

STATE LIBRARY OF N.S.W.  
MITCHELL LIBRARY

DSM/  
287.01/  
M

ANGUS & ROBERTSON,  
89 CASTLEREAGH ST., SYDNEY,  
OPPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL.



11

H

1787

Charles Walsh  
Leominster.  
16<sup>th</sup> May 1883.

O. J. P.

L A W S  
OF THE  
AUSTRALASIAN  
Wesleyan Methodist Church.



THE  
LAWS AND REGULATIONS



AUSTRALASIAN

Wesleyan Methodist Church.

---

Melbourne:

PUBLISHED FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
AUSTRALASIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH;

AND

SOLD AT THE WESLEYAN BOOK DEPÔTS, SYDNEY, BRISBANE,  
MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, AND CHRISTCHURCH.

1885.





# RESOLUTION

OF THE

## GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH,

*Held at Christchurch, New Zealand, 1884.*

---

WHEREAS the General Conference of 1881 resolved that “a Book of Discipline shall be framed by a Committee, who shall prepare a draft of such a book, which shall include all the Laws and Regulations now in force, but these may be abridged and codified so as to bring them into as small a compass as possible, so that the book may be made accessible to all our members and adherents, both as to size and price” (Minutes of Third General Conference, page 28, 29): and whereas the Committee appointed carried out their instructions, and presented a Draft Book of the Rules and Regulations to the General Conference of 1884, and the same has been fully considered and revised by the General Conference, it is hereby RESOLVED—That the General Conference approves of the book now submitted; declares that it contains and sets forth the Laws and Regulations of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, authorises the publication thereof, and urges upon all the Ministers, Office-bearers, and members of the Church to familiarise themselves therewith.

That the Book of “Laws and Regulations” referred to above be regarded as part of the Minutes of this Conference, just as if its contents had been published as part of the said Minutes.

*Joseph H. Fletcher*

PRESIDENT.

*Spencer Williams*

SECRETARY.





# CONTENTS.

*For details see Index at end of the Volume.*

## AUTHORISATION.

### Part I.

#### “THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS.”

	PAGE
CHAP. I.—Admission and Duties of Members - - -	1—7
II.—Trial and Expulsion of Members - - -	8—10
III.—Communicants - - - - -	11
IV.—Devotional Meetings and Public Worship - - -	11—16
V.—The Church and the Young - - - - -	16, 17

### Part II.

#### LOCAL OFFICERS AND COURTS.

CHAP. I.—Local Officers - - - - -	18—21
II.—Local Courts - - - - -	21—34

### Part III.

#### THE MINISTRY.

CHAP. I.—Candidates for the Ministry - - - - -	35—37
II.—Preachers on Trial - - - - -	37, 38
III.—Admission into Full Connexion - - - - -	38, 39
IV.—Ordination of Ministers - - - - -	39
V.—Marriage of Ministers - - - - -	40
VI.—Ministers not to Follow Trades - - - - -	40
VII.—The Trial and Expulsion of Ministers - - - - -	41—46
VIII.—Ministerial Duties - - - - -	46—55
IX.—Appointment of Ministers - - - - -	55, 56
X.—Supernumerary Ministers - - - - -	56
XI.—List of Reserve - - - - -	57
XII.—Chairmen of Districts - - - - -	57

## Part IV.

## DISTRICT COURTS.

	PAGE
CHAP. I.—Annual District Meeting - - - -	58—61
II.—Financial District Meeting - - - -	61, 62
III.—The Special District Meeting - - - -	63
Mixed District Meeting - - - -	63
Minor District Meeting - - - -	63

## Part V.

## THE CONFERENCES.

CHAP. I.—Plan for Annual and General Conferences - - - -	64—70
II.—The Annual Conference - - - -	70—77
III.—The General Conference - - - -	77—82
IV.—Miscellaneous - - - -	82, 83

## Part VI.

## FUNDS.

CHAP. I.—Local Funds - - - -	84, 85
II.—Annual Conference Funds - - - -	85—87
III.—Connexional Funds - - - -	87—97

## Part VII.

## INSTITUTIONS.

CHAP. I.—Foreign Missionary Society - - - -	98—105
II.—Book Establishments - - - -	105
III.—Theological Institutions - - - -	105, 106
IV.—Sunday Schools - - - -	106—113
V.—Sunday-School Union - - - -	113
VI.—Day Schools and Colleges - - - -	113

## Appendix.

Recognition of New Members of Society - - - -	114—116
Temperance Society, Rules of - - - -	116, 117
Bands of Hope - - - -	118—120
The Methodist Conference Act—	
Resolutions Concerning - - - -	121—123
The Act - - - -	124—130
The Deed of Declaration, or Poll-Deed (Wesley's) - - - -	131

## Index.



# PART I.

---

## “THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS.”

---

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### ADMISSION AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS.

##### I. GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

1. (1.) In the latter end of the year 1739 eight or ten persons came to me in London 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 I would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That we might have more time for this great work, I appointed a day when they might all come together, which from thenceforward they did every week—viz., on Thursday in the evening. To these and as many more as desired to join with them (for the number increased daily) I gave those advices from time to time which I judged most needful for them, and we always concluded our meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

(2.) This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, first in London, and then in other places. Such a Society is no other than “*a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness; united, in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.*”

(3.) That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each Society is divided into smaller companies, called Classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in every Class, one of whom is styled the *Leader*. It is his business—

I. To see each person in his Class once a week at least, in order—

To inquire how their souls prosper :

To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require :

To receive what they are willing to give towards the support of the Gospel.

II. To meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week, in order—

To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reprov'd :

To pay to the Stewards what they have received of their several Classes in the week preceding ; and

To show their account of what each person has contributed.

(4.) There is only one condition previously required in those who desire admission into these Societies—viz., “*a desire to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins.*” But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation—

*First.* By doing no harm ; by avoiding evil in every kind, especially that which is most generally practised. Such is—

The taking of the name of God in vain :

The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work thereon, or by buying or selling :

Drunkenness ; *buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity :*

*Fighting, quarrelling, brawling ; brother going to law with brother ; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing ; the using many words in buying or selling :*

The *buying or selling uncustomed goods :*

The *giving or taking things on usury—i.e., unlawful interest :*

*Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation ; particularly speaking evil of Magistrates or of Ministers :*

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us :

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God ; as

The *putting on of gold or costly apparel :*

The *taking such diversions* as cannot be used in the name of the LORD JESUS :

The *singing those songs, or reading those books* which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God :

Softness, and needless self-indulgence :

Laying up treasures upon earth :

Borrowing without a probability of paying ; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them :

(5.) It is expected of all who continue in these Societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation—

*Secondly.* By doing good, by being in every kind merciful after their power, as they have opportunity ; doing good of every possible sort, and as far as is possible, to all men :

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

To their souls, by instructing, *reproving*, or exhorting all they have any intercourse with; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine of devils, that “we are not to do good, unless *our heart be free to it* :”

By doing good, especially to them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another, helping each other in business; and so much the more because the world will love its own, and them *only* :

By all possible *diligence* and *frugality*, that the Gospel be not blamed :

By running with patience the race that is set before them, *denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily*; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ; to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should *say all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake*.

(6.) It is expected of all who desire to continue in these Societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation—

*Thirdly*. By attending upon all the ordinances of God : such are—

The public worship of God ;

The ministry of the word, either read or expounded ;

The Supper of the Lord ;

Family and private prayer ;

Searching the Scriptures ; and

Fasting or abstinence.

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

} JOHN WESLEY.  
CHARLES WESLEY.

1st May, 1743.

## II. MEMBERSHIP.

2. The members of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church have their names inserted in Class-books, and are required to meet in Class.

3. A Class consists of a number of persons who meet weekly for prayer, Christian communion, and edification. One of the number is appointed the Leader. His duties are defined in the General Rules, par. (3).

4. Before any person can be received as a full and accredited Church member he must have met in Class for at least two months, on trial, and must be recommended for membership by the Leader in whose Class he has met.

5. A copy of the General Rules is to be given by the Leader to each candidate for membership. (See General Rules, par. (7), also par. 15.)

6. Where it is deemed expedient by the Minister, members are to be received into the Church in some public and formal manner, on making a profession of their faith, their acceptance of the Rules and Regulations of the Church, and their engagement to comply with them. (For Form of service for Public Recognition of Members see page 114.)

7. Persons who by sickness, distance, or other unavoidable causes are prevented from meeting in Class, are not thereby necessarily excluded from Church membership; but the Minister has the right to withhold the ticket of membership in any such case if, after due enquiry, he is not satisfied that the cause of absence is unavoidable.

8. Each Class is to be met once in every quarter by the Superintendent Minister, or one of his colleagues, for the renewal of the tickets of membership to the members; also for giving tickets to those whom he may receive as members, after due probation (see par. 4), and notes on trial to candidates for membership.

9. If the Leaders' Meeting shall declare any person on trial improper to be received into the Church, the Superintendent Minister shall not receive such person at that quarterly visitation. This does not give the right to the Leaders' Meeting to have the name of every person on trial submitted to it, but only to have laid before it any case or cases where, in the opinion of a Leader, any reasonable objection may be supposed to exist against the character or conduct of some person on trial.

10. Subject to the proviso in the preceding paragraph, the Superintendent or other Minister of the circuit receives persons either on trial or into full membership.

11. No person is to partake stately of the Lord's Supper among us, or to attend Love Feasts, or Society Meetings, who is

not a member of the Church, or who has not the sanction of a Minister of the Circuit.

12. When members remove from one place to another they are to take with them a "note of removal," from the Minister of the circuit which they leave, to the Minister of the circuit to which they are removing. They should present their note of removal without delay, and lose no time in joining a Class.

13. When members remove beyond the bounds of any circuit, and reside where they are unable to meet in Class, so long as this continues to be the case, they should keep up their membership with the Church by having their names retained upon a Class-book in the circuit from which they have removed, and by regularly receiving their tickets from the Superintendent Minister of that circuit.

14. It is expected that members shall meet in Class in the circuit within the bounds of which they reside.

15. All persons are received as members of the Church on condition that they will submit to and observe our General Rules and Regulations, and none are to be permitted to remain as members who seek to agitate the Church in order to make changes in its doctrine and discipline.

### III. ON CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD.

16. Taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus is strictly forbidden in the General Rules, par. 4.

17. The members of our Church are not permitted to attend balls, or theatrical entertainments, but are to discourage them for their own sakes, and the sake of their families. They are not to send their children to a dancing-school, and those who keep boarding-schools are not to admit a dancing-master into them—dancing being held to be inconsistent with Christian propriety. Heads of families are to exhort the younger members of the Church to exercise self-denial in relation to this practice, and to watch against every amusement, however fashionable and fascinating, which would lower the tone of devotional feeling, or impair the influence of their Christian profession.

### IV. FAMILY RELIGION.

18. Family prayer is necessary to obtain the sanctification of our mutual relationships, and of our family joys and sorrows. It is a safeguard against sin; it should therefore be observed daily, and not only some, but, where practicable, *all* the members of the family should be present. Where extreme timidity, or where the supposed want of natural gifts may seem to disqualify for the exercise of this duty, a form of prayer should be used rather than have it neglected. The Holy Scripture should be read as part of family devotion. Attention

should be given to Catechetical instruction, in which the Wesleyan Catechisms should be used. (See also the preceding par., and General Rules, par. (6).)

19. Ministers are to make particular inquiries on this subject, and to enforce the duty in Leaders' and Society Meetings.

#### V. ON MARRIAGE.

20. Members are to marry only in the Lord, so as not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers; and, as a general rule, daughters should not marry without the consent of their parents. Marriages alone are godly and agreeable to the laws which are contracted between persons not included in the prohibitions which are either expressed or implied in Leviticus xviii. (See also pars. 85—87, Solemnization of Marriages.)

#### VI. ON MEMBERS BECOMING BANKRUPT.

21. If any member fails in business, compounds with his creditors, or becomes bankrupt, two of the principal members are to be deputed to examine his accounts, if necessary; and if he has not kept fair accounts, or has been concerned in the practice of giving accommodation bills, let him be placed on his trial before a Leaders' Meeting. (See par. 147 (b).)

22. Any member having failed, and afterwards, by the blessing of God, having acquired property, is to demonstrate his integrity by paying all his former deficiencies as early as possible.

