local church conference (263-265).

(2) The district superintendent or his representative shall preside over the local church conference for the taking of the

pastoral vote. If neither can be present, the vice-chairman of the local church board (310) shall preside.

(3) All pastoral votes shall be taken by secret ballot, with special provision for absentee ballots (280).

(4) A favorable vote by a majority of the local church conference present and voting shall constitute a call, recall, or vote of confidence, as the case may be.

(5) The minister shall be notified in writing by the local church secretary of the results of the vote, and, if the vote is favorable, of the support (including salary, expense allowances, housing, fringe benefits, moving expenses) and related matters which the church proposes to maintain.

(6) If the vote is favorable, the minister shall notify the local church board and the district superintendent in writing of his decision within two weeks.

**280. Absentee Ballots.** A full member who cannot attend a pastoral-vote session of the local church conference because of confining illness, required employment, or necessary out-of-town travel, may cast an absentee ballot subject to the following conditions:

(1) He shall secure a standard ballot from the local church secretary, identical to the ballots to be used at the session, and submit the marked ballot prior to the session in a sealed envelope identified with the name of the absent member.

(2) The local church secretary must certify the envelope as being submitted by a member to whom he has supplied a ballot, and who is eligible to cast an absentee ballot.

(3) Envelopes containing such absentee ballots shall be opened at the session in which the vote is taken, by the secretary in the presence of the chairman, prior to the tallying of the vote, and ballots placed without inspection with the others for counting by the tellers.

**281. District Approval of Pastoral Agreement.** A pastoral

agreement, whether for an initial call or a recall, must be reviewed and recommended by the district board of administration, and becomes final upon the approval of the district conference. Each year the district board of administration shall review those pastoral agreements which are continuing before making its report to the district conference (473:27; 486:9).

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

**283. Annual Review of Pastoral Support.** The pastor's financial support and related matters shall be reviewed annually by the local church board prior to the annual session of the local church conference, whether or not a vote is being taken on the securing or retaining of a pastor. If salary schedules previously adopted by the local church conference must be amended before necessary improvements are made, the local church board shall make appropriate recommendations. A report of the final action, whether by the local church board or by the local church conference, shall be sent by the local church secretary in writing to both the pastor (or pastor-elect, cf. 279:5) and the district superintendent.

### 3. Regulations for Initial Call of Pastor

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

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

(2) The local church board, under the leadership of its vice-chairman, shall counsel with the district superintendent concerning possible candidates. If the church desires to call

a minister from another district, the local church board shall first secure from its own district superintendent and general superintendent assurance that his transfer would be approved (cf. 151:6).

(3) When a candidate has been approved by a majority vote of the local church board, his name shall be presented as a nomination to the local church conference, and the vote shall be taken in keeping with the regulations governing all pastoral voting (279).

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

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

**287. First-Year Removal.** If during the first year of a pastor's service, a meeting of the local church board presided over by the district superintendent shall so request by a two-thirds majority vote, or if, upon the recommendation of the

district superintendent, the district board of administration deems it in the best interests of the work, the district board of administration may remove a pastor by a two-thirds majority vote.

**288. Ad Interim Procedures.** If a pastoral charge is left without a pastor between sessions of the district conference due to death, resignation, or removal, the local church board and the local church conference shall follow the regular procedures for securing a new pastor with all arrangements subject to the approval of the district board of administration.

#### **4. Regulations for Recall of Pastor**

**290. Procedure for Recall of a Pastor.** Whenever a pastor's term of service is expiring, the matter of a recall shall be governed by the following regulations:

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

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

#### **291. Special Regulations for Extended Call.**

(1) When a pastor is serving for an extended period, he may, when he deems it advisable and when approval has been granted by the district superintendent, ask the local church board to conduct a vote by the local church conference on renewing the extended call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 279.

(2) When a pastor is serving for an extended period, the

district superintendent shall review the pastoral agreement with the local church board biennially to determine whether or not to order a vote by the local church conference on renewing the extended call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 279.

**292. Termination of Recall.** The service of a pastor ministering under recall may be terminated prior to the expiration of his term or in the interim of biennial reviews of an extended call (291:2) in one of three ways:

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

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

(3) The district board of administration may, by a majority

vote, order the district superintendent to conduct a pastoral vote of confidence in keeping with 279. Or the district board of administration, upon the recommendation of the district superintendent (511:19), and for the sake of the pastoral charge involved, may remove the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote (486:34), with his services terminating in ninety days unless ordered otherwise by the district board of administration. If at any time the district board of administration shall deem it in the interests of the district as a whole that the pastor be free to serve elsewhere, it may by majority vote request him to resign.

### C. Duties and Powers

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

#### General

- (1) To devote himself diligently to the study of the Scriptures, to prayer, and to the work assigned to him.
- (2) To seek, by all means, the conversion of sinners, the sanctification of believers, and the upbuilding of God's people in the most holy faith.
- (3) To pray to God for and with his flock.
- (4) To feed the flock by reading, expounding, teaching, and preaching the Word.
- (5) To have the general guidance, under the Holy Spirit, of the religious services, including the midweek service, cultivating the practice of corporate worship.
- (6) To administer, if an elder (151:1) or licensed minister (1114:1), the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Each pastor shall provide for the observance of the Lord's Supper at least once every three months. A supply pastor shall secure the services of an elder, or of a licensed minister who

is a pastor, for such observance.

(7) To solemnize, if an elder (151:1) or licensed minister (1114:1), the rite of matrimony, in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* (131:14; 1130); to counsel with those being married and those already married, emphasizing the spiritual values in all phases of marital and parental life, seeking to develop the spiritual ideals and resources necessary to build permanent unions and godly homes.

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

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

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

(11) To be responsible for the instruction of all prospective members in the doctrines and polity of The Wesleyan Church, and in the meaning and purpose of church membership, holding or arranging for membership classes for preparatory and junior members that they might be adequately prepared for full membership (cf. 239-240; 316:7; 363:11; 894:5).

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

(13) To report the names and addresses of members who have moved away to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (252).

(14) To grant, in conjunction with the local church secretary, letters of transfer, recommendation, or withdrawal (243; 249; 250; 1801-1805).

(15) To receive any complaint or accusation against any member of a church under his care, and to give such his prompt and careful attention as required under the Judiciary

(1515:1, 4; 1552), and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the local church board for disposition (316:11).

### **Administrative**

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

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

(18) To meet with Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and Wesleyan Youth and any of their committees as he deems best and to call a special meeting of an auxiliary or any of its committees; to serve as an ex officio member of the executive committees of the auxiliaries (1216:1; 1242:1; 1276:1), and as chairman of the nominating committees of the auxiliaries (1216:4; 1242:5; 1276:5).

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

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

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

(22) To promote stewardship, emphasizing tithing and the

storehouse plan as a part of the Christian's total stewardship (cf. 195-198), and to see that tithes and free will offerings are collected regularly.

(23) To see that trustees are elected and all church property properly secured according to *The Discipline* and the local laws, with all legal papers submitted to the district superintendent for approval.

(24) To see that no steps are taken involving a church under his care in financial liability without proper authorization from the local church board and local church conference, or without the approval of the district board of administration when such financial liability involves the mortgaging or other encumbering of the church property (274:12-13; 316:30-31; 486:30).

(25) To see that all property and building transactions are carried out as set forth in 1431-1434.

(26) To circulate holiness literature, promoting all subscription campaigns for *The Wesleyan Advocate* and other official general church or district periodicals, setting a proper example with his own subscriptions; and to use in all educational departments and agencies curriculum materials provided by The Wesleyan Church.

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

(28) To enlist youth for the gospel ministry, and for missionary, deaconess, and other special work, encouraging and helping them to prepare for their God-appointed task at educational institutions provided by The Wesleyan Church; to sign, in conjunction with the local church secretary (337:3), licenses for local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, granted by the

local church conference (274:7; 316:19); and to have the oversight over all local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, employing their services as constantly and effectively as possible.

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

(30) To see that up-to-date files are kept on the church constituency, membership, Sunday school enrollment, the membership of subsidiary organizations, and subscriptions to the various general church and district publications, and to be ready to turn over such lists to his successor (cf. 256; 337:2, 5; 370; 388; 1217:4; 1243:4; 1277:4).

(31) To see that adequate historical records and financial records are maintained for the church (cf. 256; 345:2, 6; 371; 1217:5; 1243:5; 1277:5).

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

(33) To attend district conference sessions, institutes and conventions planned for his edification by the general church or the district, and to participate in the life and work of the district and the general church as opportunity affords.

#### D. Associate and Assistant Pastors

296. Associate Pastor. If two ministers are appointed to one

pastoral charge, whether a husband and wife or other collaborators, one shall be designated as the pastor and the other as the associate pastor. Or if a local church calls a minister to assist its pastor, and the minister being called has training, experience, and ministerial standing comparable to those of the pastor, it may choose to call him as an associate pastor and ask the district conference to appoint him as such. An associate pastor shall be called and recalled in the same manner as a pastor (278-292; 294:29), and shall assist the pastor in carrying out his duties as the pastor and the local church board shall determine.

**297. Assistant Pastor.** A local church may employ such ministers as assistant pastors as are necessary and as it can properly support. The employment of an assistant pastor shall be authorized by the local church conference, and the selection shall be made and the terms of work determined, upon the recommendation of the pastor, by the local church board. The agreement of the local church with the assistant pastor, like all pastoral agreements, is subject to the review and recommendation of the district board of administration, and becomes final upon the approval of the district conference (281). An assistant pastor shall not be employed for more than one year at a time, and may be reemployed upon the renewed recommendation of the pastor, the majority vote of the local church board, and the approval of the district conference.

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

**299. Lay Assistants.** Laymen may also serve as paid assistants. The employment of such a lay assistant to the pastor shall be authorized by the local church conference, and the selection shall be made and the terms of work determined, upon the

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recommendation of the pastor, by the local church board. Employment shall be for one year at a time. The lay assistant shall bear such title as director of Christian education, director of music, or director of youth ministries.

## Chapter V

### LOCAL CHURCH BOARD

#### A. Function

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

#### B. Membership

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

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

#### C. Sessions

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

307. **Special Sessions.** The local church board may authorize special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the pastor, the vice-chairman (for sessions dealing with the call or recall of a pastor or with his financial support and related matters), or in times of emergency by the district superintendent or his representative. A special session may be held without previous announcement, if all members

of the local church board are present. Otherwise, each shall have been notified either personally or by a notice mailed to his residence at least forty-eight hours prior to the convening of the session. A special session may not be conducted in the absence of the pastor except as provided for in 310.

#### D. Organization and Procedure

##### 1. Officers

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

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

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

##### 2. Procedure

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

**314. Voting.** A majority vote of those present and voting

shall be sufficient in all items of business except when voting on the reception of a full member against whom an objection has been made, which shall require a three-fourths majority vote of those present and voting (146:5; 316:8); and when petitioning the district board of administration to remove a pastor during his first year of service, which shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting (287; 316:13).

### E. Duties and Powers

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

#### General

(1) To direct all activities of the church toward the spiritual, moral, and social maturity of its people.

(2) To provide a place of worship.

(3) To counsel with the pastor, as he may request, concerning all phases of his work, and to direct and coordinate the work of all the officers, boards, committees, and auxiliaries of the church (cf. 384:3).

(4) To receive monthly reports from the pastor (294:32), associate and assistant pastor(s), church treasurer (345:3), Sunday school treasurer (371), treasurer of Wesleyan Men (1217:5b), treasurer of Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (1243:5b), and treasurer of Wesleyan Youth (1277:5); quarterly reports from Sunday school superintendent (368:7); and reports as the local church board shall require from all officers, boards, committees, auxiliaries, and auxiliary officers. (Cf. 1108:3.)

(5) To direct the church in its evangelistic outreach, seeking to win its community to Christ; to establish an extension department of the Sunday school (378); to recommend to the local church conference the establishment and operation of a mission, a branch Sunday school, or a pioneer church, as it

deems necessary and proper (cf. 203; 274:15).

(6) To recommend to the local church conference an annual calendar of events (cf. 274:16).

### Membership

(7) To provide for the examination of all candidates for church membership, which may be done by delegating the actual examination to a committee on witness and membership (342-343); and to assist the pastor in providing church membership classes (239-240; 294:11; 363:11; 894:5).

(8) To make recommendations concerning the reception of full members to the local church conference, unless full authority concerning such reception has been delegated by the local church conference to the local church board (146:5; 274:1); and when such authority has been delegated, to authorize the reception of full members by a majority vote, except that when an objection is raised against the reception of a member it shall require a three-fourths majority of those present and voting to receive (146:5; 226:2; 314).

(9) To approve, by its own authority, the reception of preparatory, junior, and associate members; to transfer preparatory or junior members to the associate relation; or to drop preparatory, junior, or associate members from the roll (229-256).

(10) To examine the church membership roll annually, and to provide for its revision according to the provisions of *The Discipline* (226-256; cf. 274:1).

(11) To consider all accusations and charges against members of the local church (cf. 1511), and to appoint a committee of investigation and a local judicial committee as provided for in the Judiciary (1515:1, 4; 1517; 1558; cf. 1518; 1525:1).

(12) To instruct the church secretary concerning the removal of the name of a member who has joined another religious body or secret society (251); to recommend to the

local church conference that it remove from the roll by majority vote the name of a member who has moved away and neither transferred his membership to the nearest Wesleyan church nor maintained contact with and support of his former church (253), and that it remove by majority vote the name of a member who has failed to attend or support his church for one year without proper reason (254), unless the local church conference shall have delegated full responsibilities in such matters to the local church board (274:1).

### **Pastors, Staff, and Licensed Workers**

(13) To nominate pastor and associate pastor to the local church conference (284:2-3; 296); to assume full responsibility for securing a pastor when such is delegated by the local church conference (285); and to recommend to the district board of administration by a two-thirds majority vote the termination of a pastoral agreement if such becomes necessary during the first year of a pastor's service (287).

(14) To recommend to the local church conference the length of a pastoral recall (290:2); to review biennially with the district superintendent a recall for an extended period (291:2); to meet, at the request of one-third of its members and under the chairmanship of the district superintendent or his representative, to consider the possibility of ordering a pastoral vote of confidence before the expiration of a recall period, and to call for such a vote by a majority vote (292:2).

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

(16) To recommend to the local church conference the number of employed staff positions, including office secretary, custodian, and assistant pastor(s) (274:11); to employ persons for all such staff positions as have been authorized by the local church conference, subject to the pastor's nominations for office employees and assistant pastors and the board of trustees'

nominations for custodians; to define the duties and working conditions of all such employees; and to assist the pastor in the supervision of all employed staff members.

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

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

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

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

#### **Officers, Boards, Committees, and Auxiliaries**

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

(22) To elect annually at such time as it shall determine, an auditing committee (353); all Sunday school officers except the superintendent, and all departmental supervisors and teachers (369-372; 374); one or more offering tellers (346:3); and such of the following as are needed and can be supplied: financial or tithing secretary (346:2), musicians (358), CYC director (384:1), children's church director (cf. 363:7), vacation Bible school superintendent (cf. 363:7), local educational secretary (386), literature secretary (388), local secretary of missions and evangelism (390), adult youth counselor (1276:5), and other special assignments (cf. 1244:1).

(23) To present two or more nominees for election by the

respective auxiliary as president of Wesleyan Men (1216:4), president of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (1242:5), and president of Wesleyan Youth (1276:5); to ratify the election of all other officers of these auxiliaries; and to review and pass upon their actions (1216:6; 1217:2, 6; 1218; 1242:7; 1243:2, 8; 1245; 1276:7; 1277:2, 7; 1280).

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

(25) To recommend to the local church conference the removal from office of any church officer, trustee, or delegate (155:5; 274:4, 6), and to remove by majority vote of the local church board all who fill other positions (334:4) and officers of auxiliaries (1216:6; 1242:7; 1276:7).

(26) To fill all vacancies occurring in those offices elected by the local church conference, in the interim of its annual sessions, and all vacancies occurring in offices elected by the local church board; and to provide for the filling of vacancies in the auxiliaries as it deems best (1216:6; 1242:7; 1276:7).

### **Property and Finance**

(27) To direct the local board of trustees in the maintenance of church property, the signing of notes and mortgages, and the attending to all legal matters connected with the church, in keeping with the requirements of local laws (1403), and *The Discipline* (348-351; 1401-1434; 1440).

(28) To direct the local board of trustees to secure sufficient property and liability insurance to cover all buildings, and ve-

hicles owned and operated by the local church (350:8).

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

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

(31) To recommend to the local church conference: all major expenditures or investments; the purchase or sale of property, the erection or remodeling of buildings, all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property, and major items of equipment (274:13; 1431-1434); and other expenditures not provided for in the annual budget (274:12).

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

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

#### F. Pastor's Advisory Committee

318. In larger congregations, when the local church board has more than ten members, the local church conference may establish a pastor's advisory committee consisting of the lay leader, the vice-chairman of the board, the church secretary, the church treasurer, the chairman of the board of trustees,

and the Sunday school superintendent. This committee shall have no authority for final action in any matter except to render opinions on such questions as the pastor shall refer to them.

## Chapter VI

### LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

#### A. List of Local Church Officers,

#### Boards, and Committees

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

(1) The church *shall* have:

auditing committee (353)

Christian education board (361-363)

church board (301-316)

church secretary (337)

church treasurer (345)

delegate to district conference (398; 439; 442-445)

offering teller (346:3)

pastor (276-294)

Sunday school superintendent, staff, and committee (368-375)

trustees (348-351)

vice-chairman of local church board (310)

(2) The church *may* have:

advisory committee (318)

assistant treasurer (346:1)

associate or assistant pastor (296-299)

building committee (350:6)

custodial staff (316:16; 350:5)

children's church director, staff, and committee (363:2, 7-8)

Christian Youth Crusaders director, staff, and committee (384:1-2)

communion committee (359)

educational secretary (386)

- fellowship committee (363:19)
- finance and stewardship committee (355-356)
- financial or tithing secretary (346:2)
- judicial committee (399; 1517)
- lay leader (339)
- literature secretary (388)
- missions and evangelism secretary and committee (390; 395-396)
- musicians and music committee (358-359)
- nominating committee (331-332)
- office staff (294:29; 316:16)
- usher committee (359)
- vacation Bible school superintendent, staff, and committee (363:2, 7-8)
- witness and membership committee (342-343)

(3) The church *may* have the following auxiliary officers and committees:

- Wesleyan Men officers and committees (1216-1217)
- Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society officers and committees (1242-1243)
- Wesleyan Youth officers and committees (1276-1279)
- Young Missionary Workers' Band director (1243:6)

## B. General Regulations

### 1. Minimum Organization

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

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

officers will form the local advisory council. This council may then appoint such other officers and committees as are needed and for which qualified personnel are available. (Cf. 205:3; 1216:3; 1242:4; 1276:4.)

**326. Church.** An established church, in addition to the local church conference and the local church board, shall have a minimum organization consisting of a local church secretary (337), a local church treasurer (345), an offering teller (346:3), an auditing committee (353), a board of trustees consisting of at least three members (348-351), and a Sunday school superintendent, staff, and committee (368-375). Whenever a church has thirty-five or more full members, it shall have a local board of Christian education (361-363). Additional offices, positions, and committees may be added as provided herewith by the local church conference and the local church board as need requires and as qualified personnel are available.

## 2. Church Officers

**330.** The church officers shall include the lay leader (if any), the local church secretary, the local church treasurer, the Sunday school superintendent, and members at large of the local church board. The church officers, local church trustees, and local church delegates to the district conference shall serve subject to the following regulations:

(1) They must be full members of the local Wesleyan church electing them (147:3).

(2) They shall be elected by the local church conference at its annual session (155:5-7; cf. 331-332). Vacancies occurring between annual sessions of the local church conference shall be filled for the unexpired term by the local church board. Vacancies may occur by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, by resignation from office, or by removal (330:4).

(3) They shall carry out their duties as given in *The Dis-*

*cipline* and as further defined by the local church conference and the local church board.

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

### 3. Nominating Committee

331. Each established church may have a nominating committee consisting of the pastor as chairman, and of three full members elected by the local church board (316:21). The local church conference, may, at its option, elect an additional three members (cf. 274:3).

332. When a nominating committee has been established, it shall present to the local church conference, at its annual session, nominations for each of the following offices: lay leader (if any), local church secretary, local church treasurer, the Sunday school superintendent, one or more trustees (348), and as many delegates to the district conference as the district board of administration shall determine (442). Two or more names shall be presented for each office insofar as is possible (cf. 304). The nominating committee may be used for other nominations as ordered by the local church conference, or as ordered by the local church board for positions elected by the board (cf. 334).

### 4. Other Positions

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 5. Installation Service

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

## C. Witness and Membership

### 1. Church Secretary

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

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

(2) To maintain the local church's book of records, containing the membership roll, record of baptisms, marriages, and

pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent record of the life and ministry of the church (256).

(3) To issue, in conjunction with the pastor, all letters of transfer, recommendation, and withdrawal (243; 249-250; 1801-1805); and to sign, in conjunction with the pastor (294:28), licenses for local preachers, exhorters, and deaconesses, granted by the local church conference (274:7; 316:19).

(4) To send to the district secretary a certified list of lay delegates to the district conference duly elected by the local church conference, immediately upon their election, and subsequently to certify an alternate delegate (cf. 398; 442-445).

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

## 2. Lay Leader

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

## 3. Committee on Witness and Membership

342. The local church board may establish a committee on witness and membership, composed of the pastor, the local church secretary, the lay leader (if any), the president of

Wesleyan Men, and such other members as the local church board shall elect. The local church board shall name a board member as chairman of the committee, and the committee shall choose its own vice-chairman and secretary. General regulations governing membership on this committee are given in 334.

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

(1) To conduct the examination of candidates for membership; to have initial responsibility in the annual revision of the membership roll; to assist the pastor in his attempts to restore members who have ceased to attend or support the church; and to make recommendations concerning all these matters to the local church board (316:7-12).

(2) To organize the calling and visitation program of the local church.

(3) To make recommendations to the local church board concerning revivals and other evangelistic efforts.

(4) To alert the local church to its responsibilities in the area of community social and political reform, recommending courses of action it deems necessary to the local church board (cf. 187:1-9).

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

## D. Finance and Stewardship

### 1. Church Treasurer

345. The local church conference, at its annual election, shall elect by ballot, from among its full members, a church treasurer (cf. 331-332), to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. He shall be an ex officio member of the local church board (303). General regulations covering this

office are given in 330. The duties and powers of the local church treasurer shall be:

(1) To receive, hold, and disburse, as ordered by the local church conference or the local church board, and in harmony with the financial plans of the general church and of the district, all moneys of the local church, including such of the departments and auxiliary organizations as the local church board shall order. All funds raised by the local departments, other than the auxiliaries, for general church or district work, or for purposes other than local church work, and all money or pledges raised by representatives of the general church or district in deputation work, shall be transferred to or placed in the local church treasury and shall be disbursed for their designated purpose by the local church treasurer.

(2) To keep complete and accurate records of all moneys raised and of the manner in which they are disbursed, and to provide the pastor with information concerning the same as the pastor shall require.

(3) To make monthly reports to the local church board, which should be duplicated and distributed to the members of the church, and to make reports to all regular sessions of the local church conference.

(4) To make monthly remittance of all United Stewardship Fund, other general church, and district funds to the district treasurer.

(5) To issue receipts annually to all regular contributors showing their total tithes and offerings and the various items of giving, and to issue other receipts as requested or by order of the local church board.

(6) To submit his books for audit by the auditing committee annually (353), or more frequently if so ordered by the local church board, and to submit to the local church board the complete treasurer's records at such time as he shall cease

to hold the office of treasurer.

**346. Assistants for the local church treasurer shall be provided for as follows:**

(1) An assistant treasurer may be elected by the local church conference, with authority to sign checks when the treasurer is unable to do so.

(2) A financial secretary or tithing secretary may be elected by the local church board, at the local church treasurer's request, to assist the treasurer in keeping the record of individual tithes and offerings (345:5).

(3) One or more tellers shall be elected by the local church board to assist the treasurer in the counting of all tithes and offerings, all moneys being counted by two or more persons and recorded as to date of reception, purpose of the offering, and amount. These records shall be preserved and made available to the auditing committee.

## **2. Board of Trustees**

**348. Election.** The local church conference shall elect by ballot from among its full members a board of trustees (cf. 331-332), three to seven in number, one or more being elected at a given annual session for a term of three years, so that the terms of all shall not expire at the same time, or they may be elected to serve until their successors are elected; provided that the manner and conditions of election may be altered to conform to the local laws. Trustees shall be ex officio members of the local church board (303). General regulations covering this office are given in 330.

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

**350. Duties and Powers.** The local board of trustees shall

carry out their duties as required by *The Discipline* (cf. 1401-1444) and shall be responsible:

(1) To carry out the instructions of the local church conference and the local church board in supervising, controlling, maintaining, and improving all church property (155:6; 274:13; 316:27).

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

(3) To attend to all legal matters regarding the acquisition, purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer, or other disposition of property as properly authorized (1431-1434); to see that titles are correct, contain the proper trust clause (1418), are approved by the district superintendent (511:11; 1431:5), and are recorded (1407); and to see that property and legal records are properly stored (1440).

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

(5) To nominate to the local church board all custodians.

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

(7) To carry out the directions of the local church conference concerning the purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer, or other disposition of property, provided that such transactions have been approved by the district building committee and

district board of administration as set forth in 1431-1434.

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

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

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

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

(2) The local board of trustees cannot mortgage or otherwise encumber local church property without the express authorization of the local church conference and the approval of the district board of administration as set forth in 1431-1434.

(3) The local board of trustees cannot deny the use of the parsonage, church building, or other local church buildings, to the pastor who has been duly appointed by the district conference or district board of administration, nor the use of the church building to the membership of the local church and duly elected officials of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 1443).

(4) The local board of trustees cannot divert church property from The Wesleyan Church (1408; 1444).

(5) When a church is reclassified as a pioneer church (cf. 209:1; 486:27), the office and power of the local board of trustees shall cease, and all property shall pass directly under the control of the district board of administration (cf. 1423).

### 3. Auditing Committee

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

### 4. Committee on Finance and Stewardship

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

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

(1) To study the financial needs and programs of the church and of its various departments and auxiliaries, and to make recommendations to the local church board concerning all financial matters, including financial policies and salary schedules, the annual budget, the purchase or sale of land, the erection, purchase, or sale of buildings, the purchase of major items of equipment, remodeling programs, loans and mort-

gages, and the handling of bequests and trusts (198).

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

(3) To promote the raising of the United Stewardship Fund, other general church offerings, and such support as the district shall require.

(4) To serve as a committee on benevolence, to aid those in need within the church constituency and in the community (cf. 130:1; 131:10), and to direct the raising of all special gifts for the pastor.

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

### **E. Worship**

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

359. The local church board may establish committees on music, ushering, and communion services, electing their members and defining their duties. General regulations governing membership on such committees are given in 334.

### **F. Christian Education**

#### **1. Local Board of Christian Education**

361. **Membership.** The local church board shall, in all

churches with thirty-five or more full members, establish a local board of Christian education, consisting of the pastor as chairman, and of such of the following officers as are available: the associate or assistant pastor or other employed assistant, the Sunday school superintendent, the president of Wesleyan Men, the president of Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, the president of Wesleyan Youth, the director of Christian Youth Crusaders, the director of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, music director, literature secretary, local educational secretary, and others as designated by the local church board. General regulations governing the elected membership of this board are given in 334. The local board of Christian education shall elect its own secretary. In churches of fewer than thirty-five full members, the local church board may serve as the local board of Christian education, or if it deem best, it may establish such a board, using such personnel as are available.

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

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

(1) To study, organize, promote, and conduct, under the leadership of the pastor, and subject to the direction of the

local church board, the total program of Christian education for the local church, in keeping with the denominational objectives for Christian education (886), and the standards established by the General Board of Administration and promoted through the General Departments of Sunday Schools, Youth, and Educational Institutions.

(2) To establish, structure, and supervise, in keeping with *The Discipline*, and the standards adopted by the General Board of Administration, such educational agencies as are authorized by the local church board, including the Sunday school, Wesleyan Youth, Christian Youth Crusaders, Young Missionary Workers' Band, children's church, weekday church school, released time classes, Christian day school, and vacation Bible school.

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

(4) To determine, in keeping with *The Discipline* and the standards adopted by the General Board of Administration, the curricula of the various agencies, always using curriculum materials approved by the General Board of Administration and secured from the Wesleyan Publishing House.

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

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

(7) To submit nominations to the local church board for all

Sunday school officers other than the superintendent, all Sunday school departmental supervisors and teachers, CYC director, children's church director, and vacation Bible school superintendent, and to elect all other officers and teachers except the officers of Wesleyan Youth and YMWB.

(8) To appoint administrative committees for each educational agency other than the Sunday school (373), WY (1277:7), or YMWB (1243:6, 8; 1244:1), including in each such committee the executive officer involved and other workers or advisors as shall be deemed best (cf. 384:2).

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

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

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

(12) To conduct or assign responsibility for conducting workers' conferences.

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

(14) To promote the interests of The Wesleyan Church educational institutions in cooperation with the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the officials of the general educa-

tional institutions within the area, and the district educational secretary.

(15) To conduct extension classes and branch Sunday schools when such are properly authorized (cf. 274:15; 316:5).

(16) To minister to persons on nearby college campuses and military bases in keeping with the programs promoted by the General Department of Youth.

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

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

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

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

## 2. Sunday School

### a. Function

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

### b. Administration

367. **General.** The Sunday school shall be governed by the local church conference and the local church board through the local board of Christian education, under the general su-

pervision of the pastor and the immediate administration of the superintendent and the Sunday school committee. They shall carry out their assignment in keeping with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Sunday Schools, the standard adopted by the General Board and promoted through the General Department of Sunday Schools, and the programs of the General Department and of the district Sunday school committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

as required (cf. 370).

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

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

**371. Sunday School Treasurer.** The local church board may, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the local board of Christian education, a Sunday school treasurer, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. Or the local church board may recommend, and the local church conference order, that the Sunday school funds be received by the local church treasurer as part of a common treasury. If there is a separate Sunday school treasurer elected, he shall receive, hold, and disburse

the Sunday school funds as ordered by the local church board, reporting concerning all receipts and expenditures to the local church board monthly, and to each regular session of the local church conference. All general church and district funds raised by the Sunday school shall be transferred to the local church treasurer for forwarding to the proper destination (345:1).

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

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

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

**375. Amenability.** General regulations covering the amenability, removal, and filling of vacancies for Sunday school of-

ficers, departmental supervisors, and teachers elected by the local church board are found in 334. All others appointed by the local board of Christian education are amenable to the local board of Christian education, and can be replaced as it sees fit.

### c. Organization

**376. Membership.** There shall be three classes of members in the Sunday school.

(1) Active members shall be persons enrolled in the regular school whose attendance at the Sunday session is expected.

(2) Cradle roll members shall be children under two years of age who are enrolled in the cradle roll department.

(3) Home department members shall be persons who are enrolled in the home department, but who are unable to attend the Sunday sessions.

(4) Total Sunday school enrollment shall include all active, cradle roll, and home department members.

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

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

**379. Class Organization.** The local board of Christian education shall supervise the formal organization of youth and

adult classes. Such classes shall organize and conduct their business in harmony with *The Discipline* and the Sunday school standard adopted by the General Board of Administration.

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

### 3. Wesleyan Youth

**382.** Each local church shall, whenever possible, maintain a local chapter of Wesleyan Youth, the denominational auxiliary organizing youth and young adults for the development of Christian character, training, service, and fellowship. Complete regulations for the organization of Wesleyan Youth are given in 1271-1280.

### 4. Christian Youth Crusaders

**383.** Each local church shall, whenever possible, maintain a local chapter of Christian Youth Crusaders, the denominational program of training, activity, and fellowship for children and youth, grades 1-9. The local CYC shall be conducted in keeping with *The Discipline* and the regulations adopted by the General Board of Administration and promoted through the General Department of Youth.

**384.** The local CYC chapter shall be organized as follows:

(1) **Local CYC Staff.** The local church board shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the local board of Christian education, a local CYC director, to serve for one year or until his successor is elected. He shall be an ex officio member of the local board of Christian education (361), and chairman of the CYC committee (363:8; 384:2). General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The local CYC director shall seek to

qualify as quickly as possible for certification by the General Department of Youth as a local director. All other CYC workers, including age-level directors and squadron leaders, shall be appointed by the local board of Christian education, shall be amenable to it, and may be replaced by it as it deems necessary.

(2) **Local CYC Committee.** The local CYC shall be administered by a CYC committee, consisting of the local CYC director as chairman and of others appointed by the local board of Christian education (363:8). The work of the CYC committee shall be subject to the approval of and correlated with the plans of the local board of Christian education. General regulations governing membership on this committee are given in 334.

(3) **Correlation.** Whenever it is impractical for a local church to maintain CYC and YMWB separately, the local church board may authorize the CYC to make full use of the YMWB program of missionary education and promotion, and to channel missionary dues and offerings as if they were YMWB funds (1244:4).

### 5. Local Educational Secretary

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

### 6. Literature Secretary

388. The local church board may, at the time of its annual

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

### **G. Missions and Evangelism**

#### **1. Local Secretary of Missions and Evangelism**

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

#### **2. Wesleyan Men**

391. Each local church, whenever possible, shall maintain a chapter of Wesleyan Men, the denominational auxiliary organizing men for soul winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship. Complete regulations for the organization of Wesleyan Men are given in 1211-1218.

#### **3. Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society**

392. Each local church shall, whenever possible, maintain a local Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, the denomina-

tional auxiliary organizing women for missionary promotion, education, and support, and fellowship. Complete regulations for the organization of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society are given in 1236-1245.

#### **4. Young Missionary Workers' Band**

393. Each local church may maintain a local Young Missionary Workers' Band, the denominational auxiliary of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society organizing children thirteen years of age and younger for missionary education and support. Complete regulations for the organization of the Young Missionary Workers' Band are given in 1243:6; 1244. For regulations governing the coordination of the local YMWB with Christian Youth Crusaders, see 384:3.

#### **5. Committee on Missions and Evangelism**

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

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

(1) To promote the interest of Wesleyan world missions, in keeping with the programs of the General Department of World Missions and the district secretary of world missions.

(2) To promote the interests of the General Department of Extension and Evangelism, including Wesleyan Card Call (844), and the district program of extension and evangelism.

(3) To coordinate all missionary and extension promotion and fund raising of the local church and its various departments and auxiliaries.

(4) To carry out all programs of missionary education authorized and assigned by the local board of Christian education.

(5) To make recommendations to the local church board concerning missionary conventions and services.

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

#### **H. Lay Delegates to District Conference**

398. The local church conference, at its annual session, shall elect by ballot (cf. 331-332), from among its full members, the number of lay delegates to the district conference assigned by the district board of administration, and a sufficient number of alternate delegates, who shall serve for the regular annual session and for any reconvened session. General regulations covering this office are given in 330 and in 442-445.

#### **I. Judicial Committees**

399. The local church board shall elect, when it deems it necessary and in accord with the regulations of the Judiciary, a committee of investigation (1515:1-4; 1551-1558) or a local judicial committee (1517). Complete regulations concerning the qualifications, procedures, and duties of such committees are given in 1515-1517 (cf. 1551-1574).

# PART III

## DISTRICT CHURCH GOVERNMENT

### CHAPTER I

#### DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

##### A. Definition

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

##### B. Pioneer Area

402. **Purpose.** New work, or other work which does not meet the requirements for a mission district (411), shall be provided for by establishing a pioneer area.

403. **Authorization.** The establishment of a pioneer area may be authorized by the General Conference (650:11; 691:36), upon recommendation of the General Board of Administration, or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, by the General Board of Administration (691:36; 837:4). The authorizing act shall define the boundaries and assign an official name to the pioneer area. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the bounds of an established district in the interim of General Conference sessions must have the approval of such a district and shall be effected as required in 430-431 (cf. 691:50).

404. **Jurisdiction.** A pioneer area shall be under the jurisdiction of the General Department of Extension and Evangelism and shall be organized and administered by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism in accord with *The*

*Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Extension and Evangelism, and other directives from the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council (691:36; 702:2; 837:1, 5). The General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism shall be responsible for developing the work as rapidly as possible, in harmony with the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (826), to the status of a mission district (411).

**405. Organization.** The superintendent, other officers, and assigned workers shall be appointed by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council, for which recommendations shall be submitted by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism as approved by the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (691:37; 829:5; 837:6).

**407. General Conference Representation.** The pioneer area shall be represented in the General Conference by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism and shall not otherwise be entitled to any delegates.

### C. Mission District

#### 1. Authorization

**410. Authorization.** A mission district is created by the General Conference, upon recommendation of the General Board of Administration (650:11; 691:36), or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, by the General Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the next General Conference (691:36). The authorizing act shall define the boundaries of the mission district and assign to it an official name. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the existing bounds of an established district in the interim of General Conference sessions must have the approval of such district and shall be effected as required in 430-431 (cf. 691:50).

**411. Requirements.** The minimum requirements for a mission district are:

(1) A minimum of five churches and two hundred full members.

(2) A sufficient number of elders for a district board of administration (476).

(3) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church as required in 1418, or steps taken to accomplish the same (1417-1420; 1421-1444; 1453-1454).

(4) A recommendation by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism for recognition as a mission district (837:4).

## 2. Organization and Government

**415. Jurisdiction.** A mission district shall be under the jurisdiction of the General Department of Extension and Evangelism, and shall be supervised by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Extension and Evangelism, and any other directives of the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council (691:36; 702:2; 837:1, 5). The General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism shall be responsible for the developing of a mission district to meet the requirements of an established district as soon as possible (421).

**416. Organization.** A mission district shall be organized in the same manner as an established district as set forth in *The Discipline*, insofar as possible, but with the following restrictions on its duties and powers:

(1) **District Superintendent.** The district superintendent of a mission district shall be elected by the district conference (cf. 473:32; 507). The General Board of Administration may, however, at its discretion, present two or more nominations, from which the district conference shall elect the district superintendent (691:37). The mission district superintendent shall confer with the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism

concerning the important plans of the district, including the location of property, the erection of buildings, and financial matters (cf. 416:4).

(2) **District Officers, Boards, and Committees.** A mission district shall first be concerned with the election of its district officials (491) and district board of administration (476). Other district departmental officers, boards, and committees shall be established as qualified personnel are available. It shall be the goal of the officials of a mission district, in cooperation with the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (415), to meet the requirements for a complete district organization as soon as possible (421).

(3) **Appointments.** The appointment of pastors, evangelists, and special workers for a mission district shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration, for which recommendations shall be received from the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism as approved by the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (691:37; 829:5; 837:6).

(4) **Amenability.** The minutes of the mission district conference and its district board of administration shall be reviewed by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism and the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (829:8; 837:5), and the official actions of such governing bodies shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council (691:36).

### 3. General Conference Representation

417. The district superintendent and a lay delegate elected on his behalf, by ballot and by majority vote, shall be the representatives of a mission district to the General Conference (602:1; 603).

### 4. Reclassification

418. Whenever a mission district falls below the minimum requirements in 411, it may be reclassified as a pioneer area by

the General Conference (650:11), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the General Board of Administration (691:36), subject to review and approval of the General Conference at its next session. (Cf. 1547.)

## D. District

### 1. Authorization

420. An established district is created by the General Conference (158; 650:10), for which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board of Administration, or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, may be created by the General Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the next General Conference (691:36). The authorizing act shall define the boundaries of the district and assign to it an official name.

421. The minimum requirements for an established district are:

- (1) Twenty churches.
- (2) Seven hundred fifty full members.
- (3) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church as required in 1418, or steps taken to accomplish the same (1417-1420; 1421-1461; cf. 1315).
- (4) A reasonable degree of spiritual, organizational, and financial stability.
- (5) A recommendation by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism in concurrence with the Board of General Superintendents (691:36; 740:18; 829; 837:4).

### 2. Organizing Conference

422. When an established district has been authorized (420), an organizing session of the district conference shall be convened by the General Superintendent over the district or another General Superintendent appointed in his place (740:13). The presiding General Superintendent shall declare it to be

an established district of The Wesleyan Church, vested with all the authority and power as properly belong to it according to *The Discipline*. After such has been declared, the district conference shall proceed to do business and elect its officials.

### 3. Reclassification

424. If a district no longer meets the requirements for an established district (421), it may be reclassified as a mission district by the General Conference (650:11), or the General Board of Administration (691:36; cf. 176:3c). (Cf. 1547.)

425. An established district, by a vote of its district conference, may petition the General Board of Administration for reclassification as a mission district if it falls below the requirements for an established district (421). The General Board of Administration shall have authority to reclassify it as a mission district and place it under the jurisdiction of the General Department of Extension and Evangelism (691:36).

### 4. Amenability

426. An established district is amenable to the General Conference and to the General Board of Administration. It may be placed under discipline for cause as set forth in the Judiciary (1543-1548; cf. 176:3e).

### E. Interdistrict Cooperation

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

members of the interdistrict board appointed by the respective district boards of administration.

#### **F. Merger or Realignment of Districts**

430. The General Conference shall have the authority to approve the merger or division of districts, or the realignment of any district boundaries (158). Negotiations for such a merger, division, or realignment of districts shall be under the supervision of the Board of General Superintendents, who shall work with representatives as appointed for such a purpose by the General Board of Administration and the districts concerned (cf. 691:50).

431. Whenever each district conference involved in a merger, division, or other realignment of districts shall approve the proposed plan, the General Board of Administration shall have the authority to grant final approval in the interim of General Conference sessions (cf. 691:50).

## CHAPTER II

### DISTRICT CONFERENCE

#### A. Function

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

#### B. Membership

##### 1. Plan of Representation

437. The district conference, as required by the Constitution (158), shall be composed of an equal number of ministers and laymen as voting members, and other non-voting members as listed herewith.

##### a. Ministerial Voting Members

438. The ministerial members of the district conference with voting rights are those elders and licensed ministers of that district who meet the following requirements:

(1) Elders who are appointed to stationed, reserve, or superannuated relations (158; 539:I:A, B, C).

(2) Licensed ministers who are elders-elect or who are appointed as pastors of established churches of that district (158; 539:II:A).

##### b. Lay Delegates

439. The lay members of the district conference with voting rights are those elected as delegates by the established churches or circuits of that district (155:7; 158; 441-445). The total number of lay members with voting rights shall be equal to the total number of ministerial voting members as set forth in 438:1-2. Each established church or circuit is entitled to

a minimum of one lay delegate as its constitutional right (155:7; cf. 207), and to additional lay delegates allotted according to its number of full members by the district board of administration (442:1-4).

### c. Non-Voting Members

440. The honorary members of the district conference, with a voice but without a vote, are (158):

(1) Elders appointed to the unstationed relation (539:I:D; 1174).

(2) Elders in process of transfer (539:I:E; 1175).

(3) Licensed ministers who are neither elders-elect nor serving as pastors of established churches (539:II:B, C; 1114:4; cf. 438:2).

(4) Commissioned and licensed deaconesses (539:IV:A, B, C; 1185).

(5) Commissioned and licensed special workers (539:V:A, B, C; 1190).

(6) Commissioned lay missionaries (539:V:D; 1192).

(7) Supply pastors (539:V:E; 1159:4).

(8) The district presidents of Wesleyan Men (1224:2), Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (1252:2), and Wesleyan Youth (1287:2), and the district directors of Christian Youth Crusaders (594) and Young Missionary Workers' Band (1252:6).

## 2. Forfeiture of Representation

441. A local church or circuit which is under discipline as provided for in the Judiciary, shall forfeit all rights to representation by a lay delegate in the district conference (155:7; 158; 1530-1532).

## 3. The Election of Lay Delegates

442. Allotment. The district board of administration shall assign to each established church or circuit the specific number

of lay delegates which it shall elect as its representatives to the district conference, in keeping with the provision in 439 for the total number of lay delegates and subject to the following regulations:

(1) The district board of administration shall first determine the total number of lay delegates required for the next session of the district conference (439) which shall equal the number of ministerial voting members eligible at the time such determination is made (cf. 438:1-2).

(2) One lay delegate shall first be allotted to each pastoral charge (155:7; 158; 207).

(3) The number of lay delegates yet required for the next district conference, after the allotment of one to each pastoral charge, shall be allotted to the pastoral charges according to a ratio of representation. In fixing the ratio of representation, only the full members shall be considered as listed on the statistical report of the preceding district conference. The district board of administration shall establish the ratio of representation and apply it in such a manner as to assign the exact number of delegates to be elected by each pastoral charge.

(4) The district secretary shall promptly notify each pastor of the exact number of lay delegates allotted to his pastoral charge, and the manner in which such number was determined.

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

**444. Alternate Delegates.** A sufficient number of alternate lay delegates having the same qualifications (445) shall be elected in the same manner and at the same session as the delegates (443), and shall fill any vacancies in the order of their election. Whenever an alternate delegate is required to serve, the local church secretary shall also certify his appointment to the district secretary.

**445. Qualifications.** A lay delegate must be a full member and in good standing of the pastoral charge he represents, both at the time of election and at the time of the district conference. An elder or licensed minister may not be elected or serve as a lay delegate.

### C. Sessions

**447. Annual Session.** The district conference shall meet annually at a place of its own choosing and at a time as decided upon by the Board of General Superintendents in cooperation with the district board of administration (740:16; 486:5). The district conference may, by vote, refer the decision concerning the place to the district board of administration. The district secretary shall notify in writing all ministerial voting members, pastoral charges, and non-voting members of the time and place not less than sixty days before the scheduled opening. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans adopted by the district conference, the district board of administration may, by a two-thirds majority vote, declare that such an emergency exists and authorize the necessary changes.

**448. Reconvened Session.** The district conference may be reconvened at any time during the year by a two-thirds majority vote of the district board of administration and the approval of the Executive Council (702:6). A reconvened session shall also be ordered by the district board of administration when requested to do so by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council (691:52). The district board of

administration shall designate the place and, in cooperation with the General Superintendents, fix the date, which shall be not less than thirty days after the call shall be issued. The district secretary shall notify in writing all ministerial voting members, pastoral charges, and non-voting members of the time, place, and purpose of the reconvened session. The district conference shall have the same rights and powers in a reconvened session as in the annual session.

#### D. Organization and Procedure

##### 1. Officers

**450. The Chairman (173:3).** A General Superintendent shall preside over the district conference, assisted by the district superintendent in the manner provided for in the Constitution (173:3). When no General Superintendent is present, the district superintendent shall preside or take the responsibility for the same, unless the district conference invites the appointed general representative to do so (473:7; 740:17). If none of the foregoing is present, the district conference shall elect from among its elders a chairman pro tem.

**451. The Secretary.** The district secretary shall be the secretary of the district conference ex officio. He shall accurately record the proceedings and preserve them in permanent form as prescribed by *The Discipline* (cf. 472), and perform any other such duties as shall be required of him by the district conference.

##### 2. Procedure

**453. Rights.** The rights of the district conference are declared in the Constitution (160:1-10; 165; 166; 173:3; 176:3c, e; 181:2, 4, 6; 185).

**454. Quorum.** A majority of all the ministerial voting members and lay delegates of the district conference (438-439) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**456. Voting (159).** The ministerial and lay members of the

district conference shall deliberate and transact business as one body. However, on the final vote on any question, one-fourth of the members may call for a divided vote. The house shall then be divided, and the ministerial and lay members shall vote separately, with a majority vote of each branch required to pass the question on which the division has been called.

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

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

**459. Appeals on Questions of Order.** The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the district conference body. If any matter is ruled out of order by the chair on the basis that it is unconstitutional or in violation of *The Discipline*, the decision of the chair may be appealed by any member of the district conference. If the appeal is seconded, the chair shall clearly state the question and the reasons for his decision, and the one moving the appeal shall state his reasons for the appeal. The vote shall then be taken without debate. A two-thirds vote of the district conference, present and voting, shall be required to overrule the decision of the chair. If the chair is overruled, the action of the district conference shall be suspended until a ruling shall be given by the Board of General Superintendents as provided for in 740:21.

**460. Legislation.** Rules and resolutions adopted by a district conference shall continue in force until amended or rescinded, unless such actions are by nature temporary or unless an action of the district conference is declared unconstitutional or

contrary to *The Discipline* as set forth in 740:21 and 1593:3 (cf. 160:6).

### 3. Resolutions

**462. Resolutions.** Resolutions may be submitted to the district conference by a local church conference, a circuit conference, the district board of administration, the annual district convention of Wesleyan Men, the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, or Wesleyan Youth, a district board or committee concerning the work assigned to it, or any three voting members of the district conference with their signature.

**463. Memorials.** All resolutions intended for eventual recommendation by the district conference to the General Conference, including changes in *The Discipline* and any other proposals, shall be designated as "memorials" (636-637). Anyone authorized to submit a resolution may also submit a memorial to be passed upon by the district conference.

**464. Procedure.** All resolutions shall be submitted as directed by the district conference and within a time limit as set by the district conference. The appropriate district conference committee (cf. 468:1) shall be responsible to review each resolution or memorial as to its origin (462), clarity, relationship to *The Discipline* and other existing legislation of the General Conference or district conference, and shall report them out to the district conference together with their recommendations. A properly submitted resolution cannot be withheld from the conference body by a committee unless withdrawn by its authors or declared out of order by the chairman of the district conference as contravening *The Discipline* (743:9). The committee chairman shall present any resolutions in question to the district conference chairman for a ruling before presenting them on the conference floor.

### 4. Committees

**466.** The district conference shall have such committees as

are required by *The Discipline*, and may create and define the duties of such other committees as are deemed necessary.

**a. District Conference Action Committee**

467. A district conference may establish a district conference action committee (473:9) that shall combine the functions of a resolutions committee and a ways and means committee. It shall consist of the district superintendent, the district treasurer, and from three to nine other members elected by the conference with due consideration for lay representation (cf. 471:2). The district conference may delegate the election of the committee members to the district board of administration. The district superintendent shall be the chairman or shall appoint another to serve in his place, and the committee shall elect a secretary and other officers as deemed necessary. The chairman shall convene the committee at least thirty days before the scheduled opening of the district conference and at other times as deemed necessary.

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

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

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

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

(4) To review the standing rules of the district in order to make recommendations to the district conference concerning the alignment of such rules with General Conference legislation,

and concerning any other necessary amendments (473:5).

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

#### **b. District Conference Nominating Committee**

470. Each district may have a district conference nominating committee consisting of the district superintendent as chairman, and two or more elders and an equal number of laymen elected by the district conference (473:10). The elected members of the nominating committee shall not succeed themselves and may not be reelected until after a lapse of one year. The committee shall organize itself and elect a vice-chairman and a secretary. It shall serve for one year and shall meet as called by the chairman at such a time as will provide for careful and thorough work before the district conference session. The district conference shall also have the right to make nominations from the floor.

471. The duties of this committee are:

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

(2) To present nominations for each of the following in accord with the requirements and regulations for each as set forth in *The Discipline*, and in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* for various options in combining responsibilities or referring the power of nomination or election to other bodies: the district conference action committee (467), the district auditing committee (521), the district building committee (523), the district statistical committee (525), the district board of ministerial standing (532), the district board of missions and evangelism (552), the district secretary of extension and evangelism (559), the district secretary of world missions (560), the district board of Christian education (572), the dis-

trict director of Christian education (578), the district Sunday school secretary (588), the district director of leadership training (590), the district director of CYC (594), the district educational secretary (596), and the district board of review (1524).

(3) To present names to the district conference for election by the district conference as nominees to the General Board of Administration as the district's representatives on the board of trustees of the general educational institutions within the area as set forth in 931:1-4.

(4) To present any other nominations as shall be requested by the district conference.

### 5. The District Conference Journal

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

(1) To have it certified by an editing committee or by the district superintendent.

(2) To arrange the journal as far as possible according to the table of contents and general format prepared by the General Secretary-Treasurer and approved by the General Board of Administration.

(3) To see that it contains a complete directory for the district as set forth in 517:8.

(4) To present a bound volume of the district journals to the General Secretary-Treasurer at the time of the General Conference for review and evaluation according to a standard of excellence.

### E. Duties and Powers

473. The duties and powers of the district conference, as set forth in the Constitution (cf. 453) and as authorized by the General Conference are:

### Relating to the Constitution

(1) To propose an amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote, to be submitted to the General Conference as a memorial (185; 637; 650:1); or to propose an amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote, to be submitted first to the other district conferences (185; 650:2).

(2) To vote on the ratification of an amendment to the Constitution adopted by the General Conference (185; 650:1); and to vote on a proposed amendment to the Constitution originating in another district conference (185; 650:2).

### Relating to the General Conference

(3) To adopt memorials to the General Conference for proposed changes in *The Discipline* or for other legislation (463; 636-637; 641).

(4) To elect delegates to the General Conference as set forth in 602-616 (cf. 471:1).

(5) To review all standing rules of the district and bring them into harmony with the Constitution, other provisions of *The Discipline* as currently revised and amended, and with other General Conference legislation (160:6; 468:4).

(6) To request a special session of the General Conference in concurrence with two-thirds of the district conferences (167:2; 623).

### Relating to the District Conference

(7) To invite, if desired, the general representative to preside over the district conference whenever a General Superintendent is not present (173:3; 740:17).

(8) To receive a report concerning the interests and progress of the denomination from the General Superintendent presiding over the district conference, or if a General Superintendent is not present, from the general representative (740:17).

(9) To authorize, if desired, a district conference action

committee, designate its number of members, and provide for the election of the members as set forth in 467.

(10) To authorize, if desired, a district conference nominating committee, designate its number of members, and elect such members as set forth in 470.

(11) To determine the place of the next annual session of the district conference or to delegate this authority to the district board of administration (447).

#### Relating to District Administration

(12) To take charge of all ministers, commissioned and licensed deaconesses, commissioned and licensed special workers, missions, pioneer churches, pastoral charges, auxiliary organizations (cf. 486:22; 1250:2), and other district work within its bounds, except when the district is under discipline (176:3c, e), and except for those members of the district who are elected as general officials (711), missionaries appointed under the General Department of World Missions (866), and others who are amenable only to the General Board of Administration for their official duties (160:1; 176:2; 1521; 1537).

(13) To receive a report concerning their official duties from the following: the district superintendent (511:26), the assistant district superintendent (514:6), and the district treasurer (519:8); the district presidents and treasurers of Wesleyan Men (1224:2, 5), Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (1252:2, 5), and Wesleyan Youth (1287:2, 5); the district departmental officers, including the district secretary of extension and evangelism (559:8), the district world missions secretary (560:7), the district director of Christian education (579:7), the district Sunday school secretary (588:5), the district director of leadership training (590:7), the district director of CYC (594:6), the district educational secretary (596:6), the district director of YMWB (1252:6), and any others as desired by the district conference.

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

(15) To consider the numerical and financial progress of the district by receiving a complete statistical and financial report as compiled and submitted by the district statistical committee (526:1-3), for which reports shall be submitted to the committee on the approved forms as set forth in 526:1.

(16) To take such actions and adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote the interests and prosperity of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district, and to amend or rescind the same, provided that it shall not add to or take from any provision of the Constitution or other provisions of *The Discipline*, and provided that any three members may appeal an action of the district conference as set forth in 160:6 (cf. 740:21).

(17) To adopt financial plans which will provide for the support of the district work, and for the payment of the district obligation for the United Stewardship Fund (775:1), assigning to each church its share of these obligations (775:2; cf. 486:10).

(18) To set the salaries, allowances, and other related matters for the district officials (491) and district departmental officers (499), unless the district conference shall refer such matters to a committee for study and recommendation, and to the district board of administration for approval and implementation.

(19) To determine the dates for the district fiscal year, which shall be binding on all churches, boards, committees, and organizations within the district for the keeping of records and reports.

(20) To employ the assistant district superintendent as a

full-time official, if desired, and further to define his duties in addition to those required by *The Discipline* (513-515).

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

(22) To authorize the incorporation of the district as provided for in 1311-1316. After such incorporation, the district board of administration shall carry out the will of the district conference concerning the holding of district and local church property (cf. 1425), and shall have power, on its own resolution, to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation.

(23) To elect, in states where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the law requires the property to be held by trustees, a district board of trustees from among the members of the district board of administration, which shall carry out the will of the district conference concerning the holding of district and local church property (cf. 1425), and which shall carry out its duties as set forth in 528 (cf. 1401-1420; 1451-1461).

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

#### Relating to Churches, Ministers, and Christian Workers

(25) To authorize the establishing of a mission (203), a pioneer church (205), a church (209), a circuit (212), the reclassification of a church as a pioneer church (209:1; cf. 486:27), to declare a church as discontinued or abandoned (1435), and to hear a report from the district superintendent of the organization of new churches (210:6; 511:14).

(26) To determine the boundaries of each pastoral charge

within the district (160:5; 486:9c; cf. 37:VI; 1439).

(27) To receive and pass upon the recommendations of the district board of administration concerning the pastoral agreements, appointments, and district conference relations, as follows (486:9):

(a) To approve the pastoral agreement entered into between the pastoral charges and the ministers, or to alter such agreement, or to veto the action of the pastoral charge and appoint another pastor, provided that any such alteration or veto shall be for reasons as set forth in the Constitution, and shall be voted on as a separate action by the district conference (160:1-2; 281).

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

(c) To appoint each elder and licensed minister to the proper category of service (1156-1175), appointing each elder not included on the stationed list (539:I:A) to the proper district conference relation as reserve, superannuated, unstationed, or elder in the process of transfer (539:I:B-E); to list as unlicensed ministerial students, those persons qualified to study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing (539:III; 1170:4); and to appoint as commissioned and licensed deaconesses, commissioned and licensed special workers (designating their particular ministry), and commissioned lay missionaries such as have been granted the proper commissions and licenses (539:IV-V).

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

(29) To elect to elder's orders, a candidate the district con-

ference deems qualified (1119), after receiving a report from the district board of ministerial standing (537:5) which shall be acted upon as a separate item of business.

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

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

(b) A district ministerial license, the granting of which shall become effective when the candidate shall receive his appointment as set forth in 1112:7 and 1113:3 (cf. 473:27c; 486:9).

(c) A recognition as unlicensed ministerial student for those so qualified (1170:4).

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

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

(f) A commission as lay missionary (1192).

(g) Any other license or commission as shall be author-

ized by *The Discipline*.

(h) The restoration of orders, commission, or license as set forth in 1136-1140; 1185; 1190 (cf. 537:4).

(31) To receive and pass on a written annual service report, through the district board of ministerial standing as set forth in 537:7-9, from each elder, licensed minister, commissioned and licensed deaconess, and commissioned and licensed special worker; to receive an explanation from each person whose report has been found unsatisfactory, and to vote on the continuation of such person for appointment which shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence for approval (537:9).

#### Relating to the Election of Officials and Committees

(32) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an elder to the office of district superintendent for a term of one year (cf. 743:10). Whenever a district superintendent is reelected, it shall be for a term of two years (507:2).

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

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

(35) To elect, for a term of four years, the members required to fill vacancies on the district board of ministerial standing (532; cf. 471:2); and to designate, if it so desires, the elders of said board as the council of ordination (546; cf. 486:33).

(36) To nominate to the General Board of Administration two names for each membership on the board of trustees of a general educational institution to which the district is entitled as assigned by the General Board of Administration, and

to indicate the order of preference (931:4d; cf. 471:3).

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

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

(39) To elect, if desired, a district director of Christian education (cf. 471:2), or to authorize the district board of administration to employ such a director for full-time service (578); and to assign the duties of the various district secretaries or directors of Christian education agencies to him as desired (579:3; 588; 590; 594; 596).

(40) To elect (cf. 471:2), whenever such duties have not been assigned to a district director of Christian education (cf. 473:39), a district Sunday school secretary (588), a district director of leadership training, if desired (590), a district director of CYC (594), a district educational secretary (596), and members at large for the district board of Christian education (572).

(41) To elect four elders and three laymen as members of the district board of review, and to elect two elders and two laymen to serve as alternates and to fill vacancies as set forth in 1524 (cf. 471:2).

#### Relating to Church Law and the Judiciary

(42) To request, by a two-thirds majority vote, a ruling on

a point of Wesleyan Church law or an interpretation of *The Discipline* from the Board of General Superintendents (740:20a); and to appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, such a ruling to the general Board of Review (740:20c; 1593:3).

(43) To appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, a decision of the Board of General Superintendents on the legality of an action by the district conference, a district board or committee, or a district official, to the general Board of Review (181:2; 740:21; 1593:3; cf. 160:6).

(44) To adopt, by a two-thirds majority vote, a complaint against the General Conference or another district and order its presentation to the general Board of Review for settlement (181:4, 6; 1593:5-6); and to adopt such a complaint, by a majority vote, against the General Board of Administration to be presented to the general Board of Review for settlement (1593:5). (Cf. 160:10.)

(45) To appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, a judgment of the general Board of Review to the General Conference for final settlement (1594; cf. 160:10; 182).

(46) To exercise judicial powers according to the provisions of the Judiciary (1521-1532; cf. 1501-1512; 1551-1579).

## CHAPTER III

### DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Function

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

#### B. Membership

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

(1) When a district has thirty established churches or less, the district conference shall elect at least three members at large to the district board of administration, making a total board of not less than seven members, elected so that at least two of the seven are laymen (cf. 476:4).

(2) When a district has more than thirty established churches, but less than fifty, the district conference shall elect at least five members at large to the district board of administration, making a total board of not less than nine members, elected so that at least three of the nine are laymen (cf. 476:4).

(3) When a district has more than fifty established churches, the district conference shall elect at least seven members at large to the district board of administration, making a total of not less than eleven members, elected so that at least four of the eleven are laymen (cf. 476:4).

(4) Whenever a district conference chooses to elect more than the minimum number of members at large to its district

board of administration, due regard shall be given to elect a proportionate number of laymen.

**477. Regulations for a Member at Large.** Each member at large of a district board of administration shall be a full member of a local Wesleyan church within the district which he serves, both at the time of election and throughout his tenure of membership. A ministerial member at large shall be chosen from among the elders of the district in active service for The Wesleyan Church. The term of office shall be for one year, and he shall serve from the close of the district conference at which he is elected until the close of the next regular session of the district conference or until his successor is elected and qualified. Regulations governing the amenability of a member at large of the district board of administration and the declaring and filling of a vacancy in such office are the same as those for district officials set forth in 494 and 496 (cf. 486:25a).

### C. Sessions

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

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

(2) To elect those departmental officers and members of boards or committees, and to elect or ratify the election of those officers of auxiliaries, whose terms expire at the time of the district board's organizing session (cf. 486:18; 1223:4).

(3) To determine the boundaries of the zones as given in 486:12.

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

**479. Regular Sessions.** The district board of administration shall meet at such time and place as it shall determine, pro-

vided that it shall meet at least once each quarter.

**480. Special Sessions.** The district board of administration may authorize special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the district superintendent, or in the event of an emergency when the district superintendent is unable to act, by the assistant district superintendent. A special session shall also be called when requested by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council (891:52). All members shall be notified at least one week in advance of a special session, except when all are able to meet on shorter notice.

#### D. Organization and Procedures

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

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

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

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

#### E. Duties and Powers

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

##### General Duties

(1) To serve as the chief governing body of the district in the interim of district conference sessions, caring for all the

interests of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district in accord with *The Discipline*.

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

(3) To take a special interest and responsibility for developing, supervising, and promoting an aggressive program of district church extension and evangelism, and to cooperate in such endeavor with the General Superintendent over the district and the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (743:11; 832:1; 837:8).

#### Related to the District

##### Conference

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

(5) To cooperate with the Board of General Superintendents in fixing the date for the annual session of the district conference so that a General Superintendent may preside (447; 740:16).

(6) To call for a reconvened session of the district conference by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration, subject to the approval of the Executive Council (702:6), and to call for a reconvened session when requested to do so by the General Board of Administration (448; 691:52).

(7) To allot to each established church or circuit of the district the number of lay delegates it shall elect to the district conference (442).

(8) To submit resolutions to the district conference that will provide for a more efficient administration, better correlation, and advancement of the district work, and to submit proposed

memorials for the General Conference to the district conference for adoption (462-463).

(9) To serve the district conference as a committee on pastoral relations and ministerial appointments, being responsible:

(a) To review all pastoral agreements between churches and ministers of the district (cf. 278-292).

(b) To receive a report from the district board of ministerial standing concerning matters related to district conference appointments and relations as set forth in 537:10.

(c) To submit to the district conference a comprehensive report covering all the churches and ministers of the district: recommending any necessary changes in the boundaries of the pastoral charges or in the classification of churches (473:25-26; cf. 1435; 1439); recommending the appointment of pastors for all churches for the coming year (cf. 205:1), including the approval, alteration, or veto of pastoral agreements already made by the churches and ministers (160:2), and the appointment of pastors or the delegation of responsibility for such appointment for churches otherwise without pastors (473:27), and recommending the appointment of all other elders (1121:5), licensed ministers, deaconesses, and special workers, and the listing of unlicensed ministerial students as set forth in 473:27 and 539.

(10) To carry out the following duties concerning the United Stewardship Fund (771-781): to submit a recommendation to the district conference for the raising of the district obligation and the apportioning to each church of its share of the district obligation (775; cf. 519:6), unless the district conference shall delegate this to another committee (cf. 467-468); to administer the district plan for raising the district obligation and to see that such obligation is paid in full (775:3); to approve the exemption of remodeling funds from the basis of the United Stewardship Fund for projects extensive enough to secure such recommendation from the district building committee (523:3; 773:1).

**Duties Relating to District****Officers, Committees, and Auxiliaries**

(11) To have the general oversight of all district officials (491), district departmental officers (499), boards, committees, employees, auxiliary organizations of the district; to approve their plans and to coordinate their work; and to see that the work is administered according to *The Discipline* and the directives of the district conference. (Cf. 494-496; 502-504; 519:8; 534; 1222; 1223:4, 6; 1224:2, 5-6; 1225:5; 1249; 1250:4; 1251:4, 6; 1252:7; 1284; 1285:4; 1286:4, 6; 1287:2, 5-6.)

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

(13) To incorporate the district, when so authorized by the district conference (473:22), as provided for in 1311-1316; to serve as the board of directors of such corporation; and to have power on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation, and to exercise its corporate powers in accord with the provisions of *The Discipline* (1311-1316; 1401-1420; 1422; 1425; 1451-1461).

(14) To carry out, whenever the district is not incorporated, such duties, and to exercise such authority over district property and other legal affairs as set forth in 1401-1420 and 1451-1461.

(15) To provide for the preservation and security of all district records and archives, directing the district superintendent (511:11; 1440), the district secretary (517:6-7), the secretary of the district board of ministerial standing (535), and any others, concerning the care of the records placed in their custody.

(16) To have the district treasurer bonded and to set the

amount of such bond, the expense for which shall be paid by the district.

(17) To employ an auditor when so authorized by the district conference and to assign his duties (521-522); to direct an audit of the records and funds in the custody of the district treasurer, the district treasurers of the auxiliary organizations, or any other treasurers of the district, whenever such is deemed necessary (519:7; 1224:5; 1252:5; 1287:5).