#### VII. THE LORD'S DAY OR CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

23. The religious observance of the Christian Sabbath, or the Lord's Day, has always been strictly enjoined upon our members and adherents, on the scriptural ground of divine authority and perpetual obligation. No work is to be done on that day except such as is absolutely necessary; buying and selling is strictly prohibited, except medicine for the sick or necessaries for funerals; all parties of pleasure and all unnecessary visitings are to be avoided; travelling by railway or other public conveyance, and steamboat and other excursions, are regarded as inconsistent with the Sabbath law, and are to be discouraged by every lawful means.

24. Members and adherents are to do all in their power to secure the election to Parliament, and to Municipal Councils, of such persons as are in favour of preserving inviolate the rest and sacredness of the Lord's Day; who will seek to close Public-houses, Public Libraries, Picture Galleries, and Museums during the whole of the day, and who will discourage railway and steamboat travelling on the Sabbath. They are also urged to pay a more than ordinary attention to the sanctity of the Sabbath, to attend public worship themselves and their families,

where possible, twice a day, and to discourage by their example and influence the systematic efforts which continue to be made to secularise that holy day.

#### VIII. TEMPERANCE.

25. The Methodist Church regards intemperance as among the most serious moral and social evils, and requires its members and adherents to discountenance those drinking and other customs of society which foster this vice, and to promote such legislative measures as aim at the restraint or extinction of the liquor traffic. The right of citizens to regulate the issue of public-house licenses is recognised, and the principle of Local Option is approved. While asserting the Methodist Church to be itself virtually a Temperance society, our members and adherents are recommended, so far as is consistent with due attention to other Christian enterprises, to co-operate with independent temperance and total abstinence associations. (For Rules and Regulations of the Wesleyan Temperance Society see page 116; for Bands of Hope see page 118.)

#### IX. MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES.

26. The Members of our Church are further—

- (1) To show loyalty to the Sovereign; to pray for rulers; and to submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake.
- (2) To keep from smuggling or defrauding the revenue in any way.
- (3) To refuse bribes, or the receiving of anything directly or indirectly for voting at any election.
- (4) Prohibited from engaging in lotteries, raffles, and other games of chance, in connection with sales of gifts or bazaars, or otherwise.
- (5) To co-operate with and support all legislative and other well-directed measures which seek to wholly suppress gambling, racing consultations, sweeps, and betting of all kinds.

## CHAPTER II.

## TRIAL AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

27. No person shall be expelled from Church membership for immorality till such immorality be proved at a Leaders' Meeting, except as provided in pars. 32 and 33.

28. By far the greater number of those who are separated from us, exclude themselves by neglecting to meet in Class, and to use the other means of grace, and so gradually forsake us. Continued absence from the Class-meeting or other means of grace without a sufficient reason, or some manifest breach of the laws of God or the particular Rules of the Church, should be reported to the Minister at the time of the quarterly visitation of the Classes. If there be no denial of the allegation, or satisfactory defence against the charge by the member accused, or by his friends who are present, the Minister may withhold the ticket until enquiry is made.

29. If the member so charged deny that he has wilfully neglected to attend his Class, or that he has broken some law of Scripture or rule of Methodism, and shall demand a trial for proof or disproof of the charge or charges before a Leaders' Meeting, such trial must be granted.

30. Upon such trial taking place, the Leaders' Meeting shall, after hearing the evidence, decide by vote whether the charge or charges are or are not sustained. If the majority present give their verdict that there has been a wilful and habitual neglect, or violation of, some Scriptural or Methodistic rule, then the case as to the penalty to be inflicted is left with the Superintendent Minister.

31. If, when a Class is being met for the renewal of their quarterly tickets, any member shall be guilty of offensive or disorderly conduct, the Minister may delay to give such member his ticket. He shall, however, have private conversation with the offending member; and, if that be unsatisfactory, the Minister may, if he think proper, withhold the ticket. But in any such case the Minister shall inform the person concerned that he may demand a trial at a Leaders' Meeting. The Minister shall also report the case to the next weekly meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit, and also to the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which the person belongs. (See also pars. 29, 30.)

32. If an accused member refuses, in the presence of a Leaders' Meeting, either to admit or deny the charge against him, he is not entitled to have the trial proceeded with, nor to

demand the production of evidence on the part of his accusers ; but the meeting may justly assume that the accusation is true, and give a verdict accordingly. Nevertheless, it shall be competent, if the Superintendent Minister deem it most conducive to the ends of Christian discipline, to permit or require the party bringing the accusation to offer proof of the truth of the charge made.

33. If an accused member, after sufficient notice given him, shall refuse or neglect to appear before a Leaders' Meeting, he may be tried in his absence, and, if found guilty, may be sentenced according to rule (par. 30).

34. Any accusation made against a member upon which he is to be tried, must be made in writing, and forwarded to the Superintendent Minister ; a copy of the charge or charges must be sent to the accused by the Superintendent Minister not less than three clear days (in serious cases longer than that) before the time appointed for the trial.

35. The accuser is required, and the accused is permitted, to produce witnesses or other evidence in proof or disproof of the charge or charges, but the manner of examination and the conduct of the trial are regulated by the Superintendent Minister and the Leaders' Meeting at their discretion.

36. If any accusation involving a trial be made against a member in any place where no Leaders' Meeting exists, or where the Leaders' Meeting is composed of less than six members, the case is to be referred for investigation to the Leaders' Meeting of the principal Society in the circuit. The Leader (if any) and the Stewards of the Society of which the accused is a member shall be associated with such Leaders' Meeting for the purposes of this investigation.

37. No Trustee (however accused or defective in conforming to the established Rules of the Church) shall be removed from membership in the Church, unless his crime, or breach of the rules of the Church, be proved in the presence of the Trustees and Leaders. (See par. 38.)

38. An accused Trustee is entitled to a trial before the Leaders' Meeting of the particular Society of which he is a member, together with the Trustees of the Church with which that Society is connected, they being themselves members of the Church.

39. There is no appeal against the verdict of a Leaders' Meeting, except in the case of a member who has been found guilty of "factious conduct," such as may arise in seasons of peculiar excitement. Notice of appeal in such a case must be given within seven days after the verdict of the Leaders' Meeting, after which the case may be re-heard before a Special Circuit Meeting. (For constitution and powers of Special Circuit Meeting see pars. 165—175.)

40. If the Superintendent Minister is dissatisfied with the verdict of a Leaders' Meeting, in such a case as that of par. 39, he has the same right of appeal against the verdict as the member.

41. After the re-hearing before a Special Circuit Meeting, both the member and the Superintendent Minister have the right of further appeal to a District Meeting and the Conference. (See pars. 173, 174.)

42. When a verdict of guilty has been given by a Leaders' Meeting, or, in the special case provided for in par. 39, after a re-hearing by a Special Circuit Meeting, the sentence has to be determined and pronounced by the Superintendent Minister, to whom the sole right and duty belongs of deciding upon the penalty to be awarded. He is required prayerfully to form his best judgment (after consultation with his colleagues in their weekly meeting) as to the nature and degree of ecclesiastical penalty to be inflicted, whether censure and reproof in public or private, temporary suspension from Church privileges, putting back again to probation, or the extreme punishment of expulsion.

43. If some penalty less than expulsion is decided upon, the sentence may be pronounced without delay; but no sentence of expulsion shall be pronounced by any Superintendent Minister in the same meeting at which the trial shall have taken place, but shall be deferred for at least a week.

44. In difficult and doubtful cases the Superintendent Minister is required to obtain privately from Leaders, or other judicious members, all the circumstances necessary to his forming, with due discretion and caution, his own final judgment.

45. There is no appeal against any sentence for a penalty less than expulsion. If an accused member who has been expelled is dissatisfied with the sentence, he has the right to appeal against the sentence to the District Meeting, and if still dissatisfied, to the Conference, whose decision is final. (See par. 231 (5).)

46. Should an appeal to the District Meeting be inconvenient or impracticable, the excluded member may appeal to a Minor District Meeting (see Minor District Meeting, par. 231), and from its decisions to the District Meeting and Conference.

47. No Minister may receive into the Church any person whom his predecessor has put out, without first consulting the said predecessor.

## CHAPTER III.

### COMMUNICANTS.

48. (1) Convinced that no mode of facilitating and promoting fellowship amongst Christians approaches so nearly to the requirements of the New Testament Scriptures as the Class-meeting, and regarding the frequent discussion of the conditions of membership as injurious to the spiritual interests of our Church, the Class-meeting is adhered to as a test of membership in our Church.

(2) All devout persons in our congregations who cannot be persuaded to enter our Class-meetings are invited to join us at the Lord's Table, and welcomed when they seek such fellowship with us; and they should be duly recognised by receiving quarterly communicants' tickets from the Superintendent or one of the Ministers of the circuit, and by having their names entered in the Circuit Schedule Book as communicants. The Ministers of the circuit are required to consider such persons as specially placed under their pastoral care, to watch over their spiritual state, and to encourage them to seek the attainment of the highest blessings of Christian discipleship. (See also par. 11.)

(3) Tickets are to be prepared and issued to communicants.

## CHAPTER IV.

### DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC WORSHIP.

#### I. CLASS-MEETINGS.

49. Every member of the Australian Methodist Church is required to meet in Class (see par. 2, also General Rules), unless as indicated in pars. 7 and 13.

50. The design of the Class-Meeting is chiefly—

- (1) To establish a system of pastoral oversight, which shall effectually reach every member of the Church.
- (2) To keep up a meeting for social and religious worship, for instruction, encouragement, and admonition, which shall be a profitable means of grace, and a true communion of saints.

#### II. SOCIETY MEETINGS.

51. Society Meetings are composed of the members of a particular Society, or of the Church members of a circuit. They are usually held after the evening service of the Lord's Day, or on some evening of the week.

52. The Societies are to be frequently met, and suitably addressed on the various relative duties, the due sanctification of the Sabbath, and other appropriate subjects.

53. The General Rules are to be read and made a subject of remark at suitable times in every Society.

54. The Pastoral Address is to be read in the principal churches of each circuit, and made the subject of suitable remarks and exhortation.

### III. LOVE FEASTS.

55. Love Feasts had their origin in the time of the Apostles, and were frequent in the early Christian Church.

56. A Methodist Love Feast is a meeting of the members of the Church, presided over by a Minister, or in his absence by some suitable person appointed by the Superintendent Minister, at which those present are invited, so far as time permits, to relate their religious experience. Singing, prayer, partaking of bread and water, and a collection for the poor, are connected with the meeting.

57. No Love Feast is to be held without the approbation of the Superintendent Minister.

### IV. PRAYER MEETINGS.

58. Prayer Meetings are to be held at such times and places as may be deemed suitable by the Superintendent Minister. They may be conducted not only in the churches, but also in private houses in different neighbourhoods.

59. Where desirable, there should be a Plan for Prayer Meetings and Leaders, similar to the Local Preachers' Plan. Prayer leaders must be appointed by the Superintendent Minister in conjunction with the Leaders' Meetings; and the plan must be prepared by the Superintendent, or under his direction.

60. Missionary Prayer Meetings are to be held monthly, when convenient, at which extracts from missionary notices are to be read, information on the subject of Christian missions given, and united supplications for the salvation of the world offered up.

61. In country places, where a full supply of preaching cannot be obtained, suitable persons, belonging either to the place or to the nearest Society, are to be appointed by the Superintendent Minister to conduct services of prayer and exhortation, or to read a sermon to the congregation.

62. Special meetings for prayer have been and are to be appointed on behalf of the nation or community on occasions of public calamity.

63. Prayer Meetings may be held after evening service.

## V. FASTING.

64. Fasting or abstinence, as an ordinance of God, is distinctly enjoined in the General Rules (see par. (6)).

65. Quarterly Fast Days are appointed and published in the Minutes of the Conferences and on the circuit plans. These days should be kept as days of humiliation and prayer, both public and private.

## VI. WATCH NIGHTS.

66. A Watch Night service is, where practicable, to be held on the last night of each year. Public service should begin about 10 o'clock p.m., and should end a few minutes after midnight.

67. Watch Nights may be occasionally held on other than the last night of the year.

## VII. RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT.

68. On the first Sabbath of each year the members, and such adherents as have the sanction of the Minister, meet together either in the afternoon, or after the evening preaching, and engage in a solemn service, in which they are invited to enter into or renew their covenant with Almighty God, that by His aid and in dependence upon Divine Grace, they will, in the year upon which they have entered, and during their whole lives, devote themselves fully to Him.

69. During the service the Minister reads a portion of the "Directions for Penitents and Believers Renewing their Covenant with God," and this is followed by the administration of the Lord's Supper.

## VIII. OPEN-AIR PREACHING.

70. It has been our custom to preach out of doors, seeking, in order to save, those that are lost. This duty is enjoined, and should be practised whenever it can prudently be done.

## IX. PUBLIC WORSHIP.

71. The regulations for the conduct of Divine Service are as follow:—

(1) On the Sabbath mornings, where the Liturgy, or Mr. Wesley's abridgment thereof, is not used, one lesson from the Old Testament, and one from the New Testament are to be read. At the evening service, and on the week-day evenings, at least one chapter from the Holy Scriptures is to be read.

(2) No hymn-books are to be used except those published by our own Book-room.

- (3) Ministers are required to examine the hymns to be sung on special occasions, and to reject all those which are objectionable in sentiment and poetry. Our own hymns are to be used in preference to all others.
- (4) Singing the praises of the Most High God is an important part of Divine Worship, in which the whole congregation are exhorted to stand up and join.
- (5) Our congregations are strongly recommended to learn to sing by note, so that they may use our Tune-book as well as our Hymn-book.
- (6) In public worship hymns are to be given out and sung verse by verse, except at such times as the preacher conducting the services shall deem it expedient or desirable to give out the whole hymn.
- (7) No Minister is to permit anything to be done in the church where he officiates but what is in accordance with the established usages of Methodism. He is not to allow his right to conduct every part of the worship of Almighty God to be infringed on either by singers or others.
- (8) It is strongly recommended that the whole congregation kneel in prayer.
- (9) Talking before and after sermons in our churches is a great evil, and the congregations are affectionately exhorted to avoid it.
- (10) Where organs are used they are not to overpower or supersede, but only to assist, congregational singing.

#### X. THE SACRAMENTS.

72. Sacraments ordained by Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they are certain tokens of grace and God's good will towards us, by the 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.

##### (1) BAPTISM.

73. We hold that all children, by virtue of the universal atonement of Christ, are members of the Kingdom of God, and are entitled to be received into the visible Church of Christ by baptism, and that parents cannot neglect to present their children to the Lord in baptism without evidently disregarding the appointment of God, and depriving their offspring of a most valuable privilege.

Our Church also makes provision for the baptism of adult believers who have not been baptised in infancy.

74. The baptism of infants contemplates a course of religious instruction and discipline; it is therefore expected of all parents or guardians who present their children for baptism that they will use all diligence in bringing them up in conformity to the Word of God, and that they will instruct them in the facts and doctrines of the Holy Scriptures.

75. No person is to be permitted to administer the sacrament of baptism among us but a Minister, except a Preacher on Trial in charge of a circuit, who must receive permission in writing to do so from the Chairman of his district.

76. Baptism is to be administered, if possible, in the public congregation, and according to a Form of service authorised by the General Conference, but the officiating Minister has full liberty to give out hymns, to use exhortations and extemporary prayer. A proper book of offices is to be kept in every church for this purpose.

77. The proper time for administering baptism is before the sermon, and not at the close of public worship.

78. It is expected that both parents be present at the baptism of their child. When this cannot be the case, the reason should be stated to the officiating Minister beforehand.

79. Proper books are to be provided for the registration of baptisms, and the necessary record is to be regularly made and duly signed by the officiating Minister.

(2) THE LORD'S SUPPER.

80. The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death, insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ, and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ. The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith. (For regulations as to admission to the Lord's Supper see par. 11.)

81. No person is to be permitted to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper among us but a Minister, excepting only a Preacher on Trial in charge of a circuit, with the permission in writing of his chairman.

82. Superintendent Ministers are to arrange their plans so as to give their colleagues, if they are Preachers on Trial, the opportunity of receiving the Lord's Supper.

83. The Lord's Supper shall always be administered according to the Form of service authorised by the General Conference; the officiating Minister may, however, give out hymns, deliver addresses, and offer extemporary prayer.

84. The members of our Church and other stated communicants should conscientiously attend this ordinance of God at every opportunity, and if possible at least once a month; they are expected to make a point of staying until the whole service is concluded.

#### XI. THE SOLEMNISATION OF MATRIMONY.

85. Ministers and Preachers on Trial only can celebrate marriages among us; but they must be registered as Ministers authorised to perform marriages by the Government of each colony in which they may reside. They will be furnished by the Registrars-General with the necessary books and documents for the proper registration of the marriages which they may celebrate.

86. The Form for the celebration of matrimony authorised by the General Conference is to be used by the Minister whenever he shall officiate at any marriage.

87. As marriage is a religious act as well as a civil contract, the marriages of our members and adherents should therefore be performed, not by a Registrar or other civil officer, but by one of the Ministers of their own Church. (See also par. 20.)

#### XII. THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

88. The Form authorised by the General Conference for the Burial of the Dead is to be used by our Ministers, who are at liberty also to use extemporary prayer and give addresses as they may deem desirable or proper.

N.B.—The Forms authorised for the Administration of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Solemnization of Matrimony, the Burial of the Dead, and the Ordination of Ministers, are those published by the British Conference.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE CHURCH AND THE YOUNG.

#### I. BAPTISED CHILDREN AND THE CHURCH.

89. All baptised children are by their baptism recognised as in visible covenant relation to God, and are by it placed under the special care and supervision of His Church. (See par. 73.)

90. In every large town weekly meetings for the children of our members and adherents are to be established, and particular attention is to be paid in public and private to the spiritual welfare of the young. A Ticket is to be issued to such of the Catechumen Classes as can be regarded as preparatory Society Classes. The ordinary Society Ticket, with the word "Catechumen" printed thereon, to be the ticket used.

91. A sermon to the young shall, where practicable, be preached in every year in each District during the sittings of the District Meetings, urging upon them the danger and guilt of religious indecision, and the duty and privilege of uniting themselves in Church membership.

92. Parents and guardians are directed to bring up their children in the knowledge of the Scriptures, the fear of God, the observance of the Christian Sabbath, and the habit of prayer; to enforce upon them the necessity of pardon of sin through repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, a new heart, a godly life, and union with the Church; and both by their example and precept to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (See also Family Religion, par. 18; par. 74; Sunday Schools, pars. 93—98; and Educational Institutions.)

## II. SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

93. For Rules and Regulations see par. 411; also Sunday-school Union, par. 412.

94. Annual Conferences are recommended to establish Sunday-school Unions for all the schools within their respective boundaries, upon the principle of the English Wesleyan Methodist Sunday-school Union.

95. It is strongly recommended that all our Sunday-schools use the publications of the English and Australasian Wesleyan Sunday-school Unions.

96. The use of our own authorised hymns, both in the schools and on all special occasions, is earnestly recommended.

97. The hymns which may be used on Sunday-school anniversaries and other occasions must be submitted for approval to the Superintendent Minister or his colleague, who is empowered and required to reject those which are objectionable in sentiment and poetry.

98. The regular use of the Conference Catechisms is urged upon the managers and teachers of our Sunday-schools. They are exhorted to use every means in their power to retain the elder scholars in connection with the schools; and to make the conversion of the children, and their union with the Church, the chief object of their instruction.

## III. DAY SCHOOLS.

99. (See par 413.)

# PART II.

---

## LOCAL OFFICERS AND COURTS.

---

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### OFFICERS.

100. No person is to be elected as an officer of our Church, or to be permitted to retain office (except as provided in par. 120), who is not a member, or who holds opinions contrary to the total depravity of human nature, the divinity and atonement of Christ, the influence and witness of the Holy Spirit, and Christian holiness as taught and believed by the Methodist Church.

#### I. CIRCUIT STEWARDS.

101. Circuit Stewards are the executive officers of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. It is their duty, subject to the meeting— (1) To provide the ways and means for the efficient working of the circuit. (2) To pay the amounts due to the Connexional Funds to the proper officers, the Stipends or allowances to the Ministers, and all other claims upon the Circuit Funds. (3) To provide suitable houses and furniture for the Ministers. (4) To keep proper accounts of the receipts and expenditure, and submit the same to the Quarterly Meeting. (5) To keep minutes of the Quarterly Meeting, and enter them in the Circuit Minute Book.

102. It is the right of the Circuit Stewards to nominate to the Quarterly Meeting any Minister or Ministers for invitation to labour in the circuit; they may, however, decline to exercise this right, in which case, and no other, any member of the meeting may nominate. (See par. 153.)

103. They are to invite the Minister or Ministers agreed upon by the Quarterly Meeting; and upon acceptance by the Minister, to communicate in due time the wishes of the circuit to the Chairman and representative of the District in the Stationing Committee. They are the officers through whom any communications affecting the appointment of Ministers to the circuit are to be addressed to the Stationing Committee and the Conference.

104. They are to correspond with the newly-appointed Ministers immediately after the close of the Conference, and give them all needful information respecting their removal, &c.; to meet them on their arrival in their various circuits, and to do all in their power to promote their comfort and usefulness.

105. Circuit Stewards are *ex officio* members of the Financial District Meeting. They are members of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they belong. In conjunction with the Superintendent Minister, they are the auditors of the Trust accounts in their circuits.

106. Circuit Stewards are nominated by the Superintendent Minister at the December Quarterly Meeting, and are elected by the votes of the majority present.

107. It is usual to have two Circuit Stewards, each of whom remains in office two years. The Stewards are to be elected or re-elected annually.

108. No Circuit Steward is to hold office more than two years together, except in extraordinary cases.

109. In accordance with the settled principle of our discipline, Circuit Stewards are required to be residents within the boundaries of the circuits in which they hold office. In special cases, with the consent of the Superintendents of the respective Circuits concerned, there may be a temporary suspension of this rule. They are also subject to the proviso as to doctrine. (See par. 100.)

## II. SOCIETY STEWARDS.

110. Society Stewards are the executive officers of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they belong, and are to unite with the Ministers and Leaders in all that would promote its spiritual and temporal welfare.

111. It is the duty of the Society Steward—(1) To attend the Leaders' Meeting of which he is a member. (2) To act as Secretary of the meeting, and keep proper minutes of the business transacted. (3) To make proper entries in his book of accounts of all moneys received from the Leaders, and to sign their books. (4) To see that all the collections as appointed on the circuit plan are duly made at the proper times. (5) To take charge of the circuit and connexional collections, enter the amounts in his account book, and send them without unnecessary delay to the proper persons. (6) To see that the collections to be made are announced on the Sunday previous. (7) To pay all moneys he has received for the Circuit Fund to the Circuit Stewards before the Quarterly Meeting. (8) To write or sign all notices for the pulpit (except those affecting the Trustees, which may be written or signed by the Church Steward). (9) He is to see that no persons are admitted to Love Feasts, Society Meetings,

or the Lord's Supper who have not the sanction of a Minister of the Circuit. (10) To make proper provision for Baptisms. (11) Where there is no Poor Steward, he is to make provision for Love Feasts and the Lord's Supper. (12) He should be in attendance in the vestry to receive the Preacher; and in case the Preacher appointed fail to keep his appointment or to send a supply, the Steward is to make the most suitable arrangement for the service.

112. Society Stewards are *ex officio* members of the Quarterly Meeting of their circuits. They are subject to the provisos respecting doctrine and residence. (See pars. 100, 109.)

113. Society Stewards are nominated by the Superintendent Minister at the first Leaders' Meeting after the December quarter in each year, and are elected by the votes of the majority of those present. They must be elected or re-elected annually.

### III. POOR STEWARDS.

114. So called because it is their duty to attend to all matters connected with the poor of the Society.

115. The Poor Stewards are—(1) To provide for the administration of the Lord's Supper and Love Feasts, and to make the collections on these occasions for the poor of the Church. (2) To attend the Leaders' Meeting of which they are members, report the state of the poor's fund, pay such sums as the meeting may vote for the relief of the poor and sick, and keep a proper account of the receipts and disbursements, which is to be submitted to the Leaders' Meeting whenever required. (3) To inform the Minister of any who are sick or in distress.

116. Poor Stewards are nominated by the Superintendent Minister at the first Leaders' Meeting after the December Quarterly Meeting. They must be elected or re-elected annually, and are subject to the usual provisos as to doctrine and residence. (See pars 100, 109.)

117. Poor Stewards are *ex officio* members of the Quarterly Meeting of their respective circuits.

### IV. TRUSTEES' (OR CHURCH) STEWARDS.

118. Trustees' Stewards are the executive officers of the Trustees of the various Trust properties. They are "to attend to the orderly conducting of the secular business and affairs of the church or place of religious worship, under the direction and superintendence of the Trustees."