(18) To elect such district departmental officers and members of district boards or committees as required by *The Discipline* or delegated to it by the district conference (cf. 467; 473:21; 486:33; 488; 521; 523; 525; 553; 573; 578; 582; 1223:1-6; 1251:4; 1286:4; 1528).

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

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

(21) To elect a district president for Wesleyan Men, and, at its option, a district WM executive committee (1223:1-6); to authorize a district convention for Wesleyan Men (1225:1), and, when such has been authorized, to provide for the officers accordingly (1223:4-5); to approve the plans of Wesleyan Men (1224:6; 1225:5; 1226); and to supervise a local chapter of Wesleyan Men when it serves more than one local church (1213; 1218).

(22) To approve the time and the place of the district conventions of Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (1250:1) and Wesleyan Youth (1285:1) and of the annual meeting of local YMWB directors (1252:6); to recommend to the district conference the enlargement of the membership of the WMS con-

vention, if desired, in keeping with 1250:2; to present two or more nominees for the election of a district president to the district conventions of WMS and WY, and to ratify the election of the other district officers (1251:4; 1286:4); and to approve the plans of the district conventions and the executive committees of WMS and WY as provided in their respective constitutions (1250:4; 1252:7; 1285:4; 1287:6).

(23) To employ, when so authorized by the district conference (473:39), a district director of Christian education (578), who shall be nominated by the district board of Christian education (576:7); and to assign duties to such a director (579:1-9).

(24) To request a ruling on a point of church law or an interpretation of *The Discipline* from the Board of General Superintendents and to appeal the same to the Board of Review (740:20a, c; 1593:3); and to request assistance from the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council, through the General Superintendent, when deemed necessary.

(25) To remove for cause or whenever the best interests of the Church and the district so require:

(a) Any of its own members, with the exception of the district superintendent (cf. 509), by a two-thirds majority vote of all members, and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term (477; 494; 496).

(b) Any departmental officer (499), member of a board, committee, or other agency of the district, or the district officers of an auxiliary organization, by a majority vote and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term (504).

#### Related to Churches and Ministers

(26) To organize and supervise all pastoral charges of the district in accord with *The Discipline* and other district directives so that each one may be an effective unit of The Wesleyan Church; to guard carefully the spiritual life and

general welfare of all the churches.

(27) To authorize the establishment of a mission (203; 274:15), a pioneer church (205), and a church (209), and to receive a report from the district superintendent on the effecting of such organizations (210:6); to reclassify an established church as a pioneer church when its number of full members drops to ten or fewer (209:1; cf. 1423); and to recommend that the district conference declare a church as discontinued or abandoned (473:25; 1435).

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

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

(30) To approve in writing the proposal of a local church conference for the acquisition, purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer, or other disposal of real property in accord with the provisions in 1431-1444 (cf. 1301-1309), after first receiving a written report and recommendation from the district building committee when such is required as set forth in 523; to authorize the incorporation of a local church in keeping with 1301 (cf. 274:14; 1304:6).

(31) To take charge of any complaints or accusations against a local church or circuit within the district and to carry out disciplinary proceedings as deemed necessary in accord with the Judiciary (1530; cf. 1525:2-4); to intervene and protect the property rights of The Wesleyan Church and the district as set forth in 1304:6; 1443; 1459:6; and to authorize the district superintendent to call for an affirmation of loyalty and to reorganize a local church as set forth in 1531.

(32) To grant temporary recognition (cf. 537:3) to elders, commissioned deaconesses, and commissioned special workers,

or persons with equivalent standing, from other denominations, as being in process of transfer, subject to the action of the next district conference (473:30a, d, e; 511:25; 1120; 1184; 1189).

(33) To appoint the desired number of elders as a council of ordination (546), except when the district conference shall designate the elders on the district board of ministerial standing as the council of ordination (473:35; 537:6); and, in case of emergency, in the interim of district conference sessions, to elect to elder's orders a candidate recommended by the district board of ministerial standing (1119:5).

(34) To consider and pass on the proposed resignation by, or a proposed vote of confidence on, a pastor serving under recall, when such is considered before his term of service expires or in the interim of biennial reviews (292:1-2); or to remove a pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration in keeping with the provisions of 287; 292:3; 511:19; and to appoint a supply pastor, if necessary, until another pastor has been obtained (288); or to remove a supply pastor by a majority vote if deemed necessary (1120:3; 1159:5).

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

(36) To represent the district, in the interim of district conference sessions, in judicial proceedings over matters of controversy between the district and other local, district, or general units or agencies (160:10; cf. 1593:5b).

#### **F. District Superintendent's Advisory Committee**

488. A district board of administration with nine or more

members may establish a district superintendent's advisory committee which shall consist of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. The committee shall not have authority to take official action but shall advise the district superintendent on such matters as he shall refer to it.

## CHAPTER IV

### DISTRICT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

#### A. List of District Officers, Boards, and Committees

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

- (1) The district *shall* have:
  - administration, board of (475-486)
  - assistant superintendent (513-515)
  - auditing committee or auditor (521-522)
  - building committee (523)
  - Christian education, board of (571-576)
  - Christian Youth Crusaders director (594)
  - delegates to General Conference (417; 473:4; 602-616)
  - educational secretary (596)
  - extension and evangelism secretary (559)
  - ministerial standing, board of (531-537)
  - missions and evangelism, board of (551-556)
  - review, board of (1524-1526)
  - secretary (516-517)
  - statistical committee (525-526)
  - Sunday school committee (581-585)
  - Sunday school secretary (588)
  - superintendent (506-511)
  - treasurer (518-519)
  - trustees of each general educational institution within the area (473:36; 931:4)
  - world missions secretary (560)
- (2) The district *may* have:
  - camp meeting board (473:21)
  - Christian education director (578-579)

conference action committee (467-468)  
 conference journal editing committee (472:1)  
 conference nominating committee (470-471)  
 judicial committee (1528)  
 leadership training director (590)  
 ordination council (546)  
 superintendent's advisory committee (488)  
 trustees, board of (473:23; 527; 1460)

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

Wesleyan Men officers and committees (1223-1224; 1225:4)  
 Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society officers and committees (1250:3; 1251-1252)  
 Wesleyan Youth officers and committees (1285:3; 1286-1287; 1288:2)  
 Young Missionary Workers' Band director (1252:6)

### B. District Officials

**491. Identification.** The district officials include the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. They are elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, and are ex officio members of the district board of administration (473:32-34; cf. 476).

**492. Qualifications.** A district official other than the district superintendent (cf. 507:1) must be, at the time of election and throughout his term of service, a full member of a local Wesleyan church within the district, and, if a minister, a ministerial member of the district he serves and in active service for The Wesleyan Church (cf. 496).

**493. Term of Office.** District officials other than the district superintendent (cf. 507:2) shall be elected for a term of one year. All district officials shall assume office at the

close of the district conference session at which they are elected, and shall serve until the close of the district conference marking the end of their term or until their successors are elected and qualified.

**494. Amenability.** A district official shall administer his office according to *The Discipline*, and as directed by the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, the district conference, and the district board of administration. District officials other than the district superintendent shall serve under the general supervision of the district superintendent, shall be amenable to the district board of administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district so require, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration (486:25a). The amenability of the district superintendent is set forth in 509 (cf. 160:1; 176:2).

**495. Reports.** A district official shall report to each session of the district conference concerning his official duties (473:13), and to the district board of administration as may be required of him.

**496. Vacancies.** The office of a district official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district, by resignation, by removal (494), or in the case of a minister, by ceasing to be a ministerial member of the district in active service for The Wesleyan Church. In all cases other than that of the district superintendent (507:4), the filling of a vacancy in the office of a district official until the next session of the district conference shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration (486:25a).

### C. District Departmental Officers and Committees

**499. Identification.** District departmental officers include the district secretary of extension and evangelism (559), the

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

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

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

**502. Amenability.** Each district departmental officer and member of a district board or committee (499) shall carry out his duties according to *The Discipline* and other directives of the general church or district. He shall serve under the general supervision of the district superintendent and shall be amenable to the district board of administration. He may be removed by the district board of administration, by a majority vote, for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district so require (486:25b).

**503. Reports.** A district departmental officer shall report to the district conference as required by *The Discipline* or by the district conference (473:13), and shall make other reports

to the board or committee which he serves, the district board of administration, or the district superintendent as may be requested.

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

## CHAPTER V

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

#### A. District Superintendent

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

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

(1) **Election.** The district superintendent shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, from among the elders in active service for The Wesleyan Church (473:32; cf. 743:10). If the district superintendent is elected from outside the membership of the district he is to serve, he shall immediately arrange for the transfer of his local and district membership.

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

(3) **Ex Officio Duties.** The district superintendent is a ministerial member of the General Conference (165; 602:1), vice-chairman of the district conference (173:3; 450), chairman of the district board of administration (476; 482), chairman of the district building committee (523), member (and chairman, unless he chooses to appoint another in his place) of the district conference action committee when such is authorized (467), chairman of the district conference nominating committee when such is authorized (470), and an ex officio member of the district conventions and the district executive committees of Wesleyan Men (1223:1 bc; 1225:3), Wesleyan Women's Mission-

ary Society (1250:2; 1251:1), and Wesleyan Youth (1285:2; 1286:1).

(4) **Vacancy.** Whenever the office of a superintendent is vacated (496), the assistant district superintendent shall become the district superintendent and serve until the next session of the district conference or until a successor shall be elected and qualified (514:7). Whenever a vacancy occurs in both the offices of the district superintendent and the assistant district superintendent, the General Superintendent over the district shall appoint an acting district superintendent to serve until the General Superintendent is able to convene the district board of administration to fill the vacancies as set forth in 496.

**509. Amenability.** The district superintendent is amenable, as provided in the Constitution, to the General Board of Administration for his official duties and to the district conference for both his official duties and moral character (160:1; 176:2). He may be removed from office by the General Board of Administration, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, for cause or whenever the General Board deems it necessary for the best interests of the Church and the preservation of the district (691:56a). In the interim of General Board of Administration sessions, he may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Executive Council pending further action by the General Board of Administration (702:4).

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

#### General

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

(2) To give special attention to the initiation and promotion of an aggressive program of evangelism and church extension, as approved by the district conference or the district board of administration (cf. 203; 205; 209; 486:3).

(3) To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry, teaching the people concerning the doctrines, purposes, and programs of The Wesleyan Church, and promoting the interests of all the general departments and the district.

(4) To cooperate with the General Superintendent over the district, the General Board of Administration and its Executive Council in the oversight of the district work, and, in matters of district church extension and evangelism, with the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (743:11; 837:8).

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

#### District Administration

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

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

(8) To exercise administrative supervision over all district officials, departmental officers, boards (cf. 555; 575), commit-

tees, auxiliary organizations (cf. 1213; 1222; 1224:2; 1225:1; 1249; 1252:2, 6; 1284; 1287:2), missions, pioneer churches, churches, circuits, and ministers and other workers (cf. 1159:2) of the district with the exception of those who are amenable only to the General Board of Administration for their official duties (160:1; 473:12), and to see that the plans and policies of the general church and district are carried out.

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

(10) To serve as an ex officio member of the district executive committees of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and Wesleyan Youth (1223:1bc; 1224:6; 1251:1; 1252:7; 1286:1; 1287:6).

(11) To examine all written instruments and legal papers for the conveyance of property acquired by local churches (1431:5) or the district and to approve them as to their conformity with the requirements of *The Discipline* (1417-1461; cf. 1301-1316), the inclusion of the proper trust clause (1418), and conformity to local laws (1403); to forward on the approved forms (691:49) a record of important facts concerning such property to the General Superintendent over the district; and to have the custody, under the direction of the district board of administration, of property and legal records for both the district and the local churches as provided for in 1440. (Cf. 1781; 1791.)

### Local Churches

(12) To visit, or to appoint the assistant district superintendent or other representative to visit, each church in the district at least once a year, making careful inquiry into the progress and administration of the church and seeking to advance its spiritual life and to preserve a written report of such

visits in his office for future reference and for his successor. (Cf. 1515:3.)

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

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

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

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

(17) To counsel with a local church board for the securing of a pastor (284:1-2), providing it with a list of names of those ministers available for a call, and to carry out the provisions of *The Discipline* concerning the call, recall, the review and termination of an extended call, the resignation and release of a pastor from the pastoral agreement, and other matters pertaining to pastoral relations for the pastoral charges under his care (265:3; 279:2; 284:1-2; 286; 287; 290-292; 310).

(18) To approve the transfer of any elder or licensed minister from another district, in concurrence with the General Superintendent (151:6; 284:2; 743:15; 1128:1), and, when objecting to such a transfer, to state his reasons if requested to do so.

(19) To recommend the removal of a pastor to the district board of administration, whenever the best interests of the church involved demand it, and to recommend to the district board of administration the appointment of a supply, if necessary, until another pastor has been obtained (287; 288; 292:3; 486:29, 34).

(20) To perform all the functions of a pastor for a local church within the district when such church is without a pastor, or to recommend to the district board of administration the appointment of a supply pastor until the local church obtains a pastor (486:29, 34).

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

### Ministers

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

(23) To cooperate with the General Superintendent in, or in his absence to be responsible for, leading the council of ordination (546) in conducting the ritual of ordination (1119:6; 1701-1711), and the ritual of commissioning a deaconess (1184; 1721), a special worker (1189; 1741), and a lay missionary (1192; 1741); to sign with the district secretary such certificates, licenses, or other official forms, as are required of his office and issued to such persons as are authorized by the district

conference; to have charge of services for the installation of pastors (1764).

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

(25) To approve in writing the temporary service of an elder in a district other than the one of which he is a member (1128:2); to grant a letter of transfer or standing to any ordained, licensed, or commissioned worker in good standing of the district (1854; 1856); to instruct the district secretary to enroll as a member of the district a minister who transfers from another district in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* (151:6; 1128:1; 1854-1855), and to order the enrollment of a deaconess or special worker so transferring (1185; 1190; 1854-1855); and to guide a minister, deaconess, or special worker from another denomination seeking recognition and membership in The Wesleyan Church (1116:3; 1120; 1184; 1189). (Cf. 1133.)

### Reports

(26) To report annually to the district conference concerning his official duties and personal ministry (473:13), and to submit other reports to the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council and the district board of administration as required.

### Judicial

(27) To receive any complaint or accusation against any person or local unit under the jurisdiction of the district (1517:4; 1521:1-5; 1527:1, 3; 1530:1), and to give such his prompt and careful attention as required in the Judiciary (1527:1; 1530:1-2), and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the district board of administration for disposition (486:31, 35). (Cf. 1529:2; 1531.)

**B. Assistant District Superintendent**

**513.** The assistant district superintendent shall be elected, by ballot and by majority vote, by the district conference from among the elders of the district in active service for The Wesleyan Church (473:33). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as set forth in 491-496.

**514.** The duties of the assistant district superintendent are:

(1) To serve as member and vice-chairman of the district board of administration, presiding over the board whenever the district superintendent is not present or appoints him to do so (482).

(2) To convene the district board of administration in times of emergency when the district superintendent is not able to act (480).

(3) To serve as member and chairman of the district board of ministerial standing (533).

(4) To assist the district superintendent and to serve as his representative to local churches or district organizations as the superintendent may request.

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

(6) To report annually to the district conference concerning his official duties (473:13), and to the district board of administration as required.

(7) To become district superintendent in the event of a vacancy in that office (cf. 496; 507:4).

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

### C. District Secretary

**516.** The district secretary shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote (473:34; cf. 471:1). His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as defined in 491-496.

**517.** The duties of the district secretary are:

(1) To be the secretary of the district conference, recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form (cf. 472), and forwarding sufficient copies to the General Secretary-Treasurer for distribution to the general offices and departments.

(2) To serve as a member and as the secretary of the district board of administration (476; 483), recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form, forwarding a copy of the minutes of each session to each member of the board and to the General Superintendent over the district.

(3) To issue official notices and communications from the district conference, including assignments for the United Stewardship Fund (775:2) and other financial obligations, and from the district board of administration; and to keep permanent file copies of all correspondence, reports, and other records.

(4) To issue and sign all certificates, licenses, and other official forms as properly authorized by the district and as prescribed for a district secretary by the General Conference or General Board of Administration; and to forward to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism the names of those recommended to the General Board of Administration for certification as general evangelists (cf. 1162).

(5) To forward promptly to the General Secretary-Treasurer: the statistical and financial reports of the district conference as may be required by the General Board of Administration; a certified list of the General Conference delegates, and the certification of an alternate when a delegate is unable to at-

tend (608-611); a copy of each memorial adopted for presentation to the General Conference; a copy of the official district directory for inclusion in the denominational directory, and of each change in the directory as it occurs (517:8); and to cooperate in forwarding other information to the General Secretary as he may request.

(6) To be the custodian of the official district records and archives, except as otherwise provided for in *The Discipline*, (535; 1440), including the records of the district statistical committee (526:3) and all district judicial committees (1524; 1528), and to be instructed by the district board of administration as to the exercise of such custody (486:15).

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

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

(9) To aid in collecting books, documents, photographs, or other historical materials for the historical archives of the denomination in cooperation with the General Secretary-Treasurer (763:4).

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

(11) To perform such other duties as may be required by the

district conference or the district board of administration and as pertain to his office.

#### D. District Treasurer

518. The district treasurer shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote (473:34; cf. 471:1). The election of the treasurer shall not take place until after the adoption of the audited report of the district treasurer for the previous year. His qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as defined in 491-496.

519. The duties of a district treasurer are:

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

(2) To be bonded to the amount set by the district board of administration, the cost of which shall be paid by the district (486:16).

(3) To have custody of all district funds, unless otherwise provided for by *The Discipline*; to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the financial plans of the General Conference and the district conference and as directed by the district board of administration (cf. 1224:5).

(4) To receive, record, and hold all funds specified for the general church from the several churches, district organizations, or from any other sources within the district, and to remit such funds monthly to the General Secretary-Treasurer on the approved forms and as instructed by him (775:3); to cooperate with the district treasurers of the auxiliaries in securing and compiling statistics necessary to maintaining a record of their work (1224:5; 1252:5; 1287:5; cf. 763:13).

(5) To serve as a district director of stewardship, promoting stewardship and storehouse tithing on the district level, in cooperation with the general director of stewardship (763:19).

(6) To prepare and submit to the district board of adminis-

tration, or to another committee if such has been designated by the district conference, a recommended plan to provide for the raising of the district obligation to the United Stewardship Fund, designating the amount to be assigned to each local church as its share of the district obligation, in accord with the regulations for the United Stewardship Fund (775); which plan, as approved by the proper board or committee, shall be presented to the district conference for adoption (473:17; 486:10; cf. 467-468).

(7) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit, after the close of the fiscal year, as provided for in 521-522, and at any other time as may be requested by the district board of administration (486:17).

(8) To submit a complete financial report of all funds in his care, certified by the auditor or the auditing committee, to each regular session of the district conference (473:13), to submit reports to the district board of administration (486:11), the district superintendent, and the General Secretary-Treasurer as they may require.

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

#### **E. District Auditing Committee**

521. The district conference shall provide for the auditing of all financial records and funds by the election of a district auditing committee, or by directing the district board of administration to employ an accountant for that purpose (522; cf. 486:17). The district auditing committee shall be a standing committee and shall consist of two or more persons elected for a term of one year by the district conference (473:37; cf. 471:2). General regulations for the membership of this committee are given in 499-504. The duties of the auditing committee are:

(1) To audit annually, after the close of the district fiscal year, and before the financial reports are presented to a district

conference or convention, the records and funds of the district treasurer (519:8), the district treasurers of Wesleyan Men (1224:5), Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (1252:5), and Wesleyan Youth (1287:5), and any other treasurer of a district board or agency having custody of district funds (cf. 583); and to perform such audits at other times as may be requested by the district board of administration.

(2) To submit a written report to the district conference and to each of the district conventions of the auxiliaries concerning the results of the audit. A financial report may not be accepted as approved by any official body until certified as correct by the auditing committee or employed auditor.

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

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

#### F. District Building Committee

523. There shall be a district building committee elected by the district conference (473:37; cf. 471:2), unless the district conference shall delegate the election to the district board of administration. The committee shall consist of the district superintendent as chairman, and one or more elders as desired with an equal number of laymen. The elected members should be persons who are capable and experienced in property transactions and the construction of buildings. General regulations governing the membership of this committee are given in 499-504. The duties of the district building committee are:

(1) To investigate the proposed sites for local church buildings, parsonages, or other units, in order to ascertain that such properties are properly located in the community to be served and adequate in size for future expansion and parking facil-

ities; to consider also the plans and requirements of any metropolitan or urban planning commission, if such an agency exists; to consider also the financial plans and the liabilities to be incurred; to act upon the proposal of the local church and to report its findings and recommendations in writing both to the district board of administration and the local church (cf. 1431-1434).

(2) To consider the proposal of a local church (274:13) for the construction of a local church building, parsonage, educational unit, or the remodeling of such buildings when it amounts to ten percent or more of the value of the building; to advise them in detail concerning the architectural plans; to consider carefully the financial liability and the plans of the local church for meeting such liabilities; and to report its findings and recommendations in writing to the local church and the district board of administration (486:30; cf. 1431-1434).

(3) To consider the request of a local church for the exemption of funds expended for a major remodeling of one of its buildings from the basis of the United Stewardship Fund, and to recommend to the district board of administration such exemptions as it considers warranted (cf. 486:10; 773:1).

### G. District Statistical Committee

**525.** Each district conference shall elect a district statistical committee of the desired number (473:37; cf. 471:2), or the district conference may delegate this responsibility to the district board of administration. General regulations for the membership of this committee are given in 499-504.

**526.** The duties of the district statistical committee are:

(1) To receive, on behalf of the district conference, complete annual statistical and financial reports from such persons, units, and agencies as the General Board of Administration shall designate, on forms approved by the General Board and made available by the General Secretary-Treasurer; and to compile

and submit to the district conference a comprehensive statistical and financial report for the district as a whole.

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

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

#### H. District Board of Trustees

527. The district conference of each established district shall be incorporated or shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as set forth in 1311-1316. In places where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the local laws require property to be held by trustees, the district conference may elect from among the members of the district board of administration the members of the district board of trustees in such number as desired (473:23; cf. 1460). The district trustees shall hold office until their term expires as members of the district board of administration and until their successors are elected and qualified. The district board of trustees shall be amenable to the district board of administration (cf. 1459). A district trustee may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration whenever it is deemed necessary for the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district or whenever a trustee shall refuse to carry out the directions of the district board of administration, except when such directions are contrary to local laws or to *The Discipline* (477; 486:25a; 494; 1406). The office of a district trustee may also become vacant by death, cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, or cessation of membership on the district board of administration. A vacancy on the district board of trustees shall be filled for the unexpired term by a two-thirds majority vote of the district board of administration (477; 486:

25a; 496).

**528.** The district board of trustees shall administer its duties in accord with *The Discipline* (1401-1420; 1458-1461), and as directed by the district board of administration. Its duties are:

(1) To hold all district property, and such local property as may be held by the district (1422; 1425), in trust for The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 1458 (cf. 160:8).

(2) To attend to all legal matters pertaining to the district transactions for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other disposal of property, as ordered by the district board of administration (cf. 1459).

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

### I. District Board of Review

**529.** Each established district shall have a district board of review, which shall consist of four elders and three laymen elected annually by the district conference (473:41; cf. 471:2). Two elders and two laymen shall also be elected at the same time to serve as alternates and to fill vacancies in the order of their election (1524). The district board of review serves as an appellate body for lay members and local churches and has original jurisdiction over charges or complaints preferred against local churches. The duties and powers of the district board of review are set forth in the Judiciary (1524-1525). General regulations governing the members of the district board of review are set forth in 499-504.

## Chapter VI

### DISTRICT MINISTERIAL SUPERVISION

#### A. District Board of Ministerial Standing

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

**532. Membership.** The board shall consist of the assistant district superintendent as chairman, and from five to nine members elected by the district conference, one or more of whom shall be laymen (473:35; cf. 471:2). The ministerial members shall be elders in active service for The Wesleyan Church. The term of office for the elected members shall be for four years, with the election so arranged that approximately one-fourth shall be elected each year. General regulations for the members of this board are defined in 499-504.

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

**534. Sessions.** The board shall be convened by the chairman in sufficient time before the opening of the district conference to enable the board to complete its work in a careful and thorough manner, and shall meet at other times as deemed necessary upon the call of the chairman. The district board of ministerial standing, as early as possible after the date of the district conference has been fixed, shall appoint the time

for all candidates to meet with the board, subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:11).

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

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

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

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

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

**Related to Ordination, Commissions,  
Licenses, and Ministerial Students**

(1) To examine carefully (cf. 691:49; 921:12) each candidate for election by the district conference to elder's orders, the

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

(2) To consider each person recommended by his local church conference (274:8) or circuit conference (213:2) to study for the ministry under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing, and to recommend to the district conference for listing as unlicensed ministerial students (539:III) those who are deemed worthy (473:30c; cf. 1170:4); to encourage all such ministerial students to enroll for ministerial training in an approved school of The Wesleyan Church (934; 939); to supervise and counsel them, keeping a record of their ministerial studies (535:2), and cooperating with the director of the Ministerial Study Course Agency in supervising those enrolled in courses under the Agency (941; cf. 1150-1152).

(3) To consider and examine any person who desires to be received into the district from another denomination, and to be recognized as an elder, commissioned deaconess, or commissioned special worker, and to recommend to the district conference for reception as in process of transfer, and subsequently for recognition as in full standing, only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to *The Discipline* (cf. 1116:3; 1120; 1183-1184; 1188-1189); and, in the interim of district conference sessions, to make such recommendation to the district board of administration (486:32).

(4) To consider and examine any person applying for restoration of orders, commission, or license, and to recommend to the district conference only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to *The Discipline* (cf. 1137-1140; 1185; 1190).

(5) To present to the district conference, as a separate report, a recommendation for the election of a candidate to ordination as an elder (473:29; cf. 1119:5); and to present to the district conference a combined report of all other recommendations concerning the commissioning, licensing, recognition, or restoration of ministers, deaconesses, and special workers, and the listing of ministerial students (473:30).

(6) To serve, with the exception of the lay members, and when so designated by the district conference (473:35; cf. 486:33), as a council of ordination (546); and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the district conference.

#### Related to the Annual Service Reports

(7) To receive, on behalf of the district conference, a written annual service report (541) from each elder, licensed minister, commissioned and licensed deaconess, and commissioned and licensed special worker; to review such reports and pass on each one as follows (cf. 473:31):

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

(b) A report in which there are unsatisfactory answers, or which shows that the work has not been done according to *The Discipline*, or that the annual statistical report (526:1) has not been properly submitted, shall be reviewed with the person submitting the report. If reasons for such irregularities are not satisfactory to the district board of minis-

terial standing, the report shall be marked as unsatisfactory and returned to the person submitting it (cf. 537:9).

(8) To investigate the reason for the failure to submit an annual service report on the part of those persons required to do so (541), and to take appropriate action as set forth in 1113:1; 1123:3; 1183; 1184; 1188; and 1189.

(9) To present a report (cf. 533) to the district conference concerning the results of the examination of the annual service reports, listing all members of the district responsible to submit such reports as to whether their reports were approved, unsatisfactory, or not received. A person whose annual service report has been found unsatisfactory (537:7b) shall report to the district conference wherein he has failed, and it shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence by the district conference to approve such a person for continued appointment.

#### **Related to Appointments and District Conference Relations**

(10) To submit reports to the district board of administration concerning the following matters related to district conference appointments and relations: the results of the examination of the annual service reports (537:8-9); the availability for appointment, and any desired changes in appointment or district conference relations, as recorded on the annual service reports; those persons qualified for a district ministerial license, the granting of which shall become effective upon their appointment (473:27c, 30b; 486:9; cf. 1112:7; 1113:3); those persons qualified for a license, commission, listing as unlicensed ministerial student, reception from another district or denomination, or restoration (473:27, 30; 486:9).

#### **B. The Listing of District Conference Relations and Appointments**

539. The elders, licensed ministers, unlicensed ministerial students, commissioned and licensed deaconesses, commissioned

and licensed special workers, commissioned lay missionaries, and other workers of the district shall be listed in the following order as appointed by the district conference (473:27; cf. 486:9). This listing shall be included in the district conference journal (472) as an official district directory and shall be used for the district conference roll call.

### I. Elders

#### A. STATIONED ELDERS (1156-1167).

##### 1. District Service.

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

##### 2. Pastoral Service.

a. Elders appointed as pastors, associate pastors, or assistant pastors within the district (1158).

b. Elders on loan to other districts of The Wesleyan Church for service as supply pastors (1128:2; 1159:1).

##### 3. Evangelistic Service.

a. **General Evangelists.** Elders appointed to evangelistic service and recommended for certification as general evangelists by the district conference, and certified as general evangelists by the General Board of Administration (1160; 1162).

b. **District Evangelists.** Elders appointed to evangelistic service as district evangelists (1160-1161).

##### 4. Denominational Service.

a. Elders elected by the General Conference as general officials (711; cf. 1166).

b. Elders elected or employed by the General Board of Administration for full-time general church service as set forth in 1166 (cf. 691:32).

c. Elders appointed by the General Board of Administration for service as missionaries or workers under

the General Departments of Extension and Evangelism or World Missions as set forth in 1164.

d. Elders employed on the administrative staff or faculty of a general educational institution of The Wesleyan Church (934; 939; 1165).

e. Elders serving as military chaplains (1167).

**5. General Service.**

Elders employed in interchurch service, such as institutional chaplains (1167), and officers of church-related organizations serving the denomination (1166).

**B. SUPERANNUATED ELDERS (1173).**

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

**C. RESERVE ELDERS (1172).**

Elders available for appointment but without employment. An elder who remains on reserve for two consecutive years shall be automatically transferred to the unstationed list, unless continued on reserve by a vote of the district conference (473:27c).

**D. UNSTATIONED ELDERS (1174).**

1. Elders in active service outside of The Wesleyan Church with the approval of the district conference (1133), other than those included in the stationed list as military chaplains (539:I:A:4e) or appointed to general service (539:I:A:5).

2. Elders not available for appointment.

3. Elders who are not otherwise listed.

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

Ordained ministers from another denomination who have been granted recognition as elders in process of transfer (473:30a; cf. 537:3).

## II. Licensed Ministers

- A. PASTORS (1158).
- B. OTHER APPOINTMENTS (1156; 1160-1167).
- C. LICENSED MINISTERIAL STUDENTS (1170:2-3).

## III. Unlicensed Ministerial Students

Local preachers, who are not eligible for a district ministerial license (539:II:A-C), but who have been approved by the district conference for listing as ministerial students to study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing (473:30c; cf. 537:2), whether enrolled in an educational institution or a correspondence course (1170:4). They are neither voting nor non-voting members of the district conference.

## IV. Deaconesses

- A. COMMISSIONED DEACONESSSES (1184).  
(Including those formerly designated as ordained deaconesses.)
- B. COMMISSIONED DEACONESSSES IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER (1184; cf. 473:30d).
- C. LICENSED DEACONESSSES (1183).  
Deaconesses licensed by the district conference (473:30d; cf. 537:1).

## V. Other Workers

- A. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS (1189, list by specific category—cf. 1187).
- B. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER (1189, list by specific category—cf. 1187).
- C. LICENSED SPECIAL WORKERS (1188, list by specific category—cf. 1187).
- D. COMMISSIONED LAY MISSIONARIES (1192).
- E. SUPPLY PASTORS (1159).

### C. Annual Service Reports

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

### D. Council of Ordination

**546.** Each district shall provide for a council of ordination to assist the General Superintendent (743:14) and district superintendent (511:23) in carrying out the will of the district conference in the ordination of those elected to elder's orders (1119:6; 1701-1711), and the commissioning of those elected thereto as deaconesses (1184; 1721), special workers (1189; 1741), and lay missionaries (1192; 1741). The council of ordination may consist of the desired number of elders appointed by the district board of administration (486:33), or the district conference may designate the elders of the district board of ministerial standing as the council of ordination (473:35; 537:6).

## Chapter VII

### DISTRICT MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

#### A. District Board of Missions and Evangelism

**551. Function.** The district board of missions and evangelism shall be responsible within the district for the promotion of world missions, general and district church extension and evangelism, and the coordination of Wesleyan Men and Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society on the district level as set forth in *The Discipline*.

**552. Membership.** The district board of missions and evangelism shall consist of a member elected by the district board of administration from among its own members who shall serve as chairman (486:19), the district secretary of extension and evangelism (559), the district secretary of world missions (560), the district president of Wesleyan Men (562; 1224:2), the district president of Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (563; 1252:2), the district president of Wesleyan Youth or a representative of the district WY executive committee (1287:2, 6), and at least two members at large elected by the district conference with due regard for lay representation (473:38; cf. 471:2). General regulations governing the members of this board are set forth in 499-504.

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

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

**555. Amenability.** The district board of missions and evangelism shall serve as an advisory and coordinating body and shall be amenable to the district board of administration. All plans shall be approved by the district board of administration (486:20), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the district superintendent (511:8), before their implementation.

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

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

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

(3) To review and coordinate the plans of the district secretary of extension and evangelism (559:2) and the district secretary of world missions (560:2) for deputational work, special services, conventions, and other promotional work, and the plans of the district WM executive committee (562; 1224:6) and the district WMS executive committee (563; 1252:7), all of which shall subsequently be submitted to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 555).

(4) To adopt recommendations to the district board of administration for the promotion of world missions, and general

church extension and evangelism including Wesleyan Card Call (844).

(5) To coordinate the plans of Wesleyan Men and Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society for district or zone conventions, institutes, and other activities.

(6) To recommend to the district board of administration financial goals for the district, the churches, and the auxiliary organizations for the Thanksgiving and Easter offerings and for the support of world missions.

(7) To perform other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration in the interest of world missions, general or district church extension and evangelism.

#### **B. District Secretary of Extension and Evangelism**

**559.** A district secretary of extension and evangelism shall be elected by the district conference (473:38; cf. 471:2), and is an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552). The term of office, amenability, and other requirements for him as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To report his election promptly to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism and to cooperate with him in promoting the interests of general church extension and evangelism; and likewise to promote the interests of the district program of extension and evangelism.

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

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

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of general or district

church extension and evangelism at the district conference or camp meeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at district or zone meetings.

(5) To assist pastors in promoting evangelism and church extension in the local churches.

(6) To promote membership in the Wesleyan Card Call.

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

(8) To submit an annual report of his activities to the district conference (473:13), including a financial report of his expenses and a report of what has been accomplished in the district for general and district church extension and evangelism, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

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

### C. District Secretary of World Missions

560. A district secretary of world missions shall be elected by the district conference (473:38; cf. 471:2), and is an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552). The term of office, amenability, and other requirements for him as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

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

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

(3) To assist the district superintendent in arranging for deputational work within the district by representatives of the General Department of World Missions.

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

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

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

(7) To submit an annual report of his activities to the district conference (473:13), including a financial report of his expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the district for world missions, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of World Missions; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(8) To perform other duties in the interest of world missions outreach as may be requested by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of missions and evangelism.

#### D. District President of Wesleyan Men

562. The district president of Wesleyan Men, whenever such an officer has been elected, shall serve as an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552), and as a non-voting member of the district conference (1223; 1224:2). He shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Men to the district board on missions and evangelism for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval. In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. He shall endeavor to guide the district

activities of Wesleyan Men toward soul-winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship in a coordinated effort to forward the district program.

**E. District President of  
Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society**

563. The district president of Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall serve as an ex officio member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552), and as a non-voting member of the district conference (1251; 1252:2). She shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society to the district board of missions and evangelism for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval. In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. She shall endeavor to guide the district activities of Wesleyan Women's Missionary Societies into soul-winning, evangelism, pioneer work and concern for world outreach in a coordinated effort to forward the district program.

## Chapter VIII

### DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### A. District Board of Christian Education

**571. Function.** The district board of Christian education shall endeavor to develop, supervise, correlate, and promote a comprehensive district program of Christian education. The board shall view Christian education as a total process, dealing with the whole person, aiming at a fully coordinated educational program in harmony with the objectives for Christian education as set forth in 886:1-7.

**572. Membership.** The board shall consist of a member elected by the district board of administration from among its own members who shall serve as chairman (486:19), the district director of Christian education (if any, 578), the district secretary of Sunday schools (588), the district director of leadership training (if any, 590), the district president of Wesleyan Youth (592; 1287:2), the district director of Christian Youth Crusaders (594), the district director of the Young Missionary Workers' Band (1252:6), the district educational secretary (596), and other members at large elected by the district conference (473:40; cf. 471:2). The general regulations for the members of the district board of Christian education are set forth in 499-504.

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

**574. Sessions.** The district board of Christian education shall

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

**575. Amenability.** The district board of Christian education shall be an advisory and coordinating body, and shall be amenable to the district board of administration. All plans of the board shall be approved by the district board of administration (486:20), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the district superintendent (511:8), before their implementation.

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

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

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

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

(4) To be responsible for the planning and supervision of the summer camps for children and youth; to submit detailed

plans for such camps to the district board of administration for their approval; and to carry out the approved plans.

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

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

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

(8) To nominate to the district board of administration the members at large for the district Sunday school committee (582; cf. 486:18).

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

### **B. District Director of Christian Education**

578. The district conference may elect a director of Christian education (473:39; cf. 471:2), or it may authorize the district board of administration to employ such a director who shall in that case be nominated by the district board of Christian education (486:23; 576:7). He shall be a member ex officio of the district board of Christian education (572; cf. 582). His term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504, except that when

he is employed, the district board of administration shall have authority to determine his term of office.

**579.** The duties of a district director of Christian education shall be (cf. 578):

(1) To report his election promptly to the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, the General Secretary of Youth, and the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, and to cooperate with them in implementing and promoting the policies and programs of the general departments within the district.

(2) To serve as the executive secretary of the district board of Christian education, helping to coordinate the total program of Christian education within the district, and serving as a resource person in advising and assisting the various educational leaders in their particular phase of the work.

(3) To assume, as assigned by the district conference (473:39), the duties of the district director of leadership training, the district Sunday school secretary, the district CYC director, the district educational secretary, and the promotional duties of the district WY president.

(4) To visit the churches of the district in such order and manner as the district superintendent shall approve, assisting pastors, Sunday school superintendents, CYC directors, WY presidents, and other educational leaders.

(5) To serve as director of the summer camping program to the extent recommended by the district board of Christian education and approved by the district board of administration (cf. 576:4).

(6) To promote the interests of the general educational institutions within the area, helping to recruit students and to promote the raising of funds.

(7) To submit an annual report of his activities to the district conference (473:13), including a financial report of his expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the district for Christian education, a copy of which shall be for-

warded to the General Secretaries of Sunday Schools, Youth, and Educational Institutions; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(8) To keep a file of correspondence and other records, and to submit the same to his successor.

(9) To perform other duties in the interests of Christian education as may be assigned to him by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

### C. District Sunday School Committee

**581. Function.** The district Sunday school committee is responsible for those phases of Christian education within the bounds of the district as assigned to the General Department of Sunday Schools in 891, with particular emphasis on the Sunday school work and leadership training.

**582. Membership.** Each district shall have a district Sunday school committee which shall be composed of the district Sunday school secretary as chairman (588), the district director of leadership training (if any, 590), and from one to three additional members at large as decided upon and elected by the district board of administration (478:2; cf. 486:18; 576:8). Whenever the duties of either the district director of leadership training or the district Sunday school secretary are assigned to the district director of Christian education (579:3), the district director of Christian education shall be an ex officio member of the Sunday school committee. General regulations for the members of the Sunday school committee are set forth in 499-504.

**583. Organization.** The district Sunday school secretary shall be the chairman, and the committee shall elect a recording secretary who shall record the proceedings of committee meetings (cf. 517:7) and keep a permanent file of records and reports. The committee may also elect a vice-chairman and a treasurer, if deemed necessary.

**584. Amenability.** The district Sunday school committee shall be amenable to the district board of Christian education and through that board to the district board of administration, in all matters of district organization and program. All committee plans shall be submitted to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575). In matters pertaining to Sunday school organization, philosophy, curriculum, and objectives the committee shall carry out their work in accord with *The Discipline* and the directives of the General Department of Sunday Schools.

**585. Duties.** The duties of the district Sunday school committee are:

(1) To promote and encourage the Sunday school work of the district, seeking to carry out the objectives of The Wesleyan Church for Christian education as set forth in 886:1-7 (cf. 581).

(2) To emphasize evangelism and soul-winning in the Sunday schools, seeking the conversion of every scholar and their enrollment in the church, and promoting outreach through the establishing of branch Sunday schools.

(3) To implement the plans and policies of the General Department of Sunday Schools and to assist pastors and Sunday school superintendents in doing the same.

(4) To make recommendations to the district board of Christian education for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of Sunday school work (cf. 581).

(5) To see that a Sunday school has been organized in each church, and to assist each Sunday school to meet the approved standard of achievement.

(6) To plan for Sunday school and leadership training rallies, conventions, institutes or workshops on a district, zone, or local level; to arrange for special services or promotional displays at zone or district meetings; submitting all such plans to the district board of Christian education for review and co-

ordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).

(7) To assist pastors and local Sunday school officers in the organization of leadership training classes and programs.

(8) To submit recommendations for Sunday school work, including the financial plans for Sunday school promotion, to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).

(9) To encourage the use of The Wesleyan Church curriculum materials.

(10) To perform other duties in harmony with its responsibility as may be assigned to it by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

#### **D. District Secretary of Sunday Schools**

588. A district secretary of Sunday schools shall be elected by the district conference (473:40; cf. 471:2), or his duties shall be assigned to the district director of Christian education (473:39; 579:3). He shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education and chairman of the district Sunday school committee. His term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To report his election promptly to the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and to cooperate with him in implementing and promoting the plans and policies of the General Department of Sunday Schools within the district.

(2) To serve as chairman of the district Sunday school committee, providing leadership to the committee for the Sunday school work of the district; to present all plans and recommendations of the committee to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination (576:1), and subsequently

to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).

(3) To cooperate with and assist the pastors and local Sunday school superintendents in the organization and advancement of their Sunday schools according to the approved standard and in reaching the goals set by the general church and the district conference.

(4) To keep a file of correspondence and other records and to submit it to his successor.

(5) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:13) concerning his official activities, the work of the district Sunday school committee, and a complete statistical report for the Sunday schools; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(6) To increase his qualifications and capacity for Sunday school and Christian education work by attending denominational and other approved Sunday school conventions, conferences, and seminars, and through correspondence courses, and periodicals as time permits and opportunity affords.

(7) To conduct any special Sunday school services or programs, or to arrange for promotional displays at the district conference, camp meeting, and other district gatherings.

(8) To perform such other duties in harmony with his responsibility as may be assigned to him by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education (cf. 590).

### **E. District Director of Leadership Training**

590. A district conference may elect a district director of leadership training (473:40; cf. 471:2), or the district conference may assign his duties to the district director of Christian education (473:39; 579:3). If the district does not have a district director of Christian education and also chooses not to have a district director of leadership training, the duties of the district director of leadership training shall be assigned by the district conference to the district Sunday school secre-

tary (588:8). The district director of leadership training shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education (572) and the district Sunday school committee (582). His term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To be responsible for the district program of leadership training under the General Department of Sunday Schools; to report at once after his election to the General Secretary of Sunday Schools and cooperate with him in the implementation and promotion of leadership training within the district.

(2) To be certified as a director of leadership training.

(3) To formulate plans with the district Sunday school committee for leadership training rallies, institutes, conventions, or seminars on a district, zone, or local church level; and to submit such plans to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination (576:1) and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 575).

(4) To assist pastors and local church directors of Christian education in conducting classes or setting up effective programs of leadership training in the local church.

(5) To keep a permanent record of correspondence and other plans and to submit them to his successor.

(6) To conduct any special services or to arrange for promotional displays on leadership training at the district conference, camp meeting, and other district gatherings.

(7) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:13) regarding his official activities and the progress of leadership training within the district, including a statistical report; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(8) To perform such other duties in harmony with his responsibility as may be assigned by the district conference, the

district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

#### F. District President of Wesleyan Youth

592. There shall be a district president of Wesleyan Youth who shall be a member of the district board of Christian education (572) and a non-voting member of the district conference (440:8; cf. 1286; 1287:2). He shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Youth to the district board of Christian education for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval. In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. He shall endeavor to guide the district activities of Wesleyan Youth in accord with the purpose for Wesleyan Youth (1272), and in a coordinated effort to forward the district program for Christian education.

#### G. District Director of Christian Youth Crusaders

594. There shall be a district director of Christian Youth Crusaders elected by the district conference (473:40; cf. 471:2), or his duties shall be assigned to the district director of Christian education (473:39; 579:3). He shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education (572) and a non-voting member of the district conference (440:8). His term of service, amenability and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To report his election promptly to the General Director of Christian Youth Crusaders, and to cooperate with him in developing and promoting the program and policies for children and youth under the CYC organization within the district.

(2) To be certified as a CYC director by the General Department of Youth.

(3) To serve as a member of the district board of Christian education and work with that board for a coordinated program

of all the various phases of Christian education throughout the district (cf. 575; 576:1).

(4) To work with pastors and local CYC directors in establishing and maintaining effective CYC organizations; and to help pastors and local workers to become certified as CYC directors.

(5) To be responsible for CYC district rallies and CYC activities or events, or to arrange for promotional displays, at the district conference, camp meeting, summer camps, and other district gatherings.

(6) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:13) regarding his official activities and the progress of CYC in the district, including a statistical report; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(7) To perform such other duties related to CYC as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

#### H. District Educational Secretary

596. There shall be a district educational secretary elected by the district conference (473:40; cf. 471:2), or his duties shall be assigned to the district director of Christian education (473:39; 579:3). He shall be an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education (572). His term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 499-504. His duties are:

(1) To report his election promptly to the General Secretary of Educational Institutions and to cooperate with him in promoting the interests of the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church, and particularly the general educational institutions in the area of which the district is a part.

(2) To assist the district superintendent and to cooperate with the general educational institutions within the area to which the district is assigned in formulating plans for deputa-

tional work within the district (cf. 784; 784:3), submitting all plans to the district superintendent for his approval.

(3) To represent the educational institutions, or to arrange for such representation, at the summer camps, conventions, and other appropriate occasions, including promotional displays and the distribution of literature, as directed by the district board of Christian education and approved by the officers in charge of the meetings.

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services for promoting the interests of the general educational institutions during the district conference, camp meeting, and other district gatherings, arranging for promotional displays and the distribution of literature if desired, and cooperating with representatives of the educational institutions in such plans.

(5) To encourage young people to attend the schools of The Wesleyan Church, notifying such institutions of any prospective students, and encouraging all pastors to do the same.

(6) To submit an annual report to the district conference (473:13) concerning his official activities and the support given by the district for the general educational institutions, including the number of students enrolled in the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(7) To perform such other duties in harmony with his responsibility as may be assigned to him by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district board of Christian education.

**PART IV.**  
**GENERAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT**  
**Chapter I**  
**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**A. Function**

**601.** The General Conference is the supreme governing body of The Wesleyan Church. The basic provisions, powers, and restrictions of this body are set forth in the Constitution (165-176).

**B. Membership**

**1. Plan of Representation**

**602.** The General Conference shall be composed of an equal numbers of elders and lay members of The Wesleyan Church as follows (165):

(1) The district superintendent of each district and mission district, and a lay delegate elected on his behalf at the same time and in the same manner as the other delegates (608-616).

(2) One ministerial and one lay delegate elected by an established district for every six hundred full members and major fraction thereof. Each established district shall have a minimum representation of one ministerial and one lay delegate under this provision in addition to those listed in 602:1.

(3) The general officials and a delegate-at-large for each of them (605-606; 711): The General Superintendents, the General Secretary-Treasurer, the General Editor, the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the General Secretary of World Missions, the General Publisher, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and the General Secretary of Youth.

## 2. Forfeiture of Representation

603. A district or mission district which has been placed under discipline as provided for in the Judiciary (1543-1546), shall forfeit all rights to any representation in the General Conference (160:9). The delegates, including the district superintendent and any delegate-at-large from that district, shall not be recognized or seated until the district or mission district they represent is officially reinstated (1545).

## 3. Election of Delegates

### a. Delegates-at-Large

605. The election of delegates-at-large shall be arranged for by the recommendation of a committee on delegates-at-large (649) and the approval of the General Conference. Immediately after the election of the general officials (602:3; 650:16-17; 711), the committee on delegates-at-large shall prepare and submit a recommendation which designates the districts which shall elect a delegate-at-large to the General Conference in accordance with the following regulations:

(1) The parity of equal ministerial and lay membership in the General Conference shall be maintained (165; 176:3b).

(2) The established districts shall be considered in alphabetical order, and each eligible district in turn shall be appointed to elect one delegate-at-large. A mission district shall not be eligible to elect a delegate-at-large.

(3) A district in which a general official (602:3; 711) holds membership shall not be eligible to elect a delegate-at-large.

606. The General Conference shall act upon this recommendation before adjournment. The delegates-at-large shall be elected by the appointed districts at the same time and in the same manner as the other General Conference delegates (608-616).

### b. Delegates

608. The delegates to the General Conference shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, at its last annual session preceding the General Conference. When the last annual session is within sixty days of the opening date of the General Conference, the district conference may elect its delegates at the previous annual session. The statistical report for the annual session of the district conference at which the delegates are elected shall be used for determining the number of full members, and, consequently, the number of General Conference delegates (602:2). A certified list of all delegates to the General Conference shall be promptly forwarded by the district secretary to the General Secretary-Treasurer.

609. A person accepting election as a delegate obligates himself to attend faithfully the entire General Conference session, unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances. (Cf. 629.)

### c. Alternate Delegates

610. Each district conference shall also at the same session (608) elect by ballot and by majority vote a sufficient number of alternate ministerial and lay delegates, not to exceed the number of delegates. Such alternates shall meet the same qualifications as the delegates (613-616) and shall fill vacancies in the order of their election (cf. 517:5).

611. Whenever the district superintendent, who is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:1), is unable to attend, his place shall be filled by the assistant district superintendent. If the assistant district superintendent is an elected delegate to the General Conference, his place shall then be filled like any other vacancy by an alternate ministerial delegate.

#### 4. Qualifications of Delegates

##### a. Ministerial Delegates

613. A ministerial delegate must be an elder who is a member of the district he represents, both at the time of election and at the time of the General Conference (166:2).

614. Whenever a ministerial delegate-elect shall transfer his membership to another district, his right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate ministerial delegate certified in his place (517:5; 610).

##### b. Lay Delegates

615. A lay delegate must be a layman who is a full member of a local church in the district he represents, both at the time of election and at the time of the General Conference (166:3).

616. Whenever a lay delegate-elect shall cease to meet the requirements in 615, his right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate lay delegate certified in his place (610).

#### C. Sessions

##### 1. Regular Sessions

620. The General Conference shall meet quadrennially on the third Tuesday of June at a place selected by the preceding General Conference and at an hour set by the General Board of Administration (167:1; 691:1). The General Conference may, by vote, refer the decision concerning the place to the General Board of Administration.

621. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans of the General Conference for the time and place of the next regular session, the General Board of Administration may, by a two-thirds vote, declare that such an emergency exists and authorize the necessary changes (cf. 167:1; 691:2).

##### 2. Special Sessions

623. A special session of the General Conference shall be called by the Board of General Superintendents (740:6) when-

ever authorized to do so by a two-thirds vote of the General Board of Administration (691:3), or when requested to do so by two-thirds of the established district conferences (167:2; 473:6; cf. 763:11). The time and place for the special session shall be decided by the General Board of Administration (691:3), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the Executive Council. The time shall always be later than the next session of each district conference (167:2).

625. Any duly called special session of the General Conference shall have full authority to transact any item of business which may be transacted at a regular session.

#### D. Organization and Procedure

##### 1. Officers

627. **The Presidency** (168). The General Superintendents shall preside over the General Conference in such order as they shall determine (740:5). When no General Superintendent is present, the General Conference shall elect by ballot an elder as president pro tem.

628. **The Secretary** (169). The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Secretary of the General Conference (763:1). He shall accurately record the proceedings, preserve them in permanent form, and perform any other such duties as shall be required of him by the General Conference.

##### 2. Procedure

629. **Delegates**. Once a delegate has been seated at the General Conference, an alternate delegate cannot thereafter be seated in his place (cf. 609).

630. **Quorum** (170). A majority of all the delegates elected by the districts shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number shall have the authority to adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

631. **Voting (171).** The ministerial and lay delegates shall deliberate in the sessions of the General Conference as one body. However, 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 so that ministerial and lay delegates shall vote separately. It shall require a majority vote of each branch to pass any question upon which the division has been called.

632. **Rules of Order.** General Conference business shall be conducted according to the parliamentary procedure in *Robert's Rules of Order*, except when formally suspended by the General Conference or when other procedures are required by *The Discipline* (176:1).

633. **Appeals on Questions of Order.** The chairman shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the General Conference. In case of such an appeal, the vote shall be taken without debate, except that the chairman may state the grounds of his decision, and the appellant may state the grounds of his appeal.

634. **Suspension of Rules.** The General Conference may suspend for a particular session any statutory law (94) set forth in *The Discipline* governing the procedures of the General Conference by a two-thirds majority vote.

### 3. Memorials

636. Memorials to the General Conference, including proposed changes in *The Discipline* other than the Constitution, may be submitted by a district conference, the General Board of Administration, a General Conference committee, the governing board of an educational or benevolent institution, the governing board of a subsidiary corporation, the general executive committee of an auxiliary organization, or any five members of the General Conference.

637. Memorials proposing an amendment to the Constitu-

tion may be submitted to the General Conference only by a district conference (473:1) or the General Board of Administration (691:6).

#### 4. Committees

640. The General Conference shall have such committees as it may deem necessary. The committees shall be nominated by the General Board of Administration, unless ordered otherwise in *The Discipline* or by the General Conference, and elected by the General Conference.

##### a. Committee on Memorials

641. The General Board of Administration shall serve as the committee on memorials. It shall be the duty of the committee on memorials to receive all memorials for the General Conference, classify them, pass on each of them, and submit such memorials to the General Conference, together with the committee's recommendation, and in such order as the committee shall determine. All memorials received no later than sixty days before the opening date of the General Conference shall be classified and printed for distribution to the General Conference delegates no later than thirty days before the opening date. Any memorial received by the committee on memorials after the sixty-day deadline shall only be presented to the General Conference if it is recommended for adoption by the committee on memorials and if the General Conference votes to hear it.

##### b. General Conference Planning Committee

645. The General Secretary-Treasurer, and four other persons elected by the General Board of Administration at least one year before the convening of a regular session of the General Conference, shall constitute a General Conference planning committee.

646. The General Conference planning committee shall work

under the supervision of the Executive Council (702:5) and shall be responsible to arrange all necessary matters for the General Conference such as the lodging, meals, exhibits, space allotments, and whatever else may be necessary for the convenience and efficiency of the General Conference. They shall have the authority to carry out this responsibility and to enter into any necessary contracts, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Council.

647. The General Conference planning committee, together with the Board of General Superintendents, shall formulate a program for the General Conference, including any worship services, and other special features, all of which shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Council.

#### c. Committee on Special Nominations

648. The committee on special nominations shall consist of the General Superintendents and the area representatives of the General Board of Administration (678:2). The duties of this committee shall be:

(1) To present to the General Conference two or more nominations for each of the following general officials, presenting only the nominees for one office at a time, and in the following order: The General Secretary-Treasurer, the General Editor, the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the General Secretary of World Missions, the General Publisher, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and the General Secretary of Youth.

(2) To present nominations for the members of the Board of Review (650:19; 1581:3).

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

#### **d. Committee on Delegates-at-Large**

649. The committee on delegates-at-large shall consist of three ministerial members and two lay members of the General Conference, nominated by the General Board of Administration and elected by the General Conference (640). It shall be responsible to recommend to the General Conference the districts from which delegates-at-large shall be elected as set forth in 605.

#### **E. Duties and Powers**

650. The duties, powers, and restrictions of the General Conference are set forth in the Constitution and as hereinafter provided (cf. 165-176).

#### **Related to the Constitution**

(1) To propose an amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote, subject to ratification by two-thirds of all the members of the several district conferences, present and voting (185; 637). When the voting is completed, the Board of General Superintendents shall canvass the vote, and when the amendment has received the required majority, they shall declare it effective as constitutional law (92; 185; 740:24).

(2) To ratify, by a two-thirds vote, an amendment to the Constitution, which has originated in a district conference (473:1) and has been approved by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the several district conferences, present and voting (92; 185).

(3) To request, by a vote of one-fifth of its members, present and voting, a judgment from the Board of Review as to the constitutionality of an action of the General Conference (181:1); and to overrule such a judgment by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting (182).

#### **Related to General Legislation**

(4) To have full power, in keeping with the Constitution, and by majority vote, to enact statutory law and to adopt

ritual for *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 94-100), and to adopt other rules and regulations for the Church, all of which shall be the chief authority for The Wesleyan Church and any or all of its component parts, including members, ministers, churches, districts, general offices and departments, official bodies, institutions, agencies, auxiliary organizations, and corporate bodies; and to adopt the constitution and bylaws of the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council, and to approve any amendments thereto (691:6; 1016).

(5) To authorize a corporation to be formed and maintained for The Wesleyan Church to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs (1321); and to approve its articles of incorporation and bylaws and any or all amendments thereto, by a two-thirds vote (1328).

(6) To authorize the incorporation of any agency, institution, board, organization, or other similar body, as a subsidiary corporation of The Wesleyan Church (1346), and to approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws, and any amendments thereto, for such a subsidiary corporation (1346-1347). In the interim of General Conferences, this authority shall be vested in the General Board of Administration (691:20; 1346; cf. 928).

(7) To receive reports of the spiritual, numerical, and financial condition of The Wesleyan Church, world-wide, including reports concerning their official duties from the general officials and others designated by the General Conference (cf. 711; 715; 740:9; 763:14, 24; 799:10; 813:9; 837:23; 863:13; 894:13; 906:11; 921:19; 1232:2; 1262:2; 1376:5).

(8) To adopt plans for the advancement of the Church in all phases of its ministry, including the financial plans for the general church (cf. 771-786).

(9) To define in a general way the duties of the general officials, subject to the additional definition of their duties by the General Board of Administration in the interim of General Conference sessions.

(10) To organize the work in the United States and Canada into districts and to determine their boundaries, for which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board of Administration (158; 420; 691:50; 951-952); to authorize the establishing of a Provisional Area General Conference as set forth in 1007, and an Area General Conference as set forth in 1010.

(11) To authorize the establishing of a pioneer area (402) or a mission district (410); to reclassify a mission district (418) or an established district (424-425).

(12) To group the districts into representative areas (961-967) to serve for the election of area representatives to the General Board of Administration, and to serve as the area divisions of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and Wesleyan Youth, for which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:13).

(13) To authorize the establishment, merger, or dissolution of any educational or benevolent institution for the general church or an area of the same; to define the purpose and adopt any regulations deemed necessary for the government of such institutions (cf. 928).

(14) To determine the boundaries of the educational areas in such a way as to provide an equitable distribution of the membership and financial strength of the Church among the approved schools, for which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board of Administration (934-936; 971-979; cf. 691:13).

(15) To designate a criterion of parliamentary procedure for itself and other representative or official bodies of The Wesleyan Church as desired (176:1).

#### Related to Elections

(16) To elect by ballot and by majority vote, from among

the elders of The Wesleyan Church, four General Superintendents (726-729).

(17) To elect the following general officials by ballot and by majority vote, from two or more nominees for each office presented by the committee on special nominations (648:1), and to elect them in order as listed: the General Secretary-Treasurer, the General Editor, the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the General Secretary of World Missions, the General Publisher, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and the General Secretary of Youth.

(18) To elect by majority vote three elders and three laymen from each of the representative areas (961-967) as members of the General Board of Administration (678:2), who shall be nominated by an area caucus. Area caucuses shall be held simultaneously at a time decided upon by the General Conference, for each of which a chairman shall be appointed by the presiding officer. In an area caucus, the delegates of each district and mission district which comprise the representative area shall nominate three elders and three laymen of that area, by ballot and by majority vote, as their area representatives on the General Board of Administration.

(19) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, from nominees submitted by the committee on special nominations, five elders and four laymen as members of the Board of Review, and four elders and three laymen as alternate members (cf. 648:2; 1581-1582).

(20) To confer the title, General Superintendent Emeritus, upon a former General Superintendent when recommended by the General Board of Administration (748).

(21) To designate the districts which shall elect a delegate-at-large (605-606; 649).

#### Related to the Judiciary

(22) To place an established district under discipline for

cause, as set forth in the Judiciary, and to authorize the General Board of Administration to appoint a General Superintendent or other general official to take charge of the district as provided for in the Constitution (176:3c; 1543-1548).

(23) To hear and determine appeals from decisions of the Board of Review, and to overrule such decisions by a two-thirds majority vote (182; 1594).

(24) To receive a report from the Board of General Superintendents of their rulings on points of church law, interpretations of *The Discipline*, and rulings on the legality of district actions; to sustain, modify, or annul such rulings, in whole or in part (740:20-22).

(25) To exercise authority in matters of judicial discipline as set forth in the Judiciary (1535; 1593:5c).

## Chapter II

### GENERAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Function

676. The General Board of Administration carries out the will of the General Conference, promotes the interests of The Wesleyan Church, and serves as its chief governing body in the interim of General Conference sessions (172).

#### B. Membership

678. The General Board of Administration is composed of general officials and area representatives:

(1) **General Officials.** The General Superintendents, the General Secretary-Treasurer, the General Editor, the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the General Secretary of World Missions, the General Publisher, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and the General Secretary of Youth are members of the General Board of Administration by virtue of their office (172:1; 650:16-17; 711).

(2) **Area Representatives.** Three elders and three laymen shall be elected by the General Conference from each representative area to serve as members of the General Board of Administration (172:1; 650:18). They shall serve from the close of the session at which they are elected until the close of the succeeding General Conference and until their successors are elected and qualified. Whenever an area representative shall transfer his residence or membership outside the area which he represents, the General Board of Administration shall declare his office vacant and shall fill the vacancy in such a manner as to maintain the representation provided for herewith.

### C. Sessions

**680. Organizing Session.** The General Board of Administration shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the General Conference for an organizing session:

(1) To organize by electing officers and committees, as required by *The Discipline*, the General Conference, the articles and bylaws of the several corporations, or the Policies and bylaws of the General Board of Administration.

(2) To care for any business assigned to it by the General Conference which requires immediate attention.

(3) To arrange for the administrative areas and to assign the General Superintendents to their respective administrative areas as set forth in 737.

(4) To elect from among the area representatives of its own membership two elders and two laymen as members of the Executive Council (694:2).

(5) To organize itself into commissions as set forth in 705.

(6) To care for any other necessary business.

**681. Regular Session.** The General Board of Administration shall meet annually at a time and place designated by the General Board of Administration or fixed in its bylaws. The Executive Council may change the time and place by a two-thirds vote if circumstances so require (cf. 702:1). Notice of all sessions shall be published by the General Secretary-Treasurer in *The Wesleyan Advocate* and sent in writing to all members at least four weeks in advance (cf. 763:11).

**682. Special Session.** A special session may be ordered by the General Board of Administration, the Executive Council (702:1), or the Board of General Superintendents (740:6). All members shall be notified at least ten days before the convening of a special session (cf. 763:11).

#### D. Organization and Procedure

684. **Chairman.** The General Board of Administration shall elect annually, from among the General Superintendents and on a rotating basis, a chairman (743:1) and a vice-chairman.

685. **Secretary.** The General Secretary-Treasurer is secretary of the General Board of Administration by virtue of his office (763:1).

686. **Quorum.** A majority of all the members of the General Board of Administration shall constitute a quorum.

687. **Voting.** A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by *The Discipline* (621; 623; 691:2, 3, 9, 20, 21, 23, 26, 56; 932; 1346; 1540:1; 1545), by legal or corporate requirements, or by the Policies and regulations of the General Board of Administration.

688. **Bylaws.** The General Board of Administration shall adopt its own bylaws and perfect all plans necessary for the performance of its own duties, in harmony with *The Discipline* and the instructions of the General Conference.

#### E. Duties and Powers

691. The General Board of Administration shall serve as the chief governing body of The Wesleyan Church in the interim of General Conference sessions, caring for and promoting the general interests of the Church, with these specific duties and powers:

##### Related to General Conference

(1) To set the hour at which regular sessions of the General Conference shall convene (620).

(2) To declare by a two-thirds vote that an emergency exists requiring a change in the time and place of General Conference, and subsequently to alter the same (167:1; 621).

(3) To authorize by a two-thirds vote a special session of the

General Conference, and to set by majority vote the time and place of such special session (167:2; 623).

(4) To elect at least one year before the convening of a regular session of the General Conference four members of the General Conference planning committee (645), to pass upon any contracts into which it enters (646), and to pass upon the proposed General Conference program (647).

(5) To serve as the General Conference committee on memorials (641).

(6) To originate recommendations and memorials to the General Conference, including proposed amendments to the Constitution (636-637); and to recommend to the General Conference the constitution and bylaws of the Wesleyan World Fellowship Council, and any amendments thereto (1016).

(7) To nominate the members of all General Conference committees not otherwise provided for (640), and to make recommendations concerning the committees.

(8) To care for any business delegated to the General Board of Administration by the General Conference.

#### **Related to the General Board of Administration**

(9) To fill for the unexpired term vacancies occurring among the general officials (711; 716) or the area representatives on the General Board of Administration, by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration, in such a manner as to fulfill all the requirements for such offices and positions (678:2; 711-712; 727).

(10) To elect by majority vote, from among the area representatives of its own membership, two elders and two laymen as members of the Executive Council (cf. 680:4; 694:2).

(11) To refer such matters to the Executive Council as shall be deemed wise (702:1); to review such actions of the Executive Council as are not final (702:2, 4; 703); and to receive

and act upon its recommendations.

(12) To organize itself into commissions, to direct their work, and to hear and act upon their recommendations, in keeping with 705-710 (cf. 680:5).

#### Related to the Church in General

(13) To recommend to the General Conference the number of representative areas and the boundaries of such areas for the election of representatives to the General Board of Administration (650:12); to approve the boundaries of the administrative areas and to assign the General Superintendents to their respective administrative areas as set forth in 680:3 and 737; to recommend to the General Conference the assignment of the districts to educational areas for the support of the educational institutions (650:14), and in the interim of General Conference sessions to assign new districts to the proper area (971), subject to the approval of the next session of the General Conference.

(14) To appoint a public relations officer and press agent for the Church.

(15) To recommend to the General Conference all matters related to interdenominational relationships and cooperation; and, in the interim of General Conference sessions, to care for all such matters, appointing fraternal delegates and other representatives (cf. 740:11), and approving all interchurch or interagency relationships of the various general departments, offices, auxiliaries, and agencies (cf. 906:5; 921:15).

(16) To elect from among the members of the General Board of Administration a Committee on Chaplains of three to five members, to name its chairman, and to direct its work (913).

(17) To establish, at the option of the General Board of Administration, a Committee on Public Morals and Social Concern, and to select its members and define its duties in the manner the General Board of Administration deems best.

### Related to Corporations

(18) To serve as the board of trustees, directors, or managers of The Wesleyan Church Corporation and all of its precedent corporations (1324), of which it is the ecclesiastical and legal successor, as given in 1321-1327.

(19) To buy, own, hold, manage, mortgage, sell, convey, donate, or otherwise acquire, encumber, and dispose of any general church property, whether real, personal, or mixed, in keeping with the trust provisions given in 1467, except that property for which other provision is made in the articles and bylaws of subsidiary corporations, and to provide for the proper care and maintenance of such property.

(20) To carry out the instructions of the General Conference relative to the incorporation of any agency, institution, board, organization, or other similar body (650:6); or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, to authorize the establishment of such a corporation by a two-thirds majority vote and to care for such corporation matters as the approval and amendment of articles and bylaws, all in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 926-932; 1346-1347).

(21) To elect by majority vote all except the ex officio members of all other general church boards; to be or to elect all boards of trustees, directors, or managers of subsidiary corporations, including all approved educational and benevolent institutions, and to exercise such control and direction of said subsidiary corporations and related agencies as is provided for in *The Discipline* (cf. 926-932; 1346-1347), and in their several articles of incorporation and bylaws; and to remove a member of any such board, for cause or when the best interests of the Church so require, by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration (cf. 1541), and to fill all vacancies.

(22) To direct an annual audit, and at other times as deemed necessary, of the accounts of all corporations, general depart-

ments, offices, agencies, auxiliaries, and institutions of the Church, and to take any action required by the findings of such audit (cf. 1347:7; 1376:6).

(23) To have the authority to negotiate and arbitrate legal and temporal matters in cases of dispute involving the general Church without resort to the courts when the General Board of Administration, by a two-thirds vote, deems such procedure necessary; provided, however, that the emergency authority hereby granted shall not be construed to modify or rescind any of the provisions of *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church with reference to the prescribed conveyance of church property; and further provided, that this authority to negotiate and arbitrate shall not be a limit on the power or authority to resort to litigation in the courts when such procedure is deemed advisable.

#### Related to General Officials and Departments

(24) To direct the general officials and those elected or employed by the General Board of Administration in their work, in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 714), and assigning to them such special duties as shall be deemed necessary (cf. 650:9); to receive reports annually and as needed from the general officials and such others as *The Discipline* or the General Board of Administration shall require (cf. 715; 740:9; 763:14, 24; 799:10; 813:9; 837:23; 863:13; 894:13; 906:11; 921:19; 1208:8; 1232:2; 1262:2; 1347:8; 1376:5), and to review their work.

(25) To set the salaries and allowances of all general officials (711), of those elected by the General Board of Administration (763:20; 799:8; 813:7; 837:21; 851:1; 863:2; 894:11; 896; 906:9; 921:17; 1231:3; 1261:3), and of those employed by the General Board of Administration (691:32); and to approve personnel policies and salary and wage scales for all those employed by the general Church (763:21; 799:9; 813:8; 837:22; 863:12; 894:12; 897:5; 906:10; 921:18; 1376:1c).

(26) To adopt an annual budget for each of the general offices, departments, agencies, and auxiliaries, and to correlate all budgets and financial plans for the general Church; to apportion the USF—General Fund among the approved general church interests and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund among the general educational institutions; to determine the obligation to the United Stewardship Fund of churches within pioneer areas; and, in the interim of General Conference sessions, to designate those interests which will share in the benefits of the USF—General Fund, and to alter the percentage basis of the USF—General Fund, in case of emergency, by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration (cf. 771-786).

(27) To request the Board of General Superintendents to rule on points of church law and interpretations of *The Discipline* as set forth in 740:20, to receive reports from the Board of General Superintendents on all such rulings as a matter of information, and to appeal any such ruling to the Board of Review (181:2; 740:20c; 1593:3).

(28) To receive and act upon the recommendations of the Board of General Superintendents (740:7).

(29) To authorize additional visits by a General Superintendent to fields or areas under the General Department of World Missions, beyond the quadrennial visit as provided for in 740:8.

(30) To recommend at the discretion of the General Board of Administration that the General Conference confer the title, General Superintendent Emeritus, upon a former General Superintendent (650:20; 748).

(31) To adopt official Policies for the general departments, agencies, auxiliaries, and institutions of the Church, in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline*, giving further definition of the duties of the various executive officers, regulating the administration of the work, and correlating each part with the whole.

(32) To elect, at its option, one or more assistants for any or all of the general officials, from nominations to be submitted by the general official involved and approved by the commission to which he is assigned, and to define the duties of such assistants; and to employ such elders or licensed ministers as are necessary to aid the general officials in carrying out their duties and are recommended by the general official involved (cf. 160:1; 1166).

(33) To receive, hold, and appropriate all general church funds, in accordance with the financial plans adopted by the General Conference and through the General Secretary-Treasurer, and to borrow for and loan from the same, in the execution of its lawful purpose, subject to the limitations imposed by *The Discipline*, the articles and bylaws of the several corporations, and the specific provisions of trust agreements.

(34) To oversee the publishing operations of the Church, with sole authority to authorize publications and to establish the policies which govern them and the subscriptions rates to be charged (cf. 794:1).

(35) To assign, in the interim of General Conference sessions, fields of responsibility for the General Department of Extension and Evangelism, authorizing the entering of new fields and the closing of old ones (cf. 831-832; 837:8, 14); and to direct the Department in its supervision of such fields, in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline*.

(36) To take proper action upon the recommendation of the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (cf. 837:4) in the creation or reclassification of a pioneer area, mission district, or established district as set forth in 403; 410; 411; 418; 420; 421; 424-425; and the authorization of a special ministries project; and to direct the General Department of Extension and Evangelism in its supervision of pioneer areas, mission districts, and special ministries projects in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 416:4; 837:5; 1312; 1451).

(37) To elect the Executive Director of Evangelism from one or more nominations submitted by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (829:3; 837:15; 851:1); to approve such candidates for service under the General Department of Extension and Evangelism as the General Board of Administration Policy for that Department shall require, and as recommended by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (829:5; 837:6), including workers in special ministries projects unless otherwise provided for in *The Discipline* (847-848), the superintendents, other officers, and assigned workers in pioneer areas (405), nominees to mission district conferences for district superintendent when the General Board of Administration deems such advisable (416:1), the pastors, evangelists, and other workers in mission districts (416:3); to certify general evangelists as provided for in 1162 (cf. 539:I:A:3a; 829:6; 832:3; 837:16); and to grant authorization for publication in *The Wesleyan Advocate* of the slates of commissioned special workers (cf. 829:6; 837:16; 1189).

(38) To approve the selection of projects and the issuing of calls for Wesleyan Card Call (829:10; 837:9; 844).

(39) To assign, in the interim of General Conference sessions, fields of responsibility for the General Department of World Missions (860), authorizing the entering of new fields and the closing of old ones (863:9); and to direct the department in its supervision of such fields, in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 1001:5; 1007; 1008:9; 1009; 1010:3).

(40) To pass upon the appointment of candidates for World Missions service recommended by the General Secretary of World Missions; and to pass upon the termination of contracts and appointments and the recall from the field of those under appointment (857:1; 863:5; cf. 863:8).

(41) To elect all members of the Council of Auxiliaries, other than ex officio members, designating a General Superintendent as member and chairman (1202; 1204); to receive

an annual report from the Council (1208:8); and to assign, in the interim of General Conference sessions, organizations to the supervision of the Council (1201).

(42) To authorize, in the interim of General Conference sessions, the establishment, merger, or dissolution of auxiliaries (1208:2); to adopt financial policies governing auxiliaries, including the setting of membership dues (1208:3; 1214:1; 1232:3; 1239:3; 1244:2; 1262:4); and to authorize handbooks (1232:3; 1262:4; 1295:2).

(43) To elect the General Directors of Wesleyan Men (1231:3), Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and Young Missionary Workers' Band (1261:3); the general WM executive committee (1231:1, 3); the area WMS chairmen and vice-chairmen (1261:3); and the area WY chairmen and vice-chairmen (1295:1; 1298:1); and to determine the time at which each shall take office (1231:4; 1261:4; 1295:1).

(44) To approve the time and place of the general WMS and general WY conventions (1208:3; 1260:1; 1297); and to approve all plans of the general WY executive committee (1295:2).

(45) To elect the Executive Editor of Curriculum from one or more nominations submitted by the General Secretary of Sunday Schools (889:4; 894:9; 896).

(46) To coordinate the total program of ministerial training (916:2; 1148); to approve such theological seminaries for the use of Wesleyan ministerial students as it judges to be sound doctrinally and academically, and to designate the one with which the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation shall be affiliated (939); to adopt courses of study (916:2; 921:12; 1148; 1151-1152) which will serve as the basis for the ministerial and lay worker training programs of the denominational colleges, and which will also be available through correspondence courses (1150:3; 1151-1152); to maintain and supervise a centralized Ministerial Study Course Agency through the Commission on Educational Institutions (940-941).

(47) To approve programs of cooperation between the various denominational schools (916:1; 921:3; 936), and plans for deputational work by two or more general educational institutions within the same educational area (784; 784:3).

(48) To adopt policies governing the establishment of elementary and secondary schools (cf. 916:5).

(49) To approve official forms for reports to district statistical committees (526:1), for the annual service reports (541), and for personnel records (535:3); to approve the format for district conference journals (472:2); to approve questionnaires prepared by the General Department of Educational Institutions for use by district boards of ministerial standing in examining candidates for licensing, ordaining, and commissioning (cf. 537:1; 921:12); to approve the official form on which a district superintendent will report to his General Superintendent facts concerning property within the district (cf. 511:11); and to approve all certificates and credentials not provided for by the General Conference (cf. 763:10).

#### Related to Districts

(50) To make recommendation to the General Conference for the establishment or alteration of district boundaries (650:10); and, in the interim of General Conference sessions, to appoint representatives of the general church for inter-district comity committees (430), and to approve the merger, division, or other realignment of districts when each district conference involved has approved the plan (431).

(51) To authorize the incorporation of a mission district (1312); to approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a district, and all amendments to the same (1313); and to exercise such control and direction of said district corporations as is set forth in 1314:3, 6, 9; 1326; 1443; 1461.

(52) To request, as it deems necessary, the reconvening of a

district conference (448; 486:6), or a special session of a district board of administration (480); and to assist a district board of administration when it shall request such assistance through the General Superintendent having jurisdiction (486:24).

### Related to the Judiciary

(53) To exercise administrative and judicial discipline in accordance with the Constitution and as set forth in the Judiciary over officers elected by the General Conference including the general officials of the Church (176:2) and the area representatives of the General Board of Administration (172:1), over those elected or employed by the General Board of Administration (160:1), over districts (176:3c), and over district superintendents (160:1; 176:2). (Cf. 1537-1548.)

(54) To refer charges against the moral character of a minister under its jurisdiction to the district in which he holds his ministerial membership (160:1; 176:2), and charges against the moral character of a layman under its jurisdiction to the local church of which he is a member; and to receive a copy of the official record of any subsequent investigation or trial from the judicatory involved immediately after such is conducted. (Cf. 1517:4; 1528:4; 1537; 1540.)

(55) To hear and determine any charges alleging an administrative offense in relation to his official duties filed against a person under its jurisdiction and to administer discipline as it deems necessary and proper (cf. 1537; 1540).

(56) To remove from office any person under its jurisdiction whenever the best interests and preservation of the Church require it, subject to the following conditions:

(a) To remove from office a general official (711; 714), or to remove from General Board membership an area representative on the General Board of Administration, or to remove from office a district superintendent shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the General

Board of Administration (1540:1).

(b) To remove from office a person elected or employed by the General Board of Administration shall require a majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration (1540:2).

(57) To file charges with the general Board of Review against a district for an offense as set forth in 1512 (cf 181:6; 1543-1544; 1593:5).

(58) To administer discipline to a district which has been found guilty by the proper judicatory as set forth in the Judiciary (1543-1548).

(59) To take whatever steps are necessary to preserve the interests of the Church within the bounds of a district under discipline.

(60) To end the state of discipline for a district, by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration, when the offense has been removed to the satisfaction of said majority (cf. 1545); or to authorize the reorganization of a district (1547-1548).

(61) To adopt additional rules of judicial procedure for such matters as evidence, testimony, and other technicalities as set forth in 1551.

## F. The Executive Council

### 1. Function

693. The Executive Council carries out the will of the General Board of Administration, serving as the chief governing and coordinating body of the Church in the interim of General Board of Administration sessions.

### 2. Membership

694. The Executive Council is composed of general officials and area representatives:

(1) **General Officials.** The General Superintendents, the Gen-

eral Secretary-Treasurer, the General Editor, the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the General Secretary of World Missions, the General Publisher, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and the General Secretary of Youth are members of the Executive Council by virtue of their office.

(2) **Area Representatives.** Two elders and two laymen from among the area representatives of the General Board of Administration shall be elected by the General Board of Administration to serve as members of the Executive Council. They shall serve from the close of the session at which they are elected until the close of the next session of the General Conference and until their successors are elected and qualified. Whenever an area representative on the Executive Council ceases to be a member of the General Board of Administration, the General Board of Administration shall declare his office vacant and shall fill the vacancy in such a manner as to maintain the representation provided for herewith.

### 3. Sessions

**695. Regular Session.** The Executive Council shall meet quarterly at such time and place as it shall determine. Notice of all sessions shall be published by the General Secretary-Treasurer in *The Wesleyan Advocate* and sent in writing to all members at least two weeks in advance.

**696. Special Session.** A special session may be ordered by the Executive Council, the Board of General Superintendents, or if in emergency it is impossible to contact a General Superintendent, by the General Secretary-Treasurer with the approval of two other members of the Executive Council (cf. 763:11).

### 4. Organization

**698. Chairman.** The chairman and vice-chairman of the General Board of Administration shall serve as chairman and

vice-chairman, respectively, of the Executive Council.

**699. Secretary.** The General Secretary-Treasurer is secretary of the Executive Council by virtue of his office (763:1).

**700. Quorum.** A majority of all the members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum.

**701. Voting.** A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by *The Discipline* (681; 702:4), by legal or corporate requirements, or by the policies and regulations of the General Board of Administration.

### 5. Duties, Powers, and Restrictions

**702.** In the interim of General Board of Administration sessions, the Executive Council has charge of all general church matters. It has power:

(1) To transact all business referred to it by the General Board of Administration; and to order a special session of the General Board of Administration if deemed necessary (682). (Cf. 681.)

(2) To transact any and all other business the General Board of Administration may transact, except that the Executive Council shall not make recommendations directly to the General Conference, nor take final action on the adoption of annual budgets (691:26) nor official policies (691:31), nor transact any business which requires more than a simple majority vote of the General Board of Administration (cf. 621; 623; 691:2, 3, 9, 20, 21, 23, 26, 56; 932; 1346; 1540:1; 1545).

(3) To provide overall correlation of commissions, corporate societies, departments, agencies, auxiliaries, and institutions in planning and carrying out programs adopted by the General Conference and the General Board of Administration; and to review and correlate an overall budget for the general Church as set forth in 786.

(4) To take emergency action by a two-thirds majority vote

of all the members of the Executive Council, suspending from office a person under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration (691:56), pending the action of the General Board of Administration. In the case of a general official (711), no more than thirty days shall elapse from the time such suspension is effected until the General Board shall review the matter, either through a regular or special session.

(5) To supervise the General Conference planning committee (646).

(6) To approve a reconvened session of a district conference (448).

(7) To have the General Secretary-Treasurer bonded and to set the amount of such bond, the expense for which shall be paid by the Church (cf. 763:17).

703. Minutes of all Executive Council actions shall be forwarded promptly by the General Secretary-Treasurer to all members of the General Board of Administration for their information and review. At its next session, the General Board of Administration may rescind any action of the Executive Council which has not already been effected.

### G. The Commissions

705. **Identification.** The General Board of Administration shall organize itself into Commissions on Administration (766-767), Publications (793-794), Extension and Evangelism (828-829), World Missions (856-857), Christian Education (888-889), Educational Institutions (915-916), and such others as the General Board of Administration deems necessary, and, insofar as is not provided for in *The Discipline*, shall assign each of its members a place on one of the commissions, and each general department, office, board, institution, or other agency of the general church or of an area of the Church to the proper commission.

**706. Function.** Each commission shall serve as an advisory body to the General Board of Administration, or in the interim of its sessions, to the Executive Council, for the work assigned to it. Each commission shall consider all recommendations of the general officials and officers assigned to it, formulate such recommendations as it approves, including all matters relating to policies and budgets, for presentation to the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council, advise the various general officials and officers, and coordinate all programs carried on within its sphere. A commission may request a ruling from the Board of General Superintendents or appeal such a ruling as set forth in 740:20a. The special duties of each commission shall be as outlined in *The Discipline*, and as further defined by the General Board of Administration.

**707. Membership.** Each commission shall be composed of at least one General Superintendent assigned by the General Board of Administration, each general official whose work is part of the commission's assignment, and such area representatives of the General Board of Administration as the General Board shall assign. Each commission may also have such honorary members as *The Discipline* or the General Board of Administration may assign, such as departmental executives below the rank of general officials, and qualified advisors from the Church at large.

**708. Sessions.** The commissions shall meet as many days prior to the convening of the General Board of Administration as may be necessary to transact their business. Each commission may hold special sessions when called by its chairman or by any two general officials who are members of the commission.

**709. Organization and Procedure.**

(1) Each commission shall be chaired by a General Superintendent, and shall elect a vice-chairman and a secretary. If more than one General Superintendent is assigned to the

commission, the commission shall choose one of them as chairman.

(2) Each commission shall name an executive committee, including all general officials who are members of the commissions, to carry out its duties between sessions of the full commission.

(3) Each commission may appoint study or functional committees, either standing or special, composed of commission members and/or other qualified persons, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration.

(4) Each general official and other executive officer shall be responsible for presenting his recommendations to the commission, for presenting those approved by the commission to the General Board of Administration unless the commission orders otherwise, and for carrying out the decisions of the General Board of Administration and the commission.

**710. Amenability.** Each commission shall report all business transacted to the General Board of Administration, filing complete minutes of each meeting with the General Secretary-Treasurer, and the work of each commission shall be subject to the direction and approval of the General Board of Administration.

## Chapter III

### GENERAL OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH

**711. Identification.** The general officials of the Church are those officers elected by the General Conference whom it designates as ex officio members of the General Conference (165; 602:3), the General Board of Administration (172:1; 678:1), and the Executive Council (694:1). They are: The General Superintendents, the General Secretary-Treasurer, the General Editor, the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the General Secretary of World Missions, the General Publisher, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and the General Secretary of Youth.

**712. Qualifications.** A general official must be a member of The Wesleyan Church at the time of his election, and if at any time he ceases to be a member, his office shall be declared vacant as provided for in 716.

**713. Term of Office.** The general officials shall be elected by the General Conference (648:1; 650:16-17) for a term of four years, and shall serve from the close of that session until the close of the next regular session of the General Conference, and until their successors are elected and qualified. A special session of the General Conference may, however, declare that the term is ended and order a new election. The salary of retiring general officials shall continue one month beyond the date of their termination of service.

**714. Amenability.** The general officials are amenable to the General Board of Administration for their official conduct, and to their districts for their moral character (160:1; 176:2). They are subject to direction from the General Conference, the

General Board of Administration, and the Executive Council. They may be removed from office for cause or when the best interests of the Church so require (691:56a; 1540:1) by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration.

**715. Reports.** The general officials shall report to each session of the General Conference concerning their official duties, annually to the General Board of Administration concerning their official duties and personal ministry, and at other times as required by the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, or the Executive Council.

**716. Vacancies.** The office of a general official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, by resignation from office, or by removal (714). In all cases, the vacancy shall be filled by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration (691:9).

**717. Church and District Membership.** An elder who serves as a general official may hold his ministerial membership in any district he may choose, and his church membership in any local church of that district. His responsibilities to the general church shall take precedence over his responsibilities to his district and local church (160:1; 176:2).

**718. Residence.** The general officials shall reside in or near the place where the general headquarters of The Wesleyan Church is located.

## Chapter IV

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

#### A. General Superintendents

##### 1. Function

726. The General Superintendents are to be considered as the general spiritual and administrative leaders of the Church (173:1).

##### 2. General Regulations

727. A General Superintendent is elected, from among the elders of The Wesleyan Church, by the General Conference as a general official of the Church (165; 173:1; 650:16), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), and the Commission on Administration (766).

728. The General Superintendents together shall serve the entire Church, and, individually, each shall have specific charge over the administrative area to which he shall be assigned by the General Board of Administration.

729. The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for a General Superintendent are those set forth for a general official in 711-718.

##### 3. The Board of General Superintendents

###### a. Organization

735. The General Superintendents shall organize themselves as a Board of General Superintendents, and shall assign any particular work to the members thereof as desired, unless otherwise provided for in *The Discipline*. An official copy of the minutes of the Board of General Superintendents shall be

filed with the official records of the Church (763:7), at least annually.

#### b. Administrative Areas

737. The supervisory responsibilities of the General Superintendents (740:13-19; 743:3-7) shall be provided for by grouping the districts and world missions fields into administrative areas. The boundaries of the administrative areas and the assignment of the General Superintendents to the areas shall be recommended by the Board of General Superintendents and decided upon by the General Board of Administration at its first organizing session (680:3) in keeping with the following regulations:

(1) The number of administrative areas shall be equal to the number of General Superintendents so that a General Superintendent may be assigned to each area.

(2) The entire geographical area of The Wesleyan Church shall be divided as equitably as possible among the administrative areas. Each district, mission district, pioneer area, and world missions field or area shall be assigned to one of the administrative areas.

(3) The general offices and departments, educational and benevolent institutions, auxiliary organizations, corporate bodies, and any other agencies of the general church shall be supervised by the General Superintendents as provided in the organization of the commissions of the General Board of Administration (705-710).

(4) The assignment of a General Superintendent to an administrative area shall be for the term of four years, coinciding with his term of office, or until the close of the next General Conference, provided that no General Superintendent shall be assigned to any area twice until he has served one term in each area.

**c. Duties of the Board of General Superintendents**

740. The General Superintendents shall devote their full time to supervising, coordinating, and promoting the various branches of The Wesleyan Church. Their duties are:

**The Leadership of the  
Church**

(1) To provide spiritual and administrative leadership for The Wesleyan Church.

(2) To encourage soul winning and evangelism in all of its phases.

(3) To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry, both verbal and written, teaching the doctrines and furthering the spiritual purposes of the Church, as the need demands and the opportunity affords.

**The Administration of the  
General Church**

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

(5) To preside over the General Conference in such order as they themselves shall determine.

(6) To issue the call for a special session of the General Conference (623), a special session of the General Board of Administration (682), or a special session of the Executive Council (696).

(7) To make recommendations to the General Board of Administration and the Executive Council concerning any part of the Church in order to provide for a more efficient administration, a proper correlation, or the advancement of the work.

(8) To arrange, in cooperation with the General Secretary of World Missions (863:7), for the visit of a General Superintend-

ent to each field or area under the General Department of World Missions during the quadrennium, and for additional visits as authorized by the General Board of Administration or the Executive Council (cf. 691:29); and during such visits to inspect the work, preside over the various councils and conferences, and carry out such duties as are defined in the Policy of the General Board of Administration for World Missions.

(9) To report, jointly and individually, to each session of the General Conference concerning their official duties (650:7); to report annually, jointly and individually, to the General Board of Administration concerning their official duties and personal ministry (691:24); and to make such other reports as may be required.

(10) To prepare an annual budget of expense for submission to the Commission on Administration for coordination with the other administrative offices as set forth in 786:1 (cf. 763:23).

(11) To appoint fraternal delegates and representatives for The Wesleyan Church to other denominations or religious organizations unless otherwise provided for by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:15).

(12) To carry out such special assignments as the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, and the Executive Council may assign from time to time.

### The Supervision of the Administrative Areas

(13) To provide for an administrative area during the temporary absence of the assigned General Superintendent from the country or in an emergency, and to assign a General Superintendent to any special duties outside of his own area when it is deemed necessary to do so.

(14) To plan and conduct, jointly or individually, leadership conferences or seminars on an administrative area level for the inspiration, unity, and greater effectiveness of church leaders.

(15) To provide for an exchange of ministry by the General Superintendents in the various administrative areas, if desired.

(16) To arrange the dates for the district conferences, in consultation with each district board of administration (486:5), so that a General Superintendent may preside (173:3), and to assign a General Superintendent, whenever necessary, to preside over a district conference outside of his own administrative area.

(17) To appoint a general official as a general church representative to a district conference whenever a General Superintendent is unable to attend (173:3).

(18) To recommend a mission district for the status of an established district to the General Board of Administration, in concurrence with the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (691:36; 837:4; cf. 421).

(19) To counsel with district leaders and make recommendations for the advancement of the district work.

### The Interpretation of

#### Church Law

(20) To rule on points of church law and interpretations of *The Discipline* for The Wesleyan Church when properly requested to do so or whenever deemed necessary for the proper administration of the Church:

(a) A request for such a ruling shall be submitted, in writing, by the following for the work under their jurisdiction: the General Board of Administration (691:27), the Executive Council (702:2), a commission of the General Board of Administration (706), a general official, the governing board of an institution or subsidiary corporation, a district conference (473:42), or a district board of administration (486:24).

(b) A majority vote of all members of the Board of General Superintendents shall be required for the approval of

any ruling or interpretation of *The Discipline*.

(c) A ruling of the Board of General Superintendents may be appealed to the Board of Review by the party submitting the original request or by the General Board of Administration (181:2; cf. 473:42).

(21) To rule on the legality of an official action by a district conference, any district board or committee, or a district official as follows: Any three or more members of The Wesleyan Church within a district or mission district may request such a ruling and shall submit their petition in writing, signed by each petitioner (160:6). The Board of General Superintendents, by a majority vote of all its members, shall decide if the official act in question, in whole or in part, is deemed properly taken according to the Constitution and *The Discipline*. If the action is ruled as unconstitutional or contrary to *The Discipline*, it shall be null and void. Appeals from the decision of the Board of General Superintendents may be made by the petitioners or the district board of administration to the Board of Review (181:2).

(22) To submit a report of all rulings on points of law, interpretations of *The Discipline*, or other judicial acts, to the next session of the Executive Council or the General Board of Administration for their information (691:27), and to the next session of the General Conference for review and approval (650:24). Upon approval of the General Conference, such rulings become the law of the Church.

(23) To request a ruling from the Board of Review on the constitutionality of an act of the General Conference (181:1), the legality of an act of any general church board (181:3), and the legality of any issues arising between a district and the General Conference (181:6).

(24) To canvass the vote taken by the several district conferences on an amendment to the Constitution originating in the General Conference, and, when the amendment has re-

ceived the required majority, to declare it effective as constitutional law (650:1).

#### 4. Duties of a General Superintendent

743. In addition to his duties as a member of the Board of General Superintendents, a General Superintendent shall be responsible:

##### General Supervision

(1) To preside over the General Board of Administration and the Executive Council, when elected to such duty by the General Board of Administration for one year at a time on a rotating basis (684; 763:2; cf. 1517:4; 1528:4; 1540:1; 1544).

(2) To perform such duties as may be properly assigned to him by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council, or the Board of General Superintendents.

##### Area Supervision

(3) To travel throughout the administrative area to which he is assigned (737), giving such spiritual leadership and inspirational ministry as the need demands and the opportunity affords.

(4) To counsel with the general officials and the executive officers under his supervision, in harmony with the plan for commissions (705-710), and to see that such executives administer their work in harmony with *The Discipline*, the respective Policy of the General Board of Administration, and any other directives from the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, or its Executive Council.

(5) To visit annually and conduct an administrative survey of each educational and benevolent institution, or any other agency or organization of The Wesleyan Church in the administrative area to which he is assigned. When any such institution or organization is under the General Department of Extension and Evangelism, the General Department of World

Missions, or the General Department of Educational Institutions, he shall consult with and arrange for the visit with the general official having jurisdiction over it.

(6) To meet with any governing board, district board of administration, committee, or other official body at his discretion and make such recommendations as he deems necessary to uphold *The Discipline* and carry out the directives of the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, or its Executive Council.

(7) To fulfill such special official duties in other administrative areas as may be assigned to him by the General Board of Administration, the Executive Council, or the Board of General Superintendents.

#### District Supervision

(8) To exercise general supervision, within his assigned area, over each district, mission district, and pioneer area and the work of its superintendent, and to counsel with the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism whenever a mission district or pioneer area is concerned.

(9) To rule on questions of order which arise during the proceedings of a district conference as set forth in 459.

(10) To present, for their consideration, one or more nominations for district superintendent to a district conference, when requested to do so by the district conference; to have charge of the service of installation of a district superintendent (1772).

(11) To work closely with the district officials in promoting evangelism and formulating plans for pioneer work and church extension (486:3; 511:4; 837:8).

(12) To encourage and promote special efforts in each district to raise the district obligation for the United Stewardship Fund (775:1) and the district budget in full, and to encourage the support of world missions.

(13) To cooperate with each district board of administration in planning and conducting conventions, institutes, or seminars for pastors and other workers in the district, for the purpose of spiritual refreshment, greater administrative efficiency, and a more united effort within the district and general church.

(14) To preside, in cooperation with the district superintendent, over the ordination of elders and the commissioning of deaconesses, special workers, or lay missionaries when present (511:23; 546), and to deliver the ordination address if so requested; and to sign all credentials, certificates, and other forms incidental to his office.

(15) To approve the transfer of any elder or licensed minister into a district under his jurisdiction, in concurrence with the district superintendent of that district (151:6; 284:2; 511:18; cf. 1128:1).

(16) To consult with a district board of administration concerning the purchase, location, encumbrance, sale, transfer, or other disposition of real property used for district purposes such as a district parsonage, headquarters, or campground (cf. 1316; 1459:1).

### **Judicial Supervision**

(17) To carry out judicial responsibilities as set forth in 1527:3; 1528:1-2; 1540:1-2; 1543; 1547.

### **5. General Superintendents Emeritus**

748. The General Conference, upon recommendation of the General Board of Administration (691:30), may confer the title of General Superintendent Emeritus upon a former General Superintendent, including any who have served in a comparable office in one of the precedent bodies (cf. 650:20).

### **B. The General Secretary-Treasurer**

756. **Function.** The General Secretary-Treasurer has custody of the official records, funds, statistics, legal documents, and

archives of the general church.

**760. Office.** The General Secretary-Treasurer is elected by the General Conference as a general official (169; 628; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), the Commission on Administration (766), and the Council of Auxiliaries (1202). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this officer are provided for in 712-718.

**763. Duties.** The General Secretary-Treasurer shall administer his office as set forth in *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration, and other instructions as may be given by the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, or its Executive Council. His duties are:

#### General Church Records and Archives

(1) To serve as secretary of the General Conference (628), the General Board of Administration (685), the Executive Council (699), and The Wesleyan Church Corporation (1323); to record accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and to preserve them in permanent form.

(2) To issue each official policy adopted by the General Board of Administration, certified by the chairman of the General Board and the General Secretary-Treasurer.

(3) To issue official notices and communications to the Church, as directed by the official bodies to which he is amenable.

(4) To be the custodian of the official records and archives; and to collect for the historical archives any available documents, books, photographs, and other historical materials for The Wesleyan Church and each of its precedent bodies (cf. 517:9).

(5) To be the custodian of all records for any general church

judicial bodies, including the Board of Review and any General Conference judicial committee (cf. 1122:3-4; 1137; 1529:2-4; 1535; 1589). (Cf. 1551.)

(6) To be the custodian and hold in trust all legal documents and property records of The Wesleyan Church Corporation and each of its precedent corporations (1324), and of all subsidiary corporations unless otherwise provided for by the bylaws of such corporations or for other necessary reasons, in which case, the General Secretary-Treasurer shall have certified or true copies of such documents.

(7) To receive and place in permanent file the minutes of each district conference, each general church board, committee, commission, auxiliary organization, all corporations (cf. 1347:9), and the governing boards of each of the educational and benevolent institutions.

(8) To maintain an official directory of all the general and district officials, ministers, churches, and parsonages of The Wesleyan Church and other information as required by the General Board of Administration.

(9) To compile accurately and preserve all statistics for the general church and report the same to the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, and the Executive Council as required.

(10) To prepare and submit to the General Board of Administration for approval, all general church report blanks and forms not otherwise provided for in *The Discipline*, and to have charge of the publication of such report blanks and forms (cf. 472:2; 511:11; 526:1; 535:3; 537:1; 541; 691:49; 921:12; 1163; 1469).

(11) To notify all members of regular sessions of the General Board of Administration as set forth in 681, and of the Executive Council as set forth in 695; and to issue the call when properly ordered to do so, for a special session of the

General Conference (623), the General Board of Administration (682), and the Executive Council (696).

### Financial Records

(12) To have custody of general church funds belonging to The Wesleyan Church and The Wesleyan Church Corporation; to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds as are assigned to him by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration.

(13) To issue regular reports to the general officials and executives for the funds related to their particular responsibility and special reports concerning the same as may be requested by them; to coordinate the keeping of financial records and the compiling of statistics for the auxiliaries (1233; 1263; 1296).

(14) To submit a complete financial report to the regular annual session of the General Board of Administration, to each session of the General Conference, and other reports as may be requested.

(15) To provide a centralized accounting service for the general offices and departments in such matters as payroll and group insurance.

(16) To submit all records and funds in his custody for an annual audit to be directed by the General Board of Administration and at any other time when requested to do so by the General Board of Administration or the Executive Council.

(17) To be bonded to the amount set by the Executive Council, the cost of which shall be paid by the Church (702:7).

### Management and Promotion

(18) To be responsible for the management of the headquarters building, grounds, and facilities as instructed by the General Board of Administration.

(19) To serve as general director of stewardship, under the direction of the Commission on Administration (767:2), pro-

moting total stewardship and storehouse tithing on the general level and through district officers and local pastors (cf. 294:22; 519:5; 781), and coordinating as directed the handling of all investments, bequests, trusts, annuities, and devises for the general church in its several offices, departments, and subsidiary corporations (cf. 1469).

(20) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Administration to the General Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the General Secretary-Treasurer (cf. 691:32; 767:6).

(21) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(22) To present all recommendations for the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council to the Commission on Administration (cf. 709:4).

(23) To prepare an annual budget of expense for submission to the Commission on Administration for coordination with the other administrative offices as set forth in 786:1 (cf. 740:10).

(24) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

(25) To serve as a member of the General Conference Planning Committee (645).

(26) To perform such other duties as may be required of him by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council.

### C. Commission on Administration

766. The Commission on Administration shall consist of all General Superintendents (707), the General Secretary-Treasurer

(756-763), and such area representatives of the General Board of Administration as the General Board shall assign (707). The Commission on Administration shall elect its own chairman from among the General Superintendents (709:1). It shall also have as honorary members, with the right to speak but not to vote, the executive secretary of the Wesleyan Pension Fund, the executive secretary of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation (1352:2), a representative of the board of managers of each benevolent institution and of each general department or subsidiary corporation involved in investments and business management, and any others the General Board of Administration shall designate. General regulations covering the function, membership, sessions, organization, and amenability of the commissions are found in 705-710.

767. The Commission on Administration shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the General Secretary-Treasurer (756-763), the Board of Pensions (1362), the Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc. (1352), the Council of Auxiliaries (1206), Hephzibah Orphanage, Inc. (1350), Pilgrim Manor Nursing Home, Inc. (1351), and such other institutions and subsidiary corporations as the General Board of Administration shall assign (705). Its special duties shall be:

(1) To make recommendations to the General Board of Administration concerning coordination in all matters of business management, and in all fiscal matters, such as bookkeeping, accounting, banking, and investments.

(2) To serve as a board of stewardship, supervising the denominational program of stewardship promotion, enlistment, and education, and supervising and coordinating the handling of all investments, bequests, trusts, annuities, and devises for the general church in its several offices, departments, and subsidiary corporations through the General Secretary-Treasurer, all subject to the direction of the General Board of Administration.

(3) To study the general financial plan of the Church, and to make recommendations to the General Board of Administration for its consideration and possible recommendation to the General Conference.

(4) To process requests and recommendations concerning changes in the boundaries of established districts and to make recommendations concerning the same to the General Board of Administration in the interim of General Conferences (951).

(5) To coordinate the budgets of expense for the various administrative offices (cf. 740:10; 763:23; 786:1).

(6) To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, nominations presented by the General Secretary-Treasurer for an assistant to the General Secretary-Treasurer for election by the General Board of Administration (691:32; 763:20).

#### D. General Church Financial Plan

##### 1. Summary

771. The financial plan for the general Church shall consist of the United Stewardship Fund and special offerings:

(1) The United Stewardship Fund shall be established and administered as set forth in 772-781, and shall consist of two parts:

(a) The USF—General Fund shall provide support for general church administration, general benevolent institutions, ministerial training, and other general church ministries as set forth in 778:1.

(b) The USF—Educational Institutions Fund shall provide support for the general educational institutions as listed in 934 (cf. 779:1; 937).

(2) Special offerings shall be authorized and administered as set forth in 784, and shall provide support for world missions, supplementary support for general church extension and evan-

gelism and for the general educational institutions, and support for such other purposes as may be authorized by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration.

## 2. United Stewardship Fund

### a. Definition

772. The United Stewardship Fund is a unified budget for the financial support of designated general church interests and the general educational institutions. It shall consist of two parts (771:1), one to be known as the USF—General Fund, and the other as the USF—Educational Institutions Fund.

### b. Basis

773. The USF—General Fund and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund shall be determined annually by a percentage, as fixed for each by the General Conference (773:2), of the total income of all churches for the previous fiscal year, which shall be computed in the following manner:

(1) **Base Amount.** The base amount for the United Stewardship Fund shall be the total income of a local church and all of its departments for the previous fiscal year, with the exception of money borrowed by the local church, money received from the sale of property, and building funds. Building funds which may be exempted from the base amount are defined as moneys raised specifically for new construction, or for major remodeling so extensive that the district building committee recommends and the district board of administration by vote approves such remodeling as exempt, and all principal and interest payments on loans secured for the above purposes.

(2) **Percentage.** The percentage for determining the USF—General Fund, and a separate percentage for determining the USF—Educational Institutions Fund, shall be fixed by the General Conference (773). The percentage in each case shall be applied to the same base amount as defined in 773:1. In the event of an emergency during the interim of General Con-

ference sessions, the General Board of Administration may alter the percentage of the USF—General Fund by a two-thirds majority vote of all of its members (691:26).

### c. District and Local Regulations

**775. District Responsibility.** Each district and mission district, with the exception of the work under the General Department of World Missions, shall be responsible to raise its share of the United Stewardship Fund, including the USF—General Fund and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund, in accord with the following regulations:

(1) **District Obligation.** The obligation of a district or mission district shall be an amount equal to the designated percentage of the total income, as defined in 773:1-2, of all pioneer churches and churches of the district. When this amount has been paid in full to the General Secretary-Treasurer, for both the USF—General Fund and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund, a district has met its obligation to the United Stewardship Fund. The computations for the district obligation shall be based on the financial reports of the local churches as compiled by the district statistical committee (526:1), prior to the annual district conference.

(2) **District Apportionment.** The district conference shall apportion its total obligation among the local churches under its jurisdiction by assigning an amount to each as its share of the USF—General Fund and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund respectively, under whatever plan the district conference shall adopt after receiving a recommendation from the district board of administration, or other special committee as assigned by the district conference (486:10; 519:6; cf. 467-468). The district secretary shall officially notify each pastor within two weeks after the close of the district conference session of the amount assigned to his church and shall at the same time forward a copy of the district conference action to the General Secretary-Treasurer (517:3).

(3) **District Administration.** The district board of administration shall be responsible to administer the district plan for raising the United Stewardship Fund and shall be responsible to see that the district obligation is paid in full for both the USF—General Fund and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund (486:10). All USF money received by the district treasurer shall be remitted monthly to the General Secretary-Treasurer on the approved forms.

**776. Local Church Responsibility.** The pastor and the local church board shall be responsible for the faithful collection of the amounts assigned by the district to their church, and shall raise it on the undivided plan. The local church treasurer shall forward all money received for the USF—General Fund and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund monthly to the district treasurer (cf. 345:4). A local church has met its obligation to the United Stewardship Fund when it has paid in full to the district treasurer the amounts assigned to it by the district for both the USF—General Fund and the USF—Educational Institutions Fund. In a pioneer church, the pastor and his local advisory council shall have the responsibility for raising the United Stewardship Fund.

**777. Pioneer Area Responsibility.** The obligation of a pioneer area, or of the churches within a pioneer area, to the United Stewardship Fund shall be determined by the General Board of Administration (691:26). The assigned obligation shall be raised by the superintendent of the pioneer area, under the direction of the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism and in accord with the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Extension and Evangelism.

#### d. General Church Regulations

**778. USF—General Fund, Beneficiaries and Apportionment.** The USF—General Fund shall provide support for general church departments and ministries and be apportioned among them as follows:

(1) **Beneficiaries.** The designated beneficiaries to receive support from the USF—General Fund are: the administrative offices of the General Superintendents and the General Secretary-Treasurer; the General Department of Extension and Evangelism; the General Department of Sunday Schools; the General Department of Youth; the General Department of Educational Institutions; the subsidization of ministerial training in the general educational institutions (937:1), the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (939), and the Ministerial Study Course Agency (940-941); and such other benevolent institutions, offices, or agencies of the general church as the General Conference or the General Board of Administration shall designate from time to time.

(2) **Apportionment.** The apportioning of the USF—General Fund among the designated beneficiaries (778:1) shall be determined annually by the General Board of Administration as set forth in 786.

**779. USF—Educational Institutions Fund, Beneficiaries and Apportionment.** The USF—Educational Institutions Fund shall provide support for general educational institutions and be apportioned among them as follows:

(1) **Beneficiaries.** The general educational institutions which are designated as beneficiaries to receive support from the USF—Educational Institutions Fund are those listed in 934.

(2) **Apportionment.** The apportionment of the USF—Educational Institutions Fund to the general educational institutions as listed in 934 shall be determined annually by the General Board of Administration in accord with the following regulations:

(a) All money received by the General Secretary-Treasurer for the USF—Educational Institutions Fund from the districts within an educational area (971-979) shall be returned to the general educational institutions within the area, and shall be apportioned among them as decided upon

annually by the General Board of Administration.

(b) The president of each general educational institution concerned shall prepare and submit, as approved by the institution's board of trustees, a proposed annual budget for the institution under his care, including a request for a specific amount of support from the USF—Educational Institutions Fund. The proposed budget and request shall be submitted to the General Secretary of Educational Institutions in accord with procedures as authorized by the General Board of Administration.

(c) The Commission on Educational Institutions shall review each proposed budget and request (779:2b), correlating those from the educational institutions within each educational area with the estimated income from that area for the USF—Educational Institutions Fund, and shall present its recommendations to the General Board of Administration.

(d) The General Board of Administration shall make final decision concerning the apportioning of the USF—Educational Institutions Fund among the educational institutions of each area.

**781. General Promotion and Administration.** The General Secretary-Treasurer shall promote the raising of the United Stewardship Fund and shall administer it as provided for in *The Discipline* and as directed by the General Board of Administration.

### 3. Special Offerings

**784.** Special offerings in addition to the United Stewardship Fund for the support of general church ministries and world outreach of The Wesleyan Church shall include the following offerings and other such offerings as shall be authorized by the General Board of Administration. No agency, department, institution, organization, or similar body of The Wesleyan Church may solicit offerings or present financial appeals without the approval of the General Board of Administration.

(1) **World Missions Support.** The General Department of World Missions shall not be included in the United Stewardship Fund, but shall be supported by the November Self-Denial Offering, funds raised through deputational work and other solicitations, money raised by the auxiliary organizations, and other offerings specified for world missions.

(2) **Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings.** Two special offerings, apart from and in addition to the United Stewardship Fund, shall be received annually throughout the Church: a November Self-Denial Offering for world missions, and an Easter Offering for general extension and evangelism.

(3) **Solicited Offerings.** The General Department of World Missions, the General Department of Extension and Evangelism, and the general educational institutions shall raise financial support for the work under their care by sending representatives to visit the districts, local churches, members, and constituency of the Church. District and local officials shall receive them and cooperate in their work. Offerings received shall be used as designated and shall be in addition to and apart from the United Stewardship Fund, and shall be remitted promptly through the regular channels. The General Department of World Missions shall not engage in deputational work within the four weeks prior to Easter, and the General Department of Extension and Evangelism shall not do deputational work during the month of November. An educational institution shall do its deputational work only within its assigned area and in the manner decided upon in the plans for such institutions approved by the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:47; 916:3; 921:1).

(4) **Auxiliary Organizations.** Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and Wesleyan Youth shall raise financial support for approved projects in accord with their respective constitutions and subject to the general oversight and coordination of the Council of Auxiliaries.

(5) **Other Contributions.** Other offerings, contributions, be-

quests, and donations shall be used as specified by the donor and may be forwarded through the regular channels to the General Secretary-Treasurer. Those individuals who prefer to contact the general director of stewardship (763:19; cf. 198) or a general department or institution concerning annuities, bequests, and other special contributions may do so.

#### 4. Budgeting Procedure

786. The income and expense of all the general departments, offices, and agencies of the Church shall be governed through the adoption by the General Board of Administration of annual budgets determined in the following manner:

(1) The general official or responsible officer shall prepare and submit, as directed by the General Board of Administration, a proposed annual budget of income and expense for the work under his care to the commission to which he is assigned, and, as approved by the commission, to the Executive Council (706).

(2) The Executive Council shall review each proposed budget and correlate it with one overall budget for the general Church, taking into account the estimated income from the various sources, and shall present its complete recommendation to the General Board of Administration for all proposed budgets and for the apportionment of the USF-General Fund among its designated beneficiaries (702:3).

(3) The General Board of Administration shall make final decision concerning all budgets for the ensuing fiscal year, and in so doing shall determine the apportioning of the USF-General Fund among its designated beneficiaries (691:26).

## Chapter V

### GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

#### A. Objectives

791. The objective of the general publications program of The Wesleyan Church shall be to facilitate the spread and advancement of Scriptural holiness in a world becoming increasingly literate, by providing doctrinally sound and spiritually effective periodicals, curriculum materials, books, tracts, and other similar materials and promoting their distribution and use. All publications of the Church shall be in harmony with its Articles of Religion, General Rules, and Elementary Principles.

#### B. Commission on Publications

793. The Commission on Publications shall consist of a General Superintendent as chairman (707; 709:1; 743:4), the General Editor (798-799), the General Publisher (812-813), and such area representatives on the General Board of Administration as the General Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with the right to speak but not to vote, the Executive Editor of Curriculum (804-805; 896-897), the various departmental and auxiliary editors (807-808), and any others the General Board of Administration shall designate (707). General regulations covering the function, membership, sessions, organization, and amenability of the commissions are found in 705-710.

794. The Commission on Publications shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the General Editor (798-799), General Publisher (812-813), the Executive Editor of Curriculum (804-805; 896-897), those charged with editorial tasks in the various general departments, agencies, and auxil-

iaries (807-808; cf. 1262:4), and any other body or officer assigned by the General Board of Administration (705). Its special duties shall be:

(1) To recommend to the General Board of Administration a complete and coordinated general publications program, including periodicals, curriculum materials, books, and tracts (691:34).

(2) To coordinate the work of the General Editor, the Executive Editor of Curriculum, and the departmental and auxiliary editors in keeping with the approved Policy of the General Board of Administration for Publications, assigning complementary responsibilities where needed (cf. 807).

(3) To coordinate the work of the General Publisher with that of the General Editor, the Executive Editor of Curriculum, and the departmental and auxiliary editors in such matters of overlapping concern and responsibility as budget, the buying of manuscripts and the publishing of books, cooperative ventures with other bodies, technical details, art and layout, scheduling, proof-reading, and circulation and promotion, all in keeping with the Policy, assigning complementary responsibilities where needed.

(4) To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, nominations presented by the General Editor for an assistant to the General Editor (799:8), and/or nominations presented by the General Publisher for an assistant to the General Publisher (813:7), for election by the General Board of Administration (691:32).

(5) To appoint, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration, qualified persons to the Book and Tract Committee, and the Committee on Management of the Publishing House, and to hear and coordinate their recommendations (709:3; 801-802; 815-816).

### C. General Editorial Office

#### 1. Function

796. The General Editorial Office is responsible for the literary content and form of *The Wesleyan Advocate* and all other general church publications assigned to it by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration. It is under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration and the supervision of the General Superintendent over the Commission on Publications (709:1; 743:4; 793), and shall be administered by the General Editor.

#### 2. General Editor

798. The General Editor is elected by the General Conference as a general official of the Church (169; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), and the Commission on Publications (793). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-718.

799. The General Editor shall administer the General Editorial Office in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Publications, and other directives from the General Board of Administration, the Executive Council, and the Commission on Publications. He shall be responsible:

(1) To serve as editor-in-chief of *The Wesleyan Advocate*, and any other publication assigned to him by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration.

(2) To serve as editorial consultant for all general departments and offices of the Church.

(3) To serve as denominational book editor and tract editor, serving as chairman of the Book and Tract Committee (801-802), and with its assistance reviewing and recommending books for the general reading program of the Church, recommending to the Commission on Publications desirable publica-

tions projects, and approving or preparing manuscripts for publication for such projects when they have been recommended by the Commission on Publications and approved by the General Board of Administration.

(4) To present all recommendations for the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council to the Commission on Publications (cf. 709:4).

(5) To cooperate with the General Publisher, as directed by the Commission on Publications, in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility as given in 794:3.

(6) To develop, in consultation with the Executive Editor of Curriculum and other departmental editors (cf. 804-808), and under the direction of the Commission on Publications, an editorial manual standardizing editorial procedures and usages for all general church publications.

(7) To prepare an annual budget for submission to the Commission on Publications for coordination with the General Publisher's budget (cf. 786; 794:3).

(8) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Publications to the General Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the General Editor (cf. 691:32; 794:4).

(9) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(10) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

### 3. Book and Tract Committee

801. The Book and Tract Committee shall consist of the

General Editor as chairman (799:3), and of four to six qualified persons appointed by the Commission on Publications subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (709:3; 794:5).

802. The Book and Tract Committee shall assist the General Editor in his work as denominational book and tract editor as given in 799:3. No book or tract manuscript, other than curriculum materials or publications of the general offices and departments, auxiliaries, institutions, or other agencies which have been cleared through the proper channels, shall be published by the Wesleyan Publishing House, without the approval of the Book and Tract Committee.

#### D. Curriculum Editing

804. The Executive Editor of Curriculum shall be responsible for the literary content and form of all literature produced by the General Department of Sunday Schools, and of all other educational materials assigned to him by the Commission on Christian Education.

805. The Executive Editor of Curriculum shall be an honorary member of the Commission on Publications (793), and shall follow its directives in matters of editorial policy, and in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility such as those listed in 794:3. The regulations concerning the election, amenability, and duties of the Executive Editor of Curriculum are given in full in 896-897.

#### E. Departmental Editing

807. Each general department, office, auxiliary (cf. 1262:4), or other agency may produce such publications as the General Board of Administration shall approve (691:34; 794:1). If such a publication becomes competitive with other publications, the Commission on Publications shall make recommendations to the General Board of Administration concerning its modification or its transfer to the supervision of the General Editor.

808. The persons responsible for editing such departmental or auxiliary publications shall be honorary members of the Commission on Publications (793), and shall follow the directives of the Commission on Publications in matters of editorial policy, and in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility such as those listed in 794:3.

## F. Wesleyan Publishing House

### 1. Function

810. The Wesleyan Publishing House is responsible for the production, sale, and distribution of such general publications of The Wesleyan Church as the General Conference or the General Board of Administration shall assign, and for the sale and distribution of such other religious literature and materials as the General Board of Administration shall direct. The Wesleyan Publishing House is under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration and the supervision of the General Superintendent over the Commission on Publications (707; 709:1; 743:4; 793), and shall be administered by the General Publisher.

### 2. The General Publisher

812. The General Publisher is elected by the General Conference as a general official of the Church (169; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), and the Commission on Publications (793). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-718.

813. The General Publisher shall manage the business affairs and funds of the Wesleyan Publishing House in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy for Publications adopted by the General Board of Administration, and other directives from the General Board of Administration, the Executive Coun-

cil, and the Commission on Publications. He shall be responsible:

(1) To serve as business manager for such publications as are assigned to him by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration.

(2) To present all recommendations for the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council to the Commission on Publications (cf. 709:4).

(3) To cooperate with the General Editor, the Executive Editor of Curriculum, and the departmental and auxiliary editors, as directed by the Commission on Publications, in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility as listed in 794:3.

(4) To employ the most effective and economical means in producing or arranging for the production of official church publications, seeking the counsel of the Committee on Management of the Publishing House (815-816), and carrying out the orders of the General Board of Administration.

(5) To cooperate with the various general officials and other executives in the marketing and distribution of such materials as have been authorized by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council, and to market and distribute such other religious literature and materials as he shall deem wise, all subject to the directions of the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council.

(6) To prepare an annual budget for submission to the Commission on Publications, for coordination with the budgets of the editors (cf. 786; 794:3).

(7) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Publications to the General Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the General Publisher (cf. 691:32; 794:4).

(8) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(9) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

### 3. Committee on Management of the Publishing House

815. The Committee on Management of the Publishing House shall consist of the General Publisher as chairman (813:4), and of four to six persons experienced in the field of business administration, appointed by the Commission on Publications subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (709:3; 794:5).

816. The Committee on Management of the Publishing House shall serve as an advisory committee to the General Publisher in the management of the Wesleyan Publishing House, especially in seeking the most economical means of securing the production of the Church's literature (cf. 813:4).

## Chapter VI

### GENERAL MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

#### A. Objectives

826. The ultimate objective of The Wesleyan Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing with all mankind the good news and glorious experience of full salvation. To this end, The Wesleyan Church, through its General Department of Extension and Evangelism and General Department of World Missions, shall endeavor:

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

(2) To gather the converts into churches and enlist them in the work of God's kingdom.

(3) To place well-qualified and Spirit-filled pastors over the churches, giving special emphasis to the training of workers and leaders for the church.

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

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

#### B. General Extension and Evangelism

##### 1. Commission on Extension and Evangelism

828. The Commission on Extension and Evangelism shall

be composed of a General Superintendent as chairman (707; 709:1; 743:4), the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (836-837), and such area representatives of the General Board of Administration as the General Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with a voice but without a vote, such other qualified advisors as the General Board of Administration shall designate (707). The general regulations concerning the function, membership, sessions, organization, and amenability of the commissions are given in 705-710.

829. The Commission on Extension and Evangelism shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the General Department of Extension and Evangelism (831-852), including Wesleyan Card Call (844), Wesleyan Indian Missions (847-848), and such other agencies or officers as the General Board of Administration shall assign (705). Its special duties shall be:

(1) To review the total program of extension and evangelism on the general, district, and local level, and to make recommendations to the General Board of Administration for increasing the evangelistic outreach of The Wesleyan Church.

(2) To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, nominations presented by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism for an assistant to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, for election by the General Board of Administration (691:32; 837:21).

(3) To approve nominations for Executive Director of Evangelism presented by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism for election by the General Board of Administration (851:1); and to elect the members at large of the Council on Evangelism as set forth in 852:1.

(4) To approve the nominations to be submitted by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (837:13) for the

members at large on the board of managers of Wesleyan Indian Missions as set forth in 848:1; and to approve the nominations submitted by the board of managers of Wesleyan Indian Missions for the superintendent of Wesleyan Indian Missions and for the president of Brainerd Indian School (847:3e).

(5) To approve candidates to be presented by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism to the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council for appointment as workers in pioneer areas, mission districts, or special ministries, unless otherwise provided for in *The Discipline* (848:3ef), and to interview them if desired (691:37; 837:6).

(6) To pass on recommendations to the General Board of Administration concerning criteria for the certification of general evangelists as set forth in 852:2; to make recommendations to the General Board of Administration concerning those whose names are to be presented by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism for certification as general evangelists (cf. 539:I:A:3a; 691:37; 837:16; 852:2; 1162), or for the authorization of special workers to have their slates published in *The Wesleyan Advocate* (cf. 691:37; 837:16; 1189), and to interview them if desired.

(7) To approve the employment of general evangelists and special workers for evangelistic work under the direction of the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (cf. 837:17).

(8) To review the minutes of the district conference and the district board of administration of each mission district and make any recommendations deemed necessary to the General Board of Administration or the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism for the proper direction of the work (cf. 416:4).

(9) To approve the location, building plans, and financial arrangements for churches, parsonages, and any other projects under the General Department of Extension and Evangelism within the limitations of the approved budget for the depart-

ment and other available funds, and in harmony with the Policy and program of the General Board of Administration.

(10) To review applications for aid from Wesleyan Card Call (844) and to approve or formulate recommendations to the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council for the calls to be issued and the amounts to be set (691:38).

## **2. General Department of Extension and Evangelism**

### **a. Function**

831. The General Department of Extension and Evangelism is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (826) within the borders of the United States and Canada, and in such other places as shall be assigned to it by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration. It is under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration, the supervision of the General Superintendents as provided for in the plan for the administrative areas and the commissions (707; 709:1; 737; 743:3-5; 828), and shall be administered by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism.

### **b. Divisions**

832. The ministries of the General Department of Extension and Evangelism are threefold:

(1) The division of general church extension, involving the development, promotion, and supervision of an aggressive program of church extension through evangelistic and missionary work, both in cooperation with the established districts (486:3; 511:2, 4) and in new or undeveloped areas as provided for in the plan for pioneer areas and mission districts (cf. 402-418).

(2) The division of special ministries, involving the missionary outreach of The Wesleyan Church in the United States and Canada among foreign language and racial minorities, including such as the American Indians, the Jews, the blind, and other minority groups requiring a specialized ministry, as

authorized by the General Board of Administration. This work may be carried on directly by the department or through the districts and local churches, and does not preclude the districts and local churches from exercising their privilege and duty of evangelizing and ministering to the needs of minorities in their own territories.

(3) The division of general evangelism, involving the promotion of soul-winning concern and evangelism in all of its forms and phases, the extension of the denominational witness through the media of mass communication, the correlation of the ministries of the general evangelists (cf. 1162) and commissioned special workers (cf. 1189), and the provision of a service agency for such workers.

#### c. General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism

836. The General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism is elected by the General Conference as a general official (169; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (828), and the Council of Auxiliaries (1202). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-718.

837. The General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism shall administer the General Department of Extension and Evangelism in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Extension and Evangelism, and other directives of the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, the Executive Council, or the Commission on Extension and Evangelism. He shall be responsible:

(1) To present all recommendations concerning the work under his care for the General Board of Administration or its

Executive Council to the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (cf. 709:4).

(2) To promote a concern for soul-winning, evangelistic outreach, and church extension throughout his assigned territory as set forth in 831; to provide promotional materials to other departments, publications, or auxiliary organizations; and to visit local churches and districts in order to represent the work.

(3) To raise the necessary finances for the General Department of Extension and Evangelism (cf. 784; 784:1-3), and to manage the department's financial affairs, all in keeping with the financial plans of the Church (771), the approved budget for the department (786), and other instructions from the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council.

(4) To recommend to the General Board of Administration the authorization of a pioneer area (403), a mission district (410; 411:4), or a special ministries project (832:2); and to recommend, in concurrence with the Board of General Superintendents, the establishment of a district (420; 421:5; 740:18).

(5) To visit and direct the work of the various pioneer areas, mission districts, and special ministries projects, seeking to develop the work as rapidly as possible toward the status of established districts (cf. 416:4; 826:5; 829:8; 1301; 1312).

(6) To enlist and recommend candidates approved by the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (829:5) to the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council for appointment (691:37) in pioneer areas, mission districts, and special ministries projects, unless otherwise provided for in *The Discipline* (848:3ef).

(7) To take emergency action concerning the officers and workers in the pioneer areas and special ministries projects in the interim of General Board of Administration or Executive Council sessions, with the approval of the General Superintendent over the area and the General Superintendent appoint-

ed as chairman of the Commission on Extension and Evangelism.

(8) To advise the established districts in developing aggressive programs of church extension; and to carry on cooperative programs or projects with established districts as approved by the General Board of Administration; cooperating in each case with the General Superintendent and the district board of administration over the involved district (486:3; 511:4; 743:11; 832:1, 3).

(9) To administer the Wesleyan Card Call Plan (844); and to serve as an ex officio member of the board of directors of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc., and as its executive secretary (cf. 1352).

(10) To promote spiritual and financial aid to pioneer churches by established churches.

(11) To make available promotional materials that will aid pioneer pastors and others in introducing The Wesleyan Church.

(12) To make available to local churches and districts suitable building plans and general data on construction that will facilitate the erection of suitable church buildings, educational units, and parsonages in the most efficient and economical manner.

(13) To nominate eight members at large of the board of managers of Wesleyan Indian Missions, and to serve as chairman of that board (691:21; 829:4; 848:1); to supervise and promote the work carried on by this agency (848:2-3).

(14) To promote the witness and outreach of The Wesleyan Church through the various media of mass communication, special evangelistic crusades, urban or rural evangelization, and other evangelistic efforts as authorized by the General Board of Administration.

(15) To submit one or more nominations approved by the

Commission on Extension and Evangelism to the General Board of Administration for the office of Executive Director of Evangelism, and to direct him in all phases of his work (829:3; 851); to nominate, in conjunction with the Executive Director of Evangelism, twenty-four members at large of the Council on Evangelism, and to serve as chairman of the Council (709:3; 852).

(16) To present to the Commission on Extension and Evangelism the names of those persons recommended by the district conferences for certification as general evangelists by the General Board of Administration, together with an evaluation of their qualifications in relation to the criteria for certification as set forth in 1162, and the names of commissioned special workers for authorization for publication of their slate in *The Wesleyan Advocate* as set forth in 1189 (cf. 539:I:A:3a; 691:37; 829:6; 852:2).

(17) To employ, with the approval of the Commission on Extension and Evangelism, general evangelists and special workers for the work of evangelism in pioneer areas, mission districts, or cooperative projects with established districts (829:7).

(18) To present to the Council of Auxiliaries approved projects for assignment to the auxiliary organizations under its jurisdiction (1208:7).

(19) To prepare a proposed annual budget for the General Department of Extension and Evangelism and submit it to the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (cf. 786).

(20) To receive from the pastors the names and addresses of those members moving away from their church, and to notify the nearest Wesleyan pastor or district officials accordingly (252; 294:13).

(21) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Extension and Evangelism

(829:2) to the General Board of Administration for election of an assistant to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (691:32).

(22) To employ such personnel as are necessary for the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(23) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

#### d. Wesleyan Card Call

844. The Wesleyan Card Call shall provide for church extension by enlisting voluntary donors who pledge to answer calls for aiding the establishment of new work. The General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism shall be responsible to manage the Wesleyan Card Call as directed by the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:38; 829:10; 837:9).

#### e. Wesleyan Indian Missions

847. The work among the American Indians in the United States and Canada shall be organized as Wesleyan Indian Missions, including all chapels, churches, institutions, or other work among the Indian people, as assigned by the General Board of Administration.

848. Wesleyan Indian Missions shall be directed by a board of managers as follows:

(1) **Composition.** The board of managers shall consist of the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism as chairman, the superintendent of Wesleyan Indian Missions, the president of Brainerd Indian School, and eight other members at large elected by the General Board of Administration, for which nominations shall be submitted by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (cf. 691:21; 829:4; 837:13). Each member of the board of managers must be a member of

The Wesleyan Church. The members at large shall serve for four years and shall be elected in such a way as to provide for the election of two members each year.

(2) **Amenability.** The board of managers of Wesleyan Indian Missions shall be under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration and shall govern and coordinate the work in accord with The Discipline, the Policy of the General Board of Extension and Evangelism, and the bylaws for Wesleyan Indian Missions as approved by the General Board of Administration. The General Board shall have the right to initiate any actions as deemed best for Wesleyan Indian Missions, may remove any member of the board of managers for cause or when the best interests of the Church or of the work so require, and shall also fill all vacancies (691:21; cf. 691:56b).

(3) **Duties.** The duties of the board of managers of Wesleyan Indian Missions shall be:

(a) To promote, develop, and supervise the evangelization of the Indian people in the United States and Canada in those fields and areas approved by the General Board of Administration (691:35; 832:2), in harmony with the missionary objectives (826).

(b) To coordinate all phases of the work under Wesleyan Indian Missions including evangelism, church extension, education, and benevolent work.

(c) To adopt bylaws for Brainerd Indian School, and other institutions under Wesleyan Indian Missions, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration.

(d) To adopt financial plans for the work of Wesleyan Indian Missions, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration.

(e) To submit one or more nominations for the superintendent of Wesleyan Indian Missions, and one or more nominations for the president of Brainerd Indian School, to the Commission on Extension and Evangelism for approval,

and as approved to the General Board of Administration for election.

(f) To employ teachers and other personnel as deemed necessary for Brainerd Indian School and any other institutions or work under Wesleyan Indian Missions.

(g) To recommend to the General Board of Administration any plans for organizing the workers and churches under Wesleyan Indian Missions into mission districts or districts.

(h) To hold in trust for the ministers and members of The Wesleyan Church, as set forth in 1417-1418, any property, real or personal, that may be acquired, purchased, or donated to Brainerd Indian School or the work of Wesleyan Indian Missions (cf. 1346-1347; 1401-1420).

(i) To carry out such other duties as required of the board of managers by the General Board of Administration.

#### f. Program of Evangelism

##### 851. Executive Director of Evangelism.

(1) **General Regulations.** The Executive Director of Evangelism shall be elected by the General Board of Administration from one or more nominations submitted by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism with the approval of the Commission on Extension and Evangelism (691:37; 829:3; 837:15). He shall serve for a term designated by the General Board of Administration or until his successor is chosen. He shall be a member of the Council on Evangelism by virtue of his office (852:1). He shall be amenable to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism for the conduct of his office, and may be removed from office for cause or when the best interests of the Church so require by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration (691:56b). The salary and expenses of the Executive Director of Evangelism shall be underwritten by Wesleyan Men.

(2) **Duties.** The Executive Director of Evangelism shall ad-

minister his office in keeping with *The Discipline*, the Policy for Extension and Evangelism adopted by the General Board of Administration, and as directed by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (837:15). He shall be responsible:

(a) To assist the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism in promoting interest in soul-winning and evangelism in all of its forms and phases, and in promoting the interests of general evangelism (832:3).

(b) To cooperate with the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism in nominating the twenty-four members at large of the Council on Evangelism (852:1).

(c) To act as consultant to all church organizations in evangelistic methods.

(d) To create literature on evangelism including inspirational and promotional materials, and study guides and training programs.

(e) To plan and coordinate conventions and united meetings on evangelism.