119. Their duties include—(1) Everything which concerns the building itself, its furniture, fittings, and cleanliness; to see that the church, school, vestries, &c., are properly cleaned, lighted, ventilated, kept in good order and repair, and insured against fire. (2) To make appointments for the letting and re-letting

of the pews and sittings, and to have the time and place published from the pulpit or otherwise. (3) To be personally in attendance to receive or collect (in advance) the seat rents. (4) To make, or cause to be made, all arrangements for anniversary or other collections which may be ordered on behalf of the Trust Funds. (5) To disburse such funds as may be required for current expenses. (6) To pay all surplus moneys over current expenses, to the Treasurer of the Trustees without delay. (7) To keep proper account books, and produce them at all Trustee Meetings, or whenever required by the Superintendent Minister (or any one whom he may depute to see them), and also for the annual audit. (8) To attend the Trustee Meetings, and keep minutes of the business transacted except where a secretary is appointed.

120. Any person of "decent, sober conduct and good reputation" may be appointed by Trustees as their steward, though he may not be a Trustee; in such case he has no vote.

121. Trustees' Stewards are appointed at a meeting of the Trustees, on the vote of the majority then present.

122. There is no defined term of office for a Trustees' Steward, but he may be appointed at the "discretion" of the Trustees, and "removed or dismissed" at their "will and pleasure."

## CHAPTER II.

### LOCAL COURTS.

#### I. LOCAL PREACHERS AND THEIR MEETING.

123. No one can become or remain a Local Preacher unless he meets in Class and conforms to all our rules and discipline.

124. A candidate for the office of Local Preacher must be nominated by the Superintendent Minister at the Local Preachers' Meeting. Whether he is to be admitted on trial, or as an accredited Local Preacher, he is received or otherwise by the majority of the votes of those present. In any circuit where this cannot be done, then he is to be nominated and approved by the Quarterly Meeting.

125. No person may be placed on the Local Preachers' plan without the approbation of the Local Preachers' Meeting being first obtained.

126. No person shall be received as an accredited Local Preacher until he has been for some time on trial, has preached a trial sermon, and passed an examination as to the doctrine and discipline of our Church, to the satisfaction of the Local Preachers' Meeting. Where there is no Local Preachers'

Meeting, see par. 124. N.B.—The usual term of Trial is twelve months.

127. The Local Preachers' Meeting of a circuit is held once in every quarter. It is composed of all the Ministers (whether in full work or supernumeraries), the Preachers on Trial and all the Local Preachers belonging to the circuit whose names are on the plan. Local Preachers on trial may be present, but have no right to speak or vote.

128. The Superintendent Minister of the circuit is Chairman of the meeting, or in his absence one of his colleagues. The Chairman has the right to vote on all questions, and in case of equality of votes has also a casting vote.

129. The business of the Local Preachers' Meeting is conducted as follows:—

After singing and prayer, the minutes of the former meeting are read and confirmed. The following questions are then asked, and the replies recorded in the Minutes:—

- (1) Who are present?
- (2) Are there any objections to any of the Local Preachers on the plan—
  - (a) To his moral and religious character?
  - (b) Does he believe and preach our doctrines?
  - (c) Has he competent abilities for the work of a Local Preacher?
  - (d) Does he observe our discipline and attend to his appointments?

The names are read over in their order on the plan. If any objections are made they are duly investigated, and, if proved, suitable caution is given or penalty inflicted, as the case may demand. (See par. 135.)

- (3) Are there any to be received as accredited Local Preachers?

If any one has fulfilled his term of trial, and preached a trial sermon, he is examined by the Chairman as to his conversion to God, personal piety, knowledge and belief of our doctrines and discipline, and ability to preach; he then retires, and after consultation and deliberation, the Chairman proposes his reception as an accredited Local Preacher, and the meeting, by a majority of votes, accepts him or otherwise. Should the Chairman, however, not be satisfied with the examination, and decline to propose him, the term of trial must be extended, or he may be rejected by the vote of the meeting and his name removed from the plan.

- (4) Are there any who remain on trial?

Annual Conferences are recommended to adopt a literary and theological course of study, which Local Preachers are to observe, with a view of increasing their efficiency and improving their status.

- (5) Are there any to be received on trial? (See par. 124.)
- (6) Have any Local Preachers removed from the circuit during the quarter?
- (7) Are there any Local Preachers to be received from other circuits?
- (8) Are there any alterations recommended to be made in the time of preaching in any place on the plan?
- (9) Are there any new places to be taken on the plan?
- (10) Miscellaneous.
- (11) When and where shall the next meeting be held?

130. If the Local Preachers' Meeting shall have deposed any one of its members from office as a Local Preacher, there is no appeal against the decision.

131. No Minister excluded for immorality shall be allowed at any subsequent period to become a Local Preacher, or Class Leader, without the consent of the Conference previously obtained.

132. No Local Preacher is permitted to hold a Love Feast without the approval of the Superintendent Minister.

133. If any Local Preacher become insolvent, compound with his creditors, or assign his estate, his name shall be omitted from the circuit plan for at least twelve months.

134. All fully accredited Local Preachers whose names have been twelve months on a Circuit Plan are members of the Quarterly Meeting.

135. Local Preachers are responsible to their own meeting for every part of their official conduct, but for all acts affecting their character and standing as members of the Church, they are subject to the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they respectively belong.

## II. LEADERS AND THEIR MEETING.

136. A Class Leader is one who, because of his piety and intelligence, is appointed to take the oversight of a number of members, whom he is to meet in Class weekly. His duties are defined in the General Rules, par. (3).

137. A Leader is a member of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which he belongs; he is also by virtue of his office a member of the Quarterly Meeting of the circuit.

138. A Leader must be nominated for that office by the Superintendent Minister at a Leaders' Meeting, and be appointed by the meeting.

139. When a new Leader has been appointed and is introduced to the Leaders' Meeting, the opportunity is to be taken to state the duties of the office and to enforce them upon all present.

140. A strict enquiry is to be made in the Leaders' Meeting by the Superintendent Minister, at least twice a year, into the

moral character of the Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time, and everything that relates to their office.

141. For doctrinal qualification and residence, see pars. 100, 109.

142. No Leader can be removed from his office except in conjunction with the Leaders' Meeting of which he is a member.

143. A Leaders' Meeting consists of the Superintendent Minister, his colleagues (one of whom takes the chair in his absence), any Supernumerary Minister resident within the circuit, the Leaders of the particular Society, the Society Steward or Stewards, the Poor Steward or Stewards. Unless the Superintendent or one of his colleagues be present, no Leaders' Meeting can be held.

144. Circuit Stewards are, by virtue of their office, members of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they belong.

145. Leaders' Meetings are to be held regularly in the towns where Ministers reside, and in the country as often as possible.

146. Each Leader is expected to be present and to submit his class-book for the examination of the presiding Minister; to pay to the Stewards what each member has contributed, the Stewards signing the class-book; to inform the Minister of any who are sick; to report any cases of poverty; to receive from the Poor Steward what the meeting may vote for the relief of the sick or poor; to report any who walk disorderly, or who from any cause neglect to meet in Class. (See General Rules, par. (3).)

147. The business of the Leaders' Meeting is also—

- (a) To declare any person on trial improper to be received into the Church, or otherwise, in any special case which the Superintendent may submit to the meeting, or when there shall be an appeal by any Leader against the Superintendent having received any one as a member to whom such Leader objects. (See par. 9.)
- (b) To act as a jury in the trial of members; after hearing the evidence and arguments on both sides, to give their verdict of guilty or not guilty, or non-proven, or such other verdict as the facts proved demand. (See par. 30.)
- (c) Annually to elect, upon the nomination of the Superintendent, the Society and the Poor Stewards.
- (d) Annually to elect one-half of the members of the Sunday-school Committee. (See par. 411, S. S. Rules III., sec. 3; XXIV., sec. 4.)
- (e) To memorialise the Conference upon subjects which seriously and manifestly involve the spiritual interests of the Classes placed under their care, or the religious prosperity of the Society to which they are severally attached.

This must be done peaceably and prudently, and must refer only to subjects which immediately and directly affect the particular Society concerned. (See pars. 161—164.)

148. No Leaders' Meeting can by vote suspend the operation within their Society of any rule or regulation printed in the Minutes of Conference. Any Superintendent permitting such a vote to be taken shall, on proof thereof at the Conference, be deprived of the office of Superintendent.

### III. THE CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING.

149. The Quarterly Meeting consists :—

- (1) Of all the Ministers and Preachers on Trial in the Circuit, and the Supernumeraries whose names appear in the printed Minutes of Conference.
- (2) The Circuit Stewards, all the Society Stewards, and the Poor Stewards.
- (3) All the Class Leaders in the Circuit.
- (4) All the fully accredited Local Preachers who are members in the Circuit, and whose names have been twelve months on a Circuit Plan.
- (5) All the Trustees of Churches named on the circuit plan, such Trustees being members in the circuit.
- (6) A Superintendent of each Sunday-school which is conducted under the General Conference Rules, and has an average of fifty scholars, such Superintendent being a member in the circuit. Where there are two or more Superintendents in one school, the senior Superintendent shall be the member of the Quarterly Meeting.

150. The Superintendent Minister of the Circuit is *ex officio* Chairman of the Quarterly Meeting ; he has a vote, and in case of equality of votes, a casting vote. In his absence he can delegate this right to one of his colleagues. Should the Chairman be obliged by the meeting to withdraw from its sittings the meeting will be thereby dissolved.

151. The Chairman of a District can only be present at a Quarterly Meeting out of his own circuit where the Superintendent is a Minister in full connexion, by invitation from the Superintendent ; but it is recommended that the Chairman of the District be invited to be present on important occasions. He has power to preside, if requested to do so by the Superintendent of the Circuit.

152. After singing and prayer the minutes of the former meeting are read by one of the Circuit Stewards, and confirmed. The following questions are then asked, and the replies recorded in the minutes, viz. :—

- (1) Who are present ?

- (2) What is the number of members this quarter ?
- (3) What is the income for the quarter ?
- (4) What is the expenditure for the quarter ?
- (5) What collections are to be made during the next quarter ?
- (6) What is the state of the Sabbath-schools in the circuit ?
- (7) What can be done to promote the work of God in the circuit ? Under this head (in addition to methods for securing greater efficiency in spiritual work) are included the consideration of the following matters :—
  - (a) Sanctioning the erection or purchase of any proposed church, schoolhouse, or parsonage, and the application to the authorised Committee for permission to build or for a loan upon any building.
  - (b) Recommending any division or alteration of the boundaries of the circuit. (September meeting.)
  - (c) Application for aid from the Contingent or Home Mission Fund in the case of dependent circuits. (September meeting.)
  - (d) Approval or otherwise of candidates for the Ministry upon the nomination of the Superintendent Minister. (September meeting.)
  - (e) Invitation of Ministers to the circuit. (September.) No correspondence with a Minister before that meeting will be regarded by the Conference.
  - (f) Election of one or more Circuit Stewards upon the nomination of the Superintendent Minister. (December.)
  - (g) Election of Lay Representative or Representatives to the Annual Conference. (December meeting.)
  - (h) Memorialising the Conference, if desired, according to rule. (See pars. 161—164.) (December meeting.)
  - (i) Appointment of Special Circuit Meetings for re-hearing appeals when necessary. (See pars. 165—175.)
- (8) When and where shall our next meeting be held ?

153. The right of nominating Ministers for invitation to labour in the circuit belongs exclusively to the Circuit Stewards. On the nomination of the Stewards no amendment can be moved, but the vote must be taken *pro* or *con*. In the event of the Circuit Stewards declining or ceasing to nominate, a Quarterly Meeting may proceed by resolution to invite. (See par. 102.)

154. Every candidate for the Ministry must be approved of by the September Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit in which he is a member. He must be nominated by the Superintendent Minister, to whom alone the right and responsibility of nomination belongs.

155. The duty of the Quarterly Meeting is to exercise their best judgment, as in the sight of God, as to the questions : “ Has

he grace?" "Has he gifts?" "Has God given him fruit of his labours?" If the majority of the meeting are satisfied on these questions they will, by their vote, sustain the nomination; if otherwise, they will negative it.

156. In all cases where the appointment of a Preacher is requested by any circuit, in the event of such appointment being made, the circuit is pledged to provide for a married Minister at the end of four years. (See also pars. 324, (10).)

157. Where a Quarterly Meeting recommends the division of a circuit, information in writing, signed by the Circuit Stewards, shall be forwarded both to the District Meeting and Conference as to the number of the population, churches, Local Preachers, members, and hearers in the proposed new circuit, and the amount which it has contributed to the circuit funds during the preceding three years. Information shall also be sent to the District Meeting and Conference as to the way in which the circuit debt (if any) is to be apportioned between the new circuits.