(f) To correlate the work of the general evangelists, providing through his office a service agency for general evangelists and special workers (cf. 832:3).

(g) To aid districts and local churches, as they may request and as time may permit, in initiating evangelistic ventures, and to provide standardized promotional materials for such ventures.

(h) To carry out such other duties as may be recommended by the Commission on Extension and Evangelism and assigned by the General Board of Administration.

#### **852. Council on Evangelism.**

(1) **Membership.** The Council on Evangelism shall consist of the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism as chairman (837:15), the Executive Director of Evangelism (851), the General Secretary of Youth (905-906), the General Director of

Wesleyan Men (1231; 1232:2), and twenty-four other members nominated by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism and the Executive Director of Evangelism, and elected by the Commission on Extension and Evangelism subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (709:3; 829:4; 837:15; 851:2b). The twenty-four members at large shall include three general evangelists, five district superintendents (three serving established districts, and two serving mission districts), one military chaplain, three pastors, three laymen, four district Wesleyan Youth presidents, and five youth (ages 18 to 23). The general evangelists, district superintendents, and military chaplain shall be elected for four years, the pastors, laymen, and youth for two years.

(2) **Duties.** The Council on Evangelism shall serve as an advisory body to the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism and to the Executive Director of Evangelism in promoting an aggressive program of evangelism on the general, district, and local levels. The General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the Executive Director of Evangelism, and the five district superintendents shall make recommendations to the Commission on Extension and Evangelism concerning the criteria for certification of general evangelists and other pertinent matters relating to the work of the evangelists (cf. 691:37; 829:6; 837:16; 1162).

(3) **Additional Regulations.** Further regulations for the Council on Evangelism shall be provided by the General Board of Administration.

### C. General World Missions

#### 1. Commission on World Missions

856. The Commission on World Missions shall be composed of a General Superintendent as chairman (707; 709:1; 743:4), the General Secretary of World Missions (862-863), and such area representatives of the General Board of Administration as the General Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as

honorary members, with a voice but not a vote, such assistants to the General Secretary of World Missions and other qualified advisors as the General Board of Administration shall designate (707). The general regulations concerning the function, membership, sessions, organization, and amenability of the commissions are given in 705-710.

857. The Commission on World Missions shall perform the functions of a commission as given in 706 for the General Department of World Missions (860-866) and such other agencies or officers as the General Board of Administration shall assign (705). Its special duties are:

(1) To approve all candidates for missionary service to be presented by the General Secretary of World Missions to the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council for appointment or reappointment, and to interview such candidates if desired; and to approve recommendations of the General Secretary of World Missions concerning the termination of contracts and appointments, and the recall from the field of those under appointment (691:40; 863:5; cf. 863:8).

(2) To approve, when such assistants have been authorized by the General Board of Administration, the nominations to be submitted by the General Secretary of World Missions to the General Board of Administration for the election of one or more assistants to the General Secretary of World Missions (691:32; 863:2).

(3) To review the minutes of the various field and mission councils, boards, or district conferences under the General Department of World Missions, and to approve such actions as are in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for World Missions, and other pertinent directives, and are advantageous for the work.

(4) To give final approval to the location, building and financial plans for building projects in established fields that are financed in whole or in part through the General Department of World Missions, provided such plans are in harmony

with the Policy and program of the General Board of Administration and within the limitations of the approved budget.

(5) To approve the transfer of missionaries or workers within a field or area and to approve the regular furloughs of missionaries.

## 2. General Department of World Missions

### a. Function

860. The General Department of World Missions is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (826) in those fields and areas beyond the national borders of the United States and Canada as approved by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration (691:39). It is under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration, the supervision of the General Superintendents as provided for in the plan for the administrative areas and the commissions (707; 709:1; 737; 743:3-5; 856), and shall be administered by the General Secretary of World Missions.

### b. General Secretary of World Missions

862. The General Secretary of World Missions is elected by the General Conference as a general official of the Church (169; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), the Commission on World Missions (856), the Council of Auxiliaries (1202), and of each field and mission council or organization under the General Department of World Missions. The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for the General Secretary of World Missions as a general official are set forth in 712-718.

863. The General Secretary of World Missions shall administer the General Department of World Missions in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for World Missions, and other directives from the General Conference, the General Board of Administration, the

Executive Council, and the Commission on World Missions. His duties and responsibilities shall be:

(1) To present all recommendations for the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council to the Commission on World Missions (cf. 709:4).

(2) To present nominations as approved by the Commission on World Missions to the General Board of Administration for the election of one or more assistants to the General Secretary of World Missions, whenever such assistants have been authorized by the General Board of Administration (691:32; 857:2).

(3) To promote world-wide missionary interest, understanding, and zeal throughout The Wesleyan Church; to direct the publicity and promotional work of the department; to provide information or reports on world missions to other departments, publications, or auxiliary organizations; and to visit local churches and districts in order to represent the work.

(4) To raise the necessary finances for the General Department of World Missions (cf. 784; 784:1-3), and to manage the department's financial affairs, all in keeping with the financial plans of the Church (771), the approved budget for the department (786), and other instructions of the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council.

(5) To enlist missionary candidates and recommend them to the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council for appointment or reappointment; to recommend the termination of contracts and appointments, including the recall from the field of those under appointment (691:40; 857:1; cf. 863:8).

(6) To provide spiritual leadership and supervision for the fields under the General Department of World Missions in harmony with the missionary objectives (826), visiting the fields and presiding when present over the various councils and conferences, except when a General Superintendent is also present (cf. 740:8).

(7) To arrange, in cooperation with the Board of General

Superintendents, for the visit of a General Superintendent to each field at least once during the quadrennium (740:8; cf. 691:29).

(8) To take emergency action concerning the missionaries or the fields in the interim of General Board of Administration or Executive Council sessions, with the approval of the General Superintendent over the area and the General Superintendent appointed as chairman of the Commission on World Missions.

(9) To recommend to the General Board of Administration the entering of new fields or areas or the closing of old ones (691:39); to recommend the establishment of a Provisional Area General Conference (1008:10).

(10) To present to the Council of Auxiliaries approved projects for assignment to the auxiliary organizations under its jurisdiction (1208:7).

(11) To prepare an annual budget for the General Department of World Missions and submit it to the Commission on World Missions (cf. 786).

(12) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(13) To report to each General Conference session concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

### c. Missionaries

866. A missionary or other worker duly appointed to serve under the General Department of World Missions may retain membership in his local church and district as of the time of his appointment by the General Board of Administration. He shall also relate himself to the national church where assigned and shall hold membership as set forth in the discipline or

other regulations adopted for the particular field or area to which he is assigned (cf. 1001:5) and according to the Policy of the General Board of Administration for World Missions. He shall be amenable for his conduct to the proper authorities on the field where he serves, the General Secretary of World Missions, and the General Board of Administration as set forth in the Judiciary (cf. 1535-1541, esp. 1537:4) and the Policy of the General Board of Administration for World Missions.

## Chapter VII

### GENERAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### A. Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

(5) To instruct each person in the fundamentals of the faith, in the history of the Christian church, the importance of the Reformation and the Wesleyan movement, the history of The Wesleyan Church, its precedent bodies, and its missionary outreach, warning him against the false doctrines of the age

and equipping him as a witness for his Lord.

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

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

## B. Educational Agencies

### 1. The Commission on Christian Education

888. The Commission on Christian Education shall consist of a General Superintendent as chairman (707; 709:1; 743:4), the General Secretary of Sunday Schools (893-894), the General Secretary of Youth (905-906), the General Secretary of Educational Institutions (920-921), and such area representatives on the General Board of Administration as the General Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with the right to speak but not to vote, such qualified advisors as the General Board of Administration shall designate (707). General regulations covering the function, membership, sessions, organization, and amenability of the commissions are found in 705-710.

889. The Commission on Christian Education shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the General Department of Sunday Schools (891-900), the General Department of Youth (902-909), the Committee on Chaplains (913), and such others as the General Board of Administration may assign (705). Its special duties shall be:

(1) To view Christian education as a total process, dealing with the whole person, aiming at a fully coordinated educational program for the whole Church.

(2) To coordinate all programs in which the General Department of Sunday Schools and Youth have overlapping in-

terests, such as leadership training, camping, educational literature, age level groups as these overlap with special interest programs, servicemen, and chaplains, assigning complementary responsibilities as needed. Special attention shall be given to the organizing for local churches of a training hour which will utilize the total educational resources of the local church (cf. 363:10).

(3) To provide a means of cooperation in all matters in which the interests of the General Departments of Sunday Schools and Youth overlap with those of the General Department of Educational Institutions.

(4) To approve nominations presented by the General Secretary of Sunday Schools for Executive Editor of Curriculum, for election by the General Board of Administration (691:45; 894:9; 896).

(5) To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, nominations presented by the General Secretary of Sunday Schools for an assistant to the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and/or nominations presented by the General Secretary of Youth for an assistant to the General Secretary of Youth, for election by the General Board of Administration (691:32; 894:11; 906:9).

(6) To appoint the members of the Committee on Sunday Schools, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (709:3; 899).

## 2. General Department of Sunday Schools

### a. Function

891. The General Department of Sunday Schools is responsible, on the general level, to carry out the objectives of The Wesleyan Church for Christian education (886) in such phases as Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, leadership training, junior church, weekday church school, and released time classes. The department is under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration and the supervision of the General

Superintendent over the Commission on Christian Education (707; 709:1; 743:4; 888), and shall be administered by the General Secretary of Sunday Schools.

#### **b. General Secretary of Sunday Schools**

893. The General Secretary of Sunday Schools is elected by the General Conference as a general official (169; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), and the Commission on Christian Education (888). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-718.

894. The General Secretary of Sunday Schools shall administer the General Department of Sunday Schools in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Sunday Schools, and other directives from the General Board of Administration, the Executive Council, and the Commission on Christian Education. His responsibilities shall be:

(1) To present all recommendations for the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 709:4).

(2) To initiate the development of Sunday school philosophy, organization, administration, curriculum planning, teaching techniques, and programming; to serve as chairman of the Committee on Sunday Schools, seeking its counsel on all phases of his work (899-900); and to carry out and promote the plan of Sunday school work as approved by the General Board of Administration, through a Sunday school standard approved by the General Board of Administration, and through conventions, seminars, exhibits, and other approved means.

(3) To initiate a complete program for vacation Bible schools, and to promote the program as it is approved by the General Board of Administration.

(4) To direct and promote a program of leadership training;

to be known as Wesleyan Evangelical Leadership Development (WELD).

(5) To direct and promote a program of membership training to be administered by pastors and local church boards (cf. 239; 294:11; 316:7; 363:11).

(6) To direct and promote all other phases of Christian education carried on through local churches and districts not specifically assigned by *The Discipline* or the General Board of Administration to another general department or agency.

(7) To cooperate with the General Secretary of Youth and the General Secretary of Educational Institutions as directed by the Commission on Christian Education, in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility as given in 889:2-3.

(8) To serve as educational consultant for all general departments, auxiliaries, and agencies of the Church which carry on educational activities through local churches and districts.

(9) To submit one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Christian Education to the General Board of Administration for the office of Executive Editor of Curriculum, and to direct him in all the educational phases of his work (691:45; 889:4; 896).

(10) To prepare an annual budget for submission to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 786).

(11) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Christian Education to the General Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the General Secretary of Sunday Schools (691:32; 889:5).

(12) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(13) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General

Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

### c. Executive Editor of Curriculum

896. The Executive Editor of Curriculum is elected by the General Board of Administration from one or more nominations submitted by the General Secretary of Sunday Schools with the approval of the Commission on Christian Education (691:45; 889:4; 894:9). He shall serve for a term designated by the General Board of Administration or until his successor is chosen. He shall be an honorary member of the Commission on Publications (793), and a member of the Committee on Sunday Schools (899). He shall be amenable to the General Secretary of Sunday Schools for the general administration of his office and in all matters of educational policy (894:9), and to the Commission on Publications in all matters of editorial policy (794:2-3; 804-805). He may be removed from office for cause, or when the best interests of the Church so require, by a majority vote of all members of the General Board of Administration (691:56b).

897. The Executive Editor of Curriculum shall administer his office in keeping with *The Discipline*, the Policies of the General Board of Administration for Sunday Schools and Publications, and other directives of the General Secretary of Sunday Schools and the Commission on Publications. His duties shall be:

(1) To submit recommendations concerning educational matters to the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, and recommendations concerning editorial matters to the Commission on Publications with the approval of the General Secretary of Sunday Schools.

(2) To serve as executive editor of all Sunday school curriculum materials, all leadership and training manuals produced by the General Department of Sunday Schools, and any

other educational materials assigned by the Commission on Christian Education.

(3) To serve as consultant on curriculum materials to any other general department, auxiliary, or agency.

(4) To prepare, under the direction of the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, an annual budget covering all editorial expense of the General Department of Sunday Schools, and submit it to the Commission on Publications for coordination with the General Publisher (cf. 786).

(5) To secure, under the direction of the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, the assistance of other personnel in the General Department of Sunday Schools, and the employment of other personnel as needed, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(6) To report as required to the Commission on Christian Education and the Commission on Publications.

#### d. Committee on Sunday Schools

899. The Committee on Sunday Schools shall consist of the General Secretary of Sunday Schools as chairman (894:2), the Executive Editor of Curriculum (896), such other personnel in the General Department of Sunday Schools as the Commission on Christian Education shall approve, and four to six qualified advisors appointed by the Commission on Christian Education subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (709:3; 889:6).

900. The Committee on Sunday Schools shall advise the General Secretary of Sunday Schools in all phases of his work, especially in the practical implementation of the Policy and programs adopted by the General Board of Administration (894:2).

### 3. General Department of Youth

#### a. Function

902. The General Department of Youth is responsible for carrying out The Wesleyan Church's objectives for Christian education (886) as they relate to the youth ministries of the Church, represents the interest of youth to the Church, and serves as the Church's resource agency for youth related concerns. The department is under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration and the supervision of the General Superintendent over the Commission on Christian Education (707; 709:1; 743:4; 888), and shall be administered by the General Secretary of Youth.

#### b. Divisions

903. The ministries of the General Department of Youth are fourfold:

(1) The division of youth work on general, district, and local levels, known organizationally as Wesleyan Youth (WY). Full details concerning the operation of WY are given in 1271-1299.

(2) The division of Christian Youth Crusaders (CYC), a program of training, activity, and fellowship for children and youth, grades 1-9 (cf. 383-384; 594; 906:3).

(3) The division of servicemen's ministries, through which The Wesleyan Church maintains contact with its youth in the armed forces, seeks to win and hold them to Christ and the Church, and trains them for effective witness in their immediate environment and in their future service within the Church (cf. 906:4).

(4) The division of campus ministries, through which The Wesleyan Church maintains contact with its youth on college campuses, seeks to win and hold them to Christ and The Wesleyan Church, and trains them for effective witness on and off the campus (cf. 906:4).

### c. General Secretary of Youth

905. The General Secretary of Youth is elected by the General Conference as a general official (169; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), the Commission on Christian Education (888), the Council of Auxiliaries (1202), and the Council on Evangelism (852:1). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-718.

906. The General Secretary of Youth shall administer the General Department of Youth in all of its divisions in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Youth, and other directives of the General Board of Administration, the Executive Council, and the Commission on Christian Education. He shall be responsible:

(1) To present all recommendations for the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 709:4).

(2) To initiate the development of youth work philosophy, organization, administration, leadership training, and programming; to serve as chairman of the general WY executive committee, seeking its counsel on all phases of his work (908-909); and to carry out and promote the plan of youth work approved by the General Board of Administration through an efficiency standard approved by the General Board of Administration, and through conventions, seminars, exhibits, and other approved means.

(3) To direct and promote the work of Christian Youth Crusaders—CYC (cf. 383-384; 594; 903:2).

(4) To serve as contact person for those youth in the constituency of The Wesleyan Church who are serving in the armed forces or are studying on college campuses (cf. 903:3-4).

(5) To represent the General Department of Youth to other denominational or interdenominational youth organizations,

subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (691:15).

(6) To preside over district WY conventions when present (1285:1).

(7) To cooperate with the General Secretary of Sunday Schools and the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, as directed by the Commission on Christian Education, in all matters of overlapping concern and responsibility as given in 889:2-3.

(8) To prepare an annual budget for submission to the Commission on Christian Education (cf. 786).

(9) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Christian Education to the General Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the General Secretary of Youth (691:32; 889:5).

(10) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(11) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

#### **d. General Wesleyan Youth**

##### **Executive Committee**

908. The general WY executive committee shall be composed of the General Secretary of Youth as chairman (905:2), and the area WY chairman and vice-chairman of each representative area (1298:1). The area WY chairmen and vice-chairmen shall be nominated by area WY nominating committees (1298:1), and elected by the General Board of Administration (691:43).

909. The general WY executive committee shall advise the

General Secretary of Youth in all phases of his work, serving especially as the liaison between the General Department of Youth and the area, district, and local organizations of Wesleyan Youth (cf. 906:2; 1295:2).

#### 4. The Committee on Chaplains

913. The General Board of Administration shall name from among its members a Committee on Chaplains of three to five members, designating one member as chairman (691:16). The Committee on Chaplains shall carry out its work according to the policies and under the direction of the General Board of Administration, and shall report through the Commission on Christian Education, making possible its coordination with the division of servicemen's ministries of the General Department of Youth (cf. 889:2; 903:3; 906:4).

### C. Educational Institutions

#### 1. Commission on Educational Institutions

915. The Commission on Educational Institutions shall consist of a General Superintendent as chairman (707; 709:1; 743:4), the General Secretary of Educational Institutions (920-921), and such area representatives on the General Board of Administration as the General Board shall assign (707). It shall also have as honorary members, with the right to speak but not to vote, such representatives of institutional education or other qualified advisors as the General Board of Administration shall designate (707). General regulations covering the function, membership, sessions, organization, and amenability of the commissions are found in 705-710.

916. The Commission on Educational Institutions shall fulfill the function of a commission as given in 706 for the General Department of Educational Institutions (918-924), the general educational institutions themselves (934), the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (939), the Ministerial Study Course Agency (940-941), and such others as the General Board of Administration may assign (705). It shall be responsible:

(1) To recommend to the General Board of Administration the coordination of the institutional purposes and curricula of the several general educational institutions so as to provide a complete and adequate program of institutional education.

(2) To recommend to the General Board of Administration the coordination of the various types and levels of ministerial training so as to provide a complete and adequate program of ministerial training (cf. 1150); and to recommend to the General Board of Administration basic courses of study for the local preacher, the licensed minister, and special lay ministries (cf. 691:46; 921:12; 1148; 1151-1152).

(3) To recommend programs of general financial aid for the Church's educational institutions (cf. 691:47; 784; 784:3; 921:11).

(4) To receive annual reports from each educational institution, to review its work in the light of the basic principles for the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church (926), the charter of the institution, and the Standards for Educational Institutions adopted by the General Board of Administration, and to make such recommendations to the General Board of Administration and the administrators of the school as will maintain the proper relationship of the school to the Church and as will assist in fulfilling the purpose of the school.

(5) To recommend to the General Board of Administration policies covering the establishment and operation of elementary and secondary schools by a local church or group of churches (691:48).

(6) To approve, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, nominations presented by the General Secretary of Educational Institutions for an assistant to the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, for election by the General Board of Administration (691:32; 921:17).

(7) To appoint the members of the Council on Educational

Institutions, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (709:3; 923).

## 2. General Department of Educational Institutions

### a. Function

918. The General Department of Educational Institutions is responsible for coordinating the implementation of The Wesleyan Church's objectives for Christian education (886) as they relate to the training of Christian ministers, missionaries, and educators on the study course, college, and seminary levels, and the elementary, secondary, and collegiate schooling of the children and youth of The Wesleyan Church. The department is under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration and the supervision of the General Superintendents as provided for in the plan for the administrative areas and the commissions (707; 709:1; 737; 743:3-5; 915), and shall be administered by the General Secretary of Educational Institutions.

### b. General Secretary of Educational Institutions

920. The General Secretary of Educational Institutions is elected by the General Conference as a general official (169; 650:17; 711), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (602:3), the General Board of Administration (678:1), the Executive Council (694:1), the Commission on Educational Institutions (915), the Commission on Christian Education (888), and the Council of Auxiliaries (1202). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are given in 712-718.

921. The General Secretary of Educational Institutions shall administer the General Department of Educational Institutions in accord with *The Discipline*, the Standards for Educational Institutions adopted by the General Board of Administration, and other directives of the General Board of Administration, the Executive Council, and the Commission on Educational Institutions. His duties shall be:

- (1) To present all recommendations for the General Board

of Administration or its Executive Council to the Commission on Educational Institutions (cf. 709:4).

(2) To serve as liaison between the general Church and its educational institutions, representing the institutions on the General Board of Administration, informing the administrators of the schools concerning educational standards and programs adopted by the General Board, interpreting to the administrators of the schools the place and function of the schools in the life of the Church, and promoting the best of spiritual climates and the highest degree of loyalty and service to the Church on the campuses of the institutions.

(3) To serve as chairman of the Council on Educational Institutions (923-924), and with its counsel to serve as coordinator of the general educational institutions, under the direction of the General Board of Administration and the Commission on Educational Institutions, helping the various schools to complement each other and assisting the institutions in each educational area to work out cooperative programs in church visitation, financial campaigns, and student recruitment.

(4) To interpret to the membership of the Church the distinctive services rendered by the educational institutions and their function in the Church.

(5) To assist in the preparation of the charters and bylaws of the general educational institutions, and of amendments to the same (cf. 928-932).

(6) To attend such meetings of the boards of trustees of the several general educational institutions as time will permit, and to receive a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the boards of trustees. He shall review the actions of the various boards in the light of the basic principles for the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church (926), the charters of the institutions, and the Standards for Educational Institutions adopted by the General Board of Administration, and make any necessary recommendations to the institutions or to the General Board of Administration.

(7) To receive annual reports from the general educational institutions covering matters designated by the Commission on Educational Institutions, to prepare a digest of these reports for presentation to the Commission on Educational Institutions, the General Board of Administration, and the various institutions, and to carry on such other research and study projects as are ordered by the Commission or the General Board.

(8) To serve as consultant to the various institutional administrators, visiting the various campuses as needs require and time permits, holding workshops on individual campuses or leading conferences involving like institutions, providing for the sharing of educational resources and planning.

(9) To develop a placement service which will facilitate the finding and employment of qualified faculty members.

(10) To present to the Council of Auxiliaries approved projects for assignment to the auxiliary organizations under its jurisdiction (1208:7); to seek bequests, trusts, annuities, and other contributions from benevolent foundations and other donors for the financial support of the Church's educational institutions.

(11) To administer all general church financial aid programs for ministerial education (cf. 771; 778:1; 779:1; cf. 691:47; 784; 784:3; 916:3).

(12) To promote the enlistment and preparation of candidates for the ministry; to develop basic courses of study for the local preacher, the licensed minister, and special lay ministries (cf. 691:46; 916:2; 1148; 1151-1152); to serve as director of the Ministerial Study Course Agency (940-941); to develop questionnaires for use by district boards of ministerial standing in examining candidates for licensing, ordaining, and commissioning (cf. 537:1; 691:49).

(13) To cooperate with the General Secretary of Sunday Schools and the General Secretary of Youth in keeping with

the recommendations of the Commission on Christian Education.

(14) To advise the General Department of World Missions and the General Department of Extension and Evangelism, as requested, concerning the administration and staffing of the schools under their charge.

(15) To maintain denominational relationships with appropriate educational agencies outside the Church, as approved by the General Board of Administration (691:15).

(16) To prepare an annual budget for his department for submission to the Commission on Educational Institutions (cf. 786).

(17) To submit, when such an office has been authorized by the General Board of Administration, one or more nominations approved by the Commission on Educational Institutions to the General Board of Administration for election as an assistant to the General Secretary of Educational Institutions (691:32; 916:6).

(18) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of his duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the General Board of Administration.

(19) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning his official duties (650:7), annually to the General Board of Administration concerning his official duties and personal ministry (691:24), and at other times as required.

### c. Council on Educational Institutions

923. The Council on Educational Institutions shall consist of the General Secretary of Educational Institutions as chairman (921:3), and eight representatives from the four educational areas (971-979), one staff or faculty member and one member of a school board of trustees from each area. These eight representatives shall be selected by the Commission on Educational Institutions, subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (709:3; 916:7). Each shall serve

for a term of four years, with the Commission on Educational Institutions so ordering their election that two shall be elected each year.

924. The duties of the Council on Educational Institutions shall be:

(1) To serve as an advisory body to the General Secretary of Educational Institutions (cf. 921:3).

(2) To serve the General Board of Administration and the Commission on Educational Institutions as a resource committee representing all of the institutional education interests of The Wesleyan Church.

(3) To recommend complementary roles for the various institutions, seeking to bring about the most economical and efficient use of the Church's educational properties.

(4) To recommend procedures for coordinating the curricula of the various institutions, and the placement of faculty members.

### **3. Ownership and Control of Educational Institutions**

#### **a. Basic Principles**

926. The educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church shall be governed in harmony with these principles:

(1) All schools, in fulfilling the mission of The Wesleyan Church, shall seek to produce Christian workers and committed laymen for the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church recognizes that more than one type of educational institution will be needed. Some institutions will devote themselves primarily to the preparation of full-time Christian workers for the Church. Some colleges, recognizing the God-given mandate to explore and bring under dominion the whole range of knowledge for the glory of God and the good of mankind (Gen. 1:26-28; 9:1-7; Matt. 6:10; I Cor. 3:21b-23; II Cor. 10:5; I Tim. 4:4-5), will offer a Christian liberal arts program. Some Christian young people will use such a curriculum as

the foundation for graduate training to become full-time Christian workers; some to prepare for other vocations in which they have been called to serve Christ, His Church, and His world.

(2) The Church and all its schools shall work in the closest harmony. In its legislative assemblies, the Church defines its faith. In its classrooms, the Church studies, expounds, and defends its faith. In the congregation, the Church worships its Lord and proclaims its faith. To safeguard the doctrinal purity of the Church, it shall be required that all schools maintain and promote the doctrinal position of the Church as set forth in its Articles of Religion, General Rules, and Elementary Principles. Any person employed on the administrative staff or faculty of an educational institution of The Wesleyan Church must affirm his adherence to the doctrine of entire sanctification and other doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in the Articles of Religion.

(3) In establishing its educational institutions, and in guiding their life and work, The Wesleyan Church seeks to provide the highest possible quality of Christian education for its own young people and for other young people who wish to study under its auspices without regard to race or national origin (131:4; 176:3d).

#### b. Lines of Authority

928. Ultimate authority over the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church rests with the General Conference (cf. 650:13). This authority shall in general be delegated to the General Board of Administration and shall consist in the following matters:

(1) Examination of the proposed charter and of any subsequent proposed revision thereto, with power to approve and effect the same if it finds them conformable to the provisions of *The Discipline* and the General Board of Administration's Standards for Educational Institutions (691:20).

(2) The election of the trustees for each educational institution as set forth in 931 (cf. 691:21; 1541).

(3) The adoption and revision of such Standards for Educational Institutions as the General Board of Administration shall deem to be wise (cf. 916:1).

929. Each educational institution of the general church shall be governed by a board of trustees elected by the General Board of Administration as hereinafter set forth. This board of trustees shall have full legal powers to govern, to manage, and to control the institution, subject to its charter and bylaws. The charter and bylaws under which the school is incorporated with all subsequent amendments, shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (691:20; cf. 921:5). The charter shall make the trustees responsible for the observance of the Standards for Educational Institutions.

930. The charter of each institution shall provide that title to the property of the institution shall be held by the trustees, in trust for the use and benefit of The Wesleyan Church, subject to the requirement that the trustees may not at any time sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets without the express approval of the General Board of Administration. Whenever the sale, transfer, encumbrance, or other disposal of real property held in trust by such an institution *does not include all or substantially all of its assets*, the authorization by the board of trustees of the institution for such a sale or conveyance shall constitute a release and discharge of such property so sold or conveyed from the trust clause, and the board of trustees of the institution shall be enabled to give a good and sufficient deed. Whenever such real property is mortgaged or otherwise encumbered, the authorization by the board of trustees of the institution shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such a mortgage lien and the subordination of the trust clause thereto.

931. The charter shall provide for the trusteeship of the institution in the following manner:

(1) The board of trustees shall consist of six or more ministers, an equal number of laymen, and the president of the institution who shall be a member by virtue of his office.

(2) Each trustee shall be a full member of some local Wesleyan church. No member of the institution's staff or faculty except the president may be a member of the board of trustees of the institution he serves, but he may serve as trustee of another educational institution supported by The Wesleyan Church.

(3) The members of the board of trustees shall be elected by the General Board of Administration, with up to one-fourth being elected from the membership of the General Board of Administration, approximately one-half being elected as representatives of the districts within the educational area served by the institution, and approximately one-fourth being elected from nominees submitted by the board of trustees itself (cf. 691:21; 1541).

(4) The district representatives shall be elected by the General Board of Administration in such a manner as to assure that:

(a) Each district shall have a minimum of two representatives, one minister and one layman.\*

(b) Representation beyond the minimum shall be proportionate to the full membership of the several districts.

(c) Each representative shall reside within the district he represents at the time of his election.

(d) Each district conference which desires to do so may

\*Because of the impracticability of 931:4a, and in keeping with the authority granted by the General Conference for setting a timetable when the paragraphs covering educational institutions should go into effect, the General Board of Administration has delayed the implementation of said 931:4a until the rise of the 1972 General Conference.

submit nominations for its representatives on the board of trustees, submitting two nominations for each trusteeship vacancy with order of preference (471:3; 473:36). Members of the General Board of Administration shall also have the privilege of making nominations for each trusteeship, these to be from the church membership of the district represented.

932. If two or more educational institutions within the same educational area shall so request, through their respective boards of trustees, and if, in the judgment of the General Board of Administration, such would be helpful to the administration of said institutions, the General Board of Administration may, by a two-thirds majority vote, combine the operation of the separate campuses under the control of a single board of trustees, adapting 931:1, 3 concerning the number and origin of the trustees to fit this special operation.

#### 4. Educational Areas

934. The general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church include:

- (1) Bethany Bible College, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada.
- (2) Central Pilgrim College, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.
- (3) Central Wesleyan College, Central, South Carolina.
- (4) Eastern Pilgrim College, Allentown, Pennsylvania.
- (5) Frankfort Pilgrim College, Frankfort, Indiana.
- (6) Houghton Academy, Houghton, New York.
- (7) Houghton College, Houghton, New York.
- (8) Marion College, Marion, Indiana.
- (9) Miltonvale Wesleyan College, Miltonvale, Kansas.
- (10) Owosso College, Owosso, Michigan.
- (11) Southern Pilgrim College, Kernersville, North Carolina.

935. The districts, mission districts, and pioneer areas of The Wesleyan Church in the United States and Canada shall be divided into four educational areas (650:14), corresponding in general with the four administrative areas of the Church, and in general with the regional accreditation associations serving

the area in which the schools are located. The boundaries of the educational areas are given in 973-979.

936. Each school within an educational area shall be considered as serving that entire area. The Commission on Educational Institutions shall seek to develop, through the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, and subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration, programs of close affiliation and cooperation between the institutions of each area (cf. 916:1).

### 5. Financial Support of Educational Institutions

937. The financial support of the general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church shall be provided for as follows:

(1) **The United Stewardship Fund—General Fund (778).** The USF—General Fund shall include provision for the General Department of Educational Institutions (918), the Ministerial Study Course Agency (940-941), the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (939), the Council on Educational Institutions (923-924), and the subsidizing of ministerial training on the college level (cf. 778:1).

(2) **The United Stewardship Fund—Educational Institutions Fund (779).** The USF—Educational Institutions Fund shall provide for the support of the approved general educational institutions within each area (cf. 934; 971-979).

(3) **Special Offerings.** Each general educational institution shall supplement its income through deputation work, solicitations, and special offerings (cf. 784).

### 6. Wesleyan Seminary Foundation

939. The Wesleyan Seminary Foundation is the Church agency providing for the advanced training of Wesleyan ministers. Its connection with a particular institution, the official agreement between The Wesleyan Church and the institution, and consequent policies and programs shall be determined by

the General Board of Administration.

### 7. Ministerial Study Course Agency

940. Ministerial training within The Wesleyan Church will ordinarily take place in one of the approved educational institutions. However, for those persons whose circumstances make such institutional education impossible in whole or in part, the General Board of Administration shall provide correspondence courses of study. The correspondence courses shall also be open to others who wish to prepare for Christian service. (Cf. 1151-1152.)

941. The Ministerial Study Course Agency shall be maintained at the denominational headquarters to centralize and standardize the keeping of records on all students for the various ministries recognized by The Wesleyan Church and the administering of the correspondence study courses for those ministries (1151-1152). It shall be directed by the General Secretary of Educational Institutions (921:12). His duties in this connection shall be:

(1) To maintain records on all students for the various ministries recognized by The Wesleyan Church, whether enrolled in educational institutions or in correspondence courses (1150:1-3), and including students of the local preacher's course of study (1107; 1108:1; 1112:3; 1152:1), the licensed minister's course of study (1113:2; 1115:1; 1119:3; 1152:2), the courses of study for specialized ministries (1152:3), the deaconess' course of study (1152:4; 1182-1184), and the special workers' courses of study (1152:5; 1188-1189). The records shall include transcripts, grades, courses finished, and current standing. The Agency shall exchange needed information with the educational institutions and the local and district boards directing the students, issuing an annual report concerning progress for the year and current standing to each student, a similar report on each student of the local preacher's course of study to his local church board (1107), and a similar report on each student

recognized by his district to his district board of ministerial standing prior to the session of the district conference (cf. 535:2; 537:2; 1113:2; 1183; 1188).

(2) To provide a list of the books authorized from time to time by the General Board of Administration for each of the correspondence study courses (cf. 691:46).

(3) To charge a fee to each enrollee in the correspondence study courses as set by the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:46).

(4) To maintain contact by mail with each enrollee throughout his correspondence course of study, providing study outlines, examination questions, and other appropriate information, providing for the administration of examinations through an ordained minister whenever possible (cf. 1151).

(5) To provide suitable transcripts and to issue certificates upon the satisfactory completion of the work assigned (cf. 1851).

(6) To evaluate any training taken outside the institutions and agencies of The Wesleyan Church by a student for one of the ministries recognized by The Wesleyan Church, to judge the equivalence of such outside training to the appropriate course of study, and to report its conclusions and recommendations to the appropriate local church board or district board of ministerial standing (1108:1; 1119:3; 1150:4; 1184; 1189).

## Chapter VIII

### BOUNDARIES

#### A. District Boundaries

951. The boundaries of a district or mission district shall continue as already established prior to the merger of The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, until districts with overlapping territory shall mutually agree on a plan of merger that is approved by the General Board of Administration (430-431), or until the General Conference shall realign the boundaries. The defining of district boundaries is subject to the authority of the General Conference, and, in the interim of its sessions, the General Board of Administration as set forth in 37:VI; 158; 403; 410; 418; 420; 424-425; 430-431; 650:10-11; and 691:50. All matters pertaining to district boundaries in the interim of General Conference sessions shall be referred to the General Board of Administration through the Commission on Administration (767:4).

952. The boundaries of the districts in the United States and Canada are:

**Former  
Wesleyan Methodist  
Conferences**

**Former  
Pilgrim Holiness  
Districts**

#### (FAR NORTHEAST DISTRICT)

(1) The Atlantic District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the Maritime Provinces and the state of Maine.

**(CENTRAL CANADA DISTRICTS)**

(2) The **Central Canada District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

(3) The **Ontario District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the province of Ontario.

**(NEW YORK DISTRICTS)**

(4) The **Champlain District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in all the states of New England except for the state of Maine; and in all the state of New York north and east of the Rochester District; except for those parts of New York and Connecticut embodied in the Middle Atlantic States District.

(5) The **New York District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the states of New York and Massachusetts, and the following ones in the state of Pennsylvania: Brookdale, Green Grove, Sayre, and Tunkhannock.

(6) The **Lockport District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in that part of the state of New York bounded as follows: beginning on Lake Ontario at the northeast 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, thence west along said line to the southwest corner of Chautauqua County, thence north along west line of said county to Lake Erie; thence

along said lake, Niagara River, and Lake Ontario to place of beginning; and in Potter, Cameron, Elk, and McKean Counties in the state of Pennsylvania.

(7) The **Rochester District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in an area bounded as follows: beginning at the northwest corner of Jefferson County in the state of 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 District, and also Sullivan, Bradford, and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania; and also that part of the state of New York west of the east boundary line before mentioned and not included in the Lockport District.

#### (MIDEASTERN DISTRICTS)

(8) The **Allegheny District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in all of the state of Pennsylvania lying west of a line running due south from the

(9) The **Pennsylvania-New Jersey District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness Churches in the state of New Jersey; and in that part of the state of Pennsylvania that

western border of Tioga County, to the northwest border of the Middle Atlantic States Conference, except the counties of Potter, Cameron, Elk, and McKean; in that portion of the eastern part of the state of 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 in that part of the state 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.

lies east of a line running south from the western edge of Olean, New York, to the west edge of Caledonia, Pennsylvania, thence in a straight line to the western edge of Cresson, Pennsylvania, thence in a straight line to the west edge of Cumberland, Maryland, with the exception that the following churches in the northern part of Pennsylvania shall be in the New York District: Brookdale, Green Grove, Sayre, and Tunkhannock.

(10) The Pittsburgh District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in that part of the state of Pennsylvania which lies west of a line running south from the western edge of Olean, New York, to the west edge of Caledonia, Pennsylvania, thence in a straight line to the western edge of Cresson, Pennsylvania, thence in a straight line to the west edge of Cumberland, Maryland; in that part of the state of Ohio that lies east of a line beginning at Painesville, Ohio, at the northern terminus of Ohio state highway No. 44 on Lake Erie, then running southward on Ohio state highway No. 44 through Ravenna, thence to Canton, thence southward on highway No. 8 to Dover, thence southeasterly along U. S. highway No. 250 to Wheeling, West Virginia; and in that part of the state of West

(12) The **Middle Atlantic States District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the states of New Jersey and Delaware; in all of the state of Maryland, except that part which is within the Virginia District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist); in that part of the state of Pennsylvania lying east of a straight line drawn from the northwest corner of Maryland to the northeast corner of Pennsylvania; and in that part of the states 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.

#### (VIRGINIA-D. C. DISTRICTS)

(14) The **Virginia District** (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Virginia; in the District of Columbia; and in that portion of the state of Maryland within the circumferential highway (Interstate No. 495) adjoining the District of Columbia, and including the Aspen Hill Church in Rockville, Maryland.

Virginia that lies north of U. S. highway No. 250 running from Wheeling, West Virginia, to the southwest corner of the state of Pennsylvania.

(11) The **West Virginia District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in all the state of West Virginia, except that portion which lies north of U. S. highway No. 250 running from Wheeling, West Virginia, to the southwest corner of the state of Pennsylvania.

(13) The **Eastern District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Delaware; in all the state of Maryland except Montgomery, Howard, Prince Georges, and Charles Counties; and in that portion of Virginia that lies east of the Chesapeake Bay and south of the state of Maryland.

(15) The **Virginia District** (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Virginia except for the following counties: Prince William, Fauquier, Warren, Frederick, Clarke, Loudoun, Northampton, and Accomack.

(16) The **Capital District** shall include the former Pilgrim

Holiness churches in the District of Columbia; in Montgomery, Howard, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, Washington, and Allegany Counties in Maryland; and Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Fauquier, Warren, Frederick, Clarke, and Loudoun Counties, and the City of Alexandria, in the state of Virginia.

**(NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICTS)**

(17) The North Carolina District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of North Carolina except Macon and Jackson Counties but including 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; and in York and Marlboro Counties in the state of South Carolina.

(18) The North Carolina District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of North Carolina.

**(SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICTS)**

(19) The South Carolina District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of South Carolina except York and Marlboro Counties; and in Jackson and

(20) The Atlantic-Southeast District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of South Carolina; and all of the state of Georgia except the church-

Macon Counties in the state of North Carolina, except that part of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Jackson County assigned to the North Carolina District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist).

(21) The Georgia District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Georgia.

**(FLORIDA DISTRICTS)**

(22) The Florida District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Florida.

es in Lafayette and Lakeview, Georgia.

(23) The Florida District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Florida.

**(DEEP SOUTH DISTRICTS)**

(24) The Alabama District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Alabama; and in that part of the state of Mississippi south of the northern boundary line of the counties through which U. S. Route 82 passes.

(25) The Gulf States District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

**(TENNESSEE DISTRICTS)**

(26) The Tennessee District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Tennessee, and in all of the state of Mississippi except that part of Mississippi which belongs to the Alabama District.

(27) The Tennessee District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Tennessee; in Jellico, Kentucky; and in Lafayette and Lakeview, Georgia.

**(EAST CENTRAL DISTRICTS)**

(28) The Kentucky District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wes-

(29) The Kentucky District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pil-

leyan Methodist churches in the state of Kentucky; in 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 in that part of the state of Illinois south of the Wabash Railroad running from Danville, Illinois, to Hannibal, Missouri.

(30) The Illinois District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Illinois north of the Wabash Railway running from the Indiana state line east of Danville, Illinois, to Hannibal, Missouri.

(32) The Indiana District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Indiana, except that part of Indiana which belongs to the Kentucky District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist).

grim Holiness churches in the state of Kentucky, except that the church at Jellico, Kentucky, shall be in the Tennessee District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness).

(31) The Illinois District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Illinois.

(33) The Northern Indiana District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Indiana north of U. S. highway No. 36 to the west of Indianapolis and north of U. S. highway No. 40 to the east of Indianapolis, except that all of Marion County shall be included in the Northern Indiana District.

(34) The Southern Indiana District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Indiana south of U. S. highway 36 to the west of Indianapolis and south of U. S. highway No. 40 to the east of Indianapolis, except that all of Marion County shall be included in the Northern Indiana District.

**(OHIO DISTRICTS)**

(35) The Ohio District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Ohio not included in the Allegheny and Michigan (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) Districts; and in 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.

(36) The Eastern Ohio District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the eastern part of the state of Ohio, bounded on the west by U. S. highway No. 23 running from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Toledo, Ohio. All cities, towns, and villages on said boundary line, to the extent of their present corporation limits, shall be a part of the Eastern Ohio District. On the east, it is bounded by a line beginning at Painesville, Ohio, at the northern terminus of Ohio state highway No. 44 on Lake Erie, then running southward on Ohio state highway No. 44 through Ravenna, thence to Canton, thence southward on highway No. 8 to Dover, thence southeasterly along U. S. highway No. 250 to Wheeling, West Virginia.

(37) The Western Ohio District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in that part of the state of Ohio which lies west of U. S. highway No. 23, which runs from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Toledo, Ohio, with the exception that all cities, towns, and villages on said boundary line, to the extent of their present corporation limits, shall be a part of the Eastern Ohio District.

(38) The South Ohio District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist Negro churches in the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana, and in that part of West Virginia not occupied by the Allegheny District.

**(MICHIGAN DISTRICTS)**

(39) The Michigan District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in that part of the state of Michigan not included in the North Michigan District, and in Williams, Fulton, and Lucas Counties in the state of Ohio.

(41) The North Michigan District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of 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.

(40) The Michigan District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in that part of the state of Michigan that lies west of a straight line from Bay City, Michigan, through Adrian to the Ohio border, and in that part of Michigan known as the Upper Peninsula.

(42) The East Michigan District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Michigan east of a straight line from Bay City through Adrian, Michigan to the Ohio border.

**(WISCONSIN DISTRICTS)**

(43) The Wisconsin District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Wisconsin, and in the city of Anchorage, Alaska.

(44) The Wisconsin District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Wisconsin.

**(WEST CENTRAL DISTRICTS)**

(45) The Iowa District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the states of Iowa and Minnesota.

(46) The Central District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the states of Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

(47) The Kansas District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist)

(48) The Kansas District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness)

shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the states of Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado.

(49) The **Nebraska District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the state of Nebraska.

(51) The **Oklahoma District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the states of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

**(FAR SOUTHWEST DISTRICTS)**

(53) The **California District (formerly Wesleyan Methodist)** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the states of California and Arizona.

shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Kansas.

(50) The **Rocky Mountain District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the states of Colorado and Nebraska.

(52) The **Texas District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Texas.

(54) The **California District (formerly Pilgrim Holiness)** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of California.

(55) The **Arizona-New Mexico District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the states of Arizona and New Mexico.

**(FAR NORTHWEST DISTRICTS)**

(56) The **Oregon District** shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the states of Oregon and Washington.

(57) The **Pacific-Northwest District** shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in that part of the state of Washington which lies west of the Cascade Mountain range; that part of the state of Oregon which lies west of a line running from California state line on U. S. highway No. 97 north through Bend, Oregon, to a junction on state highway No. 50, thence on state highway No.

23 north to The Dalles. The church at Klamath Falls and the city of Bend, Oregon, shall be in the Pacific-Northwest District.

(58) The Idaho-Washington District shall include the former Pilgrim Holiness churches in the state of Idaho; in that portion of the state of Washington which lies east of the Cascade Mountain range; and in that part of the state of Oregon which lies east of a line running from the California state line on U. S. highway No. 97 north through Bend, Oregon, to a junction on state highway No. 50, thence on state highway No. 23 north to The Dalles, with the exception that the church at Klamath Falls and the city of Bend, Oregon, shall be in the Pacific-Northwest District.

#### (NORTHERN PLAINS DISTRICT)

(59) The Dakota District shall include the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the states of North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

#### B. Representative Area Boundaries

961. The NORTH CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE AREA shall include the Eastern Ohio, East Michigan, Illinois (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Illinois (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Indiana, Michigan (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Michigan (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Northern Indiana, North Michigan, Ohio, Southern Indiana, South Ohio, Western Ohio, Wisconsin (for-

merly Pilgrim Holiness), and Wisconsin (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) Districts.

963. The **NORTHEASTERN REPRESENTATIVE AREA** shall include the Allegheny, Atlantic, Capital, Central Canada, Champlain, Eastern, Lockport, Middle Atlantic States, New York, Ontario, Pennsylvania-New Jersey, Pittsburgh, Rochester, and West Virginia Districts.

965. The **SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE AREA** shall include the Alabama, Atlantic-Southeast, Florida (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Florida (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Georgia, Gulf States, Kentucky (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Kentucky (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), North Carolina (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), North Carolina (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), South Carolina, Tennessee (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Tennessee (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Virginia (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), and Virginia (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) Districts.

967. The **WESTERN REPRESENTATIVE AREA** shall include the Arizona-New Mexico, California (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), California (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Central, Dakota, Idaho-Washington, Iowa, Kansas (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Kansas (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pacific-Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Texas Districts.

### **C. Educational Area Boundaries**

971. The merger of districts and of educational institutions between sessions of the General Conference may lead to changes in the educational area boundaries, which changes may be made by the General Board of Administration (cf. §91:13).

973. The **NORTH CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL AREA** shall be served by Frankfort Pilgrim College, Marion College, and Owosso College; and shall include the East Michigan, Illinois (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Illinois (formerly Wesleyan Meth-

odist), Indiana, Kentucky (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Michigan (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Northern Indiana, North Michigan, Ohio, Southern Indiana, South Ohio, Western Ohio, and Wisconsin (formerly Pilgrim Holiness) Districts.

975. The NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Bethany Bible College, Eastern Pilgrim College, Houghton Academy, and Houghton College; and shall include the Allegheny, Atlantic, Capital, Central Canada, Champlain, Eastern, Eastern Ohio, Lockport, Michigan (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Middle Atlantic States, New York, Ontario, Pennsylvania-New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and Rochester Districts.

977. The SOUTHERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Central Wesleyan College and Southern Pilgrim College; and shall include the Alabama, Atlantic-Southeast, Florida (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Florida (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Georgia, Kentucky, (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), North Carolina (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), North Carolina (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), South Carolina, Tennessee (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Tennessee (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Virginia (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Virginia (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), and West Virginia Districts.

979. The WESTERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Central Pilgrim College and Miltonvale Wesleyan College; and shall include the Arizona-New Mexico, California (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), California (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Central, Dakota, Gulf States, Idaho-Washington, Iowa, Kansas (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Kansas (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pacific-Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Wisconsin (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), and Texas Districts.

#### D. Administrative Area Boundaries

981. The boundaries of the administrative areas are determined by the General Board of Administration upon the rec-

ommendation of the Board of General Superintendents (cf. 680:3; 691:13; 737), and are given here as a matter of information.\*

983. THE NORTH CENTRAL/CARIBBEAN ADMINISTRATIVE AREA shall include the East Michigan, Indiana, Michigan (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Michigan (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Northern Illinois, Northern Indiana, North Michigan, Southern Illinois, Southern Indiana, South Ohio, Western Ohio, and Wisconsin Districts; the American Virgin Islands, Antigua, Barbados, Barbuda, Grand Cayman, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, Puerto Rico, Saba, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Tobago, and all other territory in the Caribbean.

985. THE NORTHEASTERN/AFRICA/EURASIA ADMINISTRATIVE AREA shall include the Atlantic, Capital, Central Canada, Central New York, Champlain, Delmarva, Eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania-New Jersey, Western New York, and Western Pennsylvania Districts; Africa, British Isles, India, and Nepal.

987. THE SOUTHERN/LATIN AMERICA ADMINISTRATIVE AREA shall include the Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mid-Gulf, North Carolina (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), North Carolina (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia Districts; Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Surinam, and all other territory in Central and South America.

989. THE WESTERN/FAR EAST/AUSTRALIA ADMINISTRATIVE AREA shall include the Texas Pioneer Area; the Arizona-New Mexico, California, Colorado, Dakota, Idaho-Washington, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Northwest, and Tri-State Districts; Australia, Japan, New Guinea, Philippines, and Taiwan.

\*Paragraphs 983-989 have been revised for the second printing (February, 1970) of *The Discipline* as authorized by the General Board of Administration in its November, 1969, session. The districts and territories are listed in accordance with the changes made since the uniting General Conference in 1968 in area and district realignments, mergers, and name changes.

California (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Central, Dakota, Idaho-Washington, Iowa, Kansas (formerly Pilgrim Holiness), Kansas (formerly Wesleyan Methodist), Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pacific-Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Texas Districts, and the work under the General Department of World Missions in Australia, Japan, New Guinea, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

# **PART V.**

## **WORLD ORGANIZATION**

### **Chapter I**

#### **BASIC PRINCIPLES**

1001. The Wesleyan Church, in the fulfillment of its mission to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the world (75-76), recognizes the following as basic principles for its worldwide organization:

(1) The objective of Wesleyan world missions, as set forth in 826, is to establish an indigenous church wherever possible which shall be a fully responsible and effective body, functioning as a part of the worldwide Wesleyan Church.

(2) The church in any certain field or area shall become a fully responsible unit of the world organization of The Wesleyan Church when authorization is granted for such a church to be governed by its own area general conference as set forth in 1010-1011.

(3) There shall be a basic constitution which shall serve as a bond for all Wesleyan churches around the world.

(4) The church in each field or area under the General Department of World Missions shall endeavor to establish its own indigenous pattern of government, since it is recognized that variations in local conditions, cultural patterns, governmental regulations, and other factors require local adaptations in the organizational structure of the church. Care shall be taken to avoid the establishing of an organization that is foreign or not readily understood by the nationals.

(5) The organization and government of the various missions, districts, fields or areas, and institutions under the jurisdiction of the General Department of World Missions shall be set

forth in the Policy of the General Board of Administration for World Missions, and a constitution or similar document for the governing of each district, field, area, or institution, or any other part of the work, shall be approved by the General Board of Administration (691:39). The Policy, constitution, and other such documents for the governing of work under the General Department of World Missions shall be in keeping with *The Discipline* and shall allow for adaptation in matters of church polity as set forth in 1001:1-4, 6.

(6) It shall not be the purpose of The Wesleyan Church to keep national churches under the paternal care of the parent body, but to develop a commonwealth or fellowship of strong national churches that are aggressive in working together for the evangelization of the world.

## Chapter II

### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

#### A. Membership

1005. The North American General Conference shall be composed of all mission districts and districts in the United States and Canada (952), and such other mission districts and established districts as it shall receive from time to time, and shall have jurisdiction over The Wesleyan Church around the world as set forth in *The Discipline*.

#### B. A Provisional Area General Conference

1007. A Provisional Area General Conference may be authorized by the North American General Conference (650:10), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the General Board of Administration (691:39), when it meets the minimum requirements as provided for in 1008 and when it is deemed wise to do so. The authorizing act shall set forth the boundaries and official name of the Provisional Area General Conference.

1008. The minimum requirements for a Provisional Area General Conference are:

(1) A minimum of five thousand members including at least thirty ordained elders.

(2) An effective church organization on the local, district, and general (area) levels.

(3) Effective programs for the nurture and training of members, new converts, children, young people, and lay workers.

(4) A program for the training of pastors and evangelists.

(5) Evidence of proper stewardship of life and possessions, and the capacity to support its own pastors, workers, and district officers.

(6) A definite program of evangelism, church extension, and missionary outreach on an indigenous basis.

(7) Effective methods of gathering reliable statistics.

(8) Acceptance of the basic constitution of The Wesleyan Church.

(9) A discipline as approved by the General Board of Administration (691:39).

(10) A recommendation for such status from the General Secretary of World Missions.

**1009.** A Provisional Area General Conference shall have authority to elect its own officers, and to adopt such rules and regulations as are deemed necessary for the church within its bounds, provided that such are in harmony with the basic constitution for The Wesleyan Church and the discipline for that area as approved by the General Board of Administration. The actions of a Provisional Area General Conference shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (691:39).

### C. An Area General Conference

**1010.** A Provisional Area General Conference may be advanced to the status of an Area General Conference by the authority of the North American General Conference (650:10) when it meets the following requirements:

(1) A minimum of seven thousand members including at least forty ordained elders.

(2) A satisfactory record as a Provisional Area General Conference for at least four years.

(3) A recommendation from the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:39).

**1011.** An Area General Conference shall have full power over The Wesleyan Church in its assigned territory, subject to the basic constitution adopted for The Wesleyan Church and other regulations for the world organization of The Wesleyan Church as shall be legislated and declared from time to time.

**D. General Conference Interrelations**

**1013.** The relationships between General Conferences shall be set forth in the basic constitution and other regulations that shall be adopted for the world organization for The Wesleyan Church.

## **Chapter III**

### **WORLD FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH**

1014. There shall be a Wesleyan World Fellowship Council for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church (75-76), the coordinating of the activities of the worldwide Wesleyan Church, the promoting of a closer fellowship and mutual understanding, and the providing of a means for joint planning and cooperative action among all areas and General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church.

1015. The Wesleyan World Fellowship Council shall be composed of representatives from the North American General Conference, each Area General Conference (1010-1011), and from each field or area, established district, or other unit under the General Department of World Missions, as shall be set forth in its constitution and bylaws (1016). The number of representatives from each unit shall be determined according to a ratio of the number of members, with due regard to the principle of lay representation.

1016. The Wesleyan World Fellowship Council shall be organized and governed in accord with its constitution and bylaws which shall be recommended by the General Board of Administration (691:6) and approved by the North American General Conference (650:4).

## PART VI. MINISTRY

### Chapter I

#### MINISTERIAL ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

##### A. Qualifications and Call of the Minister

1101. While God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, assigns to each believer his part in dispensing the gospel message, He also calls some to the more official and public work of the ministry. As Christ called unto Him whom He would, and chose and ordained His twelve apostles "that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach" (Mark 3:14), so He still calls and sends forth His messengers. And as the Holy Spirit impresses this call upon the individual involved, He also confirms the call through the Church. It is the responsibility of the Church both to recognize and endorse God's call, providing for the training and employment of those He selects, and to respect the sacred office of the ministry by refusing its exercise to those not called of God. The church's endorsement may be limited to a probationary period, taking the form of a license, or it may be granted on a more permanent basis, taking the form of ordination.

1102. The Wesleyan Church believes that four marks will concur in the man whom God has called: grace, gifts, fruit, and an abiding sense of a divine call. Each candidate for license to preach or for ordination shall be examined concerning each of these marks.

(1) Does he know God as a pardoning God? Has he the love of God abiding in him? Does he desire nothing but God? Is he holy in life and conduct as well as in heart? Is he a worthy example to the church and to the world?

(2) Does he have gifts as well as grace for the work? Does he have a clear, sound understanding? a right judgment in the

things of God? a just conception of salvation by faith? Does he speak justly, readily, clearly?

(3) Has he any fruit? Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified by his preaching?

(4) Has he an abiding sense of a divine call to the work?

1103. Any person sustaining a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures and the General Rules (131:14; cf. 1130) shall be ineligible for license or ordination in The Wesleyan Church.

### B. Local Preacher

1105. **Identification.** A local preacher is a lay member of The Wesleyan Church whom the local church conference has licensed to preach (155:3; 274:7), under the pastor's direction and as opportunity affords (294:28), thus providing for the demonstration, employment, and development of his ministerial gifts and usefulness.

1106. **Granting a Local Preacher's License.** A full member of a local Wesleyan church, who applies for a license as a local preacher, or who is presented as a candidate for such license by the pastor, shall be examined as provided for by the local church board in keeping with 1101-1103. If the local church board is satisfied that the candidate shows promise of ministerial gifts and usefulness, it shall recommend to the local church conference the granting of a license (316:19). When the local church conference has approved such action (272:6; 274:7), the pastor and local church secretary shall issue the license on the approved form (1826; cf. 294:28; 337:3).

1107. **Renewing a Local Preacher's License.** A local preacher's license is effective for one year only, and authority to preach under such a license shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the local church conference, until such time as the holder of the license is granted a district minister's license.

The local church conference may renew the license if its holder has served satisfactorily under the pastor's direction, if his gifts and graces give promise of continued usefulness, and if the annual report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency shows that he has completed two units of study in the study course for local preachers (1152:1) during the year, or if he holds a certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing that the course has been completed.

**1108. Duties of a Local Preacher.** A person holding a local preacher's license shall be responsible:

(1) To enroll in the course of study for local preachers (1152:1) under the Ministerial Study Course Agency, and to pursue it with all diligence until completed, either through a program of ministerial training at one of the Wesleyan educational institutions, or through correspondence courses from the Ministerial Study Course Agency. Any training taken outside of The Wesleyan Church shall be carefully evaluated by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, which shall have authority to determine to what extent it may be credited toward the prescribed course (1150:4). Once the study course for local preachers has been completed, he shall either seek a recommendation from his local church conference to the district conference for listing as an unlicensed ministerial student (1170:4), and, whenever deemed appropriate, a recommendation for a district ministerial license, or he shall continue his ministry on a local level as long as the local church conference shall renew his license (1107). A local preacher entering a Wesleyan educational institution for ministerial training, may be recommended to the district conference as a ministerial student, and be so certified wherever necessary.

(2) To assist the pastor as he shall direct (294:28), preaching as often as opportunity affords, including the holding of evangelistic services in neighboring churches with his pastor's approval.

(3) To report the progress of his studies and the nature and extent of his labors to his pastor and the local church board as they shall require (316:4), and to the local church conference annually (272:5; 274:5).

(4) To serve as a supply pastor (1159) as appointed by the district superintendent and the district board of administration (486:29, 34; 511:20), and when so employed to make reports as required by the district superintendent and annually to the district conference.

#### 1109. Regulations for a Local Preacher.

(1) A local preacher has no authority to solemnize marriages or to administer the sacraments; neither has he any vote in the local church board nor in the district conference unless elected thereto.

(2) A local preacher is amenable to the local church conference (155:3), and his license may be revoked for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, upon recommendation of the local church board and a majority vote of the local church conference (274:7; 316:19).

(3) A local preacher who transfers his membership may also ask for a letter of standing as a local preacher (1827), and present it to the pastor of the church to which he is transferring for consideration by the local church board there in issuing a new license.

#### C. Licensed Minister

1111. Identification. A licensed minister is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by a district conference, through the granting of a ministerial license, authorizing him for and appointing him to a larger sphere of service and greater rights and responsibilities than those pertaining to a local preacher, as a step toward ordination as an elder. A licensed minister may be:

(1) A former local preacher who has qualified for and been appointed to regular service in one of the categories listed in 1156-1167 (cf. 1116:3).

(2) A minister who formerly held appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1167 for one year or more, but who is now engaged in full-time study in preparation for ordination (1170:2).

(3) A ministerial student who has completed four years of pre-ministerial training in a Wesleyan educational institution, and who is engaged in advanced work in an approved theological seminary (1170:3).

**1112. Granting a Ministerial License.** A full member of The Wesleyan Church who believes that he is called of God to be a minister (cf. 1101-1103), may qualify for and be granted a ministerial license in the following manner:

(1) Membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting the license.

(2) Satisfactory service under a local preacher's license in The Wesleyan Church for at least one year.

(3) Certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing completion of the local preacher's course of study or of its equivalent (1851; cf. 1152:1; 1150:4).

(4) Recommendation from his local church conference to the district conference for ministerial license.

(5) Promise to accept the district conference's appointment to active service in one of the categories listed in 1156-1167, or its appointment to study in an approved seminary; to pursue his studies with all diligence until completed; to prepare for ordination; and to give himself wholly to the ministry.

(6) Examination by the district board of ministerial standing (537:1) relative to his qualifications for the ministry and for a

district license (cf. 1102-1103; 1112:1-5), including his personal religious experience, ministerial call and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and subsequent recommendation by the district board of ministerial standing to the district conference for the granting of a ministerial license (537:5).

(7) Recommendation by the district board of administration for his immediate appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1167, or to pursue advanced studies in an approved theological seminary (486:9c).

(8) Adoption by the district conference of the separate recommendations of the district board of ministerial standing (1112:6) and of the district board of administration (1112:7).

(9) Issuance and signing of the license by the district superintendent and the district secretary (1833; cf. 511:23; 517:4).

**1113. Renewing a Ministerial License.** A district ministerial license obviates the necessity of a local preacher's license, but is effective for one year only, and authority to carry on the office and work of a minister under such a license shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the district conference until such time as the holder of the license is ordained to the ministry. A minister may qualify for and be granted renewal of his ministerial license in the following manner:

(1) Satisfactory service under his previous appointment, including loyalty to and compliance with the rules of The Wesleyan Church and of the district, and including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed minister fails to file his annual service report (541), unless such failure is due to illness, injury, or a similar emergency, his license shall not be renewed (cf. 537:8).

(2) Confirmation through the annual report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency that he has completed at least two units of study in the licensed minister's study course (1152:2-3). The licensed minister's study course must be completed within

seven years of service under a ministerial license, and ministerial license shall not be renewed beyond the seventh year.

(3) Agreement to continue under district appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1167, or to full-time pursuit of the course of study, or to advanced work in an approved theological seminary.

**1114. Rights of a Licensed Minister.** As long as a minister qualifies for and receives a district license, he shall have the right (cf. 151):

(1) To preach the gospel (151:1), and, when appointed as a pastor of a Wesleyan church, to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony wherever local laws will permit.

(2) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the approval of the district conference and other regulations of *The Discipline* (151:3).

(3) To enjoy, if appointed as a pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which he has been assigned by the district conference (151:4); and to serve his assigned pastoral charge without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church (151:5; cf. 1132-1133).

(4) To be a voting member of the district conference if pastoring an established Wesleyan church, or a non-voting member of the district conference if appointed to some other category of service (158; 438:2; 440:3).

(5) To transfer in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent and the General Superintendent over the district to which he seeks to transfer (151:6; cf. 1128:1).

(6) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against

his character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (151:7; 1521; 1527-1529).

**1115. Duties of a Licensed Minister.** A person holding a ministerial license shall be responsible:

(1) To enroll in the licensed minister's study course (1152:2-3) under the Ministerial Study Course Agency and his district board of ministerial standing, and to pursue the study course with all diligence until completed, either through a program of ministerial training at one of the Wesleyan educational institutions, or through correspondence courses from the Ministerial Study Course Agency (cf. 1150:4).

(2) To serve his district faithfully under whatever appointment he may receive, seeking to complete the service requirements for ordination as quickly as possible.

(3) To report annually to the district conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 541; 1113:1), and to the district superintendent and the board of ministerial standing as required (cf. 294:32).

**1116. Regulations for a Licensed Minister.**

(1) A licensed minister is amenable to the district which grants his license, and his license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529.

(2) A licensed minister's credentials shall consist of his license, signed annually by the district superintendent and the district secretary (1112:9; 1833), and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district secretary (1853).

(3) A minister from another denomination who has been ordained to deacon's orders, or who has been licensed or authorized in some manner equivalent to the licensing of a Wesleyan minister by a district conference, may present his letter of standing, license, or other credentials, and transcripts or other records of ministerial training, to the district superin-

tendent for consideration of reception as a minister into The Wesleyan Church. He must join a local Wesleyan church and seek and qualify for a local preacher's license as any lay member would do (1106), and shall serve under that license for one year before being recommended for district license (1112:4). Such a minister may serve as a supply pastor during his first year of membership in The Wesleyan Church (1159).

(4) A licensed minister, when transferring his district membership (cf. 1128:1), in addition to a letter of transfer, shall be supplied by the district superintendent and the district board of ministerial standing with a properly attested statement of his standing in the ministerial study course and of his record of service under the appointment of the district conference.

(5) If a minister's license is not renewed by the district conference, and he is neither under charges nor under discipline, he may be licensed by his local church conference as a local preacher subject to the rules and regulations pertaining thereto (1105-1109; cf. 1136).

#### D. Elder

**1118. Identification.** An elder is a minister whose calling, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of a district conference and by the solemn act of ordination (1701-1711), and thus has been fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

**1119. Qualifications for Ordination.** A licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church who has an abiding conviction of God's call to be a minister (cf. 1101-03), may qualify for and be ordained as an elder in the following manner:

(1) Membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting ordination.

(2) Satisfactory service for two years as a licensed minister

under appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1167, at least one of which years must have been in The Wesleyan Church in the case of a minister transferring from another denomination (cf. 1116:3), and provided that in the case of a ministerial student who has completed his training at an approved seminary there need be only one year of service beyond seminary.

(3) Certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing completion of the course of study for a licensed minister or of its equivalent (1851; cf. 1152:2-3; 1150:4).

(4) Examination by the district board of ministerial standing relative to his qualifications for the ministry and for ordination (cf. 1102-1103; 1119:1-3), including his personal religious experience, ministerial call and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, particularly his personal commitment without reservation to each of the Articles of Religion and the General Rules and his loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and a subsequent report by the district board of ministerial standing to the district conference (537:1, 5).

(5) Election by the district conference to elder's orders (473:29). In case of an emergency, a candidate who has been recommended by the district board of ministerial standing may be elected to elder's orders by the district board of administration in the interim of the sessions of the district conference (486:33).

(6) Public service of ordination (1701-1711), in which he shall witness to his Christian experience, affirm his conviction of a divine call to the ministry, his commitment to the doctrines and principles of The Wesleyan Church, and his loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, after which he shall be separated to the Christian ministry by the Church through the laying on of hands in the person of the General Superintendent (if pres-

ent, cf. 743:14), the district superintendent (511:23), and a council of ordination (546).

(7) Issuance and signing of a certificate of ordination by the General Superintendent, district superintendent, and district secretary (1836).

**1120. Reception of an Elder from Another Denomination.** An elder or ordained minister from another denomination may present his letter of standing or other credentials, and transcripts or other records of ministerial training, to the district superintendent, and seek reception as an elder into The Wesleyan Church (cf. 486:32), according to the following procedures:

(1) He shall join a local Wesleyan church within the district.

(2) He shall be examined by the district board of ministerial standing relative to his Christian experience, call, and qualifications for the ministry as given in 1102-1103 (cf. 1119:4), relative to the equivalence of his training to the Wesleyan course of study (1152:1-3; cf. 1150:4), and relative to the nature of the ordination which he received.

(3) If the district board of ministerial standing so recommends (537:3), the district conference may appoint him as an elder in process of transfer (473:30a; cf. 539:I:E; 1175), which relation shall continue for one year unless the district conference shall by vote extend it. While serving under this relation, he shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (440:2), may serve as a supply pastor (1159), and shall seek to correct any deficiencies in his ministerial training, particularly in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity. If at any time the district board of administration shall determine that it is not in the best interests of the district to continue the relation, they may by majority vote terminate the relation and any supply assignment, and thus dismiss him from all ministerial relations to The Wesleyan Church.

(4) If his year of service is satisfactory and all deficiencies in

his ministerial training are corrected, the district board of ministerial standing may recommend to the district conference that he be recognized as an elder of The Wesleyan Church and received as a ministerial member of the district (537:3).

(5) When he has been received, by a vote of the conference (473:30a), a certificate validating his certificate of ordination shall be issued (1837), and signed by the General Superintendent presiding over the district conference, the district superintendent, and the district secretary.

**1121. Rights of an Ordained Elder.** As long as an elder maintains his spiritual life, moral character, and faithful ministry which first qualified him for ordination, and as long as he is neither under discipline nor expelled from the ministry, he shall have the right (cf. 151):

(1) To preach the gospel and to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony (151:1).

(2) To be eligible for election to any office in the Church for which elders are eligible (151:2).

(3) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the other provisions of *The Discipline* (151:3).

(4) To enjoy, if appointed as a pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which he has been assigned by the district conference (151:4); and to serve his assigned pastoral charge without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church (151:5; cf. 1132-1133).

(5) To be a voting member of the district conference if on the stationed, reserve, or superannuated lists, or a non-voting member of the district conference if on the unstationed list (158; 438:1; 440:1); and to have his conference relations changed only after careful investigation by the district board of administration, and interview if possible (486:9c).

(6) To transfer in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent and the General Superintendent over the district to which he seeks to transfer (151:6; cf. 1128:1).

(7) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against his character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (151:7; 1521; 1527-1529).

**1122. Duties of an Ordained Elder.** An ordained elder shall be responsible:

(1) To devote himself without reservation to the Christian ministry, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the appointment of the district conference in determining and occupying his field of service.

(2) To report annually to the district conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 541; 1123:3), and to the district superintendent as required (cf. 294:32).

(3) To place his credentials on file voluntarily with his district superintendent if he ceases for an extended period to serve in one of the categories of the ministry listed in 1156-1167 (cf. 1137-1138).

(4) To surrender voluntarily his credentials if he is guilty of an offense which would disqualify him from service as an elder (cf. 1137; 1139-1140).

**1123. Regulations for an Elder.**

(1) An elder is amenable to the district of which he is a member, and he may be deposed from the ministry and ordered to surrender his credentials by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529.

(2) An elder's credentials shall consist of his certificate of ordination (1119:7; 1836), and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district secretary (1853).

(3) An elder who fails to file his annual service report (541)

for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial standing, and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. If he then fail to report, he shall be declared withdrawn from the district, and his name shall be so entered upon the minutes of the district conference.

(4) When an elder surrenders his certificate of ordination because he is guilty of an offense (1122:4), or is ordered to surrender it after due judicial process (1529:4), it shall be lawful to publish such fact in the columns of *The Wesleyan Advocate*.

### **E. General Regulations for Elders and Licensed Ministers**

#### **1. Special Advice to Ministers**

1125. John Wesley's "Rules of a Helper" have perhaps never been excelled as counsel to ministers, whether young or old. These "Rules" are, in part, as follows:

(1) Be diligent. Never be unemployed a moment, never be triflingly employed, never while away time; spend no more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

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

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

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

(5) Tell 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. Let your industry, as well as your humility, commend itself to all.

(8) Be punctual: do everything exactly at the time.

(9) Do not mend the rules, but keep them; not for wrath but for conscience' sake.

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

## 2. Membership of Ministers

**1127. Local Church Membership.** Each Wesleyan minister, whether ordained or licensed, must be a member of a local Wesleyan church (150) within the district in which he holds his ministerial membership. If he serves as a pastor, his membership is automatically transferred to the church he pastors (244:3). If he serves in some capacity other than that of a pastor, he shall hold and transfer his local church membership within the district in the same manner as a layman. If he takes a letter of withdrawal from his local church (1805), such will not affect his standing in the district, unless he fails to use it in joining another Wesleyan church within the district (cf. 1128:4).

**1128. District Membership.** Each Wesleyan elder shall be a member of the district conference which appoints him to service, and each licensed minister of the district conference which issues his license (cf. 1114:4; 1121:5). The minister's district membership shall be subject to the following regulations:

(1) If a minister desires to accept a pastoral call from a church within the bounds of another district, or if a minister not serving as a pastor desires to transfer his ministerial membership to another district, he must first obtain the written permission of the General Superintendent and the district superintendent over the district to which he desires to transfer

(151:6; 511:18; 743:15). When such has been obtained, he shall ask his district superintendent for a letter of transfer (1854; cf. 511:25) to be sent directly to the district superintendent of the district to which he is transferring (cf. 1116:4). He shall continue to be considered as a member of the former district until a reply has been received from the latter district stating that he has been duly received as a member of a local church within that district and has been duly enrolled as a member of the district conference (1855; cf. 511:25).

(2) In an emergency, an elder may serve as supply pastor of a church located within the bounds of a district other than the one in which he holds his ministerial membership (cf. 1159:1), provided that such an arrangement has the written approval of the superintendent of each district involved, and does not continue beyond the next session of the district conference in which he holds his membership without the consent of his district conference.

(3) If a minister so request, the district superintendent may grant him a letter of standing (1856; cf. 511:25), which shall terminate immediately his ministerial membership in The Wesleyan Church (cf. 1138). Such a letter of standing shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance in the case of an elder, or until the next session of the district conference from which he has withdrawn in the case of a licensed minister.

(4) If a minister receives a letter of withdrawal from his local church (1805; cf. 1127), and does not use it in joining another Wesleyan church within the district by the time of the next session of the district conference, or if he declares in writing that he has withdrawn from the Church, or if he leaves for parts unknown, or if he joins another denomination, either as a member or as a minister, or if an elder fails to submit his annual service report as set forth in 541 and 1123:3, the district board of administration may recommend and the district conference may order that he be declared withdrawn (cf. 1136; 1138). (cf. 1529:2; 1547-1548.)

(5) No letters of transfer or standing shall be granted to any minister by a district superintendent until satisfactory evidence is given by the applicant that no outstanding debts are unprovided for, and that he has honorably withdrawn from his contract for service with his church or district.

### 3. Minister and Marriage

1129. Any minister who enters into a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures, and to those expositions of Scripture as set forth in the General Rules (131:14; cf. 1130), after having been ordained or licensed, shall be dismissed from his ministerial standing, provided that guilt shall be established in accord with the judicial processes set forth in *The Discipline* (1527-1529; cf. 131:14).

1130. In performing marriages, Wesleyan ministers shall not unite in marriage any person who is divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless such divorce and remarriage is in keeping with the Scriptures and the General Rules (131:14) as explained by the following regulations:

(1) When one spouse is guilty of adultery and a divorce has been granted by a court of law on those grounds, the innocent spouse shall have the right to remarry.

(2) When a divorce has been granted by a court of law on other than Scriptural grounds, if one spouse remarries after the divorce has been granted, this constitutes Scriptural grounds for divorce for the other spouse, who shall then have the right to remarry.

(3) When a divorce, although granted by a court of law on other than Scriptural grounds, does in fact involve adultery, the minister shall be free to unite in marriage the spouse he believes to be the aggrieved member.

### 4. Relationship to Other Ministers and Churches

1132. Each minister of The Wesleyan Church shall respect the rights of each of his brethren within his field of labor, and shall not interfere with the work of, nor influence anyone

against any pastor, district official, or other minister of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 151:5). In the event of any such violation of ministerial ethics, the aggrieved person may file a complaint with his district superintendent (1527; cf. 1511:2-4).

1133. If a Wesleyan minister shall engage to serve another denomination, or an interdenominational or independent work, as a pastor or in some other regular capacity, except by permission of his district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, by permission of his district board of administration, the district board of administration may recommend and the district conference may order that he be declared withdrawn. If he is serving within the territory of a district other than the one to which he belongs, he must have not only the permission of his own district, but also the permission of the district superintendent over the territory where he proposes to labor (511:25). An elder serving outside The Wesleyan Church with the permission of his district, shall be placed either on the stationed or unstationed list as set forth in 1166; 1167; and 1174.

### 5. Restoration of Ministers

1136. If a licensed minister ceases to be licensed or is declared withdrawn from his district conference, and he was neither under charges nor under discipline, he may at a later time again be recommended by his local church conference and qualify for and be granted a district license.

1137. If an elder has filed his credentials with his district superintendent (1122:3), or if he has voluntarily surrendered (1122:4) or been required to surrender them because of guilt in an offense which disqualifies him from being an elder, his credentials shall be forwarded to the General Secretary-Treasurer, to be filed and preserved, subject to the order of the district conference having original jurisdiction (cf. 763:5).

1138. An elder who has voluntarily filed his credentials with his district superintendent (1122:3), or who has taken a letter

of standing and has not used the same within the prescribed time (1128:3), or who has been declared withdrawn when neither under charges nor under discipline (cf. 1123:3; 1128:4; 1133), may be restored to the office of an elder in The Wesleyan Church, if such is approved by the district conference from which he withdrew, or in the interim of its sessions, by the district board of administration, and if such is recommended by the local church conference where he now holds his membership and by the district board of ministerial standing of the district in which he seeks ministerial membership, and if such restoration is voted by the district conference in which he seeks ministerial membership. (Cf. 1547-1548.)

1139. An elder or licensed minister who has been expelled from the ministry of The Wesleyan Church, either through voluntary surrender of his credentials because of guilt (1122:4) or through judicial process and disciplinary action, other than that considered in 1138, may be restored to the office and work of a minister in The Wesleyan Church, provided that he shall have shown evidence of repentance and amendment of life, and provided that such is approved, recommended, and voted by the various bodies designated in 1138. In the case of immorality, to which he has confessed guilt or for which guilt was declared by judicial process, such restoration may be accomplished only with the additional approval of the General Board of Administration. In no case may restoration after expulsion for such an offense be initiated for five years subsequent to the minister's having shown evidence of repentance and amendment of life.

1140. An elder or licensed minister who has been disqualified for the ministry through a marriage contrary to the Scriptures and the General Rules (131:14; 1130), shall not be restored to the office and work of a minister as long as both his former and latter spouse are living, and then only if he has manifested repentance and been approved, recommended, and voted restoration by the various bodies designated in 1138.

## Chapter II

### MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

#### A. Priority of Ministerial Education

1146. The importance of the training of the Christian minister has been evident ever since Christ gave the name of "disciples" or "learners" to His first preachers, and ever since the aging Paul provided for successive classes of ministerial students by admonishing Timothy, "The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2). Such training becomes even more urgent in an age when the thirst for knowledge is almost universal, when man's knowledge of himself and his world is multiplying, and when formal education on the highest level is becoming the normal pattern for a large segment of society. The Wesleyan Church gives priority in its organization and its educational institutions to the training of its youth for the Christian ministry and related fields of labor (cf. 926:1). The Church expects each person who answers the call to preach to prepare himself thoroughly for his ministry and to devote himself throughout his ministry to being an able dispenser of divine wisdom.

#### B. Administration of Ministerial Education

1148. The administration of ministerial education in The Wesleyan Church involves both general and district bodies, officers, and agencies. The General Conference adopts the overall framework for ministerial training, and establishes the various agencies and schools responsible to carry out the work (650:4, 9, 13; 928). The General Board of Administration considers the recommendations of the Commission on Educational Institutions and of the General Secretary of Educational Institutions in adopting the basic courses of study and coordinating

the total program (691:46; 1151-1152). The General Secretary of Educational Institutions promotes the enlistment and preparation of candidates for the ministry, and directs the Ministerial Study Course Agency, which maintains records on all ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church and administers the correspondence courses (921:12; 940-941). The various colleges and the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation adapt the basic study courses to their use, and enroll candidates for the ministry in classroom preparation. The district board of ministerial standing has a part in recognizing potential ministers, in encouraging and guiding them in their training, and in administering the oral examination to a candidate prior to recommending him for ordination (537:2; 1119:4).

### C. Types of Ministerial Education

#### 1. Programs of Study

1150. The following programs of study are open to the candidate in meeting the educational requirements for ordination as an elder in The Wesleyan Church.

(1) **Seminary.** It consists of graduation from a four-year liberal arts course at one of the colleges of The Wesleyan Church, plus graduation from a three-year divinity course under the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation. This is recommended as the most adequate academic preparation for the Wesleyan minister. A student at an approved seminary may secure a district ministerial license without having had actual service under district conference appointment (1111:3; 1112:5), and graduation from an approved seminary reduces the period of service required before ordination (cf. 1119:2).

(2) **College.** It consists of graduation from one of the colleges of The Wesleyan Church, involving the completion of a minimum of four years' work and covering the ministerial study courses adopted by the General Board of Administration

(1151; 1152:1-3). This is recommended as the minimum academic preparation for ordination as an elder in The Wesleyan Church.

(3) **Correspondence.** It is recognized that some men are converted late in life, and hear God's call to the ministry after the normal time for education has passed and family responsibilities make attendance at college and/or seminary extremely difficult. In such cases, a district board of ministerial standing may grant special permission to a candidate for the ministry to secure part of his training through correspondence courses administered by the Ministerial Study Course Agency. These courses will of necessity concentrate on the specialized subjects needed for the ministry, and the district board of ministerial standing shall encourage such a candidate to secure training in the more general educational subjects in college classes (cf. 1152:2). (Cf. 537:2.)

(4) **Training Outside The Wesleyan Church.** Some candidates for the ministry will have secured some or all of their college and/or seminary training outside the institutions and agencies of The Wesleyan Church. In such a case, the district board of ministerial standing shall forward copies of transcripts or other records of study to the Ministerial Study Course Agency so that it can carefully evaluate such work in terms of its equivalence to the ministerial courses of study of The Wesleyan Church, giving particular attention to the candidate's qualifications in the areas of Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity (940:6; 1108:1; 1112:3; 1116:3; 1119:3; 1120). Subsequent to such evaluation and the report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency, the district board of ministerial standing shall have the right to require additional work until it and the Agency are fully satisfied that all requirements for the Wesleyan ministry have been met. (Cf. 537:2.)

## 2. Courses of Study

1151. The General Secretary of Educational Institutions and the Commission on Educational Institutions shall develop (916:2; 921:12), and the General Board of Administration shall adopt (691:46), courses of study for the local preacher (1152:1) and for the licensed minister (1152:2-3), and for special lay ministries (1152:4-5). Each course of study shall be composed of a number of study units determined by the General Board of Administration, each unit being implemented by a college or seminary course of two or more hours, or by a correspondence course involving the use of a study guide issued by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, the intensive study of one or more textbooks approved by the General Board of Administration plus collateral reading, and other pertinent study assigned by the Agency, and an examination prepared by the Ministerial Study Course Agency and taken in the presence of an ordained elder. No credit shall be given for any correspondence course in which the examination grade is less than seventy percent.

1152. The General Board of Administration shall provide for the following courses of study:

(1) **Local Preacher's Course of Study.** It shall consist of one year of college-level work, and shall include study units in Wesleyan doctrine, the history of The Wesleyan Church, the polity of The Wesleyan Church, including a study of *The Discipline*, and other basic ministerial subjects. No one should be considered as having completed the local preacher's course of study through correspondence unless he has also completed the equivalent of a high school education.

(2) **Licensed Minister's Course of Study.** It shall require as a prerequisite the completion of the local preacher's course of study (1152:1) or its equivalent (1108:1; 1150:4). The licensed minister's course of study shall complete the educational requirements for ordination to the ministry, shall con-

sist of three years of college or seminary level work, and shall cover, along with the local preacher's course of study, the full range of ministerial training subjects, including Bible, theology, church history, missions, homiletics, pastoral theology, and Christian education. No one should be considered as having completed the licensed minister's course of study through correspondence unless he has also completed the equivalent of one year of college-level work in such general subjects as history, English grammar, and public speaking.

(3) **Courses of Study for Specialized Ministries.** These shall consist of special adaptations of the ministerial study courses (1152:1-2) for those who are called to the work of minister of music, minister of Christian education, or others as deemed necessary.

(4) **Deaconess' Course of Study.** It shall consist of two years of college-level work, and shall include study units in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity, and such other subjects as will be beneficial for the ministry of a deaconess. No one should be considered as having completed the deaconess' course of study unless she has also completed the equivalent of a high school education.

(5) **Special Workers' Courses of Study.** These shall be designed to prepare laymen for special fields of service, such as director of music, director of Christian education, evangelistic singer, chalk artist, and children's worker. Such courses shall consist of two years of college-level work, and shall include study units in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity, and such other subjects as are pertinent. No one should be considered as having completed a special lay worker's course of study unless he has also completed the equivalent of a high school education.

## Chapter III

### MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

#### A. Categories of Service

1156. While The Wesleyan Church recognizes only one order of the Christian ministry, that of the elder, it also recognizes that the ordained elder, or the licensed minister preparing for ordination, may serve the Church in various capacities. Christ has called some to be "apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12). The Church recognizes the following categories of service to which a district conference may appoint an elder, or, as circumstances warrant, a licensed minister (473:27): pastor (1158-1159), evangelist (1160-1163), missionary (1164), educator (1165), administrator (1166), and chaplain (1167).

#### B. Pastors

1158. **Regular Pastoral Service.** The pastoral office is defined in 276. In The Wesleyan Church, pastoral service includes the pastor of a church (294), an associate pastor (296), and an assistant pastor, who may specialize in such ways as minister of Christian education, minister of music, minister of visitation, or minister of youth (297-298). An elder appointed by a district conference to any of these levels of pastoral service in connection with a Wesleyan church, pioneer church, or mission shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:2). A licensed minister appointed as pastor of an established church shall be a voting member of the district conference (158; 438:2; 539:II:A; 1114:4).

1159. **Supply Pastors.** If no elders, licensed ministers, or preachers eligible for ministerial license are available to be

appointed as pastors of churches left unsupplied at the close of a district conference session, or left without a pastor between sessions of the district conference, the district superintendent and the district board of administration shall have the power to appoint a supply pastor (486:29, 34; 511:19-20), who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

(1) A supply pastor may be a Wesleyan elder or licensed minister serving under some other appointment or an elder on loan from one district to another (cf. 207; 539:I:A:2b; 1128:2), a commissioned or licensed deaconess (1185), a local preacher of The Wesleyan Church (1108:4), a minister in process of transfer from another denomination (1116:3; 1120:3), or a minister who belongs to another denomination.

(2) A supply pastor shall be appointed temporarily to fill the pulpit and to provide a spiritual ministry, but he shall not have authority to administer the sacraments or to perform marriages unless that authority adheres to him on some other basis, and he shall not perform the administrative function of the pastor except in the filing of reports unless authorized to do so by the district superintendent (cf. 511:8).

(3) A supply pastor's church membership shall not be automatically transferred to the church he is serving.

(4) A supply pastor shall be granted a certificate of authorization to supply on the form provided in 1828, and shall be a non-voting member of the district conference unless he is a voting member by some other right (440:7).

(5) A supply pastor may be removed or replaced at any time by the district board of administration (486:34; 511:19; cf. 1521:4).

### C. Evangelists

1160. **Function.** An evangelist is an elder or licensed minister who devotes his time to traveling and preaching the gospel without any specific pastoral assignment, and who is authorized

by the Church to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land. The Wesleyan Church recognizes two levels of evangelistic service to which a district conference may appoint ministers: district evangelist and general evangelist.

**1161. District Evangelist.** A district evangelist is an elder or a licensed minister, appointed by his district to serve in the field of evangelism primarily within the district. An elder so appointed shall be placed upon the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:3b), and a licensed minister so appointed shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (cf. 539:II:B; 440:3). To receive such an appointment, the minister involved must plan to devote a major portion of his time to the work of evangelism, and he shall not be continued in such an appointment in subsequent years unless he reports to his district conference at least fourteen full weeks per year so devoted, or the equivalent thereof.

**1162. General Evangelist and Reserve General Evangelist.** A general evangelist is an elder, appointed by his district conference to the field of evangelism and certified by the General Board of Administration to serve the Church at large. An elder so appointed shall be placed upon the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:3a). An elder who has retired to the superannuated list may be appointed and certified as a reserve general evangelist (1162:6). Appointment to general evangelism is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

(1) The candidate shall be examined carefully by the district board of administration relative to his Christian experience, his full personal commitment to and support of the Articles of Religion and General Rules, to the government, institutions, and best interests of The Wesleyan Church, his gifts and aptitudes for the work of an evangelist, his intention to devote his full time to the work of evangelism, and other criteria as determined by the General Board of Administration

(cf. 691:37; 829:6; 837:16; 852:2). If the district board of administration is satisfied, they may recommend him to the district conference for appointment to general evangelism, but in no case shall he be recommended unless the district is prepared to place its full endorsement upon him for such work (cf. 486:9c).

(2) The district conference may approve the recommendation of the district board of administration and appoint him to evangelism, recommending him to the General Board of Administration for certification as a general evangelist (cf. 473:27c; 517:4).

(3) If the General Board of Administration approves the candidate (837:16; 829:6; 691:37), a certificate of appointment to general evangelism (1839) shall be issued and signed by the General Superintendent who is chairman of the Commission on Extension and Evangelism and by the General Secretary-Treasurer. If the General Board of Administration declines to certify the candidate, he shall be listed as a district evangelist.

(4) A certified general evangelist shall have the right to have his schedule included in the evangelistic slate in *The Wesleyan Advocate*.

(5) Appointment and certification as a general evangelist shall only be continued in subsequent years if he reports to his district conference at least sixteen full weeks per year or the equivalent thereof devoted to evangelism.

(6) Appointment and certification as a reserve general evangelist shall be according to the same conditions and procedures as for a general evangelist (1162:1-5), except that he shall be required to devote only eight weekends per year or the equivalent thereof in evangelistic meetings.

**1163. Evangelistic Reports.** In addition to the filing of his annual service reports (541), each district or general evangelist shall file an annual statistical report with his district statistical

committee on forms approved by the General Board of Administration and made available by the General Secretary-Treasurer.

#### D. Missionaries

1164. When an elder or licensed minister has been appointed by the General Board of Administration to service under the General Department of World Missions (863:5; 857:1; 691:40) or under the General Department of Extension and Evangelism (837:6; 829:5; 691:37), his district conference shall list him as if it had so appointed him. An elder so appointed shall be placed upon the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:4c), and a licensed minister so serving shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (cf. 539:II:B; 440:3). (Cf. 866.)

#### E. Educators

1165. When an elder or licensed minister has been employed on the administrative staff or faculty of one of the general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church, or by the seminary with which the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation is connected, his district conference shall list him as if it had so appointed him. An elder so serving shall be placed upon the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:4d), and a licensed minister so serving shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (cf. 539:II:B; 440:3).

#### F. Administrators

1166. When an elder has been elected by the General Conference as a general official (711), or an elder or licensed minister has been elected or employed by the General Board of Administration to serve the general church in a ministerial capacity, or an elder has been elected by the district conference as district superintendent or full-time assistant district superintendent, or an elder or licensed minister has been elected or employed for full-time service of the district in a ministerial capacity, his district conference shall list him as

if it had so appointed him. An elder serving in this manner shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:1, 4ab), and a licensed minister so serving shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (cf. 539:II:B; 440:3). Any elder employed by the general church in other than a ministerial capacity, as interpreted by the General Board of Administration, shall be placed on the unstationed list (cf. 539:I:D:3). Any elder who accepts employment as an officer in a church-related organization serving The Wesleyan Church shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:5; 1167; 1174).

### G. Chaplains

1167. When an elder has been approved by the Committee on Chaplains and commissioned by his government as a military chaplain, his district conference shall list him as if it had so appointed him. An elder serving in this capacity shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:4e). Any elder who accepts employment as an institutional chaplain with the approval of his district conference, shall be placed on the stationed list (cf. 539:I:A:5), and a licensed minister so employed shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (cf. 539:II:B; 440:3).

### H. Students

1170. The district conference may list elders or licensed ministers as ministerial students, and recognize local preachers who are pursuing ministerial studies, in keeping with the regulations set forth below. Elders and licensed ministers so appointed shall be non-voting members of the district conference (440:1, 3).

(1) An elder without other appointment who enrolls in a seminary or other graduate school for advance training shall be placed on the unstationed list (cf. 539:I:D:2; 1174).

(2) A ministerial student who has previously held a district ministerial license and district appointment to one of the cate-

gories of service listed in 1156, and who returns to full-time study in preparation for ordination, if he meets all other qualifications (1112-1113), may be granted a district ministerial license, and be appointed by his district conference as a ministerial student (cf. 539:II:C).

(3) A ministerial student enrolled in an approved theological seminary, if he meets all other qualifications (1112-1113), may be granted a district ministerial license, and be appointed by his district as a ministerial student (cf. 539:II:C).

(4) A ministerial student who is not eligible for district ministerial license (1112), but who has completed the study course for local preachers or has enrolled in a Wesleyan educational institution as a ministerial student (1108:1), and has been recommended by his local church conference to study under the direction of the district board of ministerial standing, may be listed as an unlicensed ministerial student (cf. 539:III).

### I. Elders on Reserve

1172. An elder on reserve is one available for district conference appointment but left without specific employment (539:I:C). He is a voting member of the district conference (158; 438:1). If an elder remains on reserve for two consecutive years without definite appointment, he shall be automatically transferred to the unstationed list, unless continued on reserve by vote of the district conference (473:27c).

### J. Superannuated Elders

1173. An elder who is retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, and who was on either the stationed or reserve list at the time of his retirement or incapacitation, shall be placed on the superannuated list (cf. 539:I:B). Superannuated elders are voting members of the district conference (158; 438:1).

### K. Unstationed Elders

1174. An elder in active service outside of The Wesleyan

Church, with the consent of his district conference, but who is not eligible for inclusion in 1166-1167, or an elder who is not available for appointment (cf. 1170:1), or an elder who is not otherwise provided for in the stationed, reserve, or superannuated lists, shall be placed on the unstationed list (cf. 539:I:D). Unstationed elders are non-voting members of the district conference (440:1).

#### L. Ministers in Process of Transfer

1175. An elder seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Church from another denomination, shall be listed by his district conference for the first year, and until all deficiencies in educational or service requirements are cared for, as an elder in process of transfer (cf. 539:I:E; 1120; 1150:4). An elder in process of transfer shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (440:2). A licensed minister or ordained deacon seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Church from another denomination, must spend his first year as a local preacher (1116:3), and shall not be listed by the district conference as having an appointment unless he serves as a supply pastor (cf. 539:V:E; 1159).

## Chapter IV

### SPECIAL LAY MINISTRIES

#### A. Deaconess

1181. **Function.** A deaconess is a woman who believes that she is divinely led to set herself apart from other pursuits and devote herself to special service, in order to minister to the sick and the needy, to comfort the sorrowing, to seek the lost and wandering, and to engage in other works of Christian benevolence, and who has been authorized to carry on such work by a local church conference or district conference.

1182. **Local Deaconess.** A woman who is a full member of The Wesleyan Church may be licensed as a local deaconess by her local church conference (274:7) for one year, provided that the local church board recommends her for such license after carefully examining her concerning her Christian experience, gifts, calling, and domestic and personal life (316:19). Her license shall be issued and signed by the pastor and local church secretary (1841; cf. 294:28; 337:3). She shall serve under the direction of the pastor (294:28) and shall be amenable to the local church board (316:19; cf. 274:7). She shall be responsible to enroll in the deaconess' course of study (1152:4), under the Ministerial Study Course Agency. Her license may be renewed annually by the local church conference upon recommendation of the local church board. The local deaconess has no vote in the local church board nor in the district conference unless elected thereto.

1183. **Licensed Deaconess.** A local deaconess may be granted a district deaconess' license by her district conference (473:30d) provided that she is at least twenty-one years of age, has served satisfactorily as a local deaconess for at least one year,

has completed the units on Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity in the course of study for the deaconesses (1152:4) as attested by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, has been recommended for district license by her local church conference (274:8; cf. 316:20), promises to pursue the course of study with all diligence until completed, and has been recommended for such license by the district board of ministerial standing after carefully examining her concerning her Christian experience, gifts, calling, and domestic and personal life (537:5). Her license shall be issued and signed by the district superintendent and district secretary (1842; cf. 511:23; 517:4). Her license may be renewed annually if she continues to qualify as set forth above, if she completes two units in the course of study for deaconesses (1152:4) as attested by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, and if her service is satisfactory, including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed deaconess fails to file her annual service report (541), unless such failure is due to illness, injury, or a similar emergency, her license shall not be renewed (cf. 537:8). She shall be amenable to the district (486:35), and her license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529. A person from another denomination holding a district deaconess' license or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of a licensed minister (1116:3).

**1184. Commissioned Deaconess.** A licensed deaconess may be commissioned by her district conference provided that she has completed the deaconess' course of study (1152:4) or its equivalent (1150:4) as certified by the Ministerial Study Course Agency (1851), has served satisfactorily as a licensed deaconess for at least two years, and has been recommended for commissioning by the district board of ministerial standing after carefully examining her concerning her Christian experience, gifts, calling, and domestic and personal life (537:5). The commissioning shall include the affirmative vote of the district confer-

ence (473:30d), a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 1721 (cf. 546), and the issuance of a commission signed by the General Superintendent over the district, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (1843; cf. 511:23; 517:4; 743:14). The commission shall be continuous until such time as she ceases to be active as a deaconess and files her commission with her district superintendent, or unless she is deprived of her commission by judicial process (1527-1529). A commissioned deaconess who fails to file her annual service report (541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial standing, and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. If she then fail to report, she shall be declared withdrawn from the district, and her name shall be so entered upon the minutes of the district conference (cf. 537:8). A person from another denomination holding a commission as a deaconess or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of an elder (486:32; 537:3; 1120).

**1185. General Regulations for Commissioned and Licensed Deaconesses.** A commissioned or licensed deaconess shall be a member of a local church within the district which authorizes her service, and shall serve under the direction of her pastor unless assigned to serve under some district or general agency. She may serve as a supply pastor (1159:1), but shall not administer the sacraments nor solemnize marriages. She shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (440:4), and shall report annually to the district conference (537:7). She may be granted a letter of transfer to another district, or a letter of standing, by the district superintendent (1854; 1856; cf. 511:25). A letter of transfer shall be sent directly to the superintendent of the district to which she is transferring, and she shall continue to be considered as a member of the former district until a reply has been received from the latter district stating that she has been duly received as a member of a local church within the district and has been duly enrolled as

a member of the district (1855). A former deaconess may be restored her license or commission only in keeping with the provisions of 1136-1140.

### B. Special Worker

**1187. Function.** A special worker is a layman who believes that he is divinely led to serve the Church as a director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker, or in some other special capacity, and who has been authorized to carry on such work by a district conference.

**1188. Licensed Special Worker.** A full member of The Wesleyan Church may be granted a district special worker's license by his district conference (473:30e) provided that he has been recommended for such license by his local church conference (274:8; cf. 316:20), that he promises to pursue the course of study for his particular field of service (1152:5), and that he has been recommended for such license by the district board of ministerial standing after careful examination concerning his Christian experience, gifts, calling, and experience in his particular field of service (537:5). His license shall be issued and signed by the district superintendent and district secretary (1846; cf. 511:23; 517:4). His license may be renewed annually if he continues to qualify as above, if he completes two units in his course of study as attested by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, and if his service is satisfactory, including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed special worker fails to file his annual service report (541), unless such failure is due to illness, injury, or a similar emergency, his license shall not be renewed (cf. 537:8). He shall be amenable to the district (486:35), and his license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 1527-1529. A person from another denomination holding a district license as a special worker or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to

the regulations which govern the reception of a licensed minister (1116:3).

**1189. Commissioned Special Worker.** A licensed special worker may be commissioned by his district conference provided that he has completed his course of study (1152:5) or its equivalent (1150:4) as certified by the Ministerial Study Course Agency (1851), has served satisfactorily under a district special worker's license for at least two years, and has been recommended for commissioning by the district board of ministerial standing after careful examination concerning his Christian experience, gifts, calling, and experience in his particular field of service (537:5). The commissioning shall include the affirmative vote of the district conference (473:30e), a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 1741 (cf. 546), and the issuance of a commission signed by the General Superintendent over the district, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (1847; cf. 511:23; 517:4; 743:14). The commission shall be continuous until such time as he ceases to be active in his particular field of service and files his commission with his district superintendent, or unless he is deprived of his commission by judicial process (1527-1529). A commissioned special worker who fails to file his annual service report (541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial standing, and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. If he then fail to report, he shall be declared withdrawn from the district, and his name shall be so entered upon the minutes of the district conference (cf. 537:8). A commissioned special worker engaged in evangelistic work, who has been approved by the General Board of Administration, shall have the right to have his schedule included in the evangelistic slate in *The Wesleyan Advocate* (cf. 691:37; 829:6). A person from another denomination holding a commission as a special worker or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to

the regulations which govern the reception of an elder (486:32; 537:3; 1120).

**1190. General Regulations for Special Workers.** A licensed or commissioned special worker shall be a member of a local church within the district which authorizes his service, and shall serve under the direction of his pastor, or upon the call of local churches, or under a district or general agency, as the case may be. He shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (440:5), and shall report annually to the district conference (537:7). He may be granted a letter of transfer or standing in the same manner as a deaconess (1854-1856; cf. 1185). A former special worker may be restored his license or commission only in keeping with the provisions of 1136-1140.

### C. Lay Missionary

**1192.** A layman who has been appointed by the General Board of Administration to service under the General Department of World Missions (863:5; 857:1; 691:40) or under the General Department of Extension and Evangelism (837:6; 829:5; 691:37), shall be commissioned by his district conference (473:30f) as a lay missionary. The commissioning shall include a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 1741 (cf. 546), and the issuance of a commission signed by the General Superintendent who is chairman of the commission involved, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (1848; cf. 511:23; 517:4; 743:14). The commission shall be continuous with his period of service. He shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (440:6). His amenability shall be in keeping with the provisions of 866.

# **PART VII**

## **CONSTITUTIONS OF AUXILIARIES**

### **Chapter I**

#### **COUNCIL OF AUXILIARIES**

##### **A. Function**

**1201.** The Council of Auxiliaries serves under the General Board of Administration to supervise the activities of Wesleyan Men, the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and such other auxiliary organizations as the General Board of Administration shall assign, to recommend policies providing for their financial support, and to coordinate the service projects of all auxiliary organizations.

##### **B. Membership**

**1202.** The Council of Auxiliaries shall consist of a General Superintendent designated by the General Board of Administration as chairman (1204), the General Secretary-Treasurer, the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism, the General Secretary of World Missions, the General Secretary of Youth, the General Secretary of Educational Institutions, the General Director of Wesleyan Men, the General Director of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and such others as the General Board of Administration shall designate or elect (691:41). The general officials, other than the chairman, who are ex officio members of the Council of Auxiliaries may designate someone from their office or department as their representative to the Council of Auxiliaries, either on a continuing or temporary basis, and such a representative shall have the same rights to speak, vote, and participate in the organization of the Council of Auxiliaries as the one he represents.

### C. Sessions

1203. The Council of Auxiliaries shall meet at such time and place as it shall determine. It may be called into special session by its chairman, or in the absence of the chairman, by the vice-chairman, provided each member has had forty-eight hours' previous notice.

### D. Organization and Procedure

1204. **Officers.** The General Superintendent designated by the General Board of Administration (1202) shall be the chairman of the Council of Auxiliaries, and the Council of Auxiliaries shall elect its own vice-chairman and secretary. These officers shall perform the functions normal to their office. The chairman shall serve as an advisor to the auxiliaries in the interim of Council of Auxiliaries sessions.

1205. **Quorum and Voting.** A majority of all the members of the Council of Auxiliaries shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient in all matters of business.

1206. **Amenability.** The Council of Auxiliaries is amenable to the General Board of Administration through the Commission on Administration (767).

### E. Duties and Powers

1208. The duties and powers of the Council of Auxiliaries shall be:

(1) To supervise the activities of Wesleyan Men (1230), the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society (1258), and such other auxiliary organizations as the General Board of Administration shall assign (691:41) in accord with *The Discipline*, their respective constitutions, and the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Auxiliaries; and to coordinate all matters of overlapping concern between YMWB and CYC (1262:3).

(2) To make recommendations to the General Board of Ad-

ministration concerning the establishment, merger, or dissolution of an auxiliary, or other changes in structure or relationship (691:42).

(3) To recommend to the General Board of Administration (691:42) policies governing the financial support of the auxiliaries under its charge, including the setting of membership dues (1214:1; 1232:3; 1239:2; 1244:2; 1262:4); policies providing for the keeping of records and the compiling of statistics by the General Secretary-Treasurer for the auxiliaries (1233; 1263); official handbooks prepared by the executive committees of the auxiliaries (1232:3; 1262:4); and the time and place of the general WMS convention (691:44; cf. 1260:1; 1262:3).

(4) To grant final approval of all other plans of the general executive committees of Wesleyan Men and the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and of the leaders of the other auxiliaries under its charge (cf. 1232:2-3; 1262:2-4).

(5) To present nominations to the General Board of Administration for the executive committee of Wesleyan Men as set forth in 1231:1-3 (cf. 691:43).

(6) To receive reports from the general directors of the auxiliaries under its charge of such frequency and concerning such matters as the Council of Auxiliaries shall determine (1232:2; 1262:2-3).

(7) To assign and coordinate the service projects of all auxiliary organizations, including Wesleyan Youth (1232:3; 1259; 1262:3-4; 1295:2); providing for the proper distribution of such projects for world missions, extension and evangelism, educational institutions, and other benevolent causes as have been approved by the executive involved and referred by him to the Council of Auxiliaries (cf. 837:18; 863:10; 921:10).

(8) To report annually to the General Board of Administration and at other times to the Executive Council as directed (691:24).

## Chapter II

### WESLEYAN MEN

#### A. Constitution of Local Wesleyan Men

1211. **Article 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be Wesleyan Men of \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church. (If the chapter serves more than one local church, the name of the city or region may be used.)

1212. **Article 2. Purpose.** Wesleyan Men shall seek to extend the kingdom of God through the ministries of The Wesleyan Church through soul winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship.

1213. **Article 3. Relationship.** The local chapter of Wesleyan Men shall function as a part of the local Wesleyan church, shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor (294:16), and shall be amenable to the local church board (316:3, 23). (If the chapter serves more than one local church, it shall be amenable to the district superintendent and the district board of administration, 486:21; cf. 511:8.)

#### 1214. **Article 4. Membership and Dues.**

(1) Membership in Wesleyan Men shall be open to all men of good character, who shall pay the annual membership dues established by the General Board of Administration (691:42; cf. 1208:3; 1232:3).

(2) Each chapter shall forward annually to the district treasurer (to the district treasurer of Wesleyan Men, if there is such, 1223:1c; 1224:5) one-half of the membership dues. Of the portion forwarded to the district level, one-half shall be retained as district dues to be used for district Wesleyan Men work, and one-half shall be forwarded as general dues to the General Secretary-Treasurer.

**1215. Article 5. Meetings.**

(1) The chapter should meet monthly for inspiration, instruction, business, and fellowship.

(2) The annual meeting for the election of officers shall be held during the month preceding the close of the district fiscal year (473:19).

**1216. Article 6. Local WM Officers.**

(1) **Executive Officers.** The executive officers of the local Wesleyan Men shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who, together with the pastor (294:18), shall constitute the local WM executive committee.

(2) **Other Officers.** Each local WM may also have such other officers and such committees as it shall deem necessary, subject to the approval of the local church board (316:23).

(3) **Qualifications.** The executive officers of the local WM shall be laymen and members of The Wesleyan Church, except that the membership requirement may be waived in the case of a pioneer church. All officers and committee members must be members of the local WM and in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church.

(4) **Election Procedure.** All officers and such committee members as the bylaws shall require shall be elected by the local WM at its annual business meeting (1215:2). The local church board shall present two or more nominations for local WM president (316:23). Nominations for all other officers and positions shall be presented by a nominating committee of from three to five members which shall have been elected by the local WM at one of its monthly meetings and which shall be presided over by the pastor (294:18). Executive officers shall be elected by ballot, and other officers and committee members may be elected in any manner desired. In all cases, election shall be by majority vote of the members of the local WM present and voting. The election of all other than the local

WM president must be ratified by the local church board before becoming final (316:23).

(5) **Term of Service.** Local WM officers shall take office at the beginning of the district fiscal year (473:19), and shall serve until the end of the district fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(6) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All officers and committee members of the local WM shall be amenable for their official duties to the local church board, and may be removed for cause or whenever the best interests of the church or the local WM so require by a majority vote of the local church board (316:25). The local church board shall have authority to see that all vacancies are filled in the manner it deems best (316:26).

#### 1217. Article 7. Duties of Local WM Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** All officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitution of Wesleyan Men, and the official WM handbook authorized by the General Board of Administration and issued by the general WM executive committee (cf. 691:42; 1232:3).

(2) **Local WM President.** The president shall cooperate with the district WM president, exercise general leadership of the local Wesleyan Men under the general oversight of the pastor (294:16), preside over business meetings and meetings of the local WM executive committee (1217:6), serve as an ex officio member of the local board of Christian education (361) and of all local WM committees, report to each regular session of the local church conference (272:2; 274:5) and to the local church board as it shall order (316:4), and shall serve as an ex officio member of the district WM convention when such has been authorized (1225:3).

(3) **Local WM Vice-President.** The vice-president shall assist the president as the president shall request, and shall as-

sume the duties of the president in case the president is unable to serve.

(4) **Local WM Secretary.** The secretary shall keep a record of members, and shall record the minutes of all meetings, including those of the local WM executive committee (1217:6).

(5) **Local WM Treasurer.**

(a) **Fiscal Procedures.** The treasurer shall receive, record, hold, and disburse all funds of the chapter in keeping with the financial plans of the general and district organizations of Wesleyan Men, and as ordered by the chapter or its executive committee subject to the approval of the local church board (316:23), remitting all funds intended for the district or general church to the district treasurer (to the district WM treasurer, if there is such, 1223:1c; 1224:5).

(b) **Reports.** The treasurer shall make a financial report to all regular meetings of the chapter, to the local WM executive committee as required, to the monthly session of the local church board (316:4), and to all regular sessions of the local church conference (272:3; 274:5). He shall submit an annual statistical report of the local WM to the district WM president and to the General Director of Wesleyan Men, and shall assist the pastor and the local WM president as they shall request in the preparation of their reports. His books shall be submitted to the local church auditing committee annually (353), and as ordered by the local church board (316:4).

(6) **Local WM Executive Committee** (1216:1). The local WM president shall be chairman ex officio of the local WM executive committee (1217:2), and the local WM secretary shall be secretary ex officio (1217:4). The local WM executive committee shall direct the affairs of the local WM between business meetings of the chapter, shall make recommendations to the chapter, and shall appoint all committee members not elected by the chapter. All plans and actions of the local WM executive

committee may be reviewed by the local church board, which may veto any of the committee's plans or actions (316:23).

**1218. Article 8. Local Bylaws.** The local WM chapter may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, providing that they do not conflict with *The Discipline* or other directives of the general church and district, and providing they are approved by the local church board (316:23), or in the case of a city or regional chapter, by the district board of administration (486:21).

### B. Constitution of District Wesleyan Men

**1220. Article 1. Name.** All local Wesleyan Men chapters within the bounds of a district shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Men of the ----- District of The Wesleyan Church.

**1221. Article 2. Purpose.** The district Wesleyan Men shall carry out the basic purpose of Wesleyan Men (1212) within the bounds of the district, organizing chapters and securing their cooperation as an effective district unit of Wesleyan Men.

**1222. Article 3. Relationship.** The district WM shall function as a part of the district of The Wesleyan Church to which it belongs, shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent (511:8), and shall be amenable to the district board of administration (486:21, 25b).

**1223. Article 4. District WM Officers.**

(1) **Executive Officers.** Three options are open to a district in structuring the district leadership of WM (486:21):

(a) The district board of administration may elect a district WM president only, or

(b) The district board of administration may elect a district WM president and two other persons, who together with the district superintendent (511:10) shall form the district WM executive committee, or

(c) In those districts in which a district WM convention

has been authorized (1225), the executive officers shall consist of the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who, together with the district superintendent (511:10), shall constitute the district WM executive committee.

(2) **Other Officers.** Each district WM may also have such other officers and such standing committees as the district board of administration may approve (486:21), or, if a district WM convention has been authorized (1225), as the convention may deem necessary.

(3) **Qualifications.** All officers and committee members must be full members of The Wesleyan Church, and wherever practicable, members of a local chapter of Wesleyan Men within the district. Executive officers shall be laymen.

(4) **Election Procedure.** The district president of Wesleyan Men (and district WM executive committee, if any, 1223:1b) shall be elected annually by the district board of administration at its organizing session (478:2), except when a district Wesleyan Men's convention has been authorized (1225). In districts in which a district WM convention has been authorized, the executive officers and such other officers and committee members as the bylaws shall require shall be elected by the convention. The district board of administration shall present two or more nominations for district WM president (486:21). The district WM convention may elect a nominating committee to present nominations for all other officers and positions. Executive officers shall be elected by ballot, and other officers may be elected in any manner desired. All offices and positions shall be filled by majority vote of the members of the district WM convention present and voting. The election of all other than the district WM president must be ratified by the district board of administration before becoming final (486:21).

(5) **Term of Service.** The time at which the district WM president assumes his office shall be set by the district board of administration (486:21), except in those districts in which

a district WM convention has been authorized (1225). In the latter instance, district WM officers shall take office at the close of the district convention at which they are elected, and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(6) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All officers and committee members of the district WM shall be amenable to the district board of administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the WM or the district so require by a majority vote of the district board of administration. The district board of administration shall fill all vacancies. (Cf. 486:25b.)

#### 1224. Article 5. Duties of District WM Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** All officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitution of Wesleyan Men and the official handbook authorized by the General Board of Administration and issued by the general WM executive committee (cf. 691:42; 1232:3).

(2) **District WM President.** The president shall be responsible to cooperate with the General Director of Wesleyan Men and the general WM executive committee; to exercise general leadership of the district WM under the general oversight of the district superintendent (511:8); to preside over meetings of the district WM executive committee (1224:6); to preside over sessions of the district WM convention (if there is such) except when the General Director of Wesleyan Men is present and presiding (1225:2; 1232:2); to seek to organize chapters of Wesleyan Men so as to serve each local church, whether through local church chapters, city, metropolitan, county, regional, or zone chapters; to visit the local chapters as time and funds shall permit; and to report annually to the district conference (473:13) and to the district WM convention (if there is such, 1225:2), and at other times as ordered by the district

board of administration (486:11). He shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (unless he is elected as a lay delegate by his local church, cf. 440:8), and a member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552) by virtue of his office.

(3) **District WM Vice-President.** In districts in which a district WM convention has been authorized (1225), the vice-president shall assist the president as the president shall request, and shall assume the duties of the president in case the president is unable to serve.

(4) **District WM Secretary.** In districts in which a district WM convention has been authorized (1225), the secretary shall record the minutes of the district WM convention and of the meetings of the district WM executive committee (1224:6), and shall perform such other duties as the district WM convention shall determine.

(5) **District WM Treasurer.** In districts in which a district WM convention has not been authorized (1225), the district treasurer shall serve as treasurer of the district WM (519:3). In districts in which a district WM convention has been authorized, the district WM treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all moneys remitted by local WM treasurers or raised by the district WM itself, forwarding specified funds and disbursing other funds in keeping with the financial plans of the general WM executive committee and the district WM convention, and as directed by the district WM executive committee. All funds intended for the general church shall be transferred to the district treasurer so they can be forwarded to their intended destination (519:4). The district WM treasurer shall report to the district WM executive committee as required, to the district board of administration quarterly (486:11) and to the district conference (473:13) and the district WM convention (1225:2) annually. His books shall be submitted to the district auditing committee annually (521-522), and as ordered by the

district board of administration (486:17). He shall cooperate with the district treasurer (519:4), the General Secretary-Treasurer (763:13; 1233), and the general WM executive committee (1232:3) in securing and compiling statistics necessary to maintaining a record of the work.

(6) **District WM Executive Committee (1223:1).** In those districts which have a district WM executive committee, the committee shall direct the affairs of the district WM, provided that it shall do so in the interim of district WM conventions in those districts where such conventions have been authorized (1225). (Cf. 1224:2,4.) All actions and plans of the executive committee shall be subject to review and coordination by the district board of missions and evangelism (556:3), and the approval of the district board of administration (486:21).

#### 1225. Article 6. District Wesleyan Men Convention.

(1) **Authorization.** Upon the joint recommendation of the district president of Wesleyan Men and the district superintendent (511:8), the district board of administration may authorize the convening of a district convention of Wesleyan Men, and shall set the time and place of all sessions of such a convention.

(2) **Purpose and Organization.** A duly authorized district WM convention shall receive reports (1224:2, 5), elect district WM officers (1223:4), make recommendations to the district board of missions and evangelism and/or the general WM executive committee, carry on all other business pertaining to the district WM, and provide the members of the convention with a time of inspiration, fellowship, and Christian challenge. The General Director of Wesleyan Men shall preside over the district WM convention when present (1232:2), and when he is absent, the district WM president shall preside (1224:2).

(3) **Membership.** The district WM convention shall be composed of the district superintendent (507:3), the district WM officers (1224), the presidents of all local chapters (1217:2), and

one delegate from each local chapter. Delegates shall be members of The Wesleyan Church, and shall be elected by the chapters at their annual meetings for the elections of officers (1215:2).

(4) **Committees.** The district WM convention may elect a nominating committee and such other convention committees as it may deem necessary, and shall define the duties of the same.

(5) **Approval.** All plans and actions of the district WM convention shall be subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:21).

**1226. Article 7. District Bylaws.** The district convention of Wesleyan Men may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, providing that they are in accord with *The Discipline*, the Constitution and purpose of WM, and other directives of the general church and district, and subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:21).

### C. Constitution of General Wesleyan Men

**1228. Article 1. Name.** All local and district WM organizations shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Men, an auxiliary of The Wesleyan Church.

**1229. Article 2. Purpose.** General Wesleyan Men shall carry out the basic purpose of Wesleyan Men (1212) throughout the Church, securing the cooperation of the local and district WM organizations and coordinating them as an effective arm of the Church. (Cf. 851:1.)

**1230. Article 3. Relationship.** Wesleyan Men shall function as a part of The Wesleyan Church, and shall be subject on the general level to the supervision of the Council of Auxiliaries (1201; 1208:1).

**1231. Article 4. General WM Officers.**

(1) **Identification.** The general officers of Wesleyan Men shall include the General Director of Wesleyan Men and four

persons elected by the General Board of Administration (1231:3) to serve with him as the general WM executive committee.

(2) **Qualifications.** The general WM officers shall be full members of The Wesleyan Church and members of a local chapter of Wesleyan Men at the time of their election and during their term of service.

(3) **Election Procedure.** The General Director of Wesleyan Men shall be elected by the General Board of Administration following a regular session of the General Conference (691:43). The Council of Auxiliaries shall nominate (1208:5), and the General Board of Administration shall elect (691:43) the other members of the general WM executive committee, selecting one from each representative area insofar as is practicable (961-967).

(4) **Term of Service.** The general officers of Wesleyan Men shall take office at such time as the General Board of Administration shall determine (691:43), and shall serve for four years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(5) **Amenability and Vacancies.** The General Director of Wesleyan Men, and the other members of the general WM executive committee shall be amenable to the Council of Auxiliaries and the General Board of Administration, and may be removed by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration, which shall have power to fill any vacancy (691:56b).

#### 1232. Article 5. Duties of General WM Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** The General Director of Wesleyan Men and the general WM executive committee shall perform their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitutions of Wesleyan Men, and the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Auxiliaries.

(2) **General Director of Wesleyan Men.** The General Director of Wesleyan Men shall exercise general leadership of Wes-

leyan Men under the general oversight of the Council of Auxiliaries (1201; 1208:1); preside over district conventions of Wesleyan Men whenever present (1224:2; 1225:2); publicize and promote the interests of the organization; promote the organization of Wesleyan Men on the district and local levels, devoting as much time as possible to the work; and shall report to the Council of Auxiliaries as it shall order (1208:6), annually to the General Board of Administration (691:24), and quadrennially to the General Conference (650:7). He shall be a member of the Council of Auxiliaries (1202) and of the Council on Evangelism (852:1) by virtue of his office.

(3) **General WM Executive Committee.** The general WM executive committee shall advise the General Director of Wesleyan Men in all phases of his work, including the promotion of service projects assigned by the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:7); and shall prepare and issue the official WM handbook (691:42; 1208:3). It shall make recommendations to the Council of Auxiliaries concerning WM membership dues (1208:3). It shall cooperate with the General Secretary-Treasurer in developing procedures for the compiling of statistics on the local, district, and general levels, so that a record of the work may be readily maintained (763:13; 1208:3; 1233; cf. 519:4; 1224:5). All of its recommendations shall be made to the Council of Auxiliaries, and shall be subject to their approval (1208:3-4).

**1233. Article 6. General Treasurer of Wesleyan Men.** The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be the general treasurer of Wesleyan Men (763:12), receiving, holding, and disbursing all general dues and other funds in keeping with the financial policies adopted by the General Board of Administration for the support of auxiliaries, and the recommendations of the general WM executive committee as approved by the Council of Auxiliaries. He shall cooperate with the general WM executive committee in developing procedures for the compiling of statistics on the local, district, and general levels, so that a

record of the work may be readily maintained (763:13; 1208:3; 1232:3; cf. 519:4; 1224:5).

#### **D. Amendments to Wesleyan Men Constitutions**

1235. The local, district, or general constitutions of Wesleyan Men may be amended by majority vote of the General Conference at any regular or special session. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in the manner given in 636.

## Chapter III

### WESLEYAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

#### A. Constitution of Local Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society

1236. **Article 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society of ----- Wesleyan Church.

1237. **Article 2. Purpose.** The Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall seek to extend the kingdom of God through the missionary, extension, educational, and benevolent work of The Wesleyan Church at home and abroad, by stimulating interest therein, by disseminating information about the work, by encouraging a spirit of prayer, by putting forth a systematic effort to raise money as set forth in its Constitution, and by providing a fellowship within which such missionary work may prosper.

1238. **Article 3. Relationship.** The local Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall function as a part of the local Wesleyan church, shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor (294:16), and shall be amenable to the local church board (316:3, 23).

#### 1239. Article 4. Membership and Dues.

(1) **Active Membership.** Active membership in the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall be open to all women who are interested in the work of the society, who wish to assist in its efforts, who subscribe to the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church, and who pay the membership dues.

(2) **Honorary Membership.** Honorary membership in the local WMS shall be open to all men who are interested in the work of the society, who wish to assist in its efforts, and who pay the membership dues.

(3) **Membership Dues.** Membership dues shall be set by the

General Board of Administration (691:42; cf. 1208:3; 1262:4), and shall be used in meeting the operational expense of the general WMS office.

**1240. Article 5. Finance.** The local WMS shall cooperate with the general and district WMS in promoting and raising funds for the purposes and projects given in 1259, with such funds and the membership dues being forwarded by the local WMS treasurer to the district WMS treasurer (1243:5a; 1252:5). The local WMS may designate the department and project to which other funds raised by the local WMS shall be disbursed. All fund raising shall be in accord with *The Discipline* as given in 197.

**1241. Article 6. Meetings and Circles.**

(1) The local WMS shall hold regular meetings at least monthly for inspiration, instruction, business, fellowship, and the receiving of offerings.

(2) The local WMS may divide into circles, with each circle holding regular meetings at least monthly. The circles may be organized on the basis of common interests and/or convenient times of meeting. All circles shall meet together as needed to transact business and for the annual election of officers. (Cf. 1242:2; 1243:7.)

(3) The annual meeting for the election of local WMS officers shall be held during the month preceding the close of the district fiscal year (473:19).

**1242. Article 7. Local WMS Officers.**

(1) **Executive Officers.** The executive officers of the local WMS shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and local director of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, who, together with the pastor as an ex officio member (294:18), shall constitute the local WMS executive committee. In a local WMS organized into circles (1241:2), the chairman of each

circle shall also be a member of the local WMS executive committee.

(2) **Other Officers.** Each local WMS may also have such other officers and such committees as it shall deem necessary, subject to the approval of the local church board (316:23). In societies organized into circles (1241:2), each circle shall have a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary-treasurer.

(3) **Delegates.** In addition to the local WMS president, who is a member of the district WMS convention by virtue of her office (1250:2), each local WMS shall be entitled to at least one delegate to the district WMS convention. The district WMS convention may establish a system of multiple representation from larger societies. (Cf. 1250:2.)

(4) **Qualifications.** The executive officers and delegates of the local WMS shall be members of The Wesleyan Church, provided that such a requirement may be waived in the case of a pioneer church. All officers and committee members must be active members of the local WMS, and in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church.

(5) **Election Procedures.** Executive officers, delegates, and such other officers and committee members as the bylaws shall require shall be elected by the local WMS at its annual business meeting (1241:3). The local church board shall present two or more nominations for local WMS president (316:23). Nominations for all other officers, committee members, and delegates shall be presented by a nominating committee of from three to five members which shall have been elected by the local WMS at one of its monthly meetings, and which shall be presided over by the pastor (294:18). Executive officers shall be elected by ballot, and other officers, delegates, and committee members may be elected in any manner desired. In all cases, election shall be by majority vote of the active members of the local WMS present and voting. The election of all other than the local WMS president must be ratified by the local

church board before becoming final (316:23).

(6) **Term of Service.** Local WMS officers shall take office at the beginning of the district fiscal year (473:19), and shall serve until the end of the district fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(7) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All officers, committee members, and delegates of the local WMS shall be amenable for their official duties to the local church board, and may be removed for cause or whenever the best interests of the church or the local WMS so require by a majority vote of the local church board (316:25). The local church board shall have authority to see that all vacancies are filled in the manner it deems best (316:26).

#### 1243. Article 8. Duties of Local WMS Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** All officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitution of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and the official WMS handbook authorized by the General Board of Administration and issued by the general WMS executive committee (cf. 691:42; 1262:4).

(2) **Local WMS President.** The president shall cooperate with the district WMS president, exercise general leadership of the local WMS under the general oversight of the pastor (294:16), preside over all meetings of the local WMS and its executive committee (1243:8), serve as an ex officio member of the local board of Christian education (361) and of all local WMS committees, report to each regular session of the local church conference (272:2; 274:5) and to the local church board as it shall order (316:4), and shall serve as an ex officio member of the district WMS convention (1250:2).

(3) **Local WMS Vice-President.** The vice-president shall assist the president as the president shall request, and shall assume the duties of the president in case the president is unable to serve.

(4) **Local WMS Secretary.** The secretary shall keep a record of members, and shall record the minutes of all meetings, including those of the local WMS executive committee (1243:8).

(5) **Local WMS Treasurer.**

(a) **Fiscal Procedures.** The treasurer shall receive, record, hold, and disburse all funds of the local WMS and local YMWB (1240; 1244) in keeping with the financial plans of the general and district WMS, and as ordered by the local WMS or its executive committee subject to the approval of the local church board (316:23), remitting all membership dues and other funds intended for the district or general church to the district WMS treasurer (cf. 1252:5).

(b) **Reports.** The treasurer shall make a financial report to all business meetings of the local WMS, to the local WMS executive committee as required, to the monthly session of the local church board (316:4), and to all regular sessions of the local church conference (272:3; 274:5). She shall submit an annual statistical report of the local WMS to the district WMS convention and to the General Director of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and shall assist the pastor and the local WMS president as they shall request in the preparation of their reports. Her books shall be submitted to the local church auditing committee annually (353), and as ordered by the local church board (316:4).

(6) **Local Director of Young Missionary Workers' Band.** The local director of YMWB shall be responsible for the monthly meetings of the Band in keeping with the general purpose of the organization (1244:1), and under the general oversight of the pastor (294:16) and the direction of the local WMS executive committee (1243:8). She shall turn over all moneys raised by the local YMWB to the local WMS treasurer (1243:5a), so they can be forwarded as specified to their intended destination, and shall keep a record of dues and offerings received and transferred and forward a copy of the same quarterly to

the district YMWB director. She shall make full reports concerning her work to each regular session of the local church conference (272:2; 274:5), and to the local Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society and the local church board (316:4) as they shall order.

(7) **Circle WMS Officers.** Circle officers (1241:2; 1242:2) shall perform the duties normal to their offices under the general supervision of the local WMS executive committee. The circle WMS chairmen shall be ex officio members of the local WMS executive committee (1242:1). The circle WMS secretary-treasurer shall count all dues and offerings received, and transfer the same to the local WMS treasurer (1243:5a).

(8) **Local WMS Executive Committee** (1242:1). The local WMS president shall be chairman ex officio of the local WMS executive committee (1243:2), and the local WMS secretary shall be secretary ex officio (1243:4). The local WMS executive committee shall direct the affairs of the local WMS and the local YMWB between business meetings of the society, shall make recommendations to the society, shall appoint all committee members not elected by the society, and shall coordinate the work of the circles. All plans and actions of the local WMS executive committee may be reviewed by the local church board, which shall have power to veto any of the committee's work (316:23).

#### 1244. Article 9. Local Young Missionary Workers' Band.

(1) **Purpose and Relationship.** The Young Missionary Workers' Band is an auxiliary of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society which seeks to lead boys and girls to Christ, to train them for Christian service by the study of the Bible and missions, to promote among them a true interest in Christian missions, and to raise funds for worldwide evangelism. If there is no local WMS, the local church board may elect a local YMWB director and carry on the YMWB program (316:22).

(2) **Membership and Dues.** Active membership shall include all children thirteen years of age and younger who pay the membership dues. Honorary membership shall be open to all persons over thirteen years of age who pay the membership dues. Membership dues shall be set by the General Board of Administration (691:42; 1208:3; 1262:4), and shall go for the support of world missions.

(3) **Meetings.** Meetings of the local YMWB shall be held monthly, using program materials supplied through the office of the General Director of YMWB, and with offerings going for projects assigned by the Council of Auxiliaries and promoted by the General Director of YMWB (cf. 1262:3).

(4) **Correlation.** Whenever it is impractical for a local church to maintain CYC and YMWB separately, the local church board may authorize the CYC to make full use of the YMWB program of missionary education and promotion, and to channel missionary dues and offerings as if they were YMWB funds (316:3; 384:3).

**1245. Article 10. Local Bylaws.** The local Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, providing that they do not conflict with *The Discipline* or other directives of the general church and district, and providing they are approved by the local church board (316:23).

### **B. Constitution of District**

#### **Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society**

**1247. Article 1. Name.** All local Wesleyan Women's Missionary Societies within the bounds of a district shall be known collectively as the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society of the ----- District of The Wesleyan Church.

**1248. Article 2. Purpose.** The district Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall carry out the basic purpose of the WMS (1237) within the bounds of the district, organizing local

societies and securing their cooperation as an effective district unit of WMS.

**1249. Article 3. Relationship.** The district WMS shall function as a part of the district of The Wesleyan Church to which it belongs, shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent (511:8), shall be amenable to the district board of administration (486:22, 25b), and shall support the work of district church extension within guidelines established by the Council of Auxiliaries (1259) and in keeping with the coordinating direction of the district board of missions and evangelism (556:2).

**1250. Article 4. District WMS Convention.**

(1) **Purpose and Organization.** There shall be an annual district WMS convention in each district, held at such time and place as the district board of administration shall approve (486:22), to receive reports (1252:2, 5, 6), to elect district WMS officers (1251:4), to make recommendations to the district board of missions and evangelism and/or to the general WMS executive committee, to carry on all other business pertaining to the district WMS, and to provide the members of the convention with a time of inspiration, fellowship, and Christian challenge. The General Director of WMS shall preside over the district WMS convention when present (1262:2), and when she is absent, the district WMS president shall preside (1252:2).

(2) **Membership.** The annual district WMS convention shall be composed of the district superintendent (507:3), the district WMS officers (1251), the president of each local WMS (1243:2), and delegates from the local societies (1242:3). Pastors of churches in the district, and missionaries who are members of the district conference, may be members of the district WMS convention if so ordered upon the recommendation of the district board of administration (486:22) and the vote of the district conference (473:12).

(3) **Committees.** The annual district WMS convention may elect a nominating committee and such other convention committees as it may deem necessary, and shall define the duties of the same.

(4) **Approval.** All plans and actions of the district WMS convention shall be subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:22).

**1251. Article 5. District WMS Officers.**

(1) **Executive Officers.** The executive officers of the district Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and district director of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, who, together with the district superintendent as an ex officio member (511:10), shall constitute the district WMS executive committee.

(2) **Other Officers.** Each district WMS may also have other officers and such standing committees as the district WMS convention shall deem necessary.

(3) **Qualifications.** All district WMS officers and committee members must be full members of The Wesleyan Church and active members of a local WMS within the district.

(4) **Election Procedure.** The executive officers of the district WMS and such other officers and committee members as the bylaws shall require shall be elected by the district WMS convention (1250:1). The district board of administration shall present two or more nominations for district WMS president (486:22). The district WMS convention may elect a nominating committee to present nominations for all other officers and positions (1250:3). Executive officers shall be elected by ballot and other officers may be elected in any manner desired. All offices and positions shall be filled by majority vote of the members of the district WMS convention present and voting. The election of all other than the district WMS president must

be ratified by the district board of administration before becoming final (486:22).

(5) **Term of Service.** District WMS officers shall take office at the close of the district convention at which they are elected, and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(6) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All officers and committee members of the district WMS shall be amenable to the district board of administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the WMS or the district so require by a majority vote of the district board of administration. The district board of administration shall fill all vacancies. (Cf. 486:25b.)

#### 1252. Article 6. Duties of District WMS Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** All officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitution of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, and the official WMS handbook authorized by the General Board of Administration and issued by the general WMS executive committee (cf. 691:42; 1262:4).