158. No circuit can be divided without the consent of the Quarterly Meeting. When a circuit is divided which has a married Minister and a Preacher on Trial, and the Preacher on Trial is appointed to the new circuit, such circuit is to provide for a married Minister at the time agreed upon when the circuits were united.

159. The boundaries of circuits may be regulated and altered without making new circuits by the authority of the District Meeting, subject, however, to the right of appeal to the Conference.

160. Where there is no Local Preachers' Meeting, the Quarterly Meeting performs all the duties and exercises all the privileges of that meeting.

#### IV. CIRCUIT MEMORIAL MEETING.

161. The Quarterly Meeting of any circuit can, at the meeting preceding the Conference, memorialise the Conference on connexional subjects, if a majority of those present deem it desirable to do so.

162. Not less than ten days before the meeting a copy of the motion or resolution intended to be proposed is to be given by the proposer to the Superintendent Minister. The meeting can amend the resolution, as well as simply adopt or reject it.

163. Any memorial founded upon such resolution must be signed by the Circuit Stewards on behalf of the meeting; it must then be handed to the Superintendent Minister, by whom it is to be delivered to the President of the Conference on or before the second day of its sessions.

164. No memorials can be adopted by the Quarterly Meeting, or be entertained by the Conference, which are of a manifestly revolutionary character, or subversive of the doctrine or discipline of Methodism, nor which involve a direct interference on the part of one circuit with the local proceedings of other circuits.

#### V. SPECIAL CIRCUIT MEETING.

165. The Special Circuit Meeting is for dealing with certain cases of appeal. It is composed of not more than twelve lay members of the Quarterly Meeting, to be chosen by that meeting in such manner as it may deem proper.

166. The Chairman of the District shall preside at the meeting, or, in his unavoidable absence, he shall appoint some other Minister of the District to preside in his place.

167. The meeting shall have full power to re-hear the cases submitted to them, and to confirm, rescind, or vary the verdict of the Leaders' Meeting from which the appeal is made.

168. The right of appeal to a Special Circuit Meeting exists only—

- (1) Where a member or local officer has been proceeded against in a Leaders' Meeting for factious conduct, and is dissatisfied with the verdict of that meeting, and therefore appeals against it; or,
- (2) Where a Superintendent of a circuit feels himself compelled to complain that a Leaders' Meeting has refused, in such a case as the above, to act its constitutional part, either by declining to give a verdict, or by giving a factious verdict, or one in contradiction to law, or to the evidence submitted at the trial, thus preventing such Superintendent from exercising suitable discipline. (See pars. 39, 40.)

169. In no other cases than these is there any appeal to a Special Circuit Meeting.

170. A member claiming a re-hearing at a Special Circuit Meeting must give notice in writing to the Superintendent within seven days after his trial by the Leaders' Meeting.

171. A Superintendent dissatisfied with a verdict must give notice to the accused member within seven days after the trial by the Leaders' Meeting.

172. In either of these cases, upon receiving or giving notice, the Superintendent must take the necessary steps for the appointment of the Special Circuit Meeting for re-hearing the case.

173. The verdict of a Special Circuit Meeting cannot be reversed except by a District Meeting—Annual or Special—or the Conference. The Superintendent, if dissatisfied, can appeal to a Special District Meeting, or to the Annual District Meeting.

174. The member tried cannot appeal against the verdict, but, if the verdict be, guilty, the Superintendent is, after advising with the Chairman and his colleagues, authorised to expel or administer any other discipline which he may deem sufficient. The member can appeal against the sentence of the Superintendent to the Annual District Meeting, and, if still dissatisfied, to the Conference.

175. Should a Quarterly Meeting refuse to elect the persons necessary to constitute a Special Circuit Meeting, or should the persons appointed by it refuse to give any verdict, the Superintendent may at once appeal to the District Meeting.

#### VI. TRUSTEES AND THEIR MEETING.

176. The office of Trustee is one of great responsibility. Trustees hold and manage the properties of the Connexion, subject to definite Trusts (which are set forth at large in their Trust Deeds), for the use and benefit of the Connexion.

#### *Trusts of the Model Deed.*

177. The Trusts upon which the properties of the Connexion are held, are set forth fully in the "Model Deed," which was enrolled in Chancery on the 25th July, 1832, and which, with very slight alterations, made necessary by the circumstances of the colonies, has been enrolled in the Supreme Court of each of the Australasian colonies.

178. The Deed recites the origin and formation of the Methodist Societies; the Rules of the Societies; the appointment of Society and Poor Stewards, Classes and Class Leaders; the appointment of Preachers; the formation of Circuits; the appointment of Assistants, now called Superintendents, and of Circuit Stewards; the increase of Circuits; the origin of the Conference. Next follows the definition, powers, &c., of the Conference, in a recital of the Deed-Poll of Mr. Wesley; followed by a recital of the deaths of Charles and John Wesley; the formation of Districts; the appointment of Chairmen of Districts. Then comes the recital of purchase and contract; the testatum, parcels, general words, and habendum. The Trusts are then set forth, and may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) To build, alter, repair, enlarge, and re-build a church, dwelling-house, schoolrooms, vestry, and other conveniences.
- (2) To permit the use of these for the purposes of religious worship, and for public and other meetings, according to the rules and usage of the people called Methodists; and to permit only Preachers appointed by the Conference, and other persons appointed by the Superintendent Minister, or any authority lawfully constituted by the Conference, and no others, to preach therein.

- (3) The times and manner of Divine service to be regulated and conducted by the Officiating Minister for the time being, according to the rules and usage of the Methodists.
- (4) Under special circumstances, stated at length in the Deed, to summon the Preachers of the District, who, with the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of the circuit to which the church belongs, are to try any Preacher appointed to their church who may be accused by the Trustees, Stewards, or Leaders, or a majority of them, as being immoral, erroneous in doctrine, or deficient in ability; and if the accused be found guilty, the District Meeting shall appoint another Preacher, and suspend or otherwise the Preacher whom they remove, &c.
- (5) To allow none to conduct service who maintains or teaches any doctrine or practice contrary to what is contained in Mr. Wesley's *Notes on the New Testament* and his first fifty-three sermons.
- (6) To permit Sunday and other schools to be held, subject to and under the regulations of the Conference from time to time, subject also to the above proviso as to doctrines. (Clauses 1—6.)
- (7) To take any legal proceedings which may be necessary to bring or defend actions, and to refer disputes to arbitration. (Clause 47.)

179. The Rules and usage of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion or Church, referred to and understood in the Model Deed of the said Church, shall be the General Rules usage and practice of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, as they are printed in this volume of Rules and Regulations, authorised by the General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, at its sessions held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1884.

180. In case of property held under Declaration of Trust, or some informal document, the implied Trusts are, according to the Vice-Chancellor of England, confirmed by the Lord Chancellor (Lord Lyndhurst) in the case of Dr. Warren, that "the Deeds of Trust are not to be construed merely with regard to the words which may happen to be contained in the Deeds themselves, but must be construed and looked at as a part and parcel of the whole machinery by which the great body of Wesleyan Methodists is kept together, and by which Methodism itself is carried on." This would seem to prove that all properties held under Declaration of Trusts or some informal document without defined Trusts are subject to the Trusts of the Model Deed of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, that being the Deed recognised in the "laws and usage" of Methodism.

*Appointment of Trustees.*

181. At the commencement of any Trust, Trustees are appointed by the Superintendent Minister of the circuit within the bounds of which the property of the Trust is situated.

182. Where a body of Trustees exists, and it is necessary or desirable to appoint new Trustees, the Superintendent Minister nominates twice the number required (unless the Trustees are satisfied with his nominating a less number), whereupon the Trustees choose, elect, and appoint the number required from amongst the persons so nominated. (Clauses 44—46.)

*Duties and Powers of Trustees.*

183. (1) They are to collect and receive rents, profits, and income arising in any manner from the premises, whether it be church, parsonage, school-house, cemetery, or other property; or by collections (always excepting collections and subscriptions made in their church for purposes not belonging to the Trust). (Clause 24.)
- (2) To pay rates, taxes, insurance, repairs, interest on loans; to reimburse themselves all costs, charges, and expenses which they may have lawfully incurred; all costs of cleaning, lighting, and attending to the church or premises, and any other lawfully incurred expenditure not enumerated in the above. (Clause 25.)
- (3) They are to apply the surplus (but according to the rules and usage of the people called Methodists) to the support of the Preachers stationed in the circuit, or in some other circuit or circuits; or towards the funds of any Methodist church or school; or for building any new church or churches; or towards any funds or charities of the people called Methodists. (Clause 26.) When there is no surplus the Trustees may, if they think proper, subscribe as above. (Clause 27.)
- (4) They are empowered to borrow such sum or sums as may be required for the erection, alteration, purchase, or other necessary expenditure upon the properties of which they are Trustees, and to give to the lenders their personal guarantees, or other security, as they may deem most suitable; but if they mortgage the property, it must be for the whole debt legally or equitably due upon the Trust premises. (Clauses 22, 23; also, 29.)
- (5) The Trustees may appoint a Church Steward or Stewards, also a Treasurer or Treasurers. Any one or more of these, or of the Trustees, may be authorised to give receipts (except for moneys received on mortgage or sale); such receipts would be a full discharge. (Clauses 28, 38.)

- (6) Proper books of accounts must be kept, in which all the receipts and disbursements must be entered ; and these accounts are to be audited once a year by the Superintendent Minister and Circuit Stewards, or by their deputies appointed in writing.
- (7) A minute book must be kept, in which all the minutes of all Trustee Meetings shall be entered ; and these must be shown, or copies of or extracts from them made, at all reasonable times, to or upon the request of the Superintendent Minister, or any person or persons whom he may desire to make or take the same. (Clause 29.)
- (8) So long as proper books of accounts are kept, as provided above, no Trustee shall be accountable for any involuntary loss, nor for any more money than shall come into his hands. (Clause 40.)
- (9) Trustees can sell properties with the consent of the Conference first obtained. (Clause 36.)
- (10) They must apply the purchase-money to the discharge of all incumbrances, liabilities, and responsibilities upon the property, personal or otherwise, lawfully contracted ; after this, towards preaching the gospel in the circuit, or to the purchasing of a more eligible site and premises, to be settled upon the same Trusts. (Clause 36.)
- (11) If the income does not meet the expenditure, or the Trustees desire to be relieved from their responsibilities, and no suitable persons can be found to take their places and relieve them, then the majority of the Trustees can sell the property (subject to the proper disposal of the purchase-money as in clause 36) without the consent of the Conference. (Clause 37.)
- (12) In the foregoing case, notice of intention to sell, with the reasons for such intention, must be given in writing to the Conference, or its President, on or before the first day of the then next annual meeting of the Conference ; and if the Conference does not, within six months after the first day of its meeting, either provide the necessary aid to the Trustees, or provide other Trustees to take their places, then the Trustees can sell, and the President must sign the necessary conveyance of sale. (Clause 37.)
- (13) Any one or more of the Stewards, Treasurers, or Trustees, if duly authorised, may give receipts, which shall be a full discharge in all cases except those of sale or mortgage. In cases of purchase-moneys and mortgage-moneys, the receipt of a majority of the Trustees shall be a full discharge to all persons entitled to such receipts. (Clauses 38, 39.)

- (14) A Trustee withdrawing from or being excluded from membership in the Wesleyan Church, and continuing out of the Church for more than six calendar months, can, upon the request in writing of the majority of the Trustees—but not otherwise—be required to relinquish his trust; but in such case his co-Trustees must, at the expense of the Trust, give him a full indemnity against all liabilities which may exist at the time of his withdrawal. (Clause 41.) And he shall not be excluded from being nominated and chosen (if then duly qualified) at any future time as a new or additional Trustee. (Clause 42.) The representatives of any deceased Trustee can require the surviving Trustees to indemnify them against all liabilities incurred for or existing upon the Trust property. (Clause 43.)
- (15) No Trustee (however accused or defective in conforming to the established rules of the Society) shall be removed from the Society unless his crime or breach of the rules of the Society be proved in the presence of the Trustees and Leaders. The trial of a Trustee before the Leaders' Meeting of the particular Society of which he is a member, together with the Trustees of the church with which that Society is connected, being themselves members of the Society, shall be considered and held to be a legal trial according to the aforesaid regulation. (See par. 38.)
- (16) All Trustees of churches situate in places named in the circuit plan, such Trustees being resident members of the Society in the circuit, are members of the Quarterly Meeting of their circuit.