(2) **District WMS President.** The president shall be responsible to cooperate with the General Director of WMS and the general WMS executive committee; to exercise general leadership of the district WMS under the general oversight of the district superintendent (511:8); to preside over meetings of the district WMS executive committee (1252:7); to preside over sessions of the district WMS convention except when the General Director of WMS is present and presiding (1250:1; 1262:2); to seek to organize local societies in every church in the district in cooperation with the pastors and the local church boards; and to report annually to the district conference (473:13) and the district WMS convention (1250:1), and at other times as ordered by the district board of administration (486:11). By virtue of her office, she shall be a member of the gen-

eral WMS nominating committee (1260:3), a non-voting member of the district conference (unless she is a voting member by some other right, cf. 440:8), and a member of the district board of missions and evangelism (552).

(3) **District WMS Vice-President.** The vice-president shall assist the president as the president shall request, and shall assume the duties of the president in case the president is unable to serve.

(4) **District WMS Secretary.** The secretary shall record the minutes of the district WMS conference session and of the meetings of the district WMS executive committee (1252:7), and shall perform such other duties as the district WMS convention shall determine.

(5) **District WMS Treasurer.** The treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all moneys remitted by local WMS treasurers or raised by the district WMS itself, forwarding specified funds and disbursing other funds in keeping with the financial plans of the general WMS executive committee and the district WMS convention, and as directed by the district WMS executive committee. Membership dues and all funds intended for the general church or the district shall be transferred to the district treasurer so they can be forwarded to their intended destination (519:4). The district WMS treasurer shall report to the district WMS executive committee as required, to the district board of administration quarterly (486:11), and to the district conference (473:13) and district WMS convention (1250:1) annually. Her books shall be submitted to the district auditing committee annually (521-522), and as ordered by the district board of administration (486:17). She shall cooperate with the district treasurer (519:4), the General Secretary-Treasurer (763:13; 1263), and the general WMS executive committee (1262:4) in securing and compiling statistics necessary to maintaining a record of the work.

(6) **District Director of Young Missionary Workers' Band.** The district YMWB director shall preside over an annual meeting of the local YMWB directors, held for the purpose of inspiration, fellowship, and instruction at a time and place approved by the district board of administration (486:22). She shall have general supervision of the work of the local bands, under the general oversight of the district superintendent (511:8) and the district WMS executive committee (1252:7), organizing new bands in cooperation with the pastors and the local church boards, giving instructions to the local directors and receiving financial and statistical reports from them, and shall report regularly to the district WMS executive committee, the district board of administration (486:11), and the General Director of YMWB (1262:3) as they shall require, and annually to the district conference (473:13) and the district WMS convention (1250:1). She shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (unless she is a voting member by some other right, cf. 440:8), and an ex officio member of the district board of Christian education (572).

(7) **District WMS Executive Committee (1251:1).** The district WMS president shall be chairman ex officio of the district WMS executive committee (1252:2) and the district WMS secretary shall be secretary ex officio (1252:4). The district WMS executive committee shall direct the affairs of the district WMS and YMWB (cf. 1252:5, 6) between the annual district WMS conventions subject to the review and coordination of the district board of missions and evangelism (556:3) and the approval of the district board of administration (486:22).

**1253. Article 7. District Bylaws.** The district convention of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, providing that they are in accord with *The Discipline*, the Constitution and purpose of the WMS, and other directives of the general church and district, and subject to the approval of the district board of administration (486:22).

### C. Constitution of General

#### Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society

**1256. Article 1. Name.** All local and district WMS organizations shall be known collectively as the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, an auxiliary of The Wesleyan Church.

**1257. Article 2. Purpose.** The general Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall carry out the basic purpose of WMS (1237) throughout the Church, securing the cooperation of the local and district societies and coordinating them as an effective arm of the Church.

**1258. Article 3. Relationship.** The Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall function as a part of The Wesleyan Church, and on the general level shall be subject to the supervision of the Council of Auxiliaries (1201; 1208:1).

**1259. Article 4. Finance.** The Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall promote systematic giving for general funds and approved projects of the General Department of World Missions, the General Department of Extension and Evangelism, the educational institutions, district church extension, and other related benevolences, with all promotion and projects subject to the direction of the Council of Auxiliaries and its coordination with the work of the other auxiliaries (1208:7).

#### **1260. Article 5. Quadrennial General WMS Convention.**

(1) **Purpose and Scheduling.** There shall be a quadrennial general convention of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society, primarily for inspiration, instruction, and fellowship. It shall be held at a time and place recommended by the general WMS executive committee (1262:4) and approved by the General Board of Administration (691:44; 1208:3).

(2) **Structure.** All district WMS presidents shall be expected to attend and participate in the general WMS convention (cf. 1252:2; 1260:3), and other district and local officers and mem-

bers shall be encouraged to do so. The general WMS executive committee shall recommend for the consideration of the Council of Auxiliaries a plan whereby the expenses of attending the convention shall be subsidized by the general WMS for district WMS presidents (1208:4). The general WMS executive committee shall plan the convention program, appoint all necessary committees, make assignments for workshops and for study and discussion groups, and receive for subsequent evaluation and action the study papers prepared by participating groups.

(3) **General WMS Nominating Committee.** During the general WMS convention, the chairman of the Council of Auxiliaries (1204) or his representative shall convene the district WMS presidents as a nominating committee (1252:2), to select at least two nominees for the consideration of the General Board of Administration in electing the General Director of WMS. The district WMS presidents shall also divide into area nominating committees (cf. 961-967), so that each area nominating committee may select nominations from its area for the consideration of the General Board of Administration in electing an area WMS chairman and an area WMS vice-chairman, both of whom shall serve on the general WMS executive committee. (Cf. 691:43; 1261:3.)

#### 1261. Article 6. General WMS Officers.

(1) **Identification.** The general officers of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society shall include the General Director of WMS, the area WMS chairmen and vice-chairmen, and the General Director of the Young Missionary Workers' Band, who together shall constitute the general WMS executive committee.

(2) **Qualifications.** Each general WMS officer shall be a full member of The Wesleyan Church and an active member of a local WMS at the time of her election and during her term of service. Each area WMS chairman and vice-chairman must reside and hold her church and society membership within the

area which she represents and serves.

(3) **Election Procedure.** The General Board of Administration, or in the interim of General Board sessions, the Executive Council, shall elect the general officers of the WMS (691:43). Nominations made by the general WMS nominating committee shall be considered in the election of the General Director of WMS and the area WMS chairmen and vice-chairmen (1260:3); and nominations made by the general WMS executive committee shall be considered in the election of the General Director of YMWB (1262:4).

(4) **Term of Service.** Each general officer of WMS shall take office at such time as the General Board of Administration shall determine (691:43), and shall serve for four years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(5) **Amenability and Vacancies.** The general WMS officers shall be amenable to the Council of Auxiliaries and the General Board of Administration, and may be removed by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration, which shall have power to fill any vacancy (691:56b).

#### 1262. Article 7. Duties of General WMS Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** The general WMS officers shall perform their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the Constitution of the WMS, and the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Auxiliaries.

(2) **General Director of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society.** The General Director of WMS shall exercise general leadership of the WMS and YMWB (1262:3) under the general oversight of the Council of Auxiliaries (1201; 1208:1); have charge of the general office of WMS; preside over the quadrennial general WMS convention and over the general WMS executive committee, and over district WMS conventions whenever present (1250:1; 1252:2); publicize and promote the interests of WMS; organize district societies in cooperation with the district superintendents and district boards of administra-

tion; help the district WMS presidents organize local societies; and report to the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:6) and the general WMS executive committee (1262:4) as they shall order, annually to the General Board of Administration (691:24), and quadrennially to the General Conference (650:7). She shall be a member of the Council of Auxiliaries by virtue of her office (1202).

(3) **General Director of the Young Missionary Workers' Band.** The General Director of YMWB shall seek to carry out the basic purpose of YMWB throughout the church (1244:1), coordinating the work of the district (1252:6) and local directors. She shall serve under the general oversight of the general WMS executive committee (1262:4) and the immediate supervision of the General Director of WMS (1262:2); may plan, promote, and conduct a quadrennial meeting of district YMWB directors in conjunction with the quadrennial general WMS convention, subject to the approval of the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:3); shall prepare program and promotional materials for the use of local and district YMWB directors; shall promote projects assigned by the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:7); and shall report to the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:6) and the general WMS executive committee (1262:4) as they shall order. She shall make YMWB program materials available to the General Department of Youth for implementation in the CYC program. All matters of coordination between YMWB and CYC shall be dealt with by the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:1).

(4) **General WMS Executive Committee (1261:1).** The general WMS executive committee shall hear the reports and approve the plans of the General Directors of WMS and YMWB (1262:2-3); assist the General Director of WMS in the preparation of recommendations to the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:3-4; 1262:2), including the official WMS handbook and the setting of WMS and YMWB membership dues (cf. 691:42), and in the planning of the quadrennial general convention (1260:1-

2) and the promoting of service projects assigned by the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:7); hear progress reports from area WMS leaders; plan for the advancement of the work; nominate the general director of YMWB and oversee the work of YMWB (1261:3; 1262:3); and provide for such WMS and YMWB publications as shall be approved by the Commission on Publications (cf. 794:1; 807-808) and the General Board of Administration (691:34). It shall cooperate with the General Secretary-Treasurer in developing procedures for the compiling of statistics on the local, district, and general levels, so that a record of the work may be readily maintained (763:13; 1208:3; 1263; cf. 519:4; 1252:5). All plans of the general WMS executive committee shall be subject to the approval of the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:3-4).

**1263. Article 8. General Treasurer of Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society.** The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be the general treasurer of WMS (763:12), receiving, holding, and disbursing all general dues and other funds in keeping with the financial policies adopted by the General Board of Administration for the support of auxiliaries, and the recommendations of the general WMS executive committee as approved by the Council of Auxiliaries. He shall cooperate with the general WMS executive committee in developing procedures for the compiling of statistics on the local, district, and general levels, so that a record of the society's work may be readily maintained (763:13; 1208:3; 1262:4; cf. 519:4; 1252:5).

#### **D. Amendments to Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society Constitutions**

**1266.** The local, district, or general constitutions of the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society and those parts relating to its auxiliary, the Young Missionary Workers' Band, may be amended by majority vote of the General Conference at any regular or special session. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in the manner given in 636.

## Chapter IV

### WESLEYAN YOUTH

#### A. Constitution of Local Wesleyan Youth

1271. **Article 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be Wesleyan Youth of ----- Wesleyan Church.

1272. **Article 2. Purpose.** Wesleyan Youth shall seek to reach unsaved and unchurched youth for Christ and the Church, to build up its members in Christian experience and in holy character, to instruct them in the doctrines of the Bible and of The Wesleyan Church, to train them for Christian service through properly directed activities, to involve them in active stewardship and in support of worldwide missions and evangelism, and to provide them with Christian fellowship.

1273. **Article 3. Relationship.** The local Wesleyan Youth shall function as a part of the local Wesleyan church, shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor (294:16), shall be amenable to the local church board (316:3, 23), and shall be under the direction of the local board of Christian education (363:2).

1274. **Article 4. Membership.** Any youth from the seventh grade through thirty years of age inclusive, who is a member of the local church or Sunday school, or is in any way touched by the local church, and who desires to participate in the meetings and activities of Wesleyan Youth, shall be enrolled as a member by the local WY secretary.

#### 1275. Article 5. Meetings.

(1) **Devotional Meetings.** The devotional meetings of the local WY shall be held each week at a time recommended by the local WY executive committee (1277:7) and approved by the local board of Christian education (363:10; cf. 316:23).

(2) **Annual Business Meeting.** The annual business meeting of the local WY shall be held near the end of the district fiscal

year (473:19) at a time set by the local WY executive committee subject to the approval of the local church board (316:23). Reports shall be received, officers, committee chairmen, and delegates to the district WY convention shall be elected (cf. 1276:5), and other business shall be transacted as necessary.

(3) **Special Business Meeting.** A special business meeting of the local WY may be called by the local WY executive committee, subject to the approval of the pastor (294:16), provided that advance notice is given.

#### 1276. Article 6. Officers.

(1) **Executive Officers.** The executive officers of the local Wesleyan Youth shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and adult youth counselor, who, together with the chairman of each standing committee, and with the pastor as an ex officio member (294:18), shall constitute the local WY executive committee. In a local WY with two or more departments (1279), the chairman of each department shall also be a member of the local WY executive committee.

(2) **Other Officers.** Each local WY may also have such other officers and such committees as it shall deem necessary, subject to the approval of the local board of Christian education (363:2).

(3) **Delegates.** In addition to the local WY president, who is a member of the district WY convention by virtue of his office (1285:2), each local WY shall be entitled to two delegates to the district WY convention, to a third delegate when its membership totals thirty or more, and to an additional delegate for each additional thirty members or major fraction thereof. A local WY with two or more departments (1279) will, as far as possible, choose delegates from each department.

(4) **Qualifications.** All officers, committee chairmen, and delegates must be members of The Wesleyan Church or Christian youth who are in harmony with the doctrines and standards

of The Wesleyan Church, and members of the local WY. The president and the adult youth counselor shall be members of The Wesleyan Church, provided that such a requirement may be waived in the case of a pioneer church.

(5) **Election Procedure.** All delegates, committee chairmen (cf. 1277:7), and officers other than the adult youth counselor shall be elected by the local WY at its annual business meeting (1275:2). The adult youth counselor shall be elected by the local church board (316:22). The local church board shall present two or more nominations for local WY president (316:23). Nominations for all other officers, committee chairmen, and delegates shall be presented by a nominating committee of from three to five members which shall have been elected by the local WY at the preceding annual business meeting or at a special business meeting, and which shall be presided over by the pastor (294:18). Executive officers shall be elected by ballot, and other officers may be elected in any manner desired. All officers, committee chairmen, and delegates shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the local WY present and voting. The election of all other than the local WY president and the adult youth counselor must be ratified by the local church board before becoming final (316:23).

(6) **Term of Service.** Local WY officers shall take office at the beginning of the district fiscal year (473:19), and shall serve until the end of the district fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(7) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All officers, committee members, and delegates of the local WY shall be amenable for their official duties to the local church board, and may be removed for cause or whenever the best interests of the church or the local WY so require by a majority vote of the local church board (316:25). The local church board shall have authority to see that all vacancies are filled in the manner it deems best (316:26).

**1277. Article 7. Duties of Officers.**

(1) **Criteria.** All officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitution of Wesleyan Youth, and the official WY handbook authorized by the General Board of Administration and issued by the General Department of Youth (cf. 691:42; 1295:2).

(2) **Local WY President.** The president shall cooperate with the district WY president, exercise general leadership of the local WY under the general oversight of the pastor (294:16) and subject to the counsel of the adult youth counselor (1277:6), preside over all business meetings of the local WY and all meetings of the local WY executive committee (1277:7), serve as an ex officio member of the local board of Christian education (361) and of all local WY committees, and report annually to the district WY convention (1285:1) and the General Secretary of Youth, to each regular session of the local church conference (272:2;274:5) and to the local board of Christian education (363:3) and the local church board (316:4) as instructed. In a local WY with two or more departments (1279), the president may serve as chairman of one of the departments. He shall serve as an ex officio member of the district WY convention (1285:2).

(3) **Local WY Vice-President.** The vice-president shall assist the president as the president shall request, shall assume the duties of the president in case the president is unable to serve, and shall serve as sales manager for the denominational youth magazine unless the local WY shall provide otherwise. In a local WY with two or more departments (1279), the vice-president may serve as chairman of one of the departments.

(4) **Local WY Secretary.** The secretary shall keep a list of members, and shall record the minutes of all business meetings, including those of the local WY executive committee (1277:7). The secretary shall assist the pastor and the WY president in compiling statistics and preparing report forms for an annual

report to the district WY convention and to the General Department of Youth.

(5) **Local WY Treasurer.** The treasurer shall receive, record, hold, and disburse all funds of the local WY in keeping with the financial plans of the General Department of Youth and the district WY organization, and as ordered by the local WY or by its executive committee subject to the approval of the local church board (316:23), remitting all funds intended for the district or general church to the district WY treasurer (cf. 1287:5). He shall make a financial report at the annual business meeting of the local WY (1275:2) to the local WY executive committee as required, to the monthly session of the local church board (316:4), and to all regular sessions of the local church conference (272:3; 274:5). His books shall be submitted to the local church auditing committee annually (353), and as ordered by the local church board (316:4).

(6) **Local Adult Youth Counselor.** The adult youth counselor shall supervise the work of the local WY in cooperation with the pastor, seeking the highest spiritual welfare of each member. He shall attend all meetings of the local WY including social activities, and all meetings of the local WY executive committee. He shall encourage and guide all standing and special committees in their tasks as needed, and shall advise the devotional and program committee, approving any programs for use which do not appear in the regular series provided by the General Department of Youth. In a local WY with two or more departments (1279), the adult youth counselor shall work with the Teen Department, and the local church board shall elect such assistant youth counselors as he may need to help him when there is more than one division of the Teen Department.

(7) **Local WY Executive Committee** (1276:1). The local WY president shall be chairman ex officio of the local WY executive committee (1277:2), and the local WY secretary shall be

secretary ex officio (1277:4). The local WY executive committee shall meet at least quarterly, shall direct the affairs of the local WY between annual business meetings (cf. 1275:1-3), shall appoint all committee members (cf. 1276:5), and shall coordinate the work of the several departments (1279) and committees (1278). All plans and actions of the local WY executive committee may be reviewed by the local church board, which shall have power to veto any of the committee's work (316:23).

#### 1278. Article 8. Committees.

(1) Each local WY or department (1279) of a local WY may have a devotional and program committee, a missionary committee, an evangelistic committee, a visiting committee, an educational committee, a social life committee, and such other committees as it may deem necessary and as are approved by the local board of Christian education (363:2). Regulations governing the qualifications, election, and amenability of committee chairmen and committee members are found in 1275:2; 1276:4-7; 1277:7. All committee plans are subject to the review and approval of the local WY executive committee (1277:7).

(2) The devotional and program committee shall have full responsibility, subject to the counsel of the adult youth counselor (1277:6), for planning and promoting the regular devotional meetings, assigning leaders, advertising, and encouraging variety in the services, shall be responsible for the spiritual emphasis of the meetings, and shall carry a concern for the highest Christian development of each member of the local WY or department (1279).

(3) The missionary committee shall be responsible for all missionary services carried on within the local WY or department (1279), and shall seek to impart missionary inspiration and challenge to the members.

(4) The evangelistic committee shall sponsor gospel team

activities, house-to-house visitation, jail services, street meetings, programs of personal evangelism, and other similar activities.

(5) The visiting committee shall visit the sick and absent members of the local WY and otherwise contact young people in the community concerning the interests of the local WY or department (1279).

(6) The educational committee shall have charge of the educational meetings of the local WY or department (1279), promoting the interests of Wesleyan educational institutions, 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 youth counselor (1277:6) and the pastor (294:16).

#### 1279. Article 9. Departments.

(1) The local WY executive committee (1277:7) may recommend and the local board of Christian education (363:2) may approve the organization of the local WY into two or more departments in the following manner.

##### A. Teen Department (seventh grade to age 19 inclusive)

1. Junior High Division
2. Senior High Division

##### B. Young Adult Department (ages 20-30 inclusive, provided that young adults between the ages of 18-22 inclusive may be members of either department, subject to their own choice)

1. College Division
2. Careers, or such other title or subdivision as may be deemed advisable.

(2) The officers of each department shall consist of a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer. There shall be an adult counselor for the Teen Department, and sufficient

assistant adult counselors for subdivisions of the Teen Department (1277:6).

(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 WY in 1276.

(4) The officers and committees (1278) 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 chairmen of the standing committees. The adult counselor shall be a member of the executive committee in the Teen Department. The chairman of the department shall be chairman of the departmental executive committee ex officio, and the secretary of the department shall be secretary ex officio of the departmental executive committee. The treasurer of the department shall count all offerings received, and transfer the same to the local WY treasurer (1277:5).

**1280. Article 10. Bylaws.** The local Wesleyan Youth may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, providing that they do not conflict with *The Discipline* or other directives of the general church and district, and providing they are approved by the local board of Christian education (363:2) and the local church board (316:23).

#### **B. Constitution of District Wesleyan Youth**

**1282. Article 1. Name.** All local Wesleyan Youth organizations within the bounds of a district shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Youth of the ----- District of The Wesleyan Church.

**1283. Article 2. Purpose.** The district Wesleyan Youth shall carry out the basic purpose of Wesleyan Youth (1272) within the bounds of the district, organizing locals and securing their cooperation as an effective district unit of Wesleyan Youth.

**1284. Article 3. Relationship.** The district WY shall function as a part of the district of The Wesleyan Church to which it belongs, shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent (511:8), shall be amenable to the district board of administration (486:22, 25b), and shall be under the direction of the district board of Christian education (576:1).

**1285. Article 4. District WY Convention.**

(1) **Purpose and Organization.** There shall be an annual district WY convention in each district, held at such time and place as the district board of administration shall approve (486:22), to receive reports (1287:2, 5), to elect district WY officers and zone WY chairmen (1286:4; cf. 1286:1), to make recommendations to the district board of Christian education and/or to the General WY Executive Committee, to adopt a point system for awarding zone WY rally attendance honors (1288:4), to carry on all other business pertaining to the district WY, and to provide the members of the convention with a time of inspiration, fellowship, and Christian challenge. The General Secretary of Youth shall preside over the district WY convention when present (906:6), and when he is absent, the district WY president shall preside (1287:2).

(2) **Membership.** The annual district WY convention shall be composed of the district superintendent (507:3), the district WY officers (1286), zone WY chairmen (1288:2), the pastor of each local church with an organized local WY, the president of each local WY (1277:2), and delegates elected by each local WY (1276:3). One delegate within the age range of WY may be appointed by the pastor of each church not having a fully organized local WY (294:16).

(3) **Committees.** The annual district WY convention may elect a nominating committee and such other convention committees as it may deem necessary, and shall define the duties of the same.

(4) **Approval.** All plans and actions of the district WY convention shall be subject to the review and coordination of the district board of Christian education (576:1) and the approval of the district board of administration (486:22).

**1286. Article 5. District WY Officers.**

(1) **Executive Officers.** The executive officers of the district Wesleyan Youth shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who, together with the district superintendent (511:10), shall constitute the district WY executive committee. The zone WY chairmen may be made ex officio members of the district WY executive committee by action of the district WY convention.

(2) **Other Officers.** Each district WY may also have some other officers and such standing committees as the district WY convention shall deem necessary (cf. 1287:3).

(3) **Qualifications.** All district WY officers and committee members must be full members of The Wesleyan Church and members of a local WY within the district. The only exception shall be in the case of the district WY executive officers (1286:1), who may be up to 35 years of age at the time of their election.

(4) **Election Procedure.** The executive officers of the district WY, the zone chairmen (1288:2), and such other officers and chairmen of standing committees as the bylaws shall require shall be elected by the district WY convention (1285:1). The district board of administration shall present two or more nominations for district WY president (486:22), and the zone WY rallies shall present nominations for zone chairmen (1288:2). The district WY convention may elect a nominating committee to present nominations for all other offices and positions (1285:3). Executive officers shall be elected by ballot and other officers may be elected in any manner desired. All offices and positions shall be filled by majority vote of the

members of the district WY convention present and voting. The election of all other than the district WY president must be ratified by the district board of administration before becoming final (486:22).

(5) **Term of Service.** District WY officers shall take office at the close of the district convention at which they are elected, and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(6) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All officers and committee members of the district WY shall be amenable to the district board of administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the WY or the district so require by a majority vote of the district board of administration. The district board of administration shall fill all vacancies. (Cf. 486:25b.)

#### 1287. Article 6. Duties of Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** All officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitution of Wesleyan Youth, and the official WY handbook authorized by the General Board of Administration and issued by the General Department of Youth (cf. 691:42; 1295:2).

(2) **District WY President.** The president shall be responsible to cooperate with the General Secretary of Wesleyan Youth and the general WY executive committee; to exercise general leadership of the district WY under the general oversight of the district superintendent (511:8); to preside over meetings of the district WY executive committee (1287:6); to preside over sessions of the district WY convention except when the General Secretary of Youth is present and presiding (906:6; 1285:1); to seek to organize WY locals in every church in the district in cooperation with the pastors and local church boards; and to report annually to the district conference (473:13) and the district WY convention (1285:1), and at other times

as ordered by the district board of administration (486:11). By virtue of his office, he shall be a non-voting member of the district conference (unless he is a voting member by some other right, cf. 440:8), a member of the district board of Christian education (572), and a member of the district board of missions and evangelism (unless the district WY executive committee shall name another representative, cf. 552).

(3) **District WY Vice-President.** The vice-president shall assist the president as the president shall request, shall assume the duties of the president in case the president is unable to serve, and shall serve as district sales manager for the denominational youth magazine unless the district WY convention shall order otherwise (cf. 1286:2).

(4) **District WY Secretary.** The secretary shall record the minutes of the district WY convention and of the meetings of the district WY executive committee (1287:6). He shall maintain a directory of the names and addresses of the district WY officers, zone WY chairmen, and local WY presidents and secretaries, and shall forward a copy of the same, together with a complete report of WY statistics, to the General Secretary of Youth within thirty days after the close of the district WY convention.

(5) **District WY Treasurer.** The treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all moneys remitted by local WY treasurers or raised by the district WY itself, forwarding specified funds and disbursing other funds in keeping with the financial plans of the General Department of Youth and the district WY convention, and as directed by the district WY executive committee. All funds intended for the general church shall be transferred to the district treasurer so they can be forwarded to their intended destination (519:4). The district WY treasurer shall report to the district WY executive committee as required, to the district board of administration quarterly (486:11), and to the district conference (473:13) and the district WY convention

(1285:1) annually. His books shall be submitted to the district auditing committee annually (521-522), and as ordered by the district board of administration (486:17). He shall cooperate with the district treasurer (519:4), the General Secretary-Treasurer (763:13; 1296), and the general WY executive committee (1295:2) in securing and compiling statistics necessary to maintaining a record of the work.

(6) **District WY Executive Committee** (1286:1). The district WY president shall be chairman ex officio of the district WY executive committee (1287:2), and the district WY secretary shall be secretary ex officio (1287:4). The district WY executive committee shall direct the affairs of the district WY between the annual district WY conventions subject to the review and coordination of the district board of Christian education (576:1) and the approval of the district board of administration (486:22). (Cf. 552; 1287:2.)

#### 1288. Article 7. Zones.

(1) **Zone Boundaries.** Each district WY convention shall organize the locals of the district into zone organizations, following the zone boundaries adopted by the district board of administration (486:12).

(2) **Zone WY Chairman.** Each zone WY shall be under the general direction of a zone WY chairman, who shall be a full member of The Wesleyan Church and a member of a local WY within the bounds of the zone he serves, nominated by the zone WY at a rally or convention, and elected by the district WY convention (1286:4). The zone WY chairman shall preside over all zone WY rallies and over all meetings of the zone WY executive committee. The zone chairmen shall be ex officio members of the district WY convention (1285:2), and may be made ex officio members of the district WY executive committee (cf. 1286:1).

(3) **Zone WY Executive Committee.** Each zone shall elect at a rally or convention such other officers as it shall deem

necessary, designating at least two to serve with the zone WY chairman as a zone executive committee. The zone WY executive committee shall serve as a program committee for the planning of rallies or conventions.

(4) **Zone WY Rallies.** Zone rallies or conventions should be held at least quarterly, at such times and places as the zone WY executive committee shall determine, in harmony with plans adopted by the district WY convention (1285:1). Voting at zone WY rallies shall be confined to members from the local WY organizations of the zone who are present, and the pastors of churches in the zone.

**1289. Article 8. Bylaws.** The district Wesleyan Youth may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, providing that they are in accord with *The Discipline*, the constitution and purpose of WY and other directives of the general church and district, and subject to the review and coordination of the district board of Christian education (576:1) and the approval of the district board of administration (486:22).

### C. Constitution of General Wesleyan Youth

**1291. Article 1. Name.** All local and district WY organizations shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Youth, an auxiliary of The Wesleyan Church.

**1292. Article 2. Purpose.** General Wesleyan Youth shall carry out the basic purpose of Wesleyan Youth (1272) throughout the Church, securing the cooperation of the local and district WY organizations and coordinating them as an effective arm of the Church.

**1293. Article 3. Relationship.** Wesleyan Youth shall function as a part of The Wesleyan Church, and on the general level shall be subject to the direction of the General Department of Youth (903:1).

**1294. Article 4. General Secretary of Youth.** The General Secretary of Youth shall be the general director of Wesleyan

Youth, serving as the executive officer of the general Wesleyan Youth organization. Complete regulations governing his election and duties are found in 905-906.

#### 1295. Article 5. General WY Executive Committee.

(1) **Membership.** The general WY executive committee shall be composed of the General Secretary of Youth as chairman (905:2), and of the area WY chairmen and vice-chairmen (1298:1; cf. 908). Each area WY chairman and vice-chairman shall be a full member of The Wesleyan Church, shall be no more than thirty-five years of age at the time of his election, shall reside and hold his church membership within the area which he represents and serves, shall be elected by and take office at a time determined by the General Board of Administration (691:43), shall serve for four years or until his successor is elected or qualified, shall be amenable to the General Board of Administration, and may be removed by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board of Administration, who shall have power to fill any vacancy (691:56b).

(2) **Duties.** The general WY executive committee shall hear the reports of the General Secretary of Youth and the area WY chairmen, assist the General Secretary of Youth in preparing recommendations to the General Board of Administration including the official WY handbook (cf. 691:42), in promoting service projects assigned by the Council of Auxiliaries (1208:7), and in the planning of the quadrennial national convention, appropriate funds belonging to general Wesleyan Youth, plan for the advancement of the work, appoint a committee for the development of WY program aids, and provide for such publications as shall be approved by the Commission on Publications (cf. 794:1; 807-808) and the General Board of Administration (691:34). It shall cooperate with the General Secretary-Treasurer in developing procedures for the compiling of statistics on the local, district, and general levels, so that a record

of the work may be readily maintained (763:13; 1296; cf. 519:4; 1287:5). All plans of the general WY executive committee shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (691:44).

**1296. Article 6. General Treasurer of Wesleyan Youth.** The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be the general treasurer of WY (763:12), receiving, holding, and disbursing all general WY funds in keeping with the actions of the general WY executive committee as approved or authorized by the General Board of Administration. He shall cooperate with the general WY executive committee in developing procedures for the compiling of statistics on the local, district, and general levels, so that a record of WY work may be readily maintained (763:13; 1295:2; cf. 519:4; 1287:5).

**1297. Article 7. Quadrennial General WY Convention.** There shall be a quadrennial general convention of Wesleyan Youth, for inspiration, instruction, and fellowship. It shall be held at a time and place recommended by the general WY executive committee (1295:2) and approved by the General Board of Administration (691:44).

**1298. Article 8. Area WY Organization.**

(1) **Area WY Convention.** A WY convention shall be held at least quadrennially in each of the areas of the Church (961-967), primarily for the purpose of inspiration, instruction, and fellowship. During the convention, the General Secretary of Youth shall convene the district WY presidents of the area for the purpose of selecting nominations from the area for the consideration of the General Board of Administration in electing an area WY chairman and an area WY vice-chairman, both of whom shall serve on the general WY executive committee (1295:1). (Cf. 691:43.)

(2) **Area WY Executive Committee.** Wesleyan Youth in each area shall be organized under the direction of an area WY

executive committee, composed of the area WY chairman, area WY vice-chairman, and the district WY presidents of the area. The area WY executive committee may assign its chairman and vice-chairman such duties as it deems wise, in keeping with *The Discipline* and the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Youth. The area WY executive committee shall plan the area WY convention and promote WY work throughout the area.

#### **D. Amendments to Wesleyan Youth Constitutions**

1299. The local, district, or general constitutions of Wesleyan Youth may be amended by majority vote of the General Conference at any regular or special session. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in the manner given in 636.

# PART VIII

## CORPORATIONS

### Chapter I

#### LOCAL CHURCH CORPORATIONS

##### A. Authorization

1301. A local church within an established district may be incorporated (cf. 274:14) when so authorized by the district board of administration (486:30), and when in the opinion of the district board of administration it is deemed necessary for the floating of bonds, the securing of commercial loans, or some other special reason. The incorporation of a local church within a pioneer area or mission district may be authorized when deemed necessary by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (837:5).

1302. The articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a local church shall be according to the standard provisions in 1304, any other pertinent requirements of *The Discipline*, the requirements of local laws as advised by competent legal authority, and shall be approved in writing by the authorizing district board of administration or official (1301).

##### B. Standard Provisions

1304. The standard provisions for the incorporation of a local Wesleyan church are as follows, provided that whenever such standard provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent necessary to conform with such local laws (1403):

(1) The name of the corporation shall be: " \_\_\_\_\_  
(name or place) Wesleyan Church, Inc."

(2) The primary purposes for which the corporation is formed shall be religious, benevolent, charitable, and educational in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in its *Discipline* (cf. 75-76; 101; 826; 886), and shall not be for the pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof, and especially, to purchase, hold in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, manage, encumber, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the corporation; to acquire or erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, the use and occupancy of its ministers, Christian education, and other purposes in keeping with the doctrines and principles of The Wesleyan Church; to receive, manage, and hold in trust for members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, and any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character that may be given, bequeathed, or conveyed to the local church or to the trustees of the local church as such, and to administer the same and income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator; provided that any and all of the foregoing purposes shall be carried out in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as legislated and declared from time to time (cf. 1307).

(3) The corporation shall be subject to The Wesleyan Church, its duly elected officials, and its rules and regulations as set forth in its *Discipline* from time to time and as otherwise legislated and declared in keeping with said *Discipline*.

(4) The bylaws of the corporation shall include *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as legislated and declared from time to time; and no other bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of said *Discipline* (1302).

(5) The term for which the corporation is to exist is perpetual.

(6) If the corporation shall be dissolved or become inactive, or whenever the board of directors (1304:7) shall cease to function or cease to be amenable to The Wesleyan Church as set forth in the Judiciary (1512; 1530-1531), any or all assets of the corporation shall inure to the district of which the local church is a member, and the district board of administration shall be authorized and empowered to carry on the functions of said board of directors (486:30-31).

(7) The directors of the corporation shall be the members of the local board of trustees as set forth in *The Discipline* (cf. 348-351; 1401-1444), who shall carry out the directions of the local church conference (274:13) and the local church board (316:27) as set forth in *The Discipline*. A member of the board of directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.

(8) The members of the corporation shall be the full members of the local church, or such other body as local laws may require, provided that each voting member of the corporate body shall be a full member of The Wesleyan Church.

### C. Ownership

1305. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments made of any property, real, personal, or mixed, to or for an incorporated local church shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust for the use and benefit of such local church and The Wesleyan Church, and subject to *The Discipline*, regulations, and appointments of said Church as from time to time legislated and declared. Every instrument or conveyance of real property shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1418 (cf. 1427) and shall be approved by the district superintendent as being in conformity with the requirements of *The Discipline* (511:11).

**D. Acquisition, Sale, Transfer, or  
Mortgage of Property**

**1307.** An incorporated local church shall acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer, or otherwise dispose of real property subject to the following authorization and conditions:

(1) A resolution authorizing the proposed action shall be recommended by the local church board (316:31) and passed by the local church conference (274:13) in corporate session, or such other corporate body as local laws may require and as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the local church corporation, with the members thereof acting in their capacity as members of the corporate body, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at any regular or special session duly called for such purpose (263:1-2; 265:1), provided that notice of such intended action shall be given to the full members of the local church through announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be at least one week prior to the meeting at which the action shall be presented, and in the church bulletin, when such is available (cf. 265:1), and through such other notice as may be required by local laws or by the bylaws of the local church corporation.

(2) The district building committee shall study the proposal of the local church whenever the purchase of property, the construction or remodeling of buildings, or other work of the committee is involved as set forth in 523, and shall give its written recommendation to the district board of administration and the local church.

(3) The written approval of the district board of administration as stated in 486:30 shall be necessary and shall be affixed to the written instrument involved.

(4) The resolution authorizing such proposed action shall direct and authorize the corporation's board of directors (1304:7) to take all necessary steps to carry out the action so author-

ized, and to cause to be executed, as hereinafter provided, any necessary contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other written instrument.

(5) The board of directors of the local church corporation (1304:7) shall take such action and adopt such resolutions as may be necessary or required to carry out the proposal as approved, provided that such shall be in conformity with *The Discipline* and as required by local laws (1403).

(6) The chairman of the board of directors (1304:7), or another designated director shall submit all written instruments of conveyance and title for the acquisition of property to the district superintendent for his approval as to their conformity with *The Discipline* as stated in 511:11 and shall see that permanent legal and property records are properly stored as required in 1440.

#### E. Other Regulations

1308. An incorporated local church and/or its board of directors (1304:7) may not divert property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Church and is subject to other regulations concerning local church property as set forth in *The Discipline* in 1401-1420, 1434-1444, and any other pertinent provisions.

1309. The proceeds from the sale of any real property by an incorporated local church shall only be used for the purchase or improvement of property for that local church, unless otherwise authorized by the district board of administration as set forth in 1434-1435 (cf. 486:30).

## Chapter II

### DISTRICT CORPORATIONS

#### A. Authorization

1311. The district conference of each established district shall be incorporated or shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained (473:22) such as will enable it to receive, hold in trust, encumber, sell, transfer, and otherwise dispose of district property and such local property as may be held by the district (cf. 160:8; 1422-1425; 1435-1439; 1443-1444), and to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs in such manner as may be directed by the district conference (473:22) from time to time and according to *The Discipline* (1417). In places where such incorporation is prohibited by law, or where the law requires the property to be held by trustees, the legal affairs of the district shall be administered as set forth in 1458-1461.

1312. A mission district may be incorporated when so recommended by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (837:5) and authorized by the General Board of Administration (691:51) or its Executive Council, and such incorporation shall be according to the standard provisions for an established district (1314).

1313. The articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a district, and any amendments thereto, shall be according to the standard provisions in 1314 and any other pertinent requirements as set forth in *The Discipline*, and shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (691:51).

#### B. Standard Provisions

1314. The standard provisions for the incorporation of a district of The Wesleyan Church shall be as listed herewith, provided that when such standard provisions shall conflict with

local laws under which the incorporation is effected, said standard provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent required by the local laws (1403):

(1) The name of the corporation shall be: "\_\_\_\_\_ (official district name) District of The Wesleyan Church, Inc."

(2) The primary purposes for which the corporation is formed shall be religious, benevolent, charitable, and educational in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in its *Discipline* (cf. 75-76; 101; 826; 886), and shall not be for the pecuniary gain of the members thereof, and especially shall be to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be held in trust, in the corporate name, for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 1315; to acquire or erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, the use and occupancy of its ministers, Christian education, and other activities that are in harmony with the doctrines and purposes of The Wesleyan Church; to receive and hold in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real, personal, or mixed, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to the district, or to the district board of trustees as such, for any purpose consistent with the purposes of the corporation, and to administer the same in accordance with the direction of the donor, trustor, or testator; and in addition to have all other powers as are expressly or impliedly given to said corporation by the laws under which it is incorporated when such do not contravene the provisions of *The Discipline*.

(3) The corporation shall be subject to The Wesleyan Church, its duly elected officials and its rules and regulations as set forth in *The Discipline* as legislated and declared from

time to time and as otherwise directed by the General Conference (650:4) and the General Board of Administration (691:51); and shall not have authority to divert property from the ownership or use of The Wesleyan Church and its duly elected officials (cf. 1461).

(4) The bylaws of the corporation shall include *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as legislated and declared from time to time, and no bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of said *Discipline* (1313).

(5) The term for which the corporation is to exist is perpetual.

(6) The district board of administration, duly constituted and organized as required in 476-485, shall be the board of directors of the district corporation (486:13), shall exercise its corporate powers, shall carry out the duties assigned to the district board of administration in *The Discipline* in all matters relating to property in 1458-1459 and any other provisions, and shall be amenable to the district conference, the General Board of Administration, and the General Conference (cf. 1461). A director shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.

(7) The board of directors (1314:6) shall be authorized and empowered to institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in the name of the district corporation to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district, including all matters relating to property and the rights to property, whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, for all property held by the district corporation and all property held by local churches, circuits, or other agencies within the bounds of the district.

(8) The members of the corporation shall be the members of the district conference as constituted and organized in 437-445, or such other body as local laws may require, provided that all voting members of the corporate body shall be full members of The Wesleyan Church.

(9) In the event the corporation shall be dissolved, or become inactive, or whenever the board of directors (1314:6) shall cease to function, any and all assets of the corporation shall inure to The Wesleyan Church Corporation (1321), and the General Board of Administration in the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation shall carry on the functions of the corporation and exercise its corporate powers and shall be authorized to institute any necessary legal or equitable actions to preserve the interests and rights of the district and of The Wesleyan Church (691:51).

#### C. Ownership

1315. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers and assignments made of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for an incorporated district shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and of such district and subject to *The Discipline*, regulations, and appointments of said Church, as from time to time legislated and declared. Every instrument or conveyance of real property shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1418 (cf. 160:8).

#### D. Other Regulations

1316. The members (1314:8) and/or board of directors (1314:6) of a district corporation shall not have authority to divert any property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Church and its duly elected officials, and said members and/or board of directors are subject to the regulations concerning property held by a district as set forth in *The Discipline* (cf. 1461; 1547). The board of directors of a district corporation shall consult with the General Superintendent over the district concerning transactions involving real property used for district purposes such as a district parsonage, headquarters, or campground (743:16; cf. 1459:1).

## Chapter III

### THE WESLEYAN CHURCH CORPORATION

#### A. Name and Purpose

1321. The General Conference shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained for The Wesleyan Church such as will enable it to receive, own, encumber, sell, transfer, and otherwise dispose of property, and such as will facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as may be directed by the General Conference from time to time (650:5). Said corporation shall be known and incorporated under the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation.

#### B. Board of Directors

1322. The General Board of Administration, duly constituted and organized as required by *The Discipline* (678-687), shall be and constitute the board of directors of The Wesleyan Church Corporation and of each of its precedent corporations as listed in 1324. The corporate powers, business, and other affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised, conducted, and controlled by its board of directors in accord with its articles of incorporation and bylaws, *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as from time to time amended, any other directives of the General Conference (691:8, 18), and the laws of the several states (1403). The Executive Council, duly constituted and organized as required by *The Discipline* (693-703), shall be the executive committee of said board of directors and shall exercise its powers and authority in the interim of its sessions except for that business which requires more than a simple majority of said board (702:2), shall carry out such duties as are required of it by the board of directors, and shall be subject at all times to the control of said board of directors (cf. 693; 702-703).

#### C. Officers

1323. The president, vice-president, and other officers of the corporation shall be elected by the board of directors, with the

exception of the General Secretary-Treasurer who shall be ex officio the secretary and treasurer of the corporation (763:1, 12), and all officers shall serve as set forth in the bylaws.

#### **D. Precedent Corporations**

1324. The Wesleyan Church Corporation shall receive and administer new trusts and funds, and so far as may be legal, shall be the legal and ecclesiastical successor in trust and carry out the functions of "The Pilgrim Holiness Church Corporation," an Indiana corporation, "The Pilgrim Holiness Church Corporation," a Michigan corporation, "The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America," a New York corporation, "The Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America," a New York corporation, "The Wesleyan Educational Society," a New York corporation, "The Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America," a New York corporation, "The Woman's Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Inc.," a New York corporation, "The Missionary Bands of the World," an Indiana corporation, and "The Pentecost Bands of the World," an Illinois corporation; and so far as is legal and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive from its said precedent corporations all trust funds and assets of every kind and character, real, personal, or mixed, held by them or any one of them and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said precedent corporations. Nothing herein contained, however, shall be construed to require the dissolution of any of the precedent corporations above listed, and they shall continue to administer such funds as may not be legally transferred to the new corporation (1322-1323).

#### **E. Donations, Bequests, Devises**

1325. The Wesleyan Church Corporation shall receive and hold in trust by donation, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other-

wise, any property, real, personal, or mixed, in any state in the United States of America or any other country, in behalf of The Wesleyan Church, or any of its subsidiary interests, for any benevolent, charitable, religious, or educational purpose, and to administer the same and the income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator, and in the interests of the general department, office, institution, agency, society, or other body contemplated by such donors, trustors, or testators, the whole to be under the direction of and amenable to the General Conference (650:4-5). The board of directors shall have power, with the advice of competent investment counsel, to invest, reinvest, buy, sell, transfer, and convey any and all funds and properties which it may hold in trust, subject always to the terms of the legacy, devise, or donation, and shall, whenever it is necessary to do so, determine the use or uses of each such fund or trust which shall correspond with the general intentions of the donor, trustor, or testator.

#### F. Power of Intervention

1326. The General Board of Administration as the board of directors shall be authorized and empowered to intervene and institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Church anywhere, including all matters relating to property and rights to property, whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, or where held in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church (691:23; 1314:3; 1417; 1443; 1461).

1327. Whenever any group of ministers or members shall put themselves in an attitude of insubordination or disobedience to The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 1512, the General Board of Administration shall be empowered to institute and carry out disciplinary proceedings as set forth in the Judiciary (1512; 1530-1532; 1543-1548) and other pertinent provisions

of *The Discipline*, and, when deemed necessary, may authorize a General Superintendent or other general official(s) to request an affirmation of loyalty and reorganize the district or other unit involved as set forth in the Judiciary (1531-1532; 1547-1548). Whenever such insubordination occurs in a local church, the General Board of Administration shall intervene only when the district officials or district board of administration over the local church shall fail or refuse to act.

#### G. Amendments

1328. The articles of incorporation for The Wesleyan Church Corporation may be amended by the General Conference by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special session (650:5).

## Chapter IV

### SUBSIDIARY CORPORATIONS

#### A. Authorization

1346. The General Conference may authorize the incorporation of any agency, institution (for matters relative to a general educational institution, cf. 928-932), board, organization, or similar body as a subsidiary corporation of The Wesleyan Church, and shall approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws and any amendments thereto (650:6). The General Board of Administration shall carry out the directions of the General Conference regarding such subsidiary corporations, assign each one to the proper commission and the supervision of a General Superintendent (705; 737:3); and in the interim of General Conference sessions, may authorize such an incorporation by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, and may approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws and any amendments thereto for any subsidiary corporation except as otherwise restricted by the General Conference (691:20; cf. 1377:2).

#### B. Standard Provisions

1347. The articles of incorporation and bylaws, or charter, for the incorporation of any agency, institution (other than a general educational institution, cf. 928-932), board, organization, or similar body as a subsidiary corporation (1346), now established or hereafter created, shall be in accord with the following standard provisions, provided that whenever such standard provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent required by the local laws (1403):

(1) The purposes of the subsidiary corporation shall be in keeping with the religious, charitable, benevolent, and educa-

tional purposes of The Wesleyan Church and consistent with its doctrines and principles as stated in *The Discipline* (cf. 75-76; 101; 791; 826; 886); and pecuniary profit shall not accrue to the members of the corporation.

(2) The bylaws of the corporation shall include *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as amended from time to time (1412); and no bylaws may be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of *The Discipline* or contrary to local laws as stated in 1403. The bylaws, and any amendments thereto, shall be subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration, who shall also have the right to initiate any such bylaws or amendments, provided they do not contravene any action of the General Conference (691:20; cf. 1377:2).

(3) The General Board of Administration shall be and constitute the board of directors or shall elect the members of the board of directors as required by the Constitution, except where prohibited by local laws (172:2; 691:21; 1403), and shall have the authority to remove for cause any member (691:56b).

(4) All members of the board of directors and key officers shall be full members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church.

(5) A member of the board of directors may not be held personally liable for any debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.

(6) All fiscal operations shall be under board control, with budget, investment, and cash control by a board of directors of no less than seven members.

(7) The General Board of Administration shall be authorized to direct an annual audit of all assets, records, and other affairs of the corporation, and at any other time as it shall deem necessary (691:22), and all records shall be open to the General Superintendent having supervision over the corporation (743:5) and to any other representative the General Board of Administration shall appoint for such a purpose.

(8) The board of directors shall make a complete and faithful report of finances and other activities annually to the General Board of Administration and at any other time as shall be required (691:24).

(9) An official copy of the minutes of all meetings of the board of directors and of the financial reports shall be forwarded to the General Secretary-Treasurer for permanent filing, 763:7).

(10) The bylaws shall establish proper safeguards for the borrowing or loaning of funds, and it shall be required that there will be adequate security by full mortgage protection or otherwise whenever there is an investment in property.

(11) All property shall be held in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 1418.

### C. Hephzibah Children's Home

1350. The Hephzibah Children's Home in Macon, Georgia, is incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia as the Hephzibah Orphanage, Inc. It shall be administered by a local board of managers elected by (691:21) and amenable to the General Board of Administration through the Commission on Administration (767), who shall be responsible to manage the home in keeping with *The Discipline* (1412), the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the corporation, and as directed by the General Board of Administration. The General Board of Administration is the chief governing board of managers and shall also have the right to initiate any action in relation to the home.

### D. Pilgrim Manor Nursing Home

1351. Pilgrim Manor Nursing Home, Inc., in the Parish of Rapides, Louisiana, is incorporated under the laws of the state

of Louisiana. It shall be governed by a board of directors, consisting of seven members elected by (691:21) and amenable to the General Board of Administration through the Commission on Administration (767), who shall manage the home in keeping with *The Discipline* (1412), the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the corporation, and as directed by the General Board of Administration. The General Board of Administration shall also have the right to initiate any action in relation to the home.

#### E. Wesleyan Investment Foundation

1352. The Wesleyan Church shall maintain a revolving loan fund which is incorporated under the laws of the state of Indiana and known as The Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc.:

(1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this loan fund shall be for the acquiring, building, and remodeling of church buildings and parsonages for The Wesleyan Church, with the understanding that priority be given to new field projects.

(2) **Board of Directors.** All matters pertaining to the Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc., shall be administered by its board of directors, which shall consist of the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism as member ex officio (837:9), and of six other members elected by the General Board of Administration (691:21). An elected member shall hold office for the term for which he is elected and until his successor is elected and qualified. The board of directors shall elect a president from among its own members, who shall be the chief executive officer, and shall also elect one or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. The General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism shall be ex officio the executive secretary of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation (837:9).

(3) **Amenability.** The board of directors shall administer all matters pertaining to the Wesleyan Investment Foundation in

accord with *The Discipline* (1412), its articles of incorporation and bylaws, and as directed by the General Board of Administration, and shall be amenable to the General Board of Administration through the Commission on Administration (767).

(4) **Duties and Powers.** The board of directors of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation shall have authority to borrow money, to lend money, to accept and hold title to 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 churches and parsonages and to do all things necessary to carry out the foregoing purposes of the corporation.

(5) **Church Extension Loan Fund.** The board of directors of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation shall be authorized and empowered to administer all matters pertaining to the former Church Extension Loan Fund of The Pilgrim Holiness Church as directed by the General Board of Administration.

## Chapter V

### PENSION CORPORATION

#### A. The Wesleyan Pension Fund

**1361. Purpose.** The Wesleyan Church shall maintain and conduct a pension plan to be known and incorporated as The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc., for the benefit of its ministers and other persons as defined in the bylaws (cf. 1370).

**1362. Government.** All matters pertaining to The Wesleyan Pension Fund shall be administered by a Board of Pensions (1368) who shall govern The Wesleyan Pension Fund in accord with *The Discipline* (1412) and its articles of incorporation and bylaws (1367-1377). The Board of Pensions is amenable to the General Board of Administration through the Commission on Administration (766-767).

**1363. Duties and Powers.** This corporation shall receive and administer new trusts and funds and shall be and is directed and authorized to honor and carry out all commitments made by The Pilgrim Pension Plan, Inc., to its members through its bylaws, and the commitments made by The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America to its ministers through The Superannuated Ministers' Aid Society and the Wesleyan Retirement Plan, as stated herewith:

(1) The Board of Pensions of The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc., shall be and constitute the Board of Pensions of The Pilgrim Pension Plan, Inc., which corporation shall continue in full force and effect until such time as all of its liabilities shall have been satisfied and discharged, at which time any remaining assets thereof shall, insofar as may be legal, by appropriate action of the General Conference be paid over to and become a part of The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc.

(2) The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc., insofar as may be legal shall be the successor in trust of the Superannuated Min-

isters' Aid Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, a New York corporation, and so far as is legal and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive from its precedent corporation all trust funds and assets of any kind and character; real, personal, or mixed held by it; and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said precedent corporation. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to require the dissolution of the said precedent corporation and it shall continue to administer such funds as may not be legally transferred to the new corporation.

(3) The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc., insofar as may be legal, shall be the successor in trust for the Wesleyan Retirement Plan of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Inc., and so far as is legal and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive all trust funds and assets of any kind or character pertaining to the Wesleyan Retirement Plan; real, personal, or mixed, held by said corporation; and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said precedent corporation.

**1364. Other Agencies.** The Board of Pensions of The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc., shall administer the Ministerial Benefit Association according to its bylaws as adopted by the General Board of Administration and as amended from time to time, and any other agencies assigned to it by the General Board of Administration.

#### **B. Bylaws of The Wesleyan Pension Fund**

##### **1367. Article I. Pension Fund.**

(1) The Wesleyan Church, duly incorporated under the laws

of the State of Indiana, shall maintain and conduct a Pension Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Pension Fund.

(2) The official corporate name shall be "Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc."

### 1368. Article II. Board of Pensions.

(1) All matters pertaining to the Pension Fund shall be administered by a Board of Pensions duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana.

(2) The Board of Pensions shall consist of eleven members elected by (691:21) and amenable to the General Board (cf. 1362). They shall hold office for a term of four years each; but their terms of office shall be staggered in such a manner that an entire new board will not take office at any one time. The Board shall organize itself and shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and such other officers as deemed necessary.

(3) All members of the Board of Pensions shall be full members of The Wesleyan Church.

(4) Members of the Board of Pensions shall be elected so that, at the time of such election, not more than five members of the Board of Pensions are also members of the General Board of Administration.

(5) The members of the first Board of Pensions to be elected shall hold office as follows:

(a) Three members to be elected to hold office for four years.

(b) Three members to be elected to hold office for three years.

(c) Three members to be elected to hold office for two years.

(d) Two members to be elected to hold office for one year.

(6) Thereafter, the term of any member expiring shall be filled by election by the General Board for a full four years.

(7) A member of the Board of Pensions may be removed by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board for cause as follows (691:56b; 1347:3):

(a) A proven violation of the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the Pension Fund as set forth herewith.

(b) Whenever, in the judgment of the General Board, the best interests of the Church and the Pension Fund require it.

(8) In the event of death, resignation by any member during his term of office, cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, or removal for cause, the vacancy for the unexpired term shall be filled by the General Board.

### 1369. Article III. Definitions.

(1) The term "amenability" shall refer to the accountability of the individual members of the Board of Pensions to the Board of Pensions and to the General Board for the proper conduct of their official duties in relationship to the Pension Fund.

(2) The term "assessment" shall mean the payments into the fund on behalf of a member, as provided in Articles V and VI (1371-1372).

(3) The term "Board of Pensions" shall mean the Board of Pensions of The Wesleyan Church.

(4) The term "the Church" shall mean The Wesleyan Church.

(5) The term "effective date of the Pension Fund" shall mean the date of January 1, 1969.

(6) The term "General Board" shall mean the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church.

(7) The term "he" shall mean either "he" or "she," and "his" shall mean either "his" or "her" as the context may require.

(8) The term "member" shall mean an elder, licensed minister, or other person eligible under Article IV (1370).

(9) The term "pension credit" shall mean one percent of the

sions, providing that when pension credit is so accrued all personal claim to such an amount paid in shall be waived and forfeited except as it relates to pension credit earned and payable within the provisions of the Pension Fund.

(5) All such payments shall be remitted monthly to the Pension Fund, by the salary-paying organization of each member, on appropriate forms authorized by the Board of Pensions; the remittances related to any calendar year shall be payable not later than sixty days following the close of such year in order that the salary upon which remittances are payable may be used for benefit purposes as provided hereinafter. Any such remittances received by the Board of Pensions later than sixty days following the close of such year, shall be held in a suspense account and the salary upon which such remittances are payable shall not be used for benefit purposes unless and until interest on a basis and at a date determined by the Board of Pensions shall be paid on such delinquency.

### 1373. Article VII. Pension Benefits.

#### (1) Pension Credits.

The Board of Pensions, with reference to each member, shall maintain a record of pension credits, and annually shall certify to each member the status of his pension credits in the Pension Fund.

#### (2) Retirement Pension.

(a) Upon the retirement of a member, at any time after attaining the age of 65 years, he shall be entitled to an annual pension from the Pension Fund equal to his pension credits at the date of retirement.

(b) *In the event a retired member resumes full-time active service in the Church or in the ministry, his retirement pension shall terminate and his period of retirement shall be presumed to have ceased with the resumption of his salary; and until his subsequent death or retirement, his salary-paying organization shall assume the same status with respect*

to assessments and in all other respects as in the case of an active member before retirement.

**(3) Disability Pension.**

(a) Whenever a member shall become totally and presumably permanently disabled at any time, he shall be entitled to an annual pension from the Pension Fund equal to his pension credits at the date of incurring such disability.

(b) Proof of disability must be made upon the forms and in the manner provided by the Board of Pensions, and shall include certification of a competent physician as to such disability. The Board of Pensions shall have the right to require proof of continued disability from time to time, but at intervals of not less than a period of one year.

(c) In the event a member drawing disability benefits resumes active service in the Church or in the ministry, his disability pension shall terminate and his period of disability shall be presumed to have ceased with the resumption of his salary; and until his subsequent death, retirement, or further disability as defined herewith, his salary-paying organization shall assume the same status with respect to assessments and in all other respects as in the case of an active member before retirement.

**(4) Widow's Pension.**

In the event of the death of a member, at any time, whether before or after receiving a retirement or disability pension, leaving a surviving widow, then such widow shall be entitled to a pension equal to 50% of the pension credits established for her husband during the years of their marriage. In the event of the remarriage of such widow, then such pension shall cease and terminate.

**(5) Method of Payment.**

Benefit payments shall be made monthly, except that when the amount of a given monthly pension or benefit payment is

less than ten dollars, the Board of Pensions may arrange for the payments at intervals other than monthly.

**1374. Article VIII. Withdrawal from the Pension Fund.**

(1) Whenever a member of the Pension Fund ceases to be a member of The Wesleyan Church, his membership in the Pension Fund shall also cease, and his withdrawal shall be noted upon the records.

(2) In the event of withdrawal prior to fifteen years of membership in the Pension Fund, except by reason of death, disability, or retirement, any present or future interest in the Pension Fund of such withdrawing member shall forthwith cease, terminate, and be forfeited.

(3) In the event of withdrawal subsequent to fifteen years of membership in the Pension Fund, the member shall be entitled to a vested interest in the Pension Fund based upon his pension credits at the date of such withdrawal. In such event, the pension to which he would have been entitled had he then reached the age of 65 years, shall become payable to him when he does reach such age, and the widow's pension, as provided in Article VII:4 (1373:4), shall become payable to his widow upon his death at any age.

**1375. Article IX. Transfer of Credits.**

The Board of Pensions is authorized to adopt a formula, subject to the approval of the General Board, whereby the credits of any member who was formerly enrolled in the Wesleyan Retirement Plan or the Pilgrim Pension Plan may be transferred to and recognized in the Pension Fund hereby established, providing the written consent of the member is obtained and filed with the Board of Pensions.

**1376. Article X. General Provisions.**

**(1) Administration.**

(a) The Pension Fund shall be operated and administered

by the Board of Pensions in accordance with these provisions and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as from time to time amended, and may adopt such additional rules and regulations as are in harmony therewith as deemed necessary from time to time.

(b) The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be the custodian of funds for The Wesleyan Pension Fund (cf. 763:12), and shall hold and disburse such funds as directed by the Board of Pensions and its designated officer.

(c) The Board of Pensions shall employ such officers as it may deem necessary (cf. 691:25; 766).

(d) The Board of Pensions may delegate its duties and powers in respect to the administration of the Pension Fund to its committees, officers, and agent. The action or decisions of any such committee, officer, or agents, within the scope of the duties and powers so delegated, shall be deemed the action or decision of the Board of Pensions, but shall be subject to review by the Board of Pensions in disputed cases. The Board of Pensions shall have final authority over its committees, officers and agents in such cases.

## (2) Appeals.

The Board of Pensions' construction and interpretation of any of these provisions and of such rules and regulations in harmony therewith adopted by the Board of Pensions shall be binding on all parties, except that an appeal therefrom may be taken by an interested party to the General Board and its decision shall be final.

## (3) Liability.

The funds and assets of the Pension Fund shall be and become liable to members and other beneficiaries hereunder for the payment and discharge of their pension claims in the manner and to the extent provided above, but in no event shall any liability accrue against the Church for benefits or other claims arising out of the establishment, maintenance,

conduct, and operation of the Pension Fund. Nor shall the funds and assets of the Church, or of its boards or agencies, other than the funds and assets of the Pension Fund become subject to, or liable for, any such claim or other liability. No action shall ever be maintainable in any court of law or equity against the Church to enforce such asserted claim or liability.

(4) **Investments.**

All moneys of the Pension Fund shall be invested only upon the approval of the Board of Pensions.

(5) **Reports.**

The Board of Pensions shall report annually, or more often if requested, to the General Board, or its Executive Council, in the manner which the General Board specifies (691:24; 1347:8), and to each session of the General Conference (650:7).

(6) **Audits.**

The General Board may direct an audit annually, or at any time it shall deem necessary, of all funds and records for the Pension Fund (691:22; 1347:7).

(7) **Construction.**

(a) This Pension Fund, and the rules and regulations adopted hereunder, and the rights of members and beneficiaries of the Pension Fund shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana.

(b) This Pension Fund, and the rules and regulations adopted hereunder must be kept in harmony with *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as from time to time amended.

**1377. Article XI. Amendments.**

(1) The bylaws of the Pension Fund may be amended by the Church at any General Conference, provided that such

amendment shall have been proposed (a) by the Board of Pensions, or (b) by the General Board.

(2) Any amendment which in the judgment of the General Board, should be adopted before the next General Conference, may be adopted ad interim by the General Board upon recommendation of the Board of Pensions, and any amendment so adopted shall be presented for ratification at the next General Conference of the Church after at least 30 days' advance notice in the official church organ (cf. 1346).

(3) No amendment shall abridge the rights of members with respect to their pension credits as of the date of the adoption of such amendment.

# PART IX

## PROPERTY

### Chapter I

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

### A. Application

1401. The general regulations set forth in this chapter shall be binding on all trustees and their governing bodies of The Wesleyan Church, whether local, district, or general church, including all institutions, subsidiary corporations, and similar bodies, unless otherwise stated in *The Discipline* or in the articles of incorporation and bylaws governing such trustees.

### B. Local Laws

1403. All provisions of *The Discipline* relating to property, both real and personal, and relating to the formation and operation of any corporation, are conditioned upon their being in conformity with the local laws (1413) of the country, state, territory, or other like political unit within the geographical bounds of which the property is situate; and in the event of conflict therewith, said provisions of *The Discipline* shall be modified to the extent required to conform with any such local laws. This regulation, however, shall not be construed to give the consent of The Wesleyan Church to deprivation of its property without due process of law, or to the regulation of its affairs by statute where such regulation violates the constitutional right of freedom of religion, separation of church and state, or the rights of the church to maintain its polity.

### C. Requirements

1405. A trustee must be a full member of The Wesleyan Church. Whenever a trustee ceases to be a member of The Wesleyan Church for any reason, his office as trustee shall be

declared vacant and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term in the manner provided in *The Discipline*.

1406. All trustees shall administer their duties in accord with *The Discipline* as from time to time amended, as directed by the governing body to which they are amenable, and subject to local laws as set forth in 1403. Whenever a trustee refuses to carry out properly given orders and instructions and submit to the authority to which he is amenable, he may be removed from office and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term as provided for in *The Discipline*.

1407. A board of trustees shall have and hold in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church any and all property committed to it; shall see that titles are good; that deeds and all written instrumentalities are in harmony with *The Discipline* and with local laws as set forth in 1403; that all property deeds and titles contain the required trust clause as set forth in 1418; that they are promptly recorded; that abstracts and all other legal papers are properly stored and secured; and shall perform such other duties as are required of them in *The Discipline* or by the governing body to which they are amenable, and, in the case of incorporated bodies, as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws or charter of the corporation.

#### D. Restrictions

1408. A trustee or board of trustees and/or its governing body may not divert property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Church.

1409. A board of trustees shall not normally accept a deed which contains a clause by which the land conveyed may revert to the original grantor, his heirs or assigns.

#### E. Terms

1412. "*The Discipline*" shall always refer to *The Discipline*

of The Wesleyan Church as from time to time legislated and declared (91-97; 100; 185; 650:1; 740:24).

1413. "Local laws," whenever used in *The Discipline* with respect to property or any other legal matters, shall be construed to mean the laws of the country, territory, state, or other like political unit within which the property is located.

#### F. Trust Clause and Release Therefrom

1417. All property, whether real, personal, or mixed, acquired by any local church, circuit, district, institution, agency, or other similar body of The Wesleyan Church, whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall be held in trust for The Wesleyan Church, incorporated as The Wesleyan Church Corporation under the laws of the State of Indiana, and shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1418 (cf. 155:6 and 160:8). The absence of the trust clause in the evidence of the title or other written instruments, regardless of whether such absence is due to mistake, inadvertence, or willful omission, shall in no way exclude a local church, circuit, district, institution, agency, or similar body, whether incorporated or unincorporated, from or relieve it of its responsibility to The Wesleyan Church and subjection to the authority of said Church, and such property can only be sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of in accord with the provisions of *The Discipline*, concerning the sale, transfer, or encumbrance of property.

(1) For property in pioneer areas see 218; 1421; 1451; 1467; cf. 1321-1327; 1401-1420.

(2) For property in mission districts see 411:3; 416:1, 4; 1421; 1453-1454; cf. 1321-1327; 1401-1420.

(3) For local property in established districts see 205:4; 209:4; 213:5; 274:13-14; 294:24-25; 316:27-31; 348-351; 421:3; 473:22-23; 486:13-14, 30; 511:11; 523; 527-528; 1301-1309; 1311-1316; 1401-1420; 1421-1444; cf. 1326-1327; 1458-1467.

(4) For district property in established districts see 421:3; 473:22-23; 486:13-14, 30; 511:11; 523; 527-528; 1311-1316; 1326-1327; 1401-1420; 1458-1460.

(5) For general church property see 1321-1328; 1401-1420; 1465-1469; cf. 198; 763:19.

(6) For property of a general educational institution see 930; 1401-1420; cf. 928-932; 1326-1327.

(7) For property of a subsidiary corporation, board, or institution, other than a general educational institution see 1346-1352; 1401-1420; cf. 1326-1327.

1418. All titles, deeds, and other written instruments for the conveyance of property to or for The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 1417 shall contain the following trust clause:

"In trust for the use and benefit of the ministry and members of The Wesleyan Church, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana as The Wesleyan Church Corporation, subject to *The Discipline*, regulations, and appointments of said Church as from time to time legislated and declared."

1419. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing the foregoing trust clause in 1418 may be sold in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline*, and when such provisions have been complied with, the real property so sold or conveyed shall be released from the foregoing trust clause, and the trustees enabled to give a good and sufficient deed (cf. 1427:1).

1420. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing the foregoing trust clause in 1418 may be mortgaged or otherwise encumbered in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline*, and when such provisions have been complied with the foregoing trust clause shall be subordinated to the mortgage lien (cf. 1427:2).

## Chapter II

### LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY

#### A. Pioneer Church Property

**1421. Pioneer Area and Mission District.** Pioneer churches within the bounds of a pioneer area or mission district shall be under the jurisdiction of the General Department of Extension and Evangelism as set forth in 1451 and 1453-1454.

**1422. District.** The regulations concerning property for a pioneer church within the bounds of an established district are:

(1) The district board of administration shall be vested with power and authority to purchase, manage, sell, encumber, transfer, and dispose of any and all property of a pioneer church, whether real, personal, or mixed (205:4; 486:13-14), and shall direct the pastor and the local advisory council concerning the same in keeping with *The Discipline* (486:1, 28).

(2) The pastor and local advisory council of a pioneer church shall be responsible to supervise, control, and maintain the property under their care as directed by the district superintendent and the district board of administration (205:3-4; 486:1, 28).

(3) All property of a pioneer church shall be held by the district in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church as required in 160:8 and shall contain the trust clause as given in 1418 (cf. 1315; 1417-1420; 1458).

(4) Whenever a pioneer church has been organized as an established church (209-210), the district board of trustees may transfer the property to the local board of trustees as set forth in 1425, provided that the property is free of debt.

**1423. Reclassification.** Whenever an established church is reclassified as a pioneer church as set forth in 209:1; 473:25;

and 486:27, the office of the members of the local church board and the local board of trustees shall thereupon cease (351:5) and the district board of administration shall be responsible for the property as set forth in 1422:1-4 (cf. 205). Whenever the property of such a church has been held by the local trustees, it shall be conveyed or transferred to the district to be held as set forth in 1458 (cf. 351:5).

## B. Church Property

### 1. Ownership

1425. Local property within an established district may be held by the local church or by the district, as decided upon by the district conference (cf. 473:22-23). In those districts where the local churches are to hold their own property, all grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments now owned or hereafter acquired of any property, real, personal, or mixed, to or for any unincorporated local church, or any organization, board, or similar body connected thereto, shall be held by and/or conveyed to its duly elected board of trustees, and to their successors in office and their assigns, as the board of trustees of such local church, in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, subject to its *Discipline*, regulations, and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 1418 (cf. 1417; 1419). An omission of the name of any or all of the trustees shall not render any instrument invalid. (The regulations for an incorporated local church are set forth in 1301-1309.) In those districts where the district is to hold local property (cf. 160:8), such local property shall be held as set forth in 1315 or 1458.

### 2. Trust Clause and Release Therefrom

1427. All written instruments of conveyance by which property is held or hereafter acquired by any local church, whether

incorporated or unincorporated, shall contain the trust clause in 1418, and release therefrom shall be as follows:

(1) Whenever the real property of a local church acquired by a conveyance containing the trust clause as set forth in 1418 is sold in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline* (1431-1434), the written approval of the district board of administration (1431:3) shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from the trust clause (cf. 1419).

(2) Whenever the real property of a local church, acquired by a conveyance containing the trust clause in 1418, is mortgaged or encumbered as provided for in *The Discipline* (1431-1434), the written approval of the district board of administration for such mortgage or encumbrance (1431:3) shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the trust clause thereto (cf. 1420).

### 3. Acquisition, Sale, Mortgage, and Transfer of Property

1431. An unincorporated local church within an established district may acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer, or otherwise dispose of real property in accord with the following authorization and conditions:

(1) A resolution authorizing such action shall be recommended by the local church board (316:31), and passed by the local church conference (274:13) by a majority of those present and voting, at any regular or special session duly called for such purpose, provided that notice of the intended action shall be given to the local church members by announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be not less than one week before the date of the session of the local church conference at which the proposal shall be considered, and that notice shall also be given at least one week in advance in the church bulletin, when such is available, and that

such other notice shall be given as may be required by local laws (cf. 265:1).

(2) The proposal shall be studied by the district building committee whenever it involves the purchase of property, the construction or remodeling of buildings, or other work as set forth in 523, and the written recommendation of the district building committee shall be forwarded to the district board of administration and the local church.

(3) The district board of administration, after receiving the recommendation of the district building committee, shall approve the proposal of the local church in writing and such approval shall be affixed to the written instrument involved (486:30).

(4) The resolution authorizing such action shall direct that any contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other necessary written instrument be executed by and on behalf of the local church by the proper officers of the local board of trustees, who thereupon shall be duly authorized to carry out the directions of the local church conference and the local church board in keeping with the requirements of *The Discipline* (cf. 1401-1420; 1434; 348-351); and any written instrument so executed shall be binding and effective as the action of the local church.

(5) The chairman of the local board of trustees, or other designated trustee, shall submit all written instruments of conveyance and title for the acquisition of property to the district superintendent for his approval as to their conformity with *The Discipline* as stated in 511:11 and shall see that permanent legal and property records are properly stored as set forth in 1440.

1434. The proceeds from the sale of any real property of a local church whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall be used for the purchase or improvement of property for that local church, unless otherwise authorized by the district board

of administration (486:30). Whenever a local church does not wish to reinvest the money received as stated herewith, the money shall be forwarded to the district treasurer and shall be used for the purchase of property for a local church, the construction of other churches or parsonages within the bounds of the district, or for district property, as decided upon by the district conference or the district board of administration, provided that all debts against such property being sold shall first be paid.

#### 4. Abandoned Church Property

1435. When the property of a local church is no longer used, a local church may, upon recommendation of the district board of administration (486:27) be declared by the district conference (473:25) as discontinued or abandoned, and the title shall thereupon vest in the district corporation (1311), or in the district board of trustees in the case of an unincorporated district (1460). The district conference shall have the authority to order the sale of said property and to appropriate the proceeds for the purchase of property for a local church or the construction of other churches or parsonages within the bounds of the district, or may delegate this authority to sell and to decide upon the disposition of the proceeds to the district board of administration. Whenever immediate action is necessary in the interim of district conference sessions, the district board of administration shall have authority on its own resolution to order the sale of such property and shall recommend the disposition of the proceeds to the next session of the district conference. Any bequest, gift, legacy, annuity, or other benefit to a local church that accrues or becomes available after said church has been discontinued shall become the property of the district corporation (1311), or, in the case of an unincorporated district, shall become the property of the district board of trustees (1460).

### C. Circuit Property

1437. The organization and government for a circuit within an established district are set forth in 212-216. The regulations concerning the acquisition, purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other disposition of circuit property within an established district shall be the same as for local church property within the district as set forth in 1425 and 1431:1-5. The proceeds from the sale of circuit property shall also be disposed of in the same manner as the proceeds from the sale of local church property as set forth in 1434-1435. The circuit board of trustees shall carry out such duties concerning circuit property as are required of a local church board of trustees (cf. 348-351) and shall be subject to the general regulations as set forth in 1401-1420.

1439. Whenever the discontinuance of a circuit shall be ordered by the district conference, or whenever a local church is separated from a circuit and established as a separate pastoral charge (473:26), the district conference shall also order the sale or disposition of circuit property, for which a recommendation shall be received from the district board of administration (cf. 486:9c). Each local church shall be entitled to receive its just share of the property in which it has invested funds; and the amount of such value and just share shall be determined by the district board of administration or a special committee appointed for that purpose.

### D. Property Records

1440. All deeds, titles, and other legal or property records of each pioneer church, church, or circuit within the bounds of the district shall be placed in the custody of the district superintendent (511:11) who shall be responsible for their preservation and permanent filing as directed by the district board of administration (486:15). The district superintendent may authorize a local church to retain such records when deemed

necessary, in which case a certified or true copy shall be kept in the district files which are in his custody.

#### E. Rights to Property

1443. The district board of administration, in the name of the district corporation (1311; cf. 1460), shall have the right to intervene or to institute any legal or equitable actions as may be deemed necessary against a local church or circuit within the bounds of the district to preserve the rights and interests of the district and The Wesleyan Church, in all matters relating to property and the rights to property within the bounds of the district, as set forth in the Judiciary (1530-1531) and as otherwise provided for in *The Discipline*. The General Board of Administration, in the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation, shall also have the right to intervene and protect the rights and interests of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 1326-1327.

1444. No local church may vote to withdraw as a body from The Wesleyan Church, or in any way sever its relation thereto, and no local church conference and/or local church board and/or local board of trustees can divert property from The Wesleyan Church (351:4; 1408).

## Chapter III

### DISTRICT PROPERTY

#### A. Pioneer Area Property

1451. The regulations concerning property within the bounds of a pioneer area shall be set forth in the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Extension and Evangelism in accord with the following:

(1) The authority for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other disposal of real property within a pioneer area shall be vested in the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:36).

(2) All property shall be held by and/or conveyed to The Wesleyan Church Corporation and shall be general church property (1467), except when otherwise required by local laws or otherwise directed by the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:36), in which case it shall be held in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 1418 (cf. 1417-1420).

(3) The superintendent and any other workers of the pioneer area shall supervise, control, and maintain the property under their care in accord with *The Discipline*, the Policy of the General Board of Administration for Extension and Evangelism, and other directives, and as supervised by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (837:5).

(4) All legal and property records shall be in the custody of the General Secretary-Treasurer unless otherwise directed by the General Board of Administration, in which case certified or true copies shall be filed in his custody (763:6).

#### B. Mission District Property

1453. The regulations concerning property within the bounds

of a mission district shall be the same as for an established district, with the exception that the official actions of a mission district are subject to the approval of the General Board of Administration (cf. 410-416), and with the further exception that the General Board of Administration may give special directions as deemed necessary (cf. 691:36).

1454. A mission district may be incorporated when so recommended by the General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism (837:5) and authorized by the General Board of Administration (691:51) as set forth in 1311-1316.

### C. District Property

#### 1. Ownership

1458. **Unincorporated District.** Except when local laws shall otherwise require, all grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments, now owned or hereafter made, of any property, real, personal, or mixed, to or for any unincorporated district, or any organization, board, or similar body connected thereto, and for any local property held by such a district (1422; 1425), shall be held by and/or conveyed to its duly elected board of trustees (cf. 527-528; 1460), and to their successors in office and to their assigns, as the board of trustees, of said district, in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and subject to its *Discipline*, regulations, and appointments, as from time to time legislated and declared and shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1418 (cf. 1417-1420). (The regulations for an incorporated district are set forth in 1311-1316.)

#### 2. Management and Control

1459. The district board of administration shall have the following duties and powers concerning the district property and such local property as may be held by the district (1422; 1425):

(1) To carry out the directions of the district conference (473:23; 486:14), and, in the interim of its sessions, to have power to act on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the purpose of the district and so to order the district board of trustees (527-528; 1460), provided that in transactions concerning real property used for district purposes such as a district parsonage, headquarters, or campground, the district board of administration shall consult with the General Superintendent over the district (743:16), and further provided that said district board of administration shall be subject to the general regulations concerning property as set forth in 1401-1420.

(2) To carry out the directions of the district conference (473:23; 486:14), and, in the interim of its sessions, to direct the district board of trustees (527-528; 1460) concerning any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to the district, or to the district board of trustees as such, for any benevolent, charitable, or religious purpose, and to direct the board of trustees in the administration of such in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator, and in the interest of the church, institution, organization, or agency contemplated by such donor, trustor, or testator.

(3) To supervise, control, and maintain all district property.

(4) To receive a report from the district building committee as set forth in 523 and to approve in writing the proposal of a local church to acquire, purchase, encumber, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of real property as set forth in 1307-1309 and 1431-1434.

(5) To act in regard to the disposition of the proceeds from the sale of local church or circuit property as set forth in 1434, and the discontinuance or disposal of abandoned property as

set forth in 1435.

(6) To intervene and institute all necessary legal and equitable actions to safeguard and protect the rights and interests of the district and of The Wesleyan Church, including all matters relating to the property and rights to property, including any property held by a local church, circuit, or other organization within the district, whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, or where held in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of the district and The Wesleyan Church (1443).

(7) To direct the district superintendent in the care and preservation of all legal and property records for the local churches and the district (1440).

### 3. District Board of Trustees

1460. The district conference of each established district shall be incorporated or shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as set forth in 1311-1316. In places where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the local laws require property to be held by trustees, the district conference shall elect from among the members of the district board of administration the members of the district board of trustees in such number as desired (473:23; cf. 527-528). The district trustees shall hold office as trustees until their term expires as members of the district board of administration and until their successors are qualified and elected. The district board of trustees shall be amenable to the district board of administration and shall hold all district property, and such local property as may be held by the district (cf. 1422; 1425), in trust for The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 1458, shall attend to all legal matters pertaining to the district property and other business as directed, and shall carry out such transactions for the purchase, acquisition, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other

disposal of district property as ordered by the district board of administration (1459). Whenever a trustee shall refuse to carry out the directions of the district board of administration, he may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the district board of administration, who shall also fill the vacancy for the unexpired term (cf. 486:25a; 527).

#### D. Rights to Property

1461. A district, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that has been placed under discipline in accord with the procedures set forth in the Judiciary (1512; 1543-1546), and each local church within that district, shall be suspended from the right to acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any real property without the approval of the General Superintendent or general official appointed to have charge of the district (1545). Whenever a district is reorganized as set forth in 1547, the members and ministers affirming loyalty to The Wesleyan Church shall be and constitute the district and shall have the right to control and manage all district property as set forth in *The Discipline*.

## Chapter IV

### GENERAL CHURCH PROPERTY

#### A. Incorporation

1465. The General Conference shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained under the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation, through which it shall acquire, sell, manage, encumber, transfer, and otherwise dispose of general church property (1321-1327; cf. 650:5).

#### B. Ownership

1467. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments now owned or hereafter made of any property, real, personal, or mixed, to or for The Wesleyan Church, or any general office, department, institution, agency, or organization connected thereto, with the exception of those that are separately incorporated (cf. 650:6; 1346), shall be held by and/or conveyed to The Wesleyan Church Corporation in its corporate name, for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, subject to its *Discipline*, regulations, and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared (cf. 1412).

#### C. Suggested Forms for Bequests and Devises

1469. The general director of stewardship (763:19) shall be available for special advice and instruction for those who desire to make wills, donations, or bequests to The Wesleyan Church or any of its various ministries (cf. 198).

(1) **Form for Bequest of Money or Personal Property.** I give, devise, and bequeath to The Wesleyan Church Corporation, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Indiana, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, (or if personal property, notes, bonds, etc., describe the same);

to be used and appropriated by that body to religious, benevolent, missionary, or educational purposes (or, if desired, state the specific purpose); and the receipt of the treasurer of the said corporation shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executor of the same.

(2) **Form for a Devise of Land.** I give, devise, and bequeath to The Wesleyan Church Corporation, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Indiana, the following described lands and premises, viz: (full description of land) ; to have and to hold the same with the privilege of appurtenances unto said corporation, (state a specific purpose if desired) its successors and assigns forever; and the receipt of the treasurer of said corporation shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executor for the same.

(3) **Form for a Devise of Residuary Estate or any Part Thereof.** I give, devise, and bequeath to The Wesleyan Church Corporation, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Indiana, all (or some specific part of) the rest, residue, or remainder of my estate, real or personal to said corporation (state specific purpose if desired), its successors and assigns forever; and the receipt of the treasurer of said corporation shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executor for the same.

(4) Suggested forms for other types of donations and delayed gift giving are available from the general director of stewardship (763:19).

# PART X

## JUDICIARY

### Chapter I

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### A. Meaning and Purpose of Church Discipline

**1501. Definition.** Church discipline is the orderly exercise of that authority, and the application of those principles and laws, which the Church has derived from the Word of God and has appointed for the governing of its members, ministers, congregations, and official bodies.

**1502. Classification.** Church discipline may be referred to in the general sense of administrative discipline and in the more restricted sense of judicial discipline:

(1) **Administrative Discipline.** Administrative discipline is the general and orderly exercise of ecclesiastical authority for the government and preservation of the church. The purpose of administrative discipline is to provide for the purity, effectiveness, and spiritual influence of the church organization and the protection of the rights of its members, ministers, congregations, and official bodies.

(2) **Judicial Discipline.** Judicial discipline is the proper exercise of the authority which Christ has vested in His Church for the prevention and correction of offenses and the removal of scandal (cf. Matt. 18:15-18; I Cor. 5:1-5). The purpose of judicial discipline is the vindication of the truth, the preservation of the integrity of the body, the restoration and salvation of the guilty, and the warning of the careless.

**1503. Subjects of Discipline.** All members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church are subject to its administrative discipline, and, if charged with an offense, are subject to its judicial discipline.

#### B. The Administration of Judicial Discipline

**1504.** In order that the purposes of church discipline may

be realized, judicial discipline for The Wesleyan Church shall be administered in accord with the following principles:

(1) A prayerful and Christlike spirit shall be maintained at all times by all parties (Eph. 4:15; II Tim. 4:2; I Cor. 13:4-7).

(2) The restoration and salvation of erring members shall ever be kept in view. Every effort that love can suggest shall be made to bring back to the Lord one who, while under the Church's care, has wandered from Him.

(3) A sincere and reasonable effort shall be made to clear up an accusation or to deal with an offending person without the formality of a church trial, in keeping with the Scriptural admonitions (Matt. 18:15-18; Gal. 6:1-2; and James 5:16).

(4) Each accusation and all judicial proceedings shall receive prompt and careful attention by the proper authorities.

(5) The doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church shall be maintained without respect of persons. Any offending person shall be dealt with kindly, yet faithfully, according to the seriousness of the offense, and as provided for in this Judiciary and in *The Discipline*.

(6) Legal technicalities shall not be permitted to obstruct the sincere search for truth, while at the same time the fundamental principles and procedures of justice shall be upheld. There shall be no attempt to confuse or entangle anyone in the process of an investigation or a trial (cf. 138).

(7) The accused person shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty. However, the moral conviction of the truth of the charge is all that is necessary in church discipline (1557).

### C. Fundamental Rights and Duties for Judicial Discipline

**1505. Right of Trial and Appeal.** The right to a fair and impartial trial and the right to appeal shall not be denied to any member (cf. 230; 232; 234), minister, local church, district, or official body of The Wesleyan Church. No one shall be

arbitrarily set aside without due consideration for both his spiritual welfare and his rights as a member of The Wesleyan Church and shall always have the right to request a trial or to appeal, even when placed under discipline (147:4; 148:3; 151:7; 155:8; 160:10; 176:3f.; 181:4, 6; and 182).

**1506. Rights of the Accused.** Any member or minister who is accused shall have the following rights:

(1) **Counsel.** The accused shall always have the right to be represented at a church trial by counsel of his own choosing, provided such counsel is a full member in good standing in The Wesleyan Church, or to present his own defense. Any full member against whom there are no charges shall be considered to be in good standing.

(2) **Examination.** The accused, or his counsel, shall have the right to meet his accuser(s) face to face and to cross-examine any witnesses for the prosecution.

(3) **Objection.** The accused shall have the right to challenge for cause the qualifications of any member of the judicatory, the validity of which shall be determined by the presiding officer (1567).

(4) **Limitation.** A minister or member shall not be required to answer charges for any act which occurred more than five years before the filing of such charges.

**1507. Right of Investigation.** The Church has a right to investigate the character of its members and ministers in order to maintain the purity of its doctrines and practices, and can, therefore, through its officers, official bodies, and judicatories, require any member or minister under investigation to testify, under penalty of dismissal if they refuse.

**1508. Duty of Cooperation.** It shall be the duty of every member, minister, and church body to cooperate and to witness when properly requested to do so for an official investigation or trial.

## Chapter II

### OFFENSES

#### A. Individual

**1511.** Any member, minister, deaconess, special worker, or district or general officer, of The Wesleyan Church shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings and trial for any of the following offenses:

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

(2) Disobedience to the provisions of *The Discipline* or tolerating such disobedience.

(3) Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize church authority.

(4) Conduct unbecoming a member or minister of The Wesleyan Church.

(5) Immorality or crime.

(6) Serious or persistent neglect of duty.

#### B. Local Church, District, or Official Body

**1512.** Any local church, district, official body, or other agency of The Wesleyan Church shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings and trial for any of the following offenses:

(1) Disseminating or tolerating the teaching of any doctrine contrary to the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as stated in *The Discipline*.

(2) Disobedience to the provisions of *The Discipline* or tolerating such disobedience.

(3) Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize church authority.

## Chapter III

### LOCAL CHURCH JURISDICTION

**1515. Jurisdiction.** Original jurisdiction over a lay member belongs to the local church of which he is a member (cf. 1522; 1538):

(1) Accusations against a lay member shall be submitted to the pastor (294:15; 1552). If there is no pastor, or if the pastor does not attend to the matter, the accusation shall be submitted to a member of the local church board who shall present it to the local church board. Inquiry shall be made (1553), and the local church board shall have charge of ordering an investigation (1558:1) or trial (316:11), if necessary, as set forth in this Judiciary (cf. 1551-1574). Any charge against a lay member must be sustained by two or more responsible members of The Wesleyan Church. Whenever a trial is ordered, the district superintendent shall be notified.

(2) The authority of a local church board for a pioneer church shall be exercised by the district superintendent (511:15).

(3) The district superintendent, when requested to do so by the local church board, shall have authority to provide for any unusual circumstances not provided for in *The Discipline*, and to appoint, when necessary, any members from another Wesleyan church or from the district to a local judicial committee (1517:1-2; cf. 511:12).

(4) When a lay member, who resides away from the church in which he holds membership and attends another Wesleyan church, is accused of improper or immoral conduct, the pastor and the local church board where he attends shall have authority to make an official investigation of such accusation (1551-1553; 1558). If, pursuant to such investigation, a bill of

charges is drawn up against such a member it shall be presented to the pastor of the local church where the accused holds membership.

**1517. Local Judicial Committee.** Charges against a lay member shall be heard and determined by a local judicial committee:

(1) A local judicial committee shall consist of not less than three members (1567), which shall be selected by the local church board, as the occasion may arise, from its own membership or the membership of the local church (316:11; 399; cf. 1515:3). The committee shall serve from the time of its appointment until it shall hear and determine the case, including any reopening (1570).

(2) The local church board shall designate the chairman or may request the district superintendent to do so. The chairman of the local judicial committee shall be the presiding officer and shall conduct the proceedings in accord with this Judiciary (cf. 1551-1574), and shall notify the accused of his rights (1506).

(3) It shall be the duty of the local judicial committee to hear and determine the charges, to render a verdict concerning the guilt or innocence of the accused, and to recommend to the body having authority over the accused (274:1, 6, 7; 316:9-12, 25) the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1578). A two-thirds majority vote of all members of the committee shall be required to render a verdict of guilty. Discipline, if required, shall be administered by the body having authority over the accused, and may take the form of admonition, rebuke, suspension, deposition, or dismissal, and said body may require repentance, apology, or restitution as deemed necessary.

(4) Whenever the accused lay member is serving the Church under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration (1537), a certified copy of the findings of the local judicial

committee shall be forwarded to the chairman of the General Board of Administration (cf. 743:1), and whenever the accused is licensed or commissioned by the district, a certified copy of the findings shall be forwarded to the district superintendent (cf. 511:27).

(5) An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused, and concerning the verdict by the local church board, to the district board of review, within thirty days (1525:1; 1571-1574).

**1518. Restrictions Under Discipline.** Whenever a lay member has been found guilty by a judicatory, and has been placed under discipline by being suspended from the rights and privileges of membership, he shall not vote, hold or exercise any office, and shall not be eligible for a local license or a district license or commission for the duration of such suspension. If the suspension has been for an indefinite period, the local church board shall be responsible to declare an end to the suspension (316:11). If the person suspended shows the desired repentance and the offense has ceased, the suspension shall be terminated. If the offense has not ceased, in due time, the local church board shall recommend the dismissal of the accused from the church or vote for such dismissal itself if such power has been delegated (cf. 274:1; 316:10).

**1519. Reinstatement.** After being dismissed from the Church, a lay member may be reinstated by the local church when such a person evidences a genuine repentance and amendment of life, and meets the requirements for membership.

## Chapter IV

### DISTRICT JURISDICTION

#### A. Jurisdiction

1521. The district conference shall have original jurisdiction as set forth in 1522 over the following members and local units of the district (cf. 1537):

- (1) An elder or licensed minister.
- (2) A commissioned or licensed deaconess.
- (3) A commissioned or licensed special worker.
- (4) A supply pastor.
- (5) A mission, pioneer church, local church, or circuit within the bounds of the district.

1522. The jurisdiction of the district conference (473:12), and, in the interim of its sessions, the district board of administration (486:1), over those persons listed in 1521:1-4, shall be over their standing in the ministry or as a deaconess or special worker, as the case may be, and their district conference relations and appointments (539) with the exception of those who are first amenable to the General Board of Administration for their official duties (1537-1538; cf. 160:1; 176:2). The district conference or district board of administration may also decide upon the submission of charges to the local church having jurisdiction over the membership of the accused.

1523. The district conference, when in session, shall receive any complaint or accusation (cf. 1527) against any person or local unit under its jurisdiction (1521), appointing an investigative committee (1558:1), and, if necessary, referring charges against a person to a district judicial committee appointed by the district conference (1528), and referring charges against

a local unit to the district board of review (1525). If the judicatory is able to complete its work while the district conference is still in session, it shall report its findings to the conference which shall fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1578-1579). (Cf. 473:46.) If the investigative committee or the judicatory completes its work after the close of the district conference session, it shall report its findings to the district board of administration, which shall exercise the authority of the district conference over those under its jurisdiction and shall take charge of all judicial proceedings necessary in the interim of district conference sessions (486:31, 35).

### B. District Board of Review

1524. Each established district shall have a district board of review consisting of four elders and three lay members, elected annually by the district conference (473:41; 529; cf. 471:2). They shall be members of The Wesleyan Church and of that district and shall not, at the same time, be members of the district board of administration. The district conference shall also elect two elders and two lay members as reserves who shall serve in the order of their election whenever a member is disqualified for a particular case (1567) and shall also fill any vacancies in the order of their election. The district board of review shall organize itself and elect its own officers, and shall see that complete records of all proceedings and cases are kept (cf. 1568). The board shall meet annually at the time of the regular district conference session and at other times and places as deemed necessary. The chairman shall see that proceedings are conducted in keeping with the rules of procedure (1551-1574) and other provisions of *The Discipline*. The board shall also be authorized to cite any member(s), minister(s), or local churches through their officials to appear and to testify concerning matters brought before the district board of review (1507-1508). The records of the district board of review shall be in the custody of the district secretary (517:6).

1525. The duties and powers of the district board of review are:

(1) To hear and determine the appeal of a lay member or of a local church board concerning the results of a local church trial (1517:3, 5); to sustain, modify, or revoke, in whole or in part, the verdict and/or the penalty as set forth in 1571-1574, by a majority vote of all members of the district board of review (147:4; 1517:3; 1571-1574), provided that if the accused has been previously found innocent, it shall require a two-thirds majority of all members of the district board of review to find him guilty.

(2) To hear and determine the appeal of a member(s) concerning an action of a local church conference or a local church board when such member(s) is aggrieved or adversely affected by such action, to determine the legality of such an action in regard to *The Discipline* and district regulations, and to report their findings to the district board of administration for appropriate action. (Cf. 1530:1.)

(3) To hear any charges against a local church alleging an offense as set forth in 1512 presented by the district conference (473:46) or the district board of administration (486:31); to determine the guilt or innocence of the local church with reference to such charges, with a two-thirds vote of the district board of review required for a verdict of guilty; and to report its findings and recommendations to the district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, to the district board of administration. (Cf. 486:31; 1523; 1530:2.)

(4) To hear and decide any complaint by a local church against another local church within the district (155:8), provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the local church conference, and further provided that sincere efforts have been made for an amicable settlement through the district board of administration; to report its findings and recommendations to the district confer-

ence, or in the interim of its sessions, to the district board of administration. (Cf. 486:31; 1523; 1530:1.)

(5) To hear and decide any other cases as shall be referred to it by the district conference (473:46) or the district board of administration (486:31). (Cf. 1523; 1530.)

**1526. Appeals.** Appeals concerning a decision of the district board of review shall be made to the general Board of Review (1530:4; 1593:7).

### C. Ministers, Deaconesses, and Special Workers

#### 1. Procedure

**1527.** Accusations or complaints against those under the jurisdiction of the district as set forth in 1521:1-4 shall be cared for as follows:

(1) Accusations shall be submitted to the district superintendent who shall make inquiry (511:27; 1553), and the district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, the district board of administration shall decide on any official investigation (1558:1) or trial, if necessary, as set forth in the rules of procedure (473:46; 486:35; 1523; 1551-1570). Any charges alleging an offense as set forth in 1511 shall be heard and determined by a district judicial committee (1528:1-5). If guilt has been confessed by the accused a trial is unnecessary and the district conference or the district board of administration shall proceed to fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed, which may consist of admonition, rebuke, suspension, or deposition (1529; 1578-1579).

(2) If the accused is the district superintendent, a general official, or other person amenable to the General Board of Administration (1537), the accusation shall be given to the General Superintendent and handled as set forth in 1540.

(3) If an accusation alleges an offense committed by a person under the jurisdiction of the district (1521:1-4) in a district other than that in which the accused holds membership, the district superintendent and the district board of administration of the district in which the offense was allegedly committed shall have jurisdiction over the official investigation (1558). If a bill of charges is to be drawn up, it shall be submitted through the General Superintendent(s) to the district in which the accused holds membership.

## 2. District Judicial Committee

1528. A district judicial committee shall be constituted and shall carry out such duties as provided herewith:

(1) A district judicial committee shall consist of four elders and three lay members, selected by the district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, by the district board of administration (486:18, 35), as the occasion may arise, from among its own members or the members of the district, and the appointing body may request that one member shall be a general official. The General Superintendent over the district shall be notified of the trial. The committee shall serve from the time of its appointment until it shall hear and determine the case.

(2) The appointing body shall appoint the chairman or may request the General Superintendent to do so. The chairman of the district judicial committee shall preside over the trial and shall conduct it according to the rules of procedure (1551-1574) and *The Discipline*, shall notify the accused of his rights (1506), and shall decide on the admissibility of evidence (1555).

(3) It shall be the duty of the district judicial committee to hear and determine the charges, to render a verdict concerning the guilt or innocence of the accused, and to recommend the penalty, if any, to be imposed by the body having jurisdiction over the accused (1578). A two-thirds majority vote of

all members of the district judicial committee shall be required for a verdict of guilty. The penalty may take the form of admonition, rebuke, suspension, or deposition as set forth in 1529 and 1578-1579, and the body having jurisdiction may also require repentance, apology, or restitution as deemed necessary.

(4) The records of a district judicial committee shall be filed with the district secretary (517:6). Whenever the accused is a district superintendent, a general official, or one who is serving under the General Board of Administration (cf. 1537), a copy of the findings of the committee shall be forwarded to the chairman of the General Board of Administration (743:1).

(5) An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused, and concerning the verdict by the district board of administration, to the General Board of Review within thirty days (1571-1574; 1593:7).

### 3. Special Regulations for Ministers, Deaconesses, and Special Workers

1529. The administration of judicial discipline and penalties to those persons under the jurisdiction of the district (1521:1-4) shall be in accord with the following regulations (cf. 1578-1579):

(1) **Indiscreet Conduct.** Whenever a minister, deaconess, or special worker has been charged with an offense alleging immorality or crime (1511:5; cf. 1579:5) and is not found guilty of such actions but rather of "high imprudence or indiscreet conduct," the offender shall be subject to admonition, rebuke, suspension, or deposition, according to the seriousness of the offense.

(2) **Suspension.** Whenever a minister shall be suspended from the ministry, or a deaconess or special worker shall be suspended from such office, his credentials shall be surrendered to the custody of the district superintendent (cf. 511:27). When-

ever such a person shall furnish the district superintendent a written apology acknowledging his guilt and pledging to correct the matter, and gives evidence that the offense has ceased and that he is repentant, the district board of administration may end the suspension, reinstate the person, and authorize the return of his credentials. If the written apology and assurances are not forthcoming, and the accused does not exercise his right of appeal, the district board of administration shall declare that the said person has withdrawn from the district, and his credentials shall be forwarded to the General Secretary-Treasurer (cf. 486:35; 763:5; 1128:4).

(3) **Immorality and Crime.** Whenever a minister, deaconess, or special worker, shall have been convicted by a judicatory of such immoral acts as fornication or adultery, or has confessed to such acts to the official body having jurisdiction over him, he shall be deposed from the ministry or from the office of a deaconess or special worker, as the case may be. This shall not prohibit membership in a Wesleyan church when the guilty person repents and demonstrates a Christian life according to the standards of The Wesleyan Church. Anyone who has been deposed for such an offense may be reinstated as provided for in 1139.

(4) **Deposition.** An elder or licensed minister that has been deposed from the ministry, or a commissioned or licensed deaconess or special worker that has been deposed from such office, shall immediately surrender his credentials to the district superintendent (cf. 511:27; 1122:4; 1137), shall cease to exercise any of the functions of the ministry or of a commission, or license, as the case may be, shall not occupy any pulpit in The Wesleyan Church, shall cease to draw any salary, and, if a pastor, shall vacate the parsonage within thirty days. Whenever anyone who has been expelled from the ministry or a commission or license shall appeal, the penalty may be deferred with the exception that such a person shall be sus-

pended from the exercise of any office or of his particular service while the appeal is pending (cf. 1573).

(5) **Reinstatement.** Provisions for the reinstatement of an elder or licensed minister are set forth in 1138-1140, and shall be the same for a deaconess or special worker (cf. 1185; 1190).

## D. Local Churches

### 1. Procedure

1530. The procedure for the discipline of a local church (or circuit) shall be:

(1) Any complaint against a local church by a lay member, minister, or another local church shall be submitted in writing to the district superintendent (511:27), who, together with the district board of administration (486:31) shall endeavor to make an amicable settlement. If such a settlement cannot be realized, the complaint shall be referred to the district board of review who shall hear and decide the complaint (1525:2, 4).

(2) Whenever a local church shall be charged with an offense as set forth in 1512, the district superintendent (511:27) and the district board of administration (486:31) shall make every effort to bring about an amicable settlement. The district board of administration shall have the authority to cite the offending church, in the person of its pastor and local officials or local church board to appear before it to settle the matter or to show cause why it shall not be placed under discipline. Such a citation shall contain a clear and definite statement of the charges and any supporting evidence so that the accused local church may be properly informed of the grounds of the accusation. The order shall be served upon the pastor and the local church secretary. Whenever a settlement cannot be effected, a bill of charges and specifications against the local church shall be submitted to the district board of review

who shall hear and determine the case (1525:3).

(3) Whenever a local church has been declared guilty of an offense as set forth in 1512 by the district board of review (cf. 1525:3), it shall be suspended by the district conference (473:46), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the district board of administration (486:31), from all the rights and privileges of a local church as set forth in the Constitution (155) and *The Discipline*. The suspension shall end when the local church, through its officials, shall make a written apology acknowledging its guilt and pledging loyalty to the district and the denomination, and when, in the opinion of the district board of administration, the offense has ceased. Whenever a local church does not offer such a written apology and assurance, and if it continues to offend, it shall be reorganized (1531).

(4) An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or the penalty by the accused church, and concerning the verdict by the district board of administration to the general Board of Review (1593:7).

## 2. Reorganization

1531. Whenever a local church, through its pastor and/or local church officials or local church board, shall refuse to answer the citations of the district board of administration to appear for making a settlement (1530:2) or the citation of the district board of review to appear for the hearing of the case (cf. 1561), or whenever a local church that has been placed under discipline refuses to offer a written apology and assurance as set forth in 1530:3 and does not exercise the right of appeal, the district board of administration shall authorize the district superintendent and any two of its other members to reorganize the local church. The district superintendent and the appointed representatives shall ask the members of the local church for an affirmation of loyalty to The Wesleyan

Church, its *Discipline* as currently revised and amended, and its duly elected officials. Those members who affirm such loyalty shall be the members of that local church, and those members who refuse to affirm such loyalty shall be declared as having withdrawn from The Wesleyan Church and from that local church and all offices held by such persons shall thereby be vacated. The loyal members shall be entitled to hold and use the property as provided for by *The Discipline* and to carry on the functions of the local church. Whenever such members are twelve or fewer, the church shall be automatically classified as a pioneer church and shall be under the supervision of the district superintendent and the district board of administration (cf. 205; 209:1).

1532. Any person who has been declared as withdrawn from The Wesleyan Church during the reorganization of a local church may be reinstated when he gives evidence of a change of attitude, and when he is deemed to meet the requirements for membership.

## Chapter V

### GENERAL CHURCH JURISDICTION

#### A. General Conference

1535. The General Conference, as the chief governing body, exercises supreme judicial authority within The Wesleyan Church. The General Conference shall hear appeals from rulings of the general Board of Review (182; 1594), and may, at its own pleasure, hear and determine such appeals, or appoint special committees to do so as desired who shall report their findings to the General Conference for final action (650:25); shall appoint investigative committees to consider accusations against the various units under its jurisdiction, hear the reports of such committees, file charges, if necessary, against such units before the general Board of Review (181:6; 1543-1548), and upon hearing the findings and recommendations of the general Board of Review fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1593:5c). In the interim of General Conference sessions, the General Board of Administration shall hear the findings and recommendations of the general Board of Review and fix the penalty, if any, to be imposed (1593:5c).

#### B. Officials

##### 1. Jurisdiction

1537. The General Board of Administration shall have jurisdiction over the following persons in regard to their official duties:

- (1) A general official (711; cf. 176:2; 691:53).
- (2) An area representative of the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:53).
- (3) A district superintendent (cf. 160:1; 176:2; 691:53).
- (4) A member or minister of The Wesleyan Church who is serving under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Adminis-

tration, including any who are elected or employed by the General Board of Administration for full-time service for the general church (cf. 160:1; 691:32), missionaries or workers under the General Department of World Missions or the General Department of Extension and Evangelism (cf. 160:1; 691:37, 40), members of boards elected by the General Board of Administration (cf. 691:21), and any others amenable to the General Board of Administration.

1538. The General Board of Administration shall have the authority to remove from office, for cause, any persons under its jurisdiction as listed in 1537:1-4 (cf. 691:56), but shall not have authority to depose anyone from the ministry (cf. 1522) or to dismiss anyone from the Church (cf. 1515-1519). The purpose of any disciplinary or judicial proceedings, such as an official investigation or the hearing of any complaints or charges by a judicial committee, shall be to clear up any accusations or charges, or to determine the official standing and relationship of an accused person to the general church, or to decide upon the submission of charges to the official body having jurisdiction over the ministerial standing or membership of the accused, as the case may be.

## 2. Procedure

1540. Administrative or judicial discipline against persons listed in 1537:1-4 shall be administered as follows:

(1) If the accused is a general official, an area representative of the General Board of Administration, or a district superintendent, any accusation alleging an offense set forth in 1511 shall be submitted in writing (1552) to the chairman of the General Board of Administration (684; 743:1) and must be sustained by at least three responsible members of The Wesleyan Church. If the accused is a General Superintendent, the other General Superintendents shall have charge of the matter. The General Superintendents shall make inquiry as required in

1553-1554. The Executive Council shall have the authority to order an official investigation (1558), if such is deemed necessary, in the interim of General Board sessions, and in an emergency may suspend the accused from the exercise of his office by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members until the General Board of Administration shall be called into special session, which shall be within thirty days of such suspension (702:4). The General Board of Administration shall dispose of any charges or accusations as set forth in 1538. Whenever it is deemed necessary, the General Board of Administration may remove a general official, an area representative of the General Board of Administration, or a district superintendent from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members (691:56a), and shall also decide whether charges shall be submitted to the official body having jurisdiction over the accused concerning his ministerial standing or membership in the Church (cf. 155:1; 160:1).

(2) If the accused is a member or minister under the jurisdiction of the General Board of Administration as set forth in 1537:4, an accusation or complaint shall be submitted to the general official to which the accused is amenable or to a General Superintendent. The General Board of Administration or its Executive Council shall decide on the disposition of such accusations or charges as set forth in 1538. If it is deemed necessary, the General Board of Administration may remove such a person from office by a majority vote of all members of the General Board (691:56b).

### 3. Power of Removal

1541. The General Board of Administration, the Board of Pensions, the Board of Directors of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation, the board of trustees of an educational or benevolent institution, and other such governing boards shall have full power and authority to discharge at their discretion any

officer or employee thereof (with the exception of those in 1537:1-4 which shall be limited to the General Board of Administration) who shall be guilty of any immoral conduct or breach of trust, or who for any reason is unable, or who fails, to perform the duties of his office, or for other misconduct which any of said boards may deem sufficient to warrant discharge. The action of such board in removing such officer or employee in the circumstances above set forth shall be final. Any governing board of a subsidiary corporation, or of an educational or benevolent institution, shall have the right to recommend the removal of any of its members to the General Board of Administration, who shall have power to sustain or reject such a recommendation (cf. 691:21, 56b).

### C. Districts

#### 1. Procedure

1543. Any charge or complaint against an established district alleging an offense set forth in 1512 shall be heard and determined by the general Board of Review (1593:5c). The General Superintendent(s) over the involved district(s), together with the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council shall make every effort to clear up such accusations or charges or to effect an amicable settlement (691:57; 743:17) before any district, through its officials or district board of administration, shall be brought to trial before the general Board of Review, unless a hearing is requested by the accused district.

1544. The General Board of Administration, or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Council, shall have the authority to cite a district, through its officials or its district board of administration, to appear before it to show cause, if any it has, why it should not be brought to trial or declared to be in a state of disobedience or insubordination for an offense as set forth in 1512. Such a citation shall set forth a

clear and definite statement of the charges and any supporting facts or evidence and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the General Board of Administration, so that the accused district may be properly informed of the grounds of the accusation. The order shall be served upon both the superintendent and the secretary of the accused district. Should the hearing before the General Board of Administration or the Executive Council result in a satisfactory adjustment of the charges, with the accused district pledging its loyalty to the denomination, no further steps shall be taken. When it is impossible to reach an amicable settlement, in the opinion of the General Board of Administration, or should the cited district officials fail or refuse to appear, a bill of charges and specifications for offenses as listed in 1512 shall be prepared and submitted to the general Board of Review. (Cf. 691:57.)

1545. After receiving the report of the findings of the general Board of Review and pursuant thereto, the General Board of Administration, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, may place a district found guilty under discipline and suspend all its rights and privileges as a district under the Constitution and *The Discipline*, and may thereupon appoint a General Superintendent or general official to have charge of the district (176:3c,e; cf. 691:58). Such suspension shall continue until the district under discipline shall, through its officials, offer a written apology acknowledging its guilt and giving assurance of its loyalty to the denomination and shall also give evidence that the offense has ceased, whereupon the General Board of Administration shall end the suspension and reinstate the district (cf. 691:58). A district under discipline shall also be suspended from all rights to acquire, purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any real property, unless approved by the general official appointed to have charge of the district.

1546. An appeal may be taken concerning the verdict and/or

the penalty by the accused district, and concerning the verdict by the General Board of Administration to the General Conference (1594).

## 2. Reorganization

1547. Whenever a district under discipline refuses to offer a written apology and assurance of loyalty as set forth in 1545, or whenever the district officials refuse to answer a citation to appear (1544), the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council may authorize the General Superintendent over the district to reorganize the district (691:60). The General Superintendent shall ask for an affirmation of loyalty. Those members and ministers of the district who affirm their loyalty to The Wesleyan Church and to its *Discipline* as currently revised and amended and to its duly elected officials shall be and constitute the district. Those members of the district who refuse to affirm such loyalty to The Wesleyan Church shall be declared by the General Superintendent as having withdrawn from the district and from The Wesleyan Church, and all offices held by such persons shall thereupon be vacated. Those who are thus declared to be the members of the district shall be entitled to hold and to use all the district property in the manner as set forth in *The Discipline* and shall be organized to carry on the work of the district. Should the number of loyal ministers and members be fewer than that required for an established district, the district shall be reclassified by the General Board of Administration as a mission district or pioneer area as the case may be (cf. 418; 424-425).

1548. If a minister that has been declared withdrawn from the district shall desire to be reinstated, he may be reinstated as provided for in 1138-1140.

## Chapter VI

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

#### A. Procedure

1551. The procedure for handling accusations or complaints, investigations, and trials by the various official bodies and judicatories of The Wesleyan Church shall be as hereinafter provided, with the exception of the Board of Review which shall provide its own rules of procedure (1588:2). Additional rules of procedure for such matters as evidence, testimony, and other technicalities shall be issued with the approval of the General Board of Administration (691:61) and be available upon request from the General Secretary-Treasurer (cf. 763:5).

#### B. Accusation

1552. Accusations must be in writing, dated, signed by the accuser(s) and handed to the official having jurisdiction over the accused before official action shall be taken. Whenever, in the opinion of the accuser(s), proper action has not been taken, appeal may be made to the next higher church authority.

#### C. Preliminary Settlement

1553. A sincere effort shall be made in each case to meet with the accused personally in order to clear up the accusation or to avoid the necessity of a trial. Whenever an alleged offense involves an error in doctrine, disobedience to the order and *Discipline* of the Church, the indulging in sinful tempers or words, the sowing of dissension, or other similar matters, the official having jurisdiction, or other designated representative, shall privately inquire, and, if necessary, instruct and admonish an offending person. If there is an acknowledgment of the fault and correction is made, the case shall be dropped. If the offense continues, the official in charge shall take with him two or three other discreet members or ministers of The

Wesleyan Church and give further instruction and reproof. If the offense continues, the offending member shall be brought to trial.

1554. If an aggrieved person shall allege a personal offense, he shall be first required to follow the Lord's directions in Matthew 18:15-17 before filing accusations or charges against the offending party.

#### D. Evidence

1555. **Rules of Evidence.** An investigation committee, judicatory, or other official body shall not be bound by any technical rules of evidence but shall adopt such rules as shall, in its opinion, be best adapted to ascertain the truth and determine accurately the substantial rights of the parties involved (1504:6). The presiding officer of the judicatory shall decide on the admissibility of evidence.

1556. **Testimony.** No one may be barred as a witness on the grounds that he is not a member of The Wesleyan Church. Whenever circumstances make it impossible for a witness to appear, a proper certificate or affidavit from such a person may be presented, provided that the party against whom it is sought to be introduced has had a proper opportunity to see the certificate or affidavit and to question before witnesses the person signing the affidavit regarding the contents thereof. Witnesses shall be examined first by the party producing them, then cross-examined by the opposite party, after which any member of the judicatory or either party may put additional questions.

1557. **Proof of Charges.** The accused shall be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved (1504:7). However, the moral conviction of the truth of the charge is all that is nec-

essary to find the accused guilty of the charges.\* In all cases the accused may be questioned relative to the charges made.

### E. Committee of Investigation

1558. A trial may not be ordered until a proper inquiry is made by a committee of investigation.

(1) Such a committee shall be appointed by the official body having jurisdiction, and shall consist of two or more members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church in good standing who can be relied on for impartial judgment, who are not involved in the case, and who are not closely related to the accuser or the accused. A member of the committee of investigation may not thereafter be a member of the judicatory that will hear the case.

(2) The committee shall make a careful and thorough inquiry into the matter, meet with the accuser and the accused, endeavor to bring the accuser and the accused together in the presence of the committee, appoint a secretary to keep an accurate record of all committee proceedings, testimonies, and evidence, and shall make a written report to the appointing body of its findings and recommendation. If the committee believes no reasonable grounds for such accusations exist or that there is insufficient evidence, it shall so report, and if its findings are otherwise, the committee shall draw up charges and specifications accordingly.

(3) The appointing body shall receive and pass on the report and recommendations of the committee of investigation.

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\*"In acting upon the case, it must be borne in mind that there is a vast distinction between the evidence necessary to convict in a civil court and that required to convict in an ordinary society or ecclesiastical body. A notorious pickpocket could not even be arrested, much less convicted by a civil court, simply on the ground of being commonly known as a pickpocket; while such evidence would convict and expel him from ordinary society.

"The moral conviction of the truth of the charge is all that is necessary in an ecclesiastical or other deliberative body to find the accused guilty of the charges."—Robert's Rules of Order.

If there is insufficient evidence, or if guilt is confessed, a trial shall not be ordered, and in no case shall a trial be ordered unless a charge is sustained by two responsible members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church. When guilt is confessed, the official body may pass on the offense and decide on the penalty to be imposed, if any, without further trial unless such is requested by the accused. If the official body decides that a trial shall be conducted for the hearing and determination of charges, it shall so order, setting the date and place for such trial; appointing the members of the judicatory and the prosecutor (1560), unless otherwise provided for in this Judiciary. The date of the trial shall not be less than ten days from the date that notice shall be given to the accused or more than thirty days (cf. 1504:4).

#### F. Charges

1559. It is not required that the charges be written in any particular legal form, but every charge must be in writing, dated, signed by the accuser or by those members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church sustaining the charge, and must clearly define the alleged offense by its proper term as stated in 1511-1512, and shall be accompanied by the specifications of the facts relied on to sustain the charge:

(1) A charge shall not allege more than one offense. However, more than one charge against the same person, with the specifications for each charge, may be presented to the judicatory at the same time and heard at the same time, provided that the vote on each charge shall be taken separately.

(2) The specifications shall declare as far as possible, the time, place, and circumstances of the alleged offense, and shall be accompanied with the names of the witnesses and the title of each record or document to be cited for its support.

(3) No charge shall be entertained for any alleged offense

committed more than five years before the filing of such charge (1506:4).

### G. Counsel

1560. The official body ordering a trial shall, at the same time, appoint a prosecutor, whose duty it shall be to prepare in final form the bill of charges and specifications, present them at the proper time and place to the judicatory, and represent the Church during the hearing. The accused shall have the right to choose his own counsel (1506:1), or to present his own defense, but where this right is not exercised a defense council may be appointed by the chairman of the judicatory. Both the prosecutor and the counsel for the accused shall be members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church in good standing.

### H. Notices

1561. All notices and citations to appear shall be given as directed by the chairman of the judicatory and shall be in writing, in the name of the Church, and signed by the chairman. An official notice of the date, time, and place of the trial, together with an official copy of the bill of charges and specifications, and a citation to appear shall be delivered to the accused not less than ten days prior to the date set for the trial. No subsequent changes in such charges and specifications shall be permitted. Notices to appear shall be given to such witnesses as either party may name, and shall also be served at least ten days before the trial. Members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church shall be cited to appear, but others may only be requested to appear.

### I. Participants

1562. Only those who are members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church shall be allowed to participate in a trial, except as witnesses, and only those participating in the trial shall be permitted to attend the hearing of the trial. All de-

liberations of a judicatory shall be considered confidential, and members of a judicatory shall not discuss the case with anyone outside the judicatory during the hearing of the case.

#### **J. Request for Withdrawal**

1563. Whenever in the course of an investigation or trial, the accused person shall request a letter of withdrawal from the Church, the same shall be granted and the case shall end. It shall be noted on the membership records of the local church, and, when the accused is a minister, on the membership record of the district, as "withdrawn under accusation" whenever such request is during the investigation, and "withdrawn under charges" when such request is during the trial. (Cf. 250.)

#### **K. Postponements**

1564. The prosecutor, or the accused, shall have the right to petition the chairman of the judicatory for a postponement of the trial date, and the chairman may grant such a petition if deemed essential for proper preparation or other necessary reasons, provided that the other party shall be notified before the postponement is granted. A postponement shall not be granted for more than thirty days.

#### **L. Failure or Refusal to Appear**

1565. Whenever an accused member or minister refuses to obey a properly issued citation to appear for trial, or fails to appear except for unavoidable circumstances, he shall be considered guilty of contempt and shall be censured by the chairman of the judicatory. If such an accused person refuses or fails to appear after a second citation, it shall be considered as sufficient reason for summary dismissal from the Church (1507). A member or minister of The Wesleyan Church who refuses a properly issued citation to appear as a witness shall likewise be deemed guilty of contempt and shall be liable to censure (1508).

### **M. Status of the Accused**

1566. After the official notice of the date, time, and place of the trial, together with a copy of the bill of charges and specifications, is delivered to the accused and until after judgment is rendered by the judicatory, the accused may be temporarily suspended from the exercise of any office by the judicatory at its discretion.

### **N. Grounds for Challenge**

1567. A person is disqualified to serve as a member of any judicatory who is personally interested in the case, closely related to either the accused or the accuser, has been active for or against either party in the matter referred to in the charges, is at personal variance with either party, or who has prejudged the case. Any member of a judicatory may, on such grounds, be challenged by either party, provided that such challenge shall be made not later than the opening of any trial hearing, and the allowance of such challenge shall be decided by the remaining members of the judicatory.

### **O. Records**

1568. The chairman of the judicatory shall appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the judicatory, and shall see that complete and accurate records are kept by the secretary of all proceedings, testimonies, evidence, documents admitted, together with copies of the charges, specifications, notices, citations, and findings of the judicatory. The records shall be attested to by both the chairman and the secretary. The chairman shall be the custodian of such records until the case is finished and shall then deliver such records to the proper secretary for permanent filing. Whenever the decision of the judicatory is appealed, the person having custody of the official records shall forward such records promptly to the

chairman of the appellate body, or a transcript of the same, when requested to do so by the chairman of the appellate body.

#### P. The Order of a Church Trial

1569. The following order should be observed in conducting a church trial:

(1) Devotional exercises.

(2) Statement of purpose, the reading of the official action ordering the trial, and the announcement of the members of the judicatory, by the chairman of the judicatory.

(3) Challenges by either party of the members of the judicatory (1567), if any.

(4) Reading of the charges and specifications by the secretary.

(5) Answer by the accused or his counsel with a plea of "guilty" or "not guilty." If guilt is confessed, the judicatory may thereupon consider the penalty to be imposed, if any, and terminate the hearing, or it may request to hear the evidence in order to make a more proper determination of the cause and the penalties to be imposed.

(6) Statement of the case and line of evidence, by the prosecutor.

(7) Evidence of the prosecution, and cross-examination by the defense.

(8) Statement of the case and line of defense, by the defense.

(9) Evidence for the defense, and cross-examination by the prosecution.

(10) Rebuttal by the prosecution.

(11) Rebuttal by the defense.

(12) Summary of the case by the prosecution.

(13) Summary of the case by the defense.

(14) Should it be deemed proper to allow the prosecutor to reply, the defense shall also be permitted to reply.

(15) Instructions by the chairman to the judicatory concerning the duties assigned to it as set forth in this Judiciary and especially to render a verdict in not more than three days, and to vote separately on each charge and by secret ballot, with a two-thirds vote of all the members required to render a verdict of guilty. Members of the judicatory who have been absent from more than one sitting shall not be permitted to vote on the verdict.

(16) The verdict.

(17) Announcement by the chairman of the verdict, and the recommendations, if any, being made to the official body having jurisdiction over the accused.

#### Q. Motion to Reopen the Case

1570. If within thirty days after his conviction under the foregoing provisions, the accused shall make application in writing to the chairman of the official body having jurisdiction over him for a reopening of the case on the ground of newly discovered evidence, and shall submit a written statement of the same, and if it shall appear that such evidence is material to the issue involved, the case may be reopened. In no case, however, shall a reopening of the case be granted when the failure to submit such evidence at the original hearing was the result of neglect or carelessness on the part of the accused. The judicatory may thereupon reopen the case or may refuse to do so. Upon such refusal, if it appears that the failure to submit such evidence was not the result of neglect or carelessness on the part of the accused, such additional evidence may become a part of the record of the appeal. The judicatory shall be considered to continue for a period of thirty days in order to receive and consider a petition for a reopening of the case and until the matter shall be decided upon, or a new judicatory may be constituted.

**R. Appeals**

**1571. Right of Appeal.** The accused, if found guilty, shall have the right to appeal the verdict and/or the penalty unless such right has been forfeited for misconduct. Misconduct shall consist of withdrawing from the Church, publicly discrediting or slandering the members of the judicatory, refusing to abide by the decision of the judicatory, or by refusing to appear in person or by counsel if cited to appear by the appellate body, or by resorting to a suit in a civil court concerning the matter involved in the charges. Misconduct shall be decided upon by the appellate body. If, on the other hand, the accused was found innocent, the official body which ordered his trial has the right to appeal the verdict.

**1572. Procedure of Appeal.** The appellant or his counsel, within thirty days after being notified of the verdict and/or penalty, shall submit his request in writing and shall set forth the grounds of the appeal. The chairman of the appellate body shall ask for a transfer of all the official records of the case, or a transcript of the same, which shall be forwarded promptly by the person having custody of such records. The appellant shall be responsible to pay the cost of the appeal, including the cost of preparing a transcript of the records. Upon modification or reversal of the verdict and/or penalty, such cost of the appeal shall be paid by the church or district from which such appeal is taken by the appellant.

**1573. Status of the Accused During Appeal.** While the appeal is pending, the penalty shall be deferred. Whenever the accused is a church or a district, it may continue to function but shall have the status of being under discipline and shall not be entitled to any representatives in a conference body and, in the case of a district, shall not have authority to buy, sell, or transfer any real property, except with the approval of the General Superintendent over the area.

**1574. Judgment of the Appellate Body.** The appellate body shall promptly consider the case and the grounds for appeal and shall render judgment within thirty days, with the exception of the Board of Review. The appellate body, by a majority vote, may affirm, modify, or reverse the findings of the lower judicatory in whole or in part, or may remand the case for a new trial, provided that if the accused has been previously found innocent, it shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the appellate body to find him guilty. In all cases the right to present evidence shall be exhausted when the case has been heard once on its merits in the proper court, with the exception as provided for in 1570. The appellate body shall also have the right to cite the accused or his counsel to appear. Whenever a case is remanded for a new trial, a new judicatory shall be constituted if necessary, to provide for a fair and proper hearing of the case. When any appellate court shall reverse, in whole or in part, the findings of a trial court, or change the penalty imposed by the official body having jurisdiction, it shall return to the official body having jurisdiction, or to the judicatory, a statement of the grounds of its action.

## Chapter VII

### PENALTIES

#### A. Definition of Penalties

1578. There shall be five degrees of penalty for the administration of discipline which are:

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

(2) **Rebuke.** Rebuke is a stronger penalty for a more serious offense and consists in setting forth the offense, an official rebuke and correction, and a warning to the offender.

(3) **Suspension.** Suspension is that penalty by which the accused is placed "under discipline" and is deprived of certain rights and privileges for a period of probation.

(a) Suspension may be applied to the rights and privileges of membership, the rights and privileges of the ministry, or the exercise of an office. A local church or a district may be suspended from the rights and privileges of a church and a district, respectively, as set forth in the Constitution and *The Discipline*.

(b) Suspension may be definite or indefinite as to duration. Definite suspension is administered when the name of Christ, the integrity of the Church, and the good of the offender demand it, even though the offender may have given evidence of repentance. Indefinite suspension is required when the offender is to be placed on probation until demonstrating a genuine repentance and reformation of life to the proper authorities. The official body having jurisdiction over the party placed "under discipline" for an indefinite suspension shall have the authority to end such suspension

or, if necessary, to impose a stronger penalty when the accused continues to offend.

(4) **Deposition.** Deposition is that penalty by which a person is removed from an official position or appointment, or expelled from the ministry, or removed from the office of a deaconess or special worker, as the case may be.

(5) **Dismissal.** Dismissal is the strongest penalty and is the expulsion of the offender from membership in the Church (148:3; 155:1; 247:3), which automatically includes all lesser penalties. Dismissal should be imposed only for the most serious offenses, or for obstinate persistence in a serious offense and can only be imposed by the local church (274:1). The purpose of dismissal is to awaken the offender, deliver the Church from scandal, and to warn others.

### B. Assignment of Penalties

1579. Official bodies shall be governed by the seriousness of the offense and by the following regulations in the assignment of penalties:

(1) Anyone declared guilty of holding or teaching any doctrine contrary to the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as stated in *The Discipline* (1511:1) shall be punished with deposition and/or dismissal (1578:4-5), unless the official body is of the opinion that the offense has ceased, in which case the penalty shall be either that of admonition, rebuke, or suspension.

(2) Disobedience to *The Discipline*, or tolerating such disobedience (1511:2), shall be punished with such penalty as deemed advisable.

(3) Insubordination or willful refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority (1511:3) shall be punished by such penalty as deemed advisable.

(4) Conduct unbecoming a member or minister (1511:4),

such as dishonesty, or sowing dissension by inveighing against the officials or ministers of the Church, shall be punished with deposition and/or dismissal (1578:4-5), unless the official body believes the offender is truly penitent, in which case he shall be rebuked or indefinitely suspended (1578:3) until such time as the proper authorities are satisfied that the accused has reasonably demonstrated genuine Christian character in accord with the standards of The Wesleyan Church.

(5) Immorality, such as adultery, fornication, or other acts involving moral turpitude, or crime, may be punished by immediate dismissal from the Church (1511:5; cf. 131:14; 1529:3).

(6) Serious or persistent neglect of duties (1511:6) shall be punished by suspension or deposition, unless corrected, in which case a lesser penalty may be imposed.

## Chapter VIII

### BOARD OF REVIEW

#### A. Membership

**1581. Members.** The general Board of Review shall consist of nine members, five of whom shall be elders and four of whom shall be laymen who are full members of The Wesleyan Church:

(1) Their term of office shall be for four years. They shall serve from the close of the session of the General Conference at which they are elected until the close of the next session of the General Conference or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(2) A member of the Board of Review may not at the same time be a member of the General Board of Administration.

(3) The General Conference shall elect by ballot and by majority vote the members of the Board of Review, from two or more nominations for each member of the Board of Review presented by the Committee on Special Nominations (648:2; 650:19).

(4) A member of the Board of Review shall be disqualified for a particular case, when he is personally interested or involved in the case, closely related to any parties involved, or has been active for or against either party in the matter to be heard and determined by the Board of Review. Any member of the Board of Review may be challenged for such reasons or for other reasons, and the allowance of such challenge shall be decided by the remaining members of the Board of Review. Whenever a member is disqualified, the chairman shall appoint an alternate for the hearing of that particular case (1583), provided that such appointment shall be in the order

of election (1582) and shall maintain the membership of the Board as five elders and four laymen.

**1582. Alternates.** The General Conference shall elect, by ballot and by majority vote, from the nominees remaining after the election of the members of the Board of Review (1581:3), four elders and three laymen to serve as alternate members of the Board of Review, with the same qualifications (1581:2) and term of office (1581:1) as the members (cf. 650:19).

**1583. Vacancies.** A vacancy in the membership of the Board of Review shall be filled by an alternate, who shall be appointed by the chairman of the Board of Review in the order of their election and in such a manner as to maintain the representation of elders and laymen as set forth in 1581. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the interim of General Conference sessions, an alternate shall be appointed to serve until the close of the next General Conference. An alternate shall also be appointed to serve for a particular case whenever a member of the Board of Review is disqualified (1581:4), or for a temporary vacancy created by the absence of a member at the session of the Board of Review held during the General Conference.

## B. Sessions

**1585. Regular Sessions.** The Board of Review shall meet at the time and place of the General Conference and shall continue in session until the adjournment of that body. In the interim of General Conferences, the Board shall meet in annual session at a time and place of its own choosing, unless the chairman of the board shall certify in writing to all members that there is no pending business for the board.

**1586. Special Sessions.** The Board of Review shall meet at other times and places of its own choosing as deemed neces-

sary, or as requested by the General Board of Administration or its Executive Council.

### C. Organization and Procedure

1588. Organization and procedure for the Board of Review shall be:

(1) **Organization.** The Board of Review shall organize itself and shall elect, from among its own members, a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and such other officers as deemed necessary.

(2) **Procedure.** The Board of Review shall decide on its own methods and rules of procedure and shall adopt such bylaws as deemed necessary, provided such do not contravene any provisions of *The Discipline*. All parties shall file their briefs and arguments and shall present evidence under such rules as the Board of Review shall adopt from time to time.

(3) **Quorum.** Seven members shall constitute a quorum. A decision of the Board of Review on the constitutionality of an act by the General Conference shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Board, and on all other matters a majority vote of all members of the Board shall be sufficient.

1589. **Records.** The Board of Review shall see that complete and accurate minutes are kept of all proceedings, testimonies, evidence, documents, and findings, certified copies of which shall be forwarded promptly after each session to the General Secretary-Treasurer (763:5).

1590. **Notification.** After each session of the Board of Review, an official summary of the Board's decisions on points of church law or interpretations of *The Discipline*, as prepared by the secretary and attested to by the chairman, shall be published in *The Wesleyan Advocate*. A decision of the Board of

Review which is not overruled by the General Conference shall be incorporated in *The Discipline*.

1591. **Finances.** Expense allowances for members of the Board of Review shall be the same as for members of the General Board of Administration, when the members of the Board of Review are engaged in official business, and payment therefore shall be made by the General Secretary-Treasurer. The party making appeal shall be responsible for the expenses involved in attending to the appeal.

#### D. Duties and Powers

1593. The jurisdiction and duties of the Board of Review are set forth in the Constitution (180-182) and as provided for herewith:

(1) To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference, upon the appeal of the Board of General Superintendents or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference (181:1; 740:23). An act of the General Conference that is declared as unconstitutional by the Board of Review shall be null and void (cf. 650:3).

(2) To render a judgment on the constitutionality of any memorial or proposed legislation to be acted upon by the General Conference, when the General Conference shall so request, by a majority vote, and to notify the General Conference immediately of such judgment (cf. 181:1).

(3) To hear and determine any appeal from a ruling of the Board of General Superintendents on a point of church law, an interpretation of *The Discipline*, or the validity of an action by a district as set forth in 740:20-21 (181:2).

(4) To hear and determine any appeal concerning the legality of any action by any general Church board upon appeal of one-third of the members thereof or by request of the Board of General Superintendents (181:3; 740:23).

(5) To have jurisdiction over the issues arising between a district and the General Conference, or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, between a district and the General Board of Administration, as follows (181:6):

(a) To hear and determine a complaint by a district against the General Conference, provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a two-thirds vote of the district conference (181:6; 473:44).

(b) To hear and determine a complaint by a district against the General Board of Administration in the interim of General Conference sessions, provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a majority vote of the district conference (473:44) or by a two-thirds vote of the district board of administration (486:36), and further provided that the subject of the complaint concerns the district by which it is presented.

(c) To hear and determine any charges against a district, alleging an offense as set forth in 1512, provided that such charges are preferred by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration; to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused district; and, if necessary, to recommend to the General Conference, or in the interim of General Conference sessions, to the General Board of Administration the placing of the district under discipline (cf. 650:22, 25; 691:57; 1543-1547).