*Trustee Meeting.*

184. (1) The Superintendent Minister is the Chairman of all Trustee Meetings in his circuit. In his absence he can appoint, by writing, a deputy, with all the powers which he himself possesses. If the Superintendent refuse to preside or to appoint a deputy, or, if the Superintendent or his deputy neglect to preside, then the meeting is to elect its own Chairman. (Clause 35.)
- (2) Meetings for ORDINARY business, or in case of urgent necessity, may be held as soon as they can conveniently be convened by the Superintendent. (Clause 30.) SPECIAL MEETINGS may be called for any of the following purposes, viz.:—Considering the propriety of altering, adding to, selling, mortgaging, or letting any church or premises; contracting any debts other than for ordinary expenses; fixing or altering rents, or prices of graves, pews, and

seats ; voting funds for bringing or defending any legal proceedings ; or for the appointment of new Trustees. Also, for the annual audit of the accounts of the Trust ; this is called the "audit meeting." (Clauses 29, 30.)

- (3) Meetings for ordinary business may be called as soon as convenient, by notice in writing. It is usual, though not legally necessary, to give three days' notice. (Clause 30.) Special meetings must be summoned after fourteen days' notice in writing, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. (Clause 30.)
- (4) The Superintendent or two Trustees must summon Trustee Meetings, and in either case must sign the notices. (Clause 30.)
- (5) No meeting shall be invalid by reason of any notice not reaching a Trustee beyond the seas, or whose residence is unknown, or cannot reasonably be found by the person or persons giving notice of the meeting. The posting of a letter to the usual place of abode or of business, or the last known address, is sufficient service. (Clause 30.)
- (6) In case of the votes being equal, the Superintendent—or in his absence his properly constituted deputy—as Chairman, shall give the casting vote, in addition to his vote as Superintendent Minister or Trustee. (Clause 32.)
- (7) The majority of the persons present at a duly summoned Trustee Meeting are to decide what is necessary and expedient to be done, and their decision shall be binding upon those who are absent, and upon the minority who are present. (Clause 33.)

# PART III.

---

## THE MINISTRY.

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### CANDIDATES.

185. Every person before he can be received as a candidate for the ministry, must be nominated by the Superintendent Minister at the September Quarterly Meeting of the circuit of which he is a member and Local Preacher; he must be approved by the meeting, and be recommended by the Superintendent to the District Meeting as a candidate for the ministry. (See Quarterly Meeting, pars. 154, 155.)

186. Before a Superintendent Minister nominates any Local Preacher to a Quarterly Meeting as a candidate to the ministry, he is required to assure himself, by inquiries of those officers and members who may have known the intended candidate for a considerable time, of the blameless life, the decided piety, and general fitness for the itinerant work of such candidate. The Superintendent must hear him preach, and also personally examine him as to his acquaintance with our theology, his steadfast belief of our doctrines, and his firm adherence to our discipline.

187. If the intended candidate has not resided two years at least in the circuit, the Superintendent is required to make very particular inquiries as to his character and qualifications from the Superintendent of the circuit from which he has recently removed, and in which he is best known. The result of these inquiries is to be communicated to the Quarterly and District Meetings concerned.

188. Before any nomination is made the Superintendent must take counsel with his colleagues, and must, if possible, give them, as well as the members of the Quarterly Meeting, opportunities of hearing the proposed candidate preach.

189. When the Quarterly Meeting has approved of the nomination of the Superintendent, the candidate is required to appear before the Annual District Meeting for examination. (See par. 265 (1), (8).)

190. Before this can take place, the Superintendent who nominates him must be able to certify that such candidate has

read the Large Minutes and approves of the same, also that he has read with care our standard doctrinal works, viz., Mr. Wesley's Notes on the New Testament, and the fifty-three Sermons originally published in his first four volumes of sermons. The District Meeting will then fix a time for the examination, and arrange for the candidate preaching a trial sermon in the presence of at least three Ministers appointed by the Chairman (exclusive of the Superintendent who nominated him), who shall make a special report of the sermon to the meeting.

191. In the presence of the members of the District Meeting the candidate is required—

- (1) To give a brief account of his conversion to God, what he believes to be his call to the ministry, and his present religious experience.
- (2) He is then examined by the Chairman of the District (or by some Minister appointed by him) as to his acquaintance with the Doctrines and Institutions of Christianity, his knowledge of Mr. Wesley's writings, and of the Methodist discipline; also as to his freedom from secular incumbrances.

192. If the report of the sermon, the result of the examination, and a medical certificate from such medical man or men as the meeting may direct, are satisfactory, the District Meeting by its vote recommends the candidate to the Conference to be received as a Preacher on Trial.

193. After such examination and inquiry as the Conference may deem necessary, if approved, he is received as a Preacher on Trial by the vote of the Conference. He is then sent either into Circuit work, or to the Theological Institution, or placed on the President's List of Reserve, as may be determined. (See par. 258.)

194. When it is impossible for a candidate to attend a District Meeting, he may be examined by the three nearest Superintendents or by three Ministers who have each travelled ten years.

195. It is required that in the District Minutes there shall be inserted a recommendatory character of every candidate, stating his age and other particulars, signed by the Minister who nominated him, and which, if the Conference receives such candidate on Trial, may be copied into a book kept for that purpose by the Conference.

196. No Minister or any number of Ministers shall encourage any person to give up his business and prepare for the itinerant work without the authority of the Conference.

197. As a general rule unmarried men alone are received as Preachers on Trial; when any exception is made to this rule, it is required that the married candidate shall bring such an

account of his income, signed by his Superintendent, as shall satisfy the Conference. Or if any one engage to keep a Preacher's wife or children, he shall give a bond for the sum for which he becomes responsible.

198. Candidates are urged to offer themselves for the general work, and not specially for the colonies or missions.

## CHAPTER II.

### PREACHERS ON TRIAL.

199. Preachers received on Trial must travel four years before they can be received into full connexion. This term may be extended by the Conference for any reason which it may deem sufficient.

200. Preachers on Trial are not at liberty to marry during their probation.

201. A course of reading for Probationers is prescribed by the General Conference, and entered in its Minutes. Each Preacher on Trial is to be examined in writing on these books, and the result of the examination is to be reported to the Conference. (For course of reading, see General Conference Minutes, 1884; see also par. 409.)

202. The Chairmen of Districts are, at each District Meeting, to examine all Preachers on Trial in their district as to their theology and their general reading. For this purpose each Probationer shall furnish a list of the books he has read during the year.

203. A trial sermon is to be preached during the District Meeting before two or more Ministers, by each Probationer every year he remains on trial; the report of the sermon to be made to the District Meeting.

204. Preachers on Trial are members of Leaders' and all other official meetings of the circuit to which they are appointed, excepting Trustee Meetings. A Preacher on Trial, however, has the right to preside in a Trustee Meeting if appointed to do so as the deputy of the Superintendent.

205. Preachers on Trial in charge of circuits under the direction of the Chairmen of Districts are members of the Financial District Meetings, with the right to vote. They are not members of the District Meeting or Conference, and have no right to vote in either.

206. Preachers on Trial in charge of circuits may administer the sacraments, if authorised to do so in writing by their Chairman, but not otherwise. They are authorised to celebrate marriage in the several colonies where they are registered by the Government to do so.

207. If a Preacher on Trial desists from travelling, and retires from our work for any other cause except want of health, his name is simply omitted from the Minutes.

208. No Probationer who has resigned his connexion with a Conference, shall be received by any other Conference without previous reference to the President and Secretary of the Conference which accepted his resignation.

## CHAPTER III.

### ADMISSION INTO FULL CONNEXION.

209. "The Conference shall, and may, admit into connexion with them any person or persons whom they shall approve to be Preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care and direction of the Conference; the name of every such person or persons so admitted into connexion, as aforesaid, with the time of admission, being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference" (Deed of Declaration, clause 9, page 134).

210. Before any Preacher on Trial (who may have been a Probationer four years) is recommended by his District Meeting to be received into Full Connexion, he shall be carefully examined by the Chairman (or some Minister appointed by him), respecting his acquaintance with Mr. Wesley's works in general, and especially his Sermons and Notes on the New Testament. The result must be presented, and the report of his trial sermon be made to the District Meeting. No Preacher is to be recommended unless his examination be satisfactory to the meeting.

211. The examination and report of the trial sermon having been satisfactory, and the District Meeting having recommended each Preacher to be received into Full Connexion, the names of all such are reported to the Conference, and inquiries respecting each of them are made; those to whom no serious objection is taken are privately examined by the President and some senior Ministers selected by him.

212. Among other questions relating to doctrine, discipline, personal piety, and call to the Ministry, proposed at the discretion of the President, the candidates are expected to answer, as in the presence of God, the following questions:—"Have you a lively faith in Christ? Do you enjoy a clear manifestation of the love of God to your soul? Have you constant power over all sin? Do you expect to be perfected in love in this life? Do you really desire and earnestly seek it? Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God, and to His work? Do you know the Methodist plan of doctrine and discipline? Have you read the 'Plain Account of the Methodists?' the 'Appeals to Men of

Reason and Religion? Do you know the Rules of the Society? Are you determined, by the help of God, to keep them? Do you take no snuff, tobacco, or drams? Have you read and seriously considered the Minutes of the Conference? Especially have you considered the Rules of a Helper? and, above all, the *first, tenth, and twelfth*? and will you keep them for conscience sake? Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God? Will you preach every morning and evening when opportunity serves, endeavouring not to speak too long or too loud? Will you diligently instruct the children where you can? Will you visit from house to house where it may be done? Will you recommend fasting and prayer both by precept and example? Are you in debt?"

213. This examination being satisfactory, the candidates for admission into Full Connexion are presented to the Conference, when they undergo a further examination, and are required to give a full and explicit declaration of their belief as to our leading doctrines, in the presence of the Conference.

214. Distinct examination is also to be made as to the knowledge and approval of the Methodist discipline, and all who are received into Full Connexion are required to engage to observe it themselves, and enforce it upon others; and to engage that if their views of doctrine or discipline change, they will quietly retire from the Connexion.

215. At the conclusion of the examination the candidates retire; the report of the written examination on the books prescribed for their reading is presented; they are then separately proposed to the Conference for admission into Full Connexion, and received, continued longer on Trial, or rejected, by the vote of the Conference.

## CHAPTER IV.

### ORDINATION OF MINISTERS.

216. Those Preachers on Trial who, after examination as provided in the preceding chapter, have been received into Full Connexion with the Conference, are ordained to the work of the Ministry by imposition of hands.

217. The President and Secretary of the Conference, the Ex-President, with two senior Ministers, selected by the President, are the persons appointed to confer ordination.

218. Where Preachers have been received into Full Connexion, who were not able to be present at the Conference, their ordination is to take place in their own districts. Where in such cases the Chairman acts in the place of the President, he shall unite with himself in the imposition of hands the Secretary of the district, and such senior Ministers as he may select.

219. Where Missionaries who are on Probation are proceeding to the Foreign Missions, they shall be ordained before their departure, notwithstanding that they are not received into Full Connexion.

220. The Ordination Service is conducted according to the Form approved and authorised by the General Conference.

## CHAPTER V.

### MARRIAGE OF MINISTERS.

221. Preachers on Trial may not marry during their probation. (See pars. 199, 200.)

222. No steps are to be taken towards matrimony by any Preacher without consultation with his brethren, and especially his Superintendent.

223. If there is reason to believe that any Preacher has not complied with the Apostolic injunction to "marry in the Lord," the Chairman of the District is to report the same to the Conference. (See also par. 20.)

224. Ministers who have been admitted into Full Connexion are required to give timely and explicit notice through their Chairman and representative to the Stationing Committee, if they intend to marry in the fifth year of their itinerancy.

225. In case any Minister marry while he is a Supernumerary, any children which may be born while he remains a Supernumerary shall have no claim on the Children's Fund until he return to circuit work.

226. Ministers who may marry widows having children by their former husbands, shall have no assistance from any Connexional Fund for such children.

## CHAPTER VI.

### MINISTERS NOT TO FOLLOW TRADES.

227. If any Minister or Missionary be employed in or carry on any trade, he shall on proof thereof be required to relinquish that business or retire from the itinerancy, as such a pursuit of private emolument is judged to be incompatible with the ministerial duties of our Church.

228. Supernumerary Ministers who enter into business, either with the advice of the Conference, or by their own choice and decision, shall be considered as accredited Local Preachers only; they are nevertheless to have their names retained on the Conference Journal, but not in the printed Minutes, and they shall have permission to attend their several District Meetings.