(6) To have jurisdiction over any complaints between districts; to hear and determine such complaints or charges, provided that such are sustained by a two-thirds vote of the district conference presenting the complaint (181:4; 473:44).

(7) To hear and determine any appeal from the judgment of a district judicial committee or district board of review (1526; 1528:5; 1530:4).

(8) To hear and determine the validity of complaints against books used in the correspondence courses of study and by the

educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church (181:5; cf. 941:2).

(9) To hear and determine such cases as shall be referred to it by the General Conference or the General Board of Administration.

### **E. Appeals**

1594. A decision of the Board of Review shall be final until overruled by the General Conference by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting (182). An appeal may be presented to the General Conference by either party involved in the judgment. The General Conference may hear and determine such appeals or may create a special judicial committee to hear the appeals and present its recommendations to the General Conference for final determination.

## Chapter IX

### DEFINITION OF TERMS FOR THE JUDICIARY

1598. The terms used in this Judiciary are defined as follows:

(1) **Accusation.** A written representation alleging an offense by a member or minister of The Wesleyan Church (1552).

(2) **Charge.** A written statement alleging an offense as set forth in 1511-1512, accompanied by specifications, for which a trial may be conducted (1559).

(3) **Church.** The Wesleyan Church.

(4) **Complaint.** A written representation of a grievance by a member(s) or minister(s) against the local church or higher authority; a written grievance by one unit against a unit of equal authority, or of a lower church body against a higher church body.

(5) **Deaconess.** A woman who is commissioned or licensed as a deaconess by a district conference as set forth in 1181-1185.

(6) **Discipline.** *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church as currently legislated and declared from time to time (100).

(7) **Judicatory.** An officially constituted board or committee for the hearing of charges or appeals. The judicatories of The Wesleyan Church are local judicial committee, district judicial committee, district board of review, general conference judicial committee, and the general Board of Review.

(8) **Member.** A full member of The Wesleyan Church, and unless otherwise specified includes all elders, licensed ministers, and others commissioned or licensed by a district.

(9) **Minister.** An elder or licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church.

(10) **Official Body.** A conference or board having jurisdiction over members or ministers of The Wesleyan Church in matters of administrative or judicial discipline. The official bodies having jurisdiction over disciplinary proceedings are the local church conference and the local church board, the district conference and the district board of administration, and the General Conference and the General Board of Administration.

(11) **Special Worker.** A member of The Wesleyan Church commissioned or licensed as a special worker by the district conference as set forth in 1187-1190.

# PART XI. THE RITUAL

## Chapter I

### BAPTISM

#### A. Dedication and Baptism of Infants

1601. (*The following ritual is adaptable for use whether the parents or guardians desire to dedicate their child without the sacrament of baptism or to dedicate him through the sacrament of baptism, and for services where more than one child is presented and both types of dedication are desired. When the parents or guardians or other sponsors have presented themselves with the child before the minister at his call, the minister shall say:*)

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

But in order that this may be accomplished, it will be your duty as *parents* to teach *this child* early the fear of the Lord; to watch over *his* education, that *he* may not be led astray by false teachings or doctrines, to direct *his* mind to the Holy Scriptures as expressing the will and authority of God for all mankind, and to direct *his* feet to the sanctuary, to restrain *him* from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lieth, to "bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Will you endeavor to do so, by the help of the Lord?

\*Throughout the Ritual, whenever a word may change form due to the sex or number of persons to whom ~~the ritual~~ is being administered on a given occasion, that word is printed in italics to alert the minister who reads. "This child" may become "these children," "he" may become "she" or "they," etc.

*(Then the parents or guardians shall answer:)*

We will.

*(Then the minister shall read the following Scripture lesson:)*

“And they brought young children to him, that he should 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 the minister shall ask the parents or guardians of each child to be dedicated without the sacrament of baptism, if there are such, the name of the child, take him in his arms, place his right hand upon the child's head, and say:)*

In behalf of the *parents* and of this congregation, I dedicate \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall address the parents or guardians of children to be dedicated through the sacrament of baptism, if there are such:)*

You have brought your *child* to be dedicated to the service of *his* Creator, and to receive baptism as the sign and seal of God's covenant of grace. It thus becomes your duty to teach *him*, as soon as *he* is able to learn, the nature and meaning of this holy sacrament, and to seek to lead *him* to affirm your act of dedication by opening *his* heart to that inner work of grace of which baptism is the outward sign.

*(Then the minister shall ask the parents or guardians the name of the child, take him in his arms, and baptize him, saying:)*

\_\_\_\_\_ ; I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall pray:)*

Our loving heavenly Father, we do here and now dedicate *these children* unto thee, praying that *they* may be endued with heavenly virtues, taught by thy Holy Spirit, nourished by thy Word, kept by divine grace, and everlastingly rewarded through thy eternal mercies. Grant unto these *parents* grace and wisdom and strength that they may understand the greatness of their responsibility, and may be enabled to lead *these children* by precept and example in the narrow way of life, that both *parents* and *children* may come to thy everlasting kingdom, which thou hast promised through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### B. Baptism of Children

1606. *(The following ritual may be used whenever simplicity of thought and expression are important, whether for children or adults. When the candidate for baptism has presented himself before the minister at his call, the minister shall say:)*

Dearly beloved, in keeping with the example of Jesus, you have presented *yourself* this day that you might receive the sacrament of baptism. Baptism is not itself the door to salvation, but rather is an outward sign of the new birth which God has wrought in your heart. It proclaims to all the world that you have taken Christ Jesus as the Lord of your life, and that it is your purpose always to obey Him. In order that we may hear your testimony of what God has done for you, and that we may know that you understand the significance of the step you are taking, we want to ask you these questions.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour,

and do you desire to be baptized in His name?

Answer. I do.

Do you intend by this act to testify to all the world that you are a Christian and will be a loyal follower of Christ?

Answer. I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer. I do.

Trusting God to help you, will you resist temptation always and keep from doing those things which you know to be sinful or displeasing to God, and will you do those things you know a Christian should do?

Answer. I will.

*(Then the minister shall ask each candidate to state his name, and shall sprinkle or pour water upon him, or if desired, immerse him in water, saying:)*

\_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall pray:)*

Our heavenly Father, the author of life eternal, we ask that thou shalt continue the work of grace which thou hast begun in *this life*. Watch over thy *child*, protect *him* from sin and wrong, and hold *him* fast in the way of righteousness. Grant *him* that greater baptism of the Holy Spirit which will free *him* from carnal affections and cause every Christian grace and virtue to grow in *his heart*. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### C. Baptism of Adults

1611. *(The following ritual is to be used with adults and youth who prefer the traditional form of the sacrament of baptism. When the candidate for baptism has presented himself before the minister at his call, the minister shall say:)*

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

*(Then the minister shall pray:)*

Almighty God, the helper of all who have need, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; we call upon thee for *this person*, that in coming to thy holy baptism, *he* may by this rite testify truthfully to that inner washing through faith in the precious blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and that *he* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of this heavenly washing and come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall say:)*

Here the words of the Saviour as recorded in Matthew 28: 19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

*(Then the minister shall address the candidate saying:)*

Beloved, you have presented *yourself* for holy baptism, You have heard how the congregation has prayed that God would continue His loving favor toward you and bring you unto His eternal kingdom. And God, the covenant-keeping God, has promised His only begotten Son that He would grant these gracious favors. Wherefore you must promise upon your part in the presence of this congregation that you, renouncing

the devil and all his works, will implicitly believe God's holy Word and obediently keep His commandments.

*(Then shall the minister ask of each candidate severally:)*

Do you renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

**Answer.** I renounce them all.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord, and that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, that He rose again on the third day, that He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead? And do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**Answer.** All this I steadfastly believe.

Do you desire to be baptized in this faith?

**Answer.** This is my desire.

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

**Answer.** I will endeavor to do so, God being my helper.

*(Then the minister shall ask each candidate to state his name, and shall sprinkle or pour water upon him, or if desired, immerse him in water, saying:)*

\_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall pray:)*

Almighty and everlasting God, Author of life eternal, grant

that the regenerating grace which thou hast so mercifully granted to *this person* may not have been bestowed in vain. Grant also that *he* may enjoy that greater baptism of the Holy Spirit which will free *him* from carnal affections and cause every Christian grace and virtue to grow in *his heart*. Grant that *he* may have constant victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, and that *he* may enjoy the fullness of thy grace and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### D. Affirmation of Parental Vows

1616. A person who was baptized as an infant, upon coming to maturity and being converted, and desiring to make personal the vows earlier taken in his behalf by his parents, may do so by publicly answering the questions in the Ritual of Baptism as given in 1606 or 1611, and as directed by his pastor.

## Chapter II

### RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

1621. When candidates for full membership, preparatory membership, junior membership, or associate membership have been approved for reception as given in 226-234, the pastor shall appoint a time during a regular worship service for their public reception, and he or his representative shall preside over the service of reception. In those churches in which the local churches must vote on the reception of full members, such vote should be taken at a meeting prior to the service of reception. Paragraph 1624, "Reception of Full Members," has the authority of statutory law, and must be followed as prescribed.

1622. The service of reception may begin with a hymn and Scripture reading such as one of those listed below, and with the administration of the sacrament of baptism to any who have not previously received it.

Hymn. "The Church's One Foundation," "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord," "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

Scripture Lesson. Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:4-27; Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16; 5:25b-27.

#### 1623. Introductory Remarks.

Minister. Dearly beloved, the privileges and blessings which we have in association together in the Church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. Christ so loved the Church, that He gave himself for it, sanctifying himself that the Church might be sanctified. He deigned to speak of himself as the Head of the Church and of the Church as His body; and again He spoke of himself as the husband and of the Church as His bride. As Christ gave of himself unselfishly, He asked

the Church to share its glorious relationship with all mankind, and sent it into the world to preach the Scriptures, to save the lost, to administer the sacraments, to maintain Christian fellowship and discipline, and to edify the believer until He comes again. All of us, whatever our age or station, stand in need of Christ's Church and of those means of grace which it alone makes available.

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

#### 1624. Reception of Full Members.

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

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

Minister. Beloved in the Lord, you are come hither seeking union with the Church of Jesus Christ. We rejoice that you are minded to undertake the privileges and the duties of membership in The Wesleyan Church. Before you are fully admitted thereto, you should here publicly and individually make your vows, confess your faith, and declare your pur-

pose, by answering the following questions.

**Minister.** Have you the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God?

**Candidate.** I do.

**Minister.** Have you the witness of the Spirit that you have been sanctified wholly? If not, will you diligently seek this grace?

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

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

**Candidate.** It is.

**Minister.** Do you cordially accept our Articles of Faith, our General Rules, our Elementary Principles, and our church polity, set forth in *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church, as the exponent of your faith and your rule of conduct?

**Candidate.** I do.

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

**Candidate.** Yes, I will.

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

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

denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, you will live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

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

Candidate. I do.

#### 1625. Reception of Transfers from Other Denominations.

Minister. There *are those* who *have* found Christ in some other branch of His Church, but who now *desire* to transfer *their* membership to The Wesleyan Church, and who *have* presented *themselves* for reception as full *members* by transfer. To *them* we address this question.

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

Transferee. I do.

#### 1626. Other Categories of Membership.

Minister. The Church of Jesus Christ is not only for those who are spiritually strong and mature, but it is intended by its Head and Master for all who know Him as Saviour and who love and serve Him as Lord. There are those who are not yet ready for full membership in The Wesleyan Church, either because they are young in Christ or young in years, or because they do not feel free to assume all of the respon-

sibilities which go with full membership. For these, the Church has provided the categories of preparatory membership, junior membership, and associate membership, that they may enjoy its pastoral care and spiritual nurture, and that they may grow in grace and knowledge until they take their place in full relation to the Church. *These have* come now that *they* may be questioned and received as *their experience, age, and commitment make* fitting.

#### 1627. Reception of Preparatory Members.

**Minister.** To those who *have* so recently been converted to Christ, who *desire* to study and grow toward spiritual maturity, and who *have* here presented *themselves* for reception as preparatory members, we address these questions.

**Minister.** Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

**Candidate.** Yes, He does.

**Minister.** Will you endeavor to profit from the instruction the church shall provide, to acquaint *yourselves* with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of our Church, to govern your *lives* by its rules as God shall give you understanding, and to prepare *yourselves* with all diligence for full membership?

**Candidate.** I will.

#### 1628. Reception of Junior Members.

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

**Minister.** Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

**Candidate.** Yes, He does.

**Minister.** Is it your purpose that you shall grow spiritually as well as physically, and that you shall study daily in private

devotions and regularly at the church so as to prepare for a fuller place of service?

Candidate. Yes, it is.

#### 1629. Reception of Associate Members.

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

Minister. Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Candidate. Yes, He does.

Minister. Do you desire to be associated with The Wesleyan Church, do you accept the doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as expressed in our Articles of Religion, and will you seek to live so as to edify the church and to strengthen its spiritual life and fellowship?

Candidate. Yes, this is my desire and purpose.

#### 1630. Response of the Church.

Minister. May the members of the church now stand and join me in welcoming *these* new *ones* to our fellowship, assuring *them* of our love, of our prayers, of our care over *them* in days to come.

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

#### 1631. Prayer.

Minister. O God of the Church, we thank thee for the blessing of Christian fellowship, for joining together in one body all those who truly believe in Jesus Christ, thy Son. We thank thee for *these* who this day are becoming a part of this local church, this branch of Christ's body. Grant to *them*

the grace and strength *they* shall need to fulfill *their* vows, and bind our hearts together in thy holy love, that we may aid each other and that together we may share thy gospel with the world for which Christ died. In His name we pray. Amen.

**1632. Right Hand of Fellowship.**

**Minister.** And now, in behalf of The Wesleyan Church and of this local congregation, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship, welcoming you as *members* with us of the body of Christ.

**1633.** The service of reception may close with a hymn and a benediction such as the following:

**Hymn.** "Blest Be the Tie," "Onward, Christian Soldiers," "Lead On, O King Eternal," "Soldiers of Christ, Arise."

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

## Chapter III

### LORD'S SUPPER

#### A. General Directions

1641. The Lord's Supper shall be observed in each local Wesleyan church at least once each three months (cf. 294:6).

1642. It is expected that Wesleyan ministers shall carefully admonish the people that only those who are in right relations with God and with their fellowmen should come to the Lord's table, and that others should come only if in so doing they are expressing repentance and seeking forgiveness.

1643. Only unfermented grape juice shall be used in observing the Lord's Supper. It is recommended that only unleavened bread be used.

#### B. Order of the Lord's Supper—Longer Form

1646. *(The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The minister shall address the congregation, saying:)*

#### Call to Worship

The Lord Jesus himself instituted the holy sacrament we call the Lord's Supper, giving it to the disciples as a means of remembering Him until He comes again, and as a seal of the new covenant between God and man. This service is therefore a time of special sacredness and we can only be properly prepared by having our hearts and minds inclined to reverent worship, and by being freed of all things contrary to the divine nature and purpose. Therefore let us bow in a period of silent prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and to bring us into conformity with the holy God we serve.

*(The minister shall allow sufficient time for each to prepare himself for the service, and then shall pray:)*

### Invocation

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

### Hymns

*(Then the congregation shall sing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed," "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Arise, My Soul, Arise," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," "Rock of Ages," "There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood.")*

### Scripture Readings

*(Then the minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; Rom. 5:1-2, 6-12, 18-21; I Cor. 10:16-17; I Cor. 11:23-29; Eph. 1:3-12; 2:1-10,12-22; Heb. 9:11-17,22-28; I Pet. 1:18-23; 2:21-25.)*

### Prayer

*(Then the minister shall pray:)*

Almighty God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men, we acknowledge that in thy sight all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Outside of Christ we are sinners, and it is only through His atonement that we are forgiven and cleansed. Whatever there is of purity and virtue in our hearts or in our lives is the product of thy grace. We come today to remember once again how Christ procured our salvation. And as we do, we ask that the Holy Spirit shall search our hearts. If we have committed any act which is displeasing unto thee, or neglected any duty which would have honored thee, reveal it and forgive, we pray. Or if there is any tendency to disobedience, to the love of the world, or to the

exaltation of self, reveal it and purge it from our hearts, we pray. Thou hast told us that if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Our hope, our trust, our righteousness are in Him alone. Have mercy upon us for His sake, and grant that we may serve and please thee in newness of life and purity of heart, world without end, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Sermon, Hymn, Instructions

*(Then the minister may preach a sermon on some phase of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards the congregation may sing another hymn such as one of those listed above. Then the minister shall direct the people as to the plan for the distribution of the elements of the Supper, either directing them to come and kneel at the altar or to be served while seated, in either instance using this invitation:)*

### Invitation

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

*(When all are in place, the minister shall remove the cloth, folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the minister shall pray the prayer of consecration:)*

### Consecration of Bread and Wine

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption: accept our praise, we beseech thee. We thank thee for thy love, for the gift of thy

Son, for the sacrifice He made in our behalf, for the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing of our hearts, for the present witness of thy Holy Spirit to our hearts that we are thy children. Grant that, as we receive these thy creatures of bread and wine, in remembrance of Christ's death and passion, in communion with thee and with thy children, we may be made partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took bread;

*(Here the minister may take the plate of bread into his hand.)*

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper He took the cup;

*(Here he may take in his hand the vessel from which the wine is to be poured, or the tray of individual cups.)*

and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

#### Distribution of Bread and Wine

*(Then the minister shall direct the distribution of the elements. He may either first kneel at the table himself and partake, then serve other ministers who may be assisting him, and then serve the people; or he may direct first the distribution of the bread with all holding their portion until he joins them in simultaneous participation, and then the distribution of the wine in the same manner.*

*(In either instance, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the bread, he shall read the following:)*

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take

and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in thy heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

*(And in like manner, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the wine, he shall read the following:)*

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

*(After all have partaken, let that which remains of the consecrated elements be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then let the minister and congregation join in saying:)*

#### Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy 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.

#### Benediction

*(Then the minister shall conclude the service with this benediction:)*

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

#### C. Order of the Lord's Supper—Shorter Form

1656. *(The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following:*

*Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; Rom. 5:1-2,6-12,18-21; I Cor. 10:16-17; I Cor. 11:23-29; Eph. 1:3-12; 2:1-10,12-22; Heb. 9:11-17,22-28; I Peter 1:18-23; 2:21-25.*

*(Then the congregation shall sing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed," "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Arise, My Soul, Arise," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," "Rock of Ages," "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood.")*

*(Then the minister shall call the congregation to kneel at the altar, using this invitation:)*

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

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

O God of grace and mercy, we thank thee that thou didst ever love us and provide for our redemption. We thank thee for thy Son who died to save us, and for thy Spirit who invites us to draw near. Guide us now as we commemorate the passion of our Lord. Help us to remember the cost of our salvation. Help us to commune with thee and with each other. And so consecrate the bread and wine which is here prepared, that as we partake of them we may receive the spiritual benefits of Christ's broken body and shed blood. In His name we pray. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall first serve himself the bread, and then distribute it to the people, saying:)*

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for

you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in thy heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

*(Then the minister shall first serve himself the wine, and then distribute it to the people, saying:)*

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

*(After all have partaken, let that which remains of the consecrated elements be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then let the minister pronounce the benediction:)*

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

## Chapter IV

### MARRIAGE

#### A. Marriage Ceremony—Longer Form

1661. *(At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:)*

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and His Church. This holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence in Cana of Galilee, and the Apostle Paul commended as honorable among all men. It is not therefore to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

*(Speaking to the persons to be married, the minister shall say:)*

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other human ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If these solemn vows be faithfully kept, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, your life will be full of joy, and the home you are establishing will abide in peace.

*(Then shall the minister address the man by name, and ask:)*

Will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her, in sick-

ness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

*(The man shall answer:)*

I will.

*(Then shall the minister address the woman by name, and ask:)*

Will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

*(The woman shall answer:)*

I will.

*(Then shall the minister ask:)*

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

*(The father of the woman, or whoever gives her in marriage, shall answer:)*

I do (or Her mother and I)

*(Then the minister shall cause the man and woman to join right hands, and shall cause the man, using their given names, to say after him:)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

*(Then shall the minister cause the woman, using their given names, to say after him:)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to

God's holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

*(Then shall the minister say:)*

By seeking the ministry of the Church, you have expressed your conviction that marriage is more than a legal contract, but rather a bond of union sealed in heaven. Henceforth you shall no longer be two but one. Your paths will be united; your responsibilities will increase, but your strength and your joys will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest in your relations one to the other, and with God who has witnessed and sealed this covenant. Let us pray.

*(Here may be offered the following prayer, or an extemporaneous prayer closing with the Lord's Prayer.)*

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of life everlasting, let thy blessing descend and rest upon these thy children, whom we bless in thy name. Bless this marriage and make it to them the source of abundant and enduring good. Look graciously upon them that they may love, honor, and cherish each other. May their mutual affection never know change, doubt, nor decay. Direct and strengthen them in the discharge of all their duties. Bless the home which they establish. Teach them to order their household wisely and well, and to regard all their possessions as thy gifts to be employed in thy service. May they so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Then shall the minister cause the man and woman to join right hands, and placing his hand on top of theirs shall say:)*

Forasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, and this company, and 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

Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder. Amen.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

### B. Marriage Ceremony—Shorter Form

1662. (*At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:*)

My friends, the ordinance of marriage was instituted by God himself in the garden of Eden, and is one of the most solemn and binding of obligations, because it involves the sacred relations of the home and 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, if you would reap the full fruition of happiness in your marriage.

If, with full and free consent, and thoughtful determination to keep the marriage covenant, you desire to enter the holy estate of marriage, you will acknowledge the same by taking the other by the right hand.

(*With their hands joined, the minister shall address the man by name, and ask:*)

Will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

*(The man shall answer:)*

I will.

*(Then the minister shall address the woman by name, and ask:)*

Will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

*(The woman shall answer:)*

I will.

*(Then the minister shall place his right hand upon their joined hands and say:)*

Since they have taken the marriage covenant before God, and in the presence of these witnesses, by the authority committed unto me as a minister of the church of Jesus Christ, I declare that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God and the law of the state, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder. Amen.

*(Then the minister shall offer an appropriate prayer.)*

## Chapter V

### BURIAL OF THE DEAD

1681. At the House, Church, or Funeral Chapel.

#### Opening Sentences

*(The minister shall open the service with an opening sentence, such as one of the following:)*

"I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:25-27a).

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof" (Ps. 46:1-3).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (John 5:25).

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26a).

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (II Cor. 1:3-4).

"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things

which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor. 4:17-18).

"I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Tim. 4: 6-8).

### Hymn

*(Then a hymn shall be sung, or played. Then the minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following:)*

### Scripture Readings

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain: he 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).

"Now is Christ risen from the 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. . . . So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15: 20-26, 51-52, 54-58).

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto

our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Rev. 7: 9-17).

#### Prayer

*(Then the minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer or use the following prayer:)*

O God of life, as we have learned to do in all our experiences, we come to thee in the hour of death. We know that thou dost love us, and that thou canst turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us now to wait before thee with reverent and submissive hearts. Make this a time of opening our eyes and our understanding, and a time of admonition to our hearts and souls. Bless those who feel this sorrow most keenly, and cause the bonds of Christian love to bind us close together, so that we may share with them that spiritual strength and that faith in God which is ours through the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

#### Message and Prayer

*(Then the minister shall preach a funeral message. He may close with an extemporaneous prayer, and the following benediction:)*

**Benediction**

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

1691. At the Graveside.

**Scripture Readings**

*(The minister shall read a brief Scripture lesson, such as one of the following:)*

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore" (Ps. 121).

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:1-6).

**Committals**

*(Then the minister shall read one of the following Committals:)*

"Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His wise

providence, to take out of the world the soul of the departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the resurrection and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose second coming the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and shall be made like unto His glorious body according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto himself."

"And now, as we stand beside this open grave, in this silent city of the dead, we commit this body to the ground; and we commit the spirit, O our Father, together with every sacred interest of our hearts, into thy keeping; praying thee that thou wilt deal graciously and mercifully with each of us, until we too shall come to thee in glory, through riches of grace in Jesus our Lord."

#### Prayer and Benediction

*(Then the minister may offer a brief extemporaneous prayer, and conclude with the following benediction:)*

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Chapter VI

# ORDINATION OF ELDERS

### A. Regulations

1701. That portion of the Ritual of Ordination entitled, "Examination of Candidates," has the authority of statutory law, and must be followed as prescribed.

1702. The ordination service shall be presided over by the General Superintendent, if present (743:14), in cooperation with the district superintendent (511:23), and they shall be assisted in the various parts of the service and in the act of ordination by a council of ordination (546; 1119:6).

### B. The Order of the Ordination of Elders

#### Call to Worship

1711. (*The minister presiding over the ordination service shall commence the service with a Call to Worship, such as Isa. 52:7; I Cor. 1:21-24; II Cor. 4:5-6).*)

#### Hymn

(*Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: "Lord, Speak to Me," "A Charge to Keep I Have," "Lead on, O King Eternal," "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," "Conquering Now and Still to Conquer."*)

#### Invocation

(*Then the minister appointed shall give the invocation:*)

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit hast appointed elders in the Church, grant us thy assistance in this service given to the ordination of such elders, and mercifully behold *these* thy *servants*, now called to this office, and replenish *them* so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn *them* with innocency of life, that both by word and good example *they* may faithfully serve thee in this office to

the glory of thy name and the edification of thy Church, through the merits of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

### Sermon

*(Then the minister appointed shall preach the ordination sermon, cf. 743:14.)*

### Presentation of Candidates

*(Then the district superintendent or his appointee shall present to the presiding minister those who are to be ordained, saying:)*

I present (*read names aloud*) to be ordained as elders in the Church of God.

*(Then the presiding minister 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 that *they are* lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that *they are* qualified for the same. If any here know any impediment for which *any one of them* ought not to be received into this holy ministry, let him come forth in the name of God, and show what that impediment is.

*(Then the appointed ministers shall read the Epistle and the Gospel, respectively:)*

### The Epistle

"I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach . . . the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ. . . .

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 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 fullness of Christ" (Eph. 3:7-9; 4:11-13).

### The Gospel

Then said Jesus . . . I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:7a, 9-16).

### The Charge

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall address the candidates, giving the charge:)*

You have heard, *brethren*, as well in your private examination as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel and the writings of the apostles, of what dignity and what great importance this office is, unto which you are called. You are *messengers*,

*watchmen*, and *stewards* of the Lord, called to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for His children who are in the midst of this evil world that they may be saved through Christ forever.

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

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

## Examination of Candidates

*(Then the presiding minister shall administer the examination to the candidates:)*

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

Is it your sincere conviction that you have been called of God to the office and work of an elder in the Church of God?

**Answer.** That is my sincere conviction.

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

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

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

**Answer.** I do, in the fear of God.

Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine, and sacraments, and disciplines of Christ, as the Lord has commanded?

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

Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word, and to use both public and private monitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Covenant with Candidates' Wives

*(Then if it is so desired, the presiding minister may call the wives of the candidates to come and stand beside them, each one at her husband's left side, and shall address them saying:)*

Each of you have just heard the response of your *husband* in which *he* affirms *his* call to the holy ministry as an elder in the Church of God. As *his* companion, do you confirm this call of God upon your lives, and will you to the best of your ability be *his* helpmate in the several ministries to which God in His providence may lead you?

**Answer.** Yes, by the grace of God.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Purpose**

*(Then shall the presiding minister, or other appointed minister, pray the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Purpose:)*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bless and magnify thy holy name for the gift of thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and for all His apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors, whom He hath sent abroad into the world. For these here present, whom thou hast called to the same holy office and ministry, we render unto thee our most hearty thanks. And now, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee to grant that by these thy ministers, and by those over whom they shall be appointed, thy holy name may be forever glorified, and thy blessed Kingdom enlarged; through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

**Act of Ordination**

*(Then the candidates for ordination shall kneel, and, if so desired, their wives may kneel at their sides, and the presiding minister and the council of ordination shall lay their hands severally upon the head of each one, and the presiding minister shall say:)*

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Spirit, for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God. And be a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of His holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(They shall continue to kneel, and the presiding minister shall deliver to each one of them the Bible into his hands, and shall say:)*

Take thou authority to preach the Word of God, to administer the holy sacraments, and to perform all the duties of an elder in the Church of God.

### Prayer for Enduement

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pray the Prayer of Enduement:)*

Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon these thy servants thy heavenly blessings: that they may be clothed with righteousness, that thy Word spoken in their mouths may have success and that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and to receive what they shall deliver out of thy most holy Word, or what agrees to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory, and the increase of thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Right Hand of Fellowship

*(The newly ordained elders shall then arise, and the presiding minister and the members of the council of ordination shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming him to the work and labors of the ministry. Then the presiding minister may direct the congregation to file by and greet the new elders, or he or other appointed minister shall close the service with the following benediction:)*

### Benediction

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

## Chapter VII

### COMMISSIONING OF DEACONESSES

#### 1721. Order of Commissioning of Deaconesses.

The service of consecration in the commissioning of a deaconess shall be under the direction of the council of ordination (546; 1184).

#### Invocation

*(The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give an extemporaneous invocation:)*

#### Hymn

*(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: "Lord, I Have Shut the Door," "Take My Life, and Let It Be," "Rescue the Perishing," "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling," "Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming.")*

#### Scripture Reading

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as: Matt. 25:31-40; Luke 10:25-42.)*

#### Sermon

*(Then a sermon or address may be given, declaring the nature of the office and duty of a deaconess.)*

#### Presentation of Candidates

*(Then the appointed person shall bring the candidates and present them to the presiding minister, saying:)*

I present (read names) unto you to be commissioned as deaconesses.

*(Then the presiding officer shall say:)*

Dearly beloved, *these are they* whom we purpose this day to commission as *deaconesses* in The Wesleyan Church. After inquiry and examination we discover that *they* have met the

stated requirements of the church, and we believe *them* to be worthy and proper *persons* for this office.

#### Address to Candidates

*(Then the presiding minister shall address the candidates, saying:)*

Dearly beloved, we rejoice that in the providence of God, a door of usefulness has been opened to you in the service of the church. In our Master's vineyard there are various forms of labor, and to each disciple some fitting task is assigned; but to you are accorded peculiar privileges and priceless opportunities. Released from other cares you give yourself without reservation to the service of the Lord, ready for any service which may fall to your lot. Like our Master, you will henceforth go about doing good, ministering as He did to the wants of a suffering, sorrowing, and sinning world. You are to minister to the poor, visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering, comfort the sorrowing, offer pardon to the sinner, and be ever ready to take up any other duty for which willing hands cannot otherwise be found. You have not entered upon this solemn responsibility lightly, and doubtless already in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have consecrated *yourselves* to this office and work. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the church.

#### Questioning of the Candidates

*(Then the presiding minister shall cause the candidates to stand before him, and shall question them individually.)*

Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this office?

Answer. I do.

Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation,

promise faithfully to perform the duties of a deaconess in The Wesleyan Church?

Answer. I do.

Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?

Answer. I so accept it, and will so walk in its light.

Will you strive to walk so close to your Saviour's side, and so ever be filled with His Spirit, that you will carry His blessed presence to the hearts and homes of those to whom you minister?

Answer. I will endeavor to do so.

Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may set over you in the doing of your work?

Answer. I will cheerfully do so.

#### Consecration of the Candidates

*(Then the candidates shall kneel for a brief season of silent prayer, after which the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pray:)*

O eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst call Phoebe and Dorcas into the service of thy church, look upon *these thy servants* who *are* to be set apart to the office of deaconess. Give to *them*, we pray thee, such understanding of thy holy gospel, such firmness of Christian purpose, such diligence in service, and such beauty of life in Christ, that *they* may be to all whom *they* teach or serve a worthy revelation of the meaning and power of the Christian life. May *they* so order *their* time and nourish *their minds* and *hearts* that *they* may constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and steadily increase in the ability to lead others unto Him. Grant that *they* may have strength of body, mind, and soul for the fulfillment of thy will in the holy task to which thou hast called *them*; and grant

*them* thy Holy Spirit, that *they* may worthily discharge the work committed to *them*, to the blessing of mankind and to the praise of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*(Then, while the candidates remain kneeling, the presiding minister shall address them, saying:)*

May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you always. May His holy anointing impart to you grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

#### Act of Commissioning

*(Then the candidates shall arise, and the presiding minister shall take by the hand each one in turn, and say:)*

I commission you to the office of deaconess in The Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Hymn

*(Then a hymn may be sung, such as: "A Charge to Keep I Have," "O Jesus, I Have Promised," "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken.")*

#### Benediction

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall say:)*

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

## Chapter VIII

### COMMISSIONING OF LAY WORKERS

#### 1741. Order of Commissioning of Lay Workers.

*(This ritual is adaptable for use in commissioning any type of lay worker, including special workers, such as director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker; including lay missionaries, such as doctors, nurses, teachers, wives of ordained missionaries, office workers; and including any other lay worker commissioned by his district conference. In each case, the presiding minister and others helping in the commissioning service (cf. 546; 1189; 1192) shall insert the title of the commission being granted in the blanks, and make such other adaptations or modifications as are needed.)*

#### Invocation

*(The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give an extemporaneous invocation.)*

#### Hymn

*(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Take My Life and Let It Be," "Hear Ye the Master's Call," "Give of Your Best to the Master," "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling.")*

#### Scripture Reading

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Acts 2:41-44 and 6:1-8; Rom. 12:4-15; I Cor. 12:4-12.)*

#### Sermon

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister may give a sermon or address declaring the need and function of lay workers.)*

### Presentation of Candidate

*(Then the appointed person shall present the candidates individually to the presiding minister, saying:)*

I present \_\_\_\_\_ unto you to be commissioned as \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Then the presiding minister shall address the congregation, saying:)*

Dearly beloved, *this is he* whom we purpose this day to commission as \_\_\_\_\_ in The Wesleyan Church. After inquiry and examination, we discover that *he has* met the stated requirements of the Church, and we believe *him* to be a worthy and proper person for this service.

### Address to Candidate

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall address the candidate, saying:)*

Dearly beloved, we rejoice that in the providence of God a door of usefulness has been opened to you in the service of the church. It is with infinite wisdom that God has provided diversities of gifts for His workers, distributing and administering them according to His good pleasure through the Holy Spirit. It is with joy that your brethren have watched God's will revealed in your *life*, and your own resolve grow firm to use your *gift* for His glory. Turning aside from worldly interests and pursuits, you are devoting *yourself* to the Lord's work, and to being a helper of the ministry. You will be pouring out of your talent, your time, your possessions, your strength, your very *self* in a living sacrifice to Christ. You have not entered upon this solemn responsibility lightly, and doubtless already in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have consecrated *yourself* to this service. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the church.

### Questioning of Candidate

*(Then the presiding minister shall question the candidate:)*

Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this service?

Answer. I do.

Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of \_\_\_\_\_ in The Wesleyan Church?

Answer. I do.

Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?

Answer. I so accept it, and will so walk in its light.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and in such other devotions as will help you to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Answer. I will.

Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the church may place over you in the doing of your work?

Answer. I will cheerfully do so.

#### Consecration of Candidate

*(Then the candidate shall kneel for a brief season of silent prayer, after which the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pray:)*

O eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst call Stephen, Philip, and other laymen into the service of thy church, look upon *this thy servant* who is to be set apart to service as \_\_\_\_\_. Give to *him*, we pray thee, such understanding of thy holy gospel, such firmness of Christian purpose, such diligence in service, and such beauty of life in Christ, that *he* may be to all whom *he teaches* or *serves* a worthy revelation of the meaning and power of the Christian life. May *he* so order *his* time and nourish *his mind* and *heart* that *he* may constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and steadily increase in the ability to lead others unto Him. Grant that *he* may

have strength of body, mind, and soul for the fulfillment of thy will in the holy task to which thou hast called *him*; and grant *him* thy Holy Spirit, that *he* may worthily discharge the work committed to *him*, to the blessing of mankind and to the praise of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*(Then the presiding minister shall address the candidates, saying:)*

May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you always. May His holy anointing impart to you the grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

#### Act of Commissioning

*(Then the candidate shall rise, and the presiding minister shall take him by the hand and say:)*

I commission you to service as \_\_\_\_\_ in The Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Hymn

*(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee," "O Jesus, I Have Promised," "Work, for the Night Is Coming," "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go.")*

#### Benediction

*(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction:)*

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

## Chapter IX

### INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

#### A. General Regulations

1761. The installation ceremonies provided herewith shall normally be used as a part of some general service of worship, and in most instances the other parts of the service, such as hymns, Scripture readings, and prayers, will need to be supplied, being chosen in such a manner as to give the entire service unity and dignity.

#### B. Installation of a Pastor

##### 1764. Order of Installation of a Pastor.

*(The district superintendent or his representative shall preside over the installation of a pastor (511:23). The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give the invocation:)*

O Lord, merciful God, who hast made known to 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.

*(The presiding minister or other appointed minister may read a Scripture lesson such as John 15:1-8. The presiding minister or other appointed minister may deliver an appropriate message. At the proper time, the presiding minister shall address the congregation, saying:)*

Dearly beloved, we are here assembled in the sight of God to install the Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, who has heeded your call to become the pastor of this church, and

whose installation has been duly authorized by the \_\_\_\_\_  
District of The Wesleyan Church.

*(The pastor shall come and stand before the presiding minister, who shall address him, saying:)*

Dear brother, the duties of your holy office are clearly set forth in the Word of God. As an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are first of all to preach both Law and Gospel, as they are comprehended in the Holy Scriptures and defined in *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church. This you are to do without the addition of private opinion, as the apostle admonishes, "If any speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (I Pet. 4:11).

Whatever is contrary to sound doctrine shall be refuted with all restraint as the Scripture warns, "The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves" (II Tim. 2:24-25a).

Those who are committed to your pastoral care are to be diligently admonished to walk in the commandments of the Lord blamelessly. The erring are to be warned with the fidelity which the Word of the Lord demands of faithful pastors, as the prophet Ezekiel was instructed, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel" (Ezek. 3:17).

You are also to be the steward of the holy sacraments which you are to administer to the comfort of troubled souls.

In view of the Saviour's gracious word, "Suffer the little children to come unto me" (Mark 10:14), the children and youth of the church must in a special sense be the object of your pastoral instruction and care.

The measure of faithfulness with which you are to seek the erring is set forth in the Holy Scriptures in the words of the Apostle Paul who said, "I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31).

The example of holy men of God will impel you to pray diligently for your people and to be a pattern unto them in faith and good works.

Do you therefore earnestly purpose to fulfill with all diligence these duties, and thus be able in this life to answer before the Church of God, and in the life to come to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ?

**Answer.** Yes, I do so purpose, by the help of God.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. . . . watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (II Tim. 4:1-2, 5).

*(The congregation shall rise, and the presiding minister shall address them, saying:)*

And now, dearly beloved, I admonish you to receive as your pastor, the Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, whom God has given you. Accept the Word of God as preached by him, whether it be for your comfort, your admonition, or your instruction, even as Christ has said, "Take heed therefore how ye hear" (Luke 8:18).

Use all diligence that your children receive instruction in the Christian faith and are present with you in the services at God's house, in accordance with the counsel of the Apostle Paul to Christian parents to bring children "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

Pray for your pastor that his ministry may tend to the salvation of many souls, and that through his labors, you, together with him, may be saved.

Honor and esteem him who is to minister to your souls. As the Apostle Paul exhorts, "Know them which labor among

you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and . . . esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves" (I Thess. 5:12-13).

Do you now, as becomes a Christian church, accept these obligations?

Answer. Yes, by the help of God.

*(Then the presiding minister shall address the pastor, saying:)*

Upon these, your solemn mutual promises, I now install you, the Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, as pastor of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Then the presiding minister shall lead in prayer, concluding by leading the congregation in the Lord's Prayer. Then he shall address the congregation and the pastor, saying:)*

The Lord bless you that you may bring forth much fruit and that your fruit may remain.

*(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn such as, "A Charge to Keep I Have." Then the congregation may come forward to greet the pastor and his family at the altar. The pastor shall pronounce the benediction.)*

### C. Installation of Local Church Officers

#### 1768. Order of Installation of Local Church Officers.

*(This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just prior to the time when the newly elected officers shall assume their duties. The congregation may join in singing a hymn, such as: "A Charge to Keep I Have," or "I'll Live for Him Who Died for Me." The pastor may read a Scripture lesson such as Acts 2:41-44 and 6:1-8. Depending upon the number of the officers involved, he may wish to read something concerning their duties from The Discipline. At the proper time, he shall call the*

*newly elected officers before the congregation, and shall address them, saying:)*

Dearly beloved, it is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles that when the early church was growing and the number of disciples was multiplying, and the duties of the church so increased, and so became diversified, that the church called its members together and chose men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to assist in the administering of the affairs of the church; and that the officers thus chosen by the church were set before the apostles, who laid hands on them and prayed, thus setting them apart in the presence of the church to the duties of their honorable office.

In like manner this church, having first sought the guidance of the divine Spirit, has chosen you to similar offices to be associated with the brethren already in office and with the pastor before whom you have now come for public consecration.

Therefore, we, the pastor and the people of this church, call upon you to hear and join in this pledge of trust to Christ and His church.

### **The Officers' Pledge**

Trusting in Jesus Christ, the great Head of the church, I humbly promise Him and His church that I will be faithful to the extent of my ability to all known duties and responsibilities devolving upon me as an officer of this church. I will endeavor to be regular in my attendance, cheerful in my service, wholehearted in my giving, openminded in my planning, patient in the face of trials, persistent in the face of difficulty, and Christlike in my fidelity to His service. I will seek by example and precept the promotion of Christian fellowship amongst all our members and the spreading of the message of full salvation at home and abroad. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer. I do.

*(Then the pastor shall address the congregation, asking them to stand, and saying:)*

We, the pastor and officers of this church, call upon the members and friends of this church to hear and join in this pledge of loyalty to those called of God and elected by the church as its leaders.

### The Church's Pledge

Having chosen these officers to guide us in the administration of the church, we, its members and friends, do now pledge our loyalty to its work and promise our consideration of the plans and our friendly cooperation in the service suggested to us. We acknowledge our duty and declare our determination to pray for all our leaders and to share with them in the glorious responsibility of spreading the good news, thus hastening the coming of Christ. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer. We do.

*(The officers shall then kneel at the altar while the pastor and people offer prayer in their behalf.)*

### D. Installation of District Superintendent

1772. Order of Installation of a District Superintendent.

*(The General Superintendent or his representative shall be in charge of installing the district superintendent before the adjournment of the district conference in which he is elected (743:10). The newly elected district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, secretary, and treasurer, and such other district officers as are desired, shall be called before the General Superintendent, who shall first address the district superintendent, saying:)*

District Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_, today you stand before us along with the other duly elected officers of the district. You have been prayerfully selected by this dis-

trict conference to serve as leader of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church. It is in you that the ministers and members of the various churches within the bounds of this district are investing their confidence and trust. Yours is indeed a position of significant honor and responsibility, and it is only as God is with you that you will be enabled to fill it.

Many will be the problems faced, many the responsibilities carried, many the difficulties encountered, yet with Paul it will be your privilege to know that you may be "troubled . . . yet not distressed; . . . perplexed, but not in despair." And, alongside these graver experiences, there will also be the satisfying reward of steady progress under the smile of God and glorious victories because He has led the way through.

In counseling, may He grant needed grace; in decisions, may He impart of His wisdom; in labors, may your secret be His all-sufficient strength; in administration's numerous phases, may He be your "very present help." The support and cooperation of this body is assured you in the days that lie ahead. Together may you build a district that knows its best days spiritually, numerically, and materially as well.

And now, that we may hear publicly your intention to accept this charge with proper regard for all that is therewith involved, we ask you in the presence of God and of these witnesses, do you accept the office of superintendent of the \_\_\_\_\_ District, and do you hereby solemnly covenant to discharge your duties to God, to The Wesleyan Church, and to all the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ District, according to *The Discipline* and in the fear of God?

Answer. I do, God being my helper.

*(Then the General Superintendent shall address the other district officers, saying:)*

Do you, as officers representing the \_\_\_\_\_

District, covenant to support the district superintendent, and to discharge your several duties to God, to The Wesleyan Church, and to all the members of this district, according to *The Discipline*, and in the fear of God?

**Answer.** We do, God being our helper.

*(Then the General Superintendent shall address the district superintendent, saying:)*

As representative of The Wesleyan Church, I charge you with this responsibility and declare you to be formally installed as superintendent of the \_\_\_\_\_ District, entitled to the rights and privileges thereunto pertaining.

*(Then the General Superintendent shall lead in prayer.)*

#### E. Installation of General Officials

##### 1776. Order of Installation of General Officials.

*(In the parts of the service prior to the actual installation, a Scripture lesson such as I Corinthians 12:14-28 shall be read. The person appointed to preside over the service shall be responsible for giving the various charges, and shall address the congregation, saying:)*

According to Acts, chapter 6, the Holy Spirit led the first-century church to select men for positions of service according to gifts bestowed upon them. So the Holy Spirit has led The Wesleyan Church to choose men believed to be blameless in heart as well as in life, possessing in measure the qualifications for the offices to which they are called. These men we now come to set apart as General Officials and members of the General Board of Administration.

*(Then the chairman shall address those elected as General Superintendents, saying:)*

Will the elected General Superintendents please stand.

(Names of elected) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, the Church has called you to its most honored

and responsible place of leadership, to the office of General Superintendent. This high office is one of great importance and dignity, imposing weighty responsibilities and demanding earnest, arduous, and self-sacrificing labor. In assuming your duties, you become as steward over the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church worldwide.

You have been chosen for the office of General Superintendent because the Church recognizes in you the leadership abilities to carry spiritual and administrative authority in humility that is born of love. Further, you exemplify the high standard for Christian leadership set forth in the Word of God by Paul in the first chapter of his epistle to Titus, when he said, "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:7-9).

Do you accept the office of General Superintendent, and promise that you will faithfully endeavor to discharge your duties as set forth in *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church?

**Answer.** I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to this highest office, and you have declared your willingness to accept it and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your duties as a General Superintendent, you are hereby set apart to this service in the Church.

May faith and courage and knowledge and temperance and patience and godliness and brotherly kindness and charity be in you and abound, so that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in your leadership of the Church. Amen.

*(Then the General Superintendents shall be seated, and the*

chairman shall address those others elected as General Officials, saying:)

Will \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Secretary-Treasurer; \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Editor; \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism; \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Secretary of Educational Institutions; \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Secretary of World Missions; \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Publisher; \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Secretary of Sunday Schools; and \_\_\_\_\_, elected as General Secretary of Youth please stand.

Brethren, The Wesleyan Church has honored you by electing you to stand with the General Superintendents as the General Officials of the Church. These are highly esteemed places of leadership. In assuming these offices, you become the recipients of respect and deference from faithful Wesleyans around the world.

In connection with your respective offices, *The Discipline* charges you under the direction of the General Board of Administration with the responsibility of the business and financial affairs of the Church, the editorship of *The Wesleyan Advocate*, the promotion and administration of the outreach of the Church into new areas of the homeland, the promotion and correlation of the Church's educational institutions, the administration of a program of worldwide missions, the management of The Wesleyan Publishing House, the development and promotion of the work of the Sunday schools, and the development and promotion of the work of the youth of the Church. Your service in these offices will impose duties which can not be faithfully performed without self-denial and self-sacrifice. You must spend and be spent for the Church in the spirit of joyful service. Your election to this office is evi-

dence of the confidence the Church has in you as Christian gentlemen and as leaders. May your leadership always inspire such confidence, to the glory of God.

Do you accept the office to which the Church has elected you, and do you promise to discharge your duties as God may help you?

Answer. I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to these high offices, and you have declared your willingness to accept them and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your several duties, you are now set apart to this service in the Church.

May you be strong to do God's will, and have great joy in your labors. Amen.

*(Then the General Officers shall be seated, and the chairman shall address the area representatives of the General Board of Administration, saying:)*

Will the area representatives of the General Board of Administration please stand.

Brethren, having carefully considered the responsibilities and obligations of service as a member of the General Board of Administration as set forth in *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church, will you, with just appreciation of these responsibilities and obligations, accept this service to which you are called?

Answer. I will.

Will you promise that, always seeking divine help, you will faithfully serve as a member of the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church, assisting to govern and direct its affairs in a manner which will make for peace, purity, and spiritual growth throughout the denomination?

Answer. I will.

*(The General Superintendents and other General Officials shall stand once again, and the chairman shall address them*

*and the area representatives of the General Board of Administration collectively, saying:)*

Forasmuch as you have been chosen by your brethren and have declared your willingness to accept the service to which they have elected you, you are hereby formally recognized as the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church. May you always be worthy of the honor conferred upon you and the trust reposed in you by your brethren. And may God, by whose providence you have been set apart to this service, grant that "the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth," may increase "unto the edifying of itself in love." Amen.

*(Then the chairman shall address the congregation, saying:)*

Have you, members and representatives of The Wesleyan Church, worldwide, seeking the guidance of divine wisdom, chosen the brethren who now stand before you to take charge of your denominational activities and interests as General Officials and members of the General Board of Administration?

**Answer.** We have.

Will you pledge to honor, encourage, and cooperate with them in all things consistent with the will of God, and will you zealously aid them in the discharge of their official duties?

**Answer.** We will.

*(Then the chairman shall address the General Superintendents, other General Officials, and area representatives of the General Board of Administration, saying:)*

Brethren, take to yourselves the office to which you have been called, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Then the chairman shall pray:)*

Set apart, we beseech thee, O Lord, these thy servants to the work whereunto thou hast called them by the voice of the Church.

Endue them with heavenly vision. Grant to them thy grace that they may serve thee well, being full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, administering the work of their office in the fear of the Lord.

Give these thy servants favor and influence throughout thy Church. May thy work increase and advance because of thy blessings and their diligence.

Equip these officers for their respective duties and enable them to be faithful in all things, so that when the Great Shepherd shall appear, each may receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Through Christ we bring this petition. Amen.

#### E. Installation of a College President

##### 1779. Order of Installation of a College President.

*(The chairman of the board of trustees of the involved institution shall formally and officially install a college president at the proper time during the convocation of inauguration. He shall address the president, saying:)*

President \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen as the leader of \_\_\_\_\_ College. The Wesleyan Church is placing under your guidance and leadership not only the physical plant which is about us, the loyal faculty which serves therein, but also the sons and daughters from our homes who are to be nurtured in the Christian tradition. They are the foundation both for tomorrow's Church and for your future constituency.

As president of \_\_\_\_\_ College, yours is both a priceless heritage and a grave responsibility. You are to be the one to whom all institutional personnel are responsible. It will be your task to interpret the college program to the faculty, the student body, the board of trustees, the constituency, and the general public. Yours is one of many educational institutions which through an unending stream of

trained youth constantly condition the thought life of our age. The heritage, the doctrines, and the ideals of The Wesleyan Church will be projected to succeeding generations only as you dedicate yourself to their preservation in the present. And if free institutions are to endure in the society of which we are a part, you must carry a flaming torch of democratic idealism.

In the discharge of these responsibilities, you will need, in some measure at least, the calm spirit of a Moses, the physical strength of a Samson, the patience of a Job, the wisdom of a Solomon, the prophetic vision of an Isaiah, the resoluteness of a Paul, and the constant abiding presence of the matchless Christ, whose Great Commission closed with the words, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

You have been called to this important task because we have confidence in your leadership, in your ability, in your Christian integrity, and in your consecration to the sacred task before you. We pledge to you our cooperation, our financial support, and our prayers for the days which are ahead.

By the authority invested in me as chairman of the board of trustees of \_\_\_\_\_ College, I hereby place in your hands the official seal of the institution as the insignia of your authority and declare you formally installed as president of \_\_\_\_\_ College.

## Chapter X

### DEDICATION SERVICES

#### A. Dedication of a Church Building

##### 1781. Order of Dedication of a Church Building.

###### Call to Worship

*(The pastor or other appointed minister shall give the call to worship:)*

“Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Ps. 100:2-4).

###### Invocation

*(Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give the invocation:)*

O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delightest in the assembling of thy people in the sanctuary; receive us graciously as we come into thy house, and grant, we entreat thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within its walls, that the glory of God may be the light thereof, and that we may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

###### Hymns

*(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: “All Hail the Pow’r of Jesus’ Name,” “O Worship the King,” “The Church’s One Foundation,” “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord.”)*

### Scripture Readings

*(Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: II Chron. 6:1-2, 18-21,40-42; 7:1-4; Ps. 24; Ps. 84; Heb. 10:19-25.)*

### Sermon

*(The district superintendent or a representative of the general church or district or other Wesleyan minister may be asked to deliver a message on the nature and task of the church.)*

### Offering

*(It is much to be desired that all money required for the erection and completion of a house in which to worship God shall be fully provided before the day of dedication; but where this is not done, appeals may be made either just before or following the sermon. No building shall be dedicated to God until approved as financially secure and properly deeded as specified in The Discipline.)*

### Presentation of Building for Dedication

*(Then the district superintendent or his representative shall take his place at the pulpit and the trustees of the church shall stand before him (cf. 511:11). The chairman of the trustees shall address the district superintendent, saying:)*

On behalf of the trustees, the members, and this congregation, I present you this building to be dedicated to God as a place of worship and of service in His kingdom.

### Acceptance of Building for Dedication

*(Then the district superintendent shall respond, saying:)*

Dearly beloved, for countless centuries men have erected buildings for the public worship of God, and have separated them from all unhallowed uses in order to increase man's reverence for God and for those places in which he communes

with Him. We rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of His people to build this house in this place to the glory of His name. I now accept this building, to be known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, to dedicate it, and to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

### Litany of Dedication

*(Then the district superintendent shall cause the congregation to stand and to join him in the responsive litany of dedication:)*

**Leader:** To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by His grace; to the honor of His Son, who loved us and gave himself for us; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;

**Congregation:** We dedicate this house.

**Leader:** For the worship of God in prayer and praise; for the preaching of the everlasting gospel; for the celebration of the holy sacraments;

**Congregation:** We dedicate this house.

**Leader:** For the comfort of all who mourn; for strength to those who are tempted; for light to those who seek the way;

**Congregation:** We dedicate this house.

**Leader:** For the hallowing of family life; for teaching and guiding the young; for the perfecting of the saints;

**Congregation:** We dedicate this house.

**Leader:** For the conversion of sinners; for the sanctification of believers; for the promotion of righteousness; for the extension of the Kingdom of God;

**Congregation:** We dedicate this house.

**Leader:** In the unity of the faith; in the bond of Christian

brotherhood; in charity and good will to all;

**Congregation:** We dedicate this house.

**Leader:** In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church; in loving remembrance of those who have finished their course; in the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

**Congregation:** We dedicate this house.

**All in Unison:** We now, the people of this church and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Prayer of Dedication

*(Then the district superintendent shall give an extemporaneous prayer of dedication, or he may use the following:)*

Almighty God, we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging unto us. We humbly acknowledge that "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Yet we beseech thee, in thy great goodness, accept the dedication of this place to thy service. Prosper this our undertaking. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all these thy servants who shall call upon thee in this house. Give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear. Affect them with a solemn apprehension of thy divine majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness. May they always approach thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion. May they always come before thee with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified. May they always perform a service acceptable to thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymn

*(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: "Lead On, O King Eternal.")*

### Benediction

*(Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction:)*

May thou, O Lord our God, make this house thy abiding place from this day forth, and let thy ministers be clothed with salvation, let thy saints rejoice in goodness all their days, as the blessings of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest and abide upon them. Amen.

### B. Dedication of Parsonage

#### 1791. Order of Dedication of a Parsonage.

*(At the time appointed for the dedication service, an appropriate hymn may be sung by the congregation or by a soloist or choir. Suitable numbers include: "Happy the Home When God Is There," and, "Bless This House." Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give an extemporaneous prayer. Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give a Scripture reading, such as I Cor. 9:7-10, 13-14. Then the district superintendent (cf. 511:11) or his representative shall address the congregation, saying:)*

The Scriptures clearly teach that as Aaron was divinely appointed to the priesthood, even so today men are called to the ministry for the purpose of preaching the Word and otherwise giving aid and comfort to the spiritually needy. In the same divine program it is also "ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (I Cor. 9:14). Providing a house for the pastor is a recognition of his high office and great value to the church. It is a wise provision contributing to his temporal support. This house about to be

dedicated as a pastor's home has been made possible by the generous gifts of those who are interested in the ministry and the church he represents.

*(Then the trustees of the church shall come and stand before the district superintendent, and the chairman of the trustees shall address the district superintendent, saying:)*

On behalf of the trustees, the members, and this congregation, I present this house to be dedicated to God as a home for the man whom He has appointed to pastor this people.

*(Then the district superintendent may give an appropriate discourse gratefully commending the people for providing this house, and charging the pastor to live here in the fear of God and as a faithful servant of the people. Then he shall offer a prayer of dedication, such as the following:)*

O most gracious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee anything belonging to us. Yet we beseech thee that thou wilt accept the dedication of this home to thy service, and that thou wilt prosper this our undertaking.

Grant that whosoever shall dwell in this house shall be so yielded and dedicated to thy service as "vessels sanctified and meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work," that their ministry shall be a heavenly benediction to all they meet.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall enter this the home of thy ministering servants shall be made to sense Thy presence, and as they depart shall be strengthened to walk in thy holy commandments, and that all 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 both to

perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in the holy estate of matrimony in this 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 shalt see to be most expedient for them.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

*(Then the district superintendent shall address the congregation, saying:)*

I now declare this house duly set apart as the residence of the pastor of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church.

*(Then the district superintendent or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction:)*

The Lord bless you, and keep you: the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

## PART XII. FORMS

### Chapter I

#### CHURCH LETTERS

##### A. Letter of Transfer

**1801. Letter Sent by Church Granting Transfer to Another Wesleyan Church (cf. 243-245).**

To the pastor and secretary of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_\* member in good standing in the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of transferring membership to your church, is hereby transferred and commended to your care and fellowship.

By authority and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

The member's relationship at the church granting the letter continues until he is duly received by the church to which he is being transferred.

(\*Insert the proper term, namely **full, preparatory, junior, or associate.**)

**1802. Acknowledgment Sent by Receiving Church (cf. 243).**

To the pastor and secretary of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, for whom you issued a letter of transfer dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_, has been duly received by the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_, and we send you this

acknowledgment in order that you may complete your record of this transfer.

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 Pastor

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 Secretary

### 1803. Notice Sent to Member Being Transferred.

We have on this date, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_, issued a letter of transfer of your membership to the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, commending you to its care and fellowship. May the Lord bless you in your new relationship.

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 Pastor

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 Secretary

### B. Letter of Recommendation

1804. Letter Given to Person Desiring to Transfer to Another Denomination (cf. 249).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, the bearer, has been up to this date an acceptable \_\_\_\_\_\* member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of removing from said church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

By authority and in behalf of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

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 Pastor

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 Secretary

It is understood that this letter of recommendation terminates the bearer's membership in The Wesleyan Church immediately. (\*Insert the proper term, namely **full**, **preparatory**, **junior**, or **associate**.)

**C. Letter of Withdrawal**

**1805. Letter Given to Person Desiring to Withdraw from the Church (cf. 250; 1563).**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, the bearer, has been up to this date a \_\_\_\_\_\* member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of withdrawing from said church, is hereby declared to be withdrawn.

By authority and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

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Pastor

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Secretary

It is understood that this letter of withdrawal terminates the bearer's membership in The Wesleyan Church immediately.

(\*Insert the proper term, namely **full, preparatory, junior, or associate.**)

## Chapter II

### SERVICE CREDENTIALS

#### A. Ministerial Credentials

##### 1826. Local Preacher's License (cf. 1106).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly examined concerning \_\_\_\_\_ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby licensed according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church as a *local preacher*, for one year, provided that \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, practice, and teachings are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the pastor and the local church secretary.)

##### 1827. Local Preacher's Letter of Standing (cf. 1109:3).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has been up to this date a local preacher in good standing in the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of transferring \_\_\_\_\_ membership from this church, is granted this letter of standing to recom-

mend \_\_\_\_\_ to whomsoever it may concern as a person worthy of consideration for license as a local preacher.

By the authority and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**1828. Certificate of Authorization as a Supply Pastor (cf. 1159).**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed on a temporary basis as a supply pastor of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, and is hereby authorized to fill its pulpit, to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation, and to perform such other duties as shall be authorized by the district superintendent.

By the authority and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

**1829. Recommendation for Listing as Ministerial Student (cf. 1108:1; 1170:4).**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, a local preacher in the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, having qualified for district recognition as a ministerial student, is hereby recommended by the local church conference to the \_\_\_\_\_ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church as having the graces, gifts, and usefulness necessary for *listing as a ministerial student*.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of

the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D.  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**1833. District Ministerial License (cf. 1112).**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly examined concerning \_\_\_\_\_ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a *licensed minister* according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, for one year, provided that \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the district superintendent and the district secretary.)

**1836. Certificate of Ordination (cf. 1119).**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the \_\_\_\_\_ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of

hands and prayer, to the office and work of an *elder* in the Church of God so long as \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church, and \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to solemnize matrimony, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God's heritage, but as being an example to the same.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

**1837. Certificate of Validation of Ordination for Minister Transferring from Another Denomination (cf. 1120).**

This certifies that the \_\_\_\_\_ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church, having examined the credentials of the Rev. \_\_\_\_\_, an ordained minister of the \_\_\_\_\_ Church, and having received other testimonials of \_\_\_\_\_ graces, gifts, and usefulness, and being satisfied that \_\_\_\_\_ is a person worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, has this day accepted and recognized \_\_\_\_\_ in due form as an elder in The Wesleyan Church, entitled to exercise under its authority all the functions pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_ ordination, so long as \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the

\_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

**1839. General Evangelist's Certificate (cf. 1162).**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, an ordained elder of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, having been appointed by that district to the work of evangelism and being recommended by that district as a person qualified for such service to the Church at large, has been approved by the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church as a *general evangelist*, and is hereby authorized to exercise such a ministry for one year from the date hereto affixed and is recommended to all whom it may concern for employment as an evangelist.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Superintendent over  
the Commission on Extension  
and Evangelism

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Secretary-Treasurer

(This certificate may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the general superintendent and the general secretary-treasurer.)

### B. Deaconess' Credentials

#### 1841. Local Deaconess' License (cf. 1182).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly examined concerning her gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby licensed according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church as a *local deaconess*, for one year, provided that her spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the pastor and the local church secretary.)

#### 1842. District Deaconess' License (cf. 1183).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly examined concerning her gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a *licensed deaconess* according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, for one year, provided that her spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the district superintendent and the district secretary.)

#### 1843. Deaconess' Commission (cf. 1184).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, has this day been consecrated according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church to service as a *commissioned deaconess*, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such service, and this commission shall recommend her to all whom it may concern as a proper person to do the work of a deaconess so long as her spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church, and she continues to be actively engaged in such work.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

### C. Special Worker's Credentials

#### 1846. Special Worker's License (cf. 1188).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly examined concerning \_\_\_\_\_ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a *licensed special worker* according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, and is authorized to serve as a \_\_\_\_\_\* for one year, provided that \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

(\*Insert the proper term, such as **director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.**

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the district superintendent and the district secretary.)

#### 1847. Special Worker's Commission (cf. 1189).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, has this day been consecrated according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church to service as a *commissioned special worker*, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such service, and this commission shall recommend \_\_\_\_\_ to all whom it may concern as a proper person to do the work of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\* so long as \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and

*The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church, and \_\_\_\_\_ continues to be actively engaged in such work.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

(\*Insert the proper term, such as director of music, director of christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.)

#### 1848. Lay Missionary's Commission (cf. 1192).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, has been appointed by the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church to service as a *lay missionary* under the direction of the General Department of \_\_\_\_\_\*, that he has been consecrated to such service by the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, and that this commission shall remain in effect throughout his period of service under such appointment and direction as listed on the reverse side of this commission.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

(\*World Missions or Extension and Evangelism.)

On reverse side:

TERMS OF SERVICE

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_  
General Superintendent

D. General Credentials

1851. Course of Study Certificate (cf. 1112:3; 1119:3; 1184; 1189).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, has completed the Course of Study for \_\_\_\_\_\* authorized in *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church and provided by the General Board of Administration, or the equivalent of said Course, having satisfactorily passed examination in each subject.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Ministerial Study  
Course Agency

(\*Insert the name of the particular Course of Study, namely that for Local Preachers, Licensed Ministers, Ministers of Music, Ministers of Christian Education, Deaconesses, Directors of Music, Directors of Christian Education, Evangelistic Singers, Chalk Artists, or Children's Workers.)

1852. Recommendation for District License (cf. 1108:1; 1112:4; 1183; 1188).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, a full member in good standing of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church is hereby recommended by \_\_\_\_\_ local church conference to the \_\_\_\_\_ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church as having the graces, gifts, usefulness, and other qualifications necessary for district authorization to serve as a \_\_\_\_\_\*.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

(\*Insert the proper term, namely licensed minister, licensed deaconess, or licensed special worker. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker—director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker.)

1853. Pocket Certificate of Standing (cf. 1116:2; 1123:2).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ was, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\* in good standing of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

Valid only for one year, and only when signed by the secretary.

(\*Insert the proper term such as ordained elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, licensed special worker.)

1854. District Letter of Transfer (cf. 1128:1; 1185; 1190).

To the superintendent of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\* in good standing in the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, and, having requested a transfer, is hereby transferred and recommended to your district, subject to the action of said district.

By the authority and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Superintendent

The person for whom the letter is granted shall continue as

a member of the district granting the letter until the district receiving the letter replies on form 1855.

(\*Insert the proper term, namely **stationed elder, elder on reserve, superannuated elder, unstationed elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, or licensed special worker**. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as **licensed special worker—director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker**. If the person being transferred is a licensed minister, licensed deaconess, or licensed special worker, the transfer is not valid unless accompanied by a properly attested statement of his standing in the proper course of study and of his service record in the district.)

1855. Acknowledgment of District Letter of Transfer (cf. 1128:3; 1185; 1190).

To the superintendent of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, for whom you issued a letter of transfer as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\* dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_, has been duly received as a member of a local church within the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church and enrolled by the District as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\*, the transfer having been completed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D., and we send you this acknowledgment in order that you may complete your record of the transfer.

By the authority and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

---

District Superintendent

(\*Insert the proper term, namely **stationed elder, elder on reserve, superannuated elder, unstationed elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, or licensed special worker**. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as **licensed special worker—director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker**.)

1856. District Letter of Standing (cf. 1128:3; 1185; 1190).

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has been up to this date a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\* in good standing in the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of removing from The Wesleyan Church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this letter may be presented.

By the authority and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ District of The Wesleyan Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

---

District Superintendent

It is understood that this letter terminates immediately any relationship the bearer may have had to The Wesleyan Church as a minister, deaconess, or special worker.

(\*Insert the proper term, namely **elder, licensed minister, commissioned deaconess, licensed deaconess, commissioned special worker, or licensed special worker**. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as **licensed special worker—director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker**.)

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