229. If a Supernumerary Minister who has been in business (and is therefore not recognised as a Supernumerary, see preceding par) cease to be so engaged, and it can be certified after inquiry at the District Meeting that he has no pecuniary embarrassment, or personal spiritual disqualification, he may be re-appointed as Supernumerary, and his name restored to the Minutes. (See also pars. 255—257.)

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE TRIAL AND EXPULSION OF MINISTERS.

#### I. THE TRIAL OF MINISTERS.

230. There are three methods of procedure which may be adopted in the Trial of Ministers.

#### 231. I. *The Minor District Meeting.*

- (1) If any Minister or Preacher on Trial be accused of immorality or of unfaithfulness to our doctrines or discipline, the accused and his accuser shall respectively choose two Ministers of their district, and the Chairman of the District shall, with the four Ministers chosen as above, try the accused Minister or Preacher on Trial; and they shall have authority, if he be found guilty, to suspend him until the ensuing Conference, if they judge it expedient.
- (2) If there be any difference among the Ministers or Preachers on Trial in a district, the respective parties shall choose two Ministers, and the Chairman of the District, with the four Ministers so chosen, shall be final arbiters to determine the matter in dispute. In both cases, the Chairman shall have a casting vote, in case of an equality of votes.
- (3) In any case in which the Chairman of a District may deem it necessary to appoint a Minor District Meeting, should either party refuse or decline to choose two Ministers to act as members thereof, the Chairman is empowered and directed to nominate them, so that the number required by rule may be made up.
- (4) When the accused Minister's circuit is so distant from the locality in which the charges arise that, in the judgment of the Chairman of his District, sanctioned by the concurrent opinion of the President, a serious hindrance would be caused to the attendance of witnesses, the case may be tried in a Minor or Annual District Meeting of that district from which the charges are preferred, but the proceedings shall be fully reported to the Chairman of the District in which the Preacher is stationed, to the District Meeting of that district, and to the President of the Conference.

- (5) From the sentence of a Minor District Meeting there is an appeal to the Annual District Meeting, and to the Conference. Notice of appeal must be given in writing to the Chairman of the District within fourteen days of the sentence having been pronounced. (See also pars. 232 (4), 263, 264.)
- (6) The Chairman of a District has discretionary power to decline to summon a Minor District Meeting should he deem the charges frivolous or vexatious, subject, however, to an appeal to the District Meeting or Conference, on the part of the accuser or accused.
- (7) A full report of the proceedings and sentence of a Minor District Meeting must in every case be made to the District Meeting.

### 232. II. *The Annual District Meeting.*

- (1) Usually cases requiring judicial investigation are first dealt with in a Minor District Meeting (see par. 231); but the Annual District Meeting has the right to deal with any case of ministerial discipline, without its having been before a Minor District Meeting.
- (2) Certain questions are directed to be put by the Chairman to or in respect of each Minister, respecting his character, belief of Methodist doctrine and discipline, and ability for his work. (See Annual District Meeting, par. 265 (5).)
- (3) The Conference and all its District Meetings, whether ordinary or special, possess the undoubted right of instituting, in their official and collective character, any inquiry or investigation which they may deem expedient into the moral, Christian, or ministerial conduct of the Preachers under their care, even although no formal or regular accusation may have been previously announced in regard to the individual, and of deciding upon such cases according to their best judgment. In the District Meetings especially, the Chairman has the official right of originating such inquiries, if he think necessary.
- (4) The District Meeting receives the report of any Minor District Meeting which may have been held prior to its session, and hears any appeal.

When there is no appeal the minutes are entered, with any resolution thereupon, in the district minutes, and forwarded to the Conference.

### 233. III. *The Mixed District Meeting.*

- (1) The appointment of the Preachers\* shall remain solely with the Conference; and no Trustee, or number of Trustees, shall expel or exclude from their church or churches any Preacher so appointed.

---

\* "Preacher," in this and other paragraphs, is convertible with "Minister," or "Preacher on Trial," in other parts of the volume, as the case may be.

(2) Nevertheless, if the majority of the Trustees, or the majority of the Stewards and Leaders of any Society, believe that any Preacher appointed for their circuit is immoral, erroneous in doctrine, deficient in abilities, or that he has broken any of the rules above mentioned, they shall have authority to summon the Preachers of the district, and all the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of that circuit, to meet in their church, on a day and hour appointed (sufficient time being given). The Chairman of the District shall be president of the assembly; and every Preacher, Trustee, Steward, and Leader shall have a single vote, the Chairman possessing the casting vote. And if the majority of the meeting judge that the accused Preacher is immoral, erroneous in doctrines, deficient in abilities, or has broken any of the rules above mentioned, he shall be considered as removed from that circuit. And the District Meeting shall, as soon as possible, appoint another Preacher for that circuit, instead of the Preacher so removed; and shall determine among themselves how the removed Preacher shall be disposed of till the Conference; and shall have authority to suspend the said Preacher from all public duties till the Conference, if they judge proper. The District Meeting shall also supply, as well as possible, the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed; and the Preacher thus appointed, and all other Preachers, shall be subject to the above mode of trial.

And if the District Meeting do not appoint a Preacher for that circuit instead of the removed Preacher within a month after the aforesaid removal, or do not fill up the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed, the majority of the said Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, being again regularly summoned, shall appoint a Preacher for the said circuit, provided he be a member of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, till the ensuing Conference.

- (3) If any Preacher refuse to submit to the above mode of trial, in any of the cases mentioned above, he shall be considered as suspended till the next Conference. And if any Trustees expel from any church a Preacher by their own separate authority, the Preachers appointed for that circuit shall not preach in that church till the next Conference, or till a trial take place according to the mode mentioned above.
- (4) If any Trustees expel or exclude a Preacher by their own separate authority from any church, in any circuit, the Chairman of the District shall summon the members

of the District Meeting, the Trustees of that circuit who have not offended, and the Stewards and Leaders of the circuit. And the members of such Assembly shall examine into the evidence on both sides; and if the majority of them determine that the state of the Society in which the exclusion took place requires that a new church should be built before the meeting of the next Conference, every proper step shall be immediately taken for erecting such church. And no step shall, on any account, be taken to erect a church for such purpose before the next Conference till such a meeting be summoned and such determination be made.

- (5) No Preacher charged by the majority of the Trustees, or a majority of the Leaders and Stewards of any Society, as immoral, erroneous in doctrine, or deficient in abilities, shall be suspended or removed from his circuit by any District Meeting except he have the privilege of the trial before mentioned.

#### II. TRIAL OF A CHAIRMAN OF DISTRICT.

234. If it should appear to any Superintendent Minister of a circuit, who is in Full Connexion, that the Chairman of his District has been guilty of any crime or misdemeanour, or that he has neglected to convene a District Meeting when there were sufficient reasons for calling it, such Superintendent shall have authority to summon a meeting of the Ministers in his district, who shall be empowered to elect one of their number present, who is not the accused, to preside on the occasion, and to place the Chairman on his trial before them, when, if the accused be proved guilty, the meeting shall have power to suspend him till the ensuing Conference, and shall elect a Chairman for their district until the end of the year.

#### III. REGULATIONS AFFECTING MODES OF TRIAL, ETC.

235. No charge brought by one Preacher against another in the same district shall be heard in Conference, unless previously examined in a District Meeting if the matter alleged in such charge were then known; all charges shall be previously made, personally or in writing, to the brother against whom they are directed.

236. Whenever the Chairman has received any charge against a Preacher, either from the Preachers or the people, he shall send an exact account of the charge in writing to the person accused, with the name of the accuser or accusers, before he calls a meeting of the District Committee to examine into the charge.

237. All Preachers who desire to remain in ministerial communion with us are considered as retaining that communion on

the distinct condition that they hold themselves individually pledged to submit, in a peaceable and Christian spirit, to the usual disciplinary investigations, not only of the Conference, but of all its District Meetings, whether ordinary or special, when summoned according to our rules and usages; and any Preacher who refuses to submit to the friendly examination of the Chairman and of other brethren, or to take his trial regularly and formally before the Ministers, either of an ordinary or of other District Meeting, when duly required so to do, shall be considered as *ipso facto* incurring the penalty of suspension until the ensuing Conference; because no possible security can be found even against the worst forms of moral or ministerial delinquency, if persons charged with any misconduct and summoned to trial be allowed to evade with impunity our established modes of investigation. (See also par. 233, (3).)

238. The lower courts can suspend only, and there is in each case the right of appeal to Conference; but that right is forfeited unless the decision of the court is submitted to, and notice of appeal is duly made by the suspended Minister within seven days.

239. With a view to the maintenance of wholesome discipline among the Ministers and Preachers on Trial of the Connexion, and in order to prevent inconvenience and embarrassment in any district in which a Minister may be placed under suspension, the support of a suspended Minister, during the period of his suspension, shall be provided for by the Conference of which he is a member.

#### IV. EXPULSION OF MINISTERS.

240. "The Conference shall and may expel and put out from being a member thereof, or from being in connexion therewith, or from being upon trial, any person member of the Conference, or admitted into connexion or upon trial, for any cause which to the Conference may seem fit or necessary; and every member of the Conference so expelled and put out shall cease to be a member thereof, to all intents and purposes, as though he was naturally dead" (Deed of Declaration, clause 8, page 134).

241. If a Minister be expelled, his name is printed without remarks in the Minutes of his Conference under the question—"What persons who were in Full Connexion with the Conference have ceased to be recognised as Ministers amongst us?"

242. The names of Preachers on Trial who may be expelled are simply omitted in the printed Minutes.

243. No Minister who has been suspended or expelled shall on any account be employed as a Local Preacher, without the authority of the Conference. If expelled for immorality, he

shall not at any subsequent period be allowed to be a Local Preacher or Class Leader, without the consent of the Conference previously obtained.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### MINISTERIAL DUTIES.

#### I. THE TWELVE RULES OF A HELPER.

244. The office of a Christian Minister is to watch over souls as he that must give account ; to feed and guide the flock. How shall he be fully qualified for this great work ? By walking closely with God, and having His work greatly at heart ; by understanding and loving every branch of our discipline ; and by carefully and constantly observing the "Twelve Rules of a Helper," viz. :—1. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never while away time ; nor spend more time at any place than is strictly necessary.—2. Be serious. Let your motto be, "Holiness to the Lord." Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.—3. Converse sparingly and cautiously with women, particularly with young women.—4. Take no step towards marriage without solemn prayer to God and consulting with your brethren.—5. Believe evil of no one, unless fully proved ; take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction you can on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.—6. 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.—7. Tell every one what you think wrong in him, lovingly and plainly, and as soon as may be ; else it will fester in your own heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.—8. Do not affect the gentleman. You have no more to do with this character than with that of a dancing-master. A preacher of the gospel is a servant for all.—9. Be ashamed of nothing but sin ; not of fetching wood (if time permit), or drawing water ; not of cleaning your own shoes, or your neighbour's.—10. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And, in general, do not mend our Rules, but keep them : not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.—11. You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work ; and go always, not only to those who want you, but to those who want you most.—12. Act in all things, not according to your own will, but as a son in the Gospel, and in union with your brethren. As such, it is your part to employ your time as the Rules direct ; partly in preaching and visiting from house to house, partly in

reading, meditation, and prayer. Above all, if you labour with us in the Lord's vineyard, it is needful that you should do that part of the work which the Conference shall advise, at those times and places which they shall judge most for His glory. Observe! it is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that Society, but to save as many souls as you can, to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord. And, remember! a Methodist preacher is to mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist discipline. Therefore you will need all the sense you have, and to have all your wits about you.

## II. DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENT MINISTERS.

245. In the time of Mr. Wesley the Preacher appointed in charge of a circuit was called the "Assistant." Since then the name has been changed to Superintendent. Where there is more than one Preacher appointed to a circuit, the Superintendent is the chief Minister, who is held accountable for the proper maintenance of discipline in the circuit; his colleagues who are in Full Connexion are his co-pastors, but they cannot fully share his responsibilities.

(1) He should consider the Preachers on Trial as his pupils, into whose behaviour and studies he should frequently inquire, and, at proper times, into their Christian life and experience.

Subject to the Rules and usage in regard to the different matters, the Superintendent Minister is—

(2) To admit into and exclude members from the Society; to see that each new member is supplied with a copy of the Rules; take care that the weekly and quarterly contributions are regularly made; arrange for the meeting of the Classes by himself or his colleagues once a quarter; give certificates of removals; and take the oversight of the flock of Christ in his own circuit.

(3) To submit every case of proposed expulsion to the Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of his circuit, in order that he may have the advantage of hearing the opinion of his colleagues and co-pastors, before he shall finally decide upon the course he ought to adopt.

(4) To discharge the duties of pastoral visitation himself, and cause his colleagues to do the same; to enter the number of members in the several classes in the circuit, with all necessary particulars, in the schedules supplied for the purpose, and present them to the Conference.

(5) To leave his successor a list of all the officers and members, arranged in their several Classes and Societies, when he removes from a circuit; to see that none are received from another circuit without a note of removal.

(6) To hold, or direct one of his colleagues to hold, Society Meetings, Love Feasts, Watch Nights, Prayer Meetings, and Leaders' Meetings ; to preside as Chairman, or in case of absence to direct a colleague to preside with the right to vote in all the Circuit Meetings, and in all Committee Meetings of schools and other institutions within his circuit.

(7) To administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper ; to permit none but Ministers in Full Connexion to administer them ; and afford Preachers on Trial proper opportunities for receiving the Lord's Supper ; to see that no Funeral Sermon be preached in his circuit without his consent, and for those only who die happy in the Lord.

(8) To make and prepare the circuit plans for the local and travelling Preachers, or cause his colleague to do it ; to publish, in conjunction with the President, a plan of the order of preaching during Conference, when its sittings take place in his circuit.

(9) To meet the Local Preachers quarterly ; preside in all their meetings ; invite Chairmen of Districts to attend at Quarterly Meetings, if deemed expedient ; possess a veto upon non-official meetings ; nominate Stewards, Leaders, and Local Preachers ; and examine all candidates for the Ministry before he proposes them to the Quarterly Meeting.

(10) To invite and urge the attendance of the Circuit Stewards at the Annual Financial District Meeting ; to fill up all the circuit and other schedules, produce them for examination at the District Meetings, and present them to the Conference.

(11) To meet the Leaders regularly ; change improper ones ; enforce upon them the duty of visiting absent members ; require them regularly to attend the Leaders' Meetings ; examine their books, and urge a diligent observance of the Rules.

(12) To attend, preside over, and vote in Trustee Meetings, and audit their accounts.

(13) To appoint a special Society Meeting, at which the Pastoral Address shall be read.

(14) To see that every Preacher on Trial has Wesley's "Sermons," "Liverpool Resolutions," and the "Twelve Rules of a Helper" on arriving in his first circuit.

(15) To be responsible for the proper observance of every branch of discipline in every part of the circuit, and supply the Financial Secretaries with their accounts at the times directed by the Conference.

(16) To look out from among the Travelling and Local Preachers of his circuit for suitable persons to become Missionaries ; to see that separate and correct accounts of all missionary moneys and matters are kept and regularly paid over to the proper officers.

(17) To take care that all the churches and other property in his circuit are properly settled upon the trusts of the Model Deed; that no strangers be suffered to preach in them without his consent; and that no unauthorised collections are made.

(18) To be punctual in making all the local and connexional collections and subscriptions.

(19) To transmit to the Treasurers all moneys for the Contingent Fund, and all other Connexional funds, with full statements of accounts at the proper times, and also to attend to all the regulations in respect thereof.

(20) To arrange for the meeting of Juvenile members' classes, and for the pastoral care of the young.

(21) Every circuit is required to obtain a copy of the Schedule book approved by the Conference, and each Superintendent shall properly fill up the schedules, and inquiries shall be made by the Chairmen of Districts at each District Meeting whether this has been done.

(22) To attend to all other offices and duties as specified in the Minutes of Conference, and strive by every possible means to follow peace with all men, and serve God acceptably, even to his life's end.

### III. THE LIVERPOOL MINUTES.

246. The following compendium of Ministerial duties, known as the Liverpool Minutes, is to be given to every Preacher on Trial when he first comes into a circuit (see par. 245 (14)), and also is directed to be read and made the subject of serious consideration at every Annual District Meeting. (See par. 265 (12).)

The Liverpool Minutes were adopted by the Conference held in Liverpool in the year 1820, on which occasion the inquiry was made—"What measures can we adopt for the increase of spiritual religion among our Societies and Congregations, and for the extension of the work of God in our native country?" After serious deliberation, the following Resolutions were agreed to:—

(1) We, on this solemn occasion, devote ourselves afresh to God; and resolve, in humble dependence on His grace, to be more than ever attentive to personal religion, and to the Christian instruction and government of our own families.

(2) Let us endeavour, in our public Ministry, to preach constantly all those leading and vital doctrines of the Gospel which peculiarly distinguished the original Methodist Preachers, whose labours were so signally blessed by the Lord, and to preach them in our primitive method—evangelically, experimentally, zealously, and with great plainness and simplicity; giving to them a decided prominence in every sermon, and labouring to apply them closely, affectionately, and energetically to the consciences of the different classes of our hearers.

(3) Let us consecrate ourselves fully and entirely to our proper work as servants of Christ and His Church, giving ourselves "wholly" to it, both in public and in private, and guarding against all occupations of our time and thoughts which have no direct connection with our great calling, and which would injuriously divert our attention from the momentous task of saving souls and taking care of the flock of Christ.

(4) Let us "covet earnestly the best gifts," to qualify us for an acceptable and useful Ministry; let us seek them in prayer from Him who is the Father of Lights and Fountain of Wisdom; let us "stir up," and improve by study and diligent cultivation "the gift that is in us;" and strive in every way to be "workmen who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth;" taking care, however, that, whatever other qualifications we may acquire and use, our Ministry shall, at least, by the divine blessing, be always characterised by sound, evangelical doctrine, by plainness of speech, and by a spirit of tender affection and burning zeal.

(5) Let us frequently read, and carefully study, Mr. Wesley's "Rules of a Helper," and other parts of the Large Minutes which relate to the duties of a Preacher and Pastor.

(6) In order to promote an increase in the Congregations, and revival of the work of God, let us have recourse, even in our old established circuits, to the practice of preaching out of doors—seeking, in order to save, that which is lost.

(7) In every circuit let us try to open new places; let us try again places which have not been recently visited; let us be increasingly attentive to the supply and superintendence of the country places already on the plan; let us not be satisfied till every town, village, and hamlet in our respective neighbourhoods shall be blessed, as far as we can possibly accomplish it, with the means of grace and salvation; in a word, let every Methodist Preacher consider himself as called to be, in point of enterprise, zeal, and diligence, a Home Missionary, and to enlarge, and extend, as well as keep, the circuit to which he is appointed.

(8) Let us, wherever it shall appear to be practicable, especially in the old and large Societies, employ some active, zealous men, whose piety and general character shall be approved by the Leaders' Meetings, to attempt the formation of new Classes in suitable neighbourhoods, where we may hope by that method to gather into the fold of Christ some persons who are "not far from the kingdom of God," but who need special invitation, and are not likely to "give themselves" fully "to the Lord and to us by the will of God," without more than ordinary labour and spiritual attention.

(9) Let us speak plainly and pointedly in every place, both in those occasional meetings of the Society at which strangers are

allowed to be present and in our sermons, on the duty and advantage of Christian communion; and exhort all who are seeking salvation to avail themselves, without delay, of the help of our more private means of grace.

(10) Let us encourage public prayer-meetings, especially those which are held at times which do not interfere with our general worship, in the houses of our friends, in different parts of a town or neighbourhood; such meetings having been long proved to be, when prudently conducted by persons of established piety and competent gifts, and duly superintended by the preachers and by the Leaders' Meetings, valuable nurseries for our congregations and societies, and means of salvation to many who could not have been reached at first in any other method.

(11) In country places, where a full supply of preaching cannot be obtained, either by travelling or local preachers, let suitable persons belonging to the nearest Societies be encouraged to attend, under the direction of the Superintendent, for the purpose of public prayer and exhortation, and occasionally to read to the congregations a short and plain sermon on the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, until such places can be favoured with other and more regular opportunities of instruction in righteousness.

(12) Let us ourselves remember and endeavour to impress on our people that we, as a body, do not exist for the purposes of party; and that we are especially bound by the example of our founder, by the original principle on which our Societies are formed, and by our constant professions before the world, to avoid a narrow, bigoted, and sectarian spirit, to abstain from needless and unprofitable disputes on minor subjects of theological controversy, and as far as we innocently can, to "please all men for their good unto edification." Let us therefore maintain towards all denominations of Christians who "hold the head" the kind and catholic spirit of primitive Methodism, and, according to the noble maxim of our fathers in the gospel—"Be the friends of all, the enemies of none."

(13) Let us, at least in every large town, establish weekly meetings for the children of our friends, according to our ancient custom; and let us pay particular spiritual attention, in public and in private, to the young people of our Societies and congregations.

(14) Let us meet the Societies regularly on the Lord's Day; and frequently on the week-day evenings in country places where we do not preach on the Lord's Day. Let the members be accustomed on such occasions to show their Society tickets, and let us endeavour to make these meetings interesting and appropriate to our members, as such—by giving to our addresses an immediate reference to the state of the people, to the circum-



stances of each Society, and to their peculiar duties, both personal and domestic, as professors of religion and as Methodists, and by frequently explaining and enforcing our own rules.

(15) Let us revive where it has been neglected, and promote in every place, the observance of those parts of our discipline which refer to watch nights, private and public bands, and quarterly days for solemn fasting and prayer.

(16) Let us, whenever we have access and opportunity, be diligent in pastoral visits to our people at their own houses, especially to the sick, the careless, and the lukewarm.

(17) But as such private visits must, in many cases, from our plan of continual itinerancy and village preaching, and from the number of members in the larger Societies, be greatly limited, let us endeavour so to arrange in our several circuits, the plans for the quarterly public visitation of the Classes as to allow full time for a more minute examination into the Christian knowledge, experience, and practice of the members, and for pastoral inquiries, instructions, and counsels, respecting personal and family religion.

(18) Let us regularly meet the Class Leaders, and examine their Class-books, in town and country; and do all we can to engage both them and our respected brethren, the Local Preachers, to co-operate with us, in their respective departments, in promoting vital godliness among our people, and extending the work of the Lord.

(19) As much depends, under the blessing of God, on the piety, knowledge, zeal, activity, and Christian temper of our Leaders, as well as on their firm attachment to the doctrines, discipline, and cause of Methodism, let us never nominate a new Leader until we have conscientiously satisfied ourselves, by previous inquiry and personal examination, as to the character and qualifications of the person proposed; and let us act uniformly on the rule respecting the public examination of Leaders (see par. 140).

(20) Let us, whenever a new Leader, nominated by us and accepted by the Leaders' Meeting, shall be first introduced into the meeting, take the opportunity of stating the duties which belong to the office, and of enforcing them on all present.

(21) Let us affectionately, but firmly, enforce on the Leaders, as an essential article of our pastoral discipline, and one which, in consequence of our own constant itinerancy, cannot be dispensed with, the rule of the Society in which it is stated to be the duty of a Leader "to see every member in his class once in every week."

(22) Let us pay particular attention to backsliders, and endeavour, in the spirit of meekness, to restore them that have

been overtaken in a fault, and by private efforts, as well as by our public ministrations, to recover the fallen out of the snare of the devil.

(23) Let us afresh enforce on all our people a conscientious attendance on the Lord's Supper.

(24) Let us earnestly exhort our Societies to make the best and most religious use of the rest and leisure of the Lord's Day. Let us admonish any individuals who shall be found to neglect our public worship, under pretence of visiting the sick, or other similar engagements. Let us show to our people the evil of wasting those portions of the Sabbath which are not spent in public worship in visits, or in receiving company, to the neglect of private prayer, of the perusal of the Scriptures, and of family duties, and often to the serious spiritual injury of servants, who are thus improperly employed, and deprived of the public means of grace. Let us set an example in this matter by refusing for ourselves and for our families to spend in visits, when there is no call of duty or necessity, the sacred hours of the holy Sabbath; and let us never allow the Lord's Day to be secularised by meetings of mere business, when such business refers only to the temporal affairs of the Church of God.

(25) With a view to promote, in the families and schools of our Connexion, the uniform and regular practice of catechetical instruction, which, especially in the present state of our body and of our country at large, we deem to be of the highest importance, we agree that a series of catechisms shall be prepared, and recommended for general use among us.

(26) In conducting our Leaders' and Quarterly Meetings, and all other official meetings among us, let us affectionately and steadily discountenance the spirit of strife and debate; and promote, in the management of all our affairs, both by our advice and example, the temper and manner of men who are acting for God in the service of His Church. Let the introduction of all topics of useless or irritating discussion, not legitimately connected with the proper business of such meetings, be prudently repressed. Let us remember that, in a large body, the only way to live in peace and comfort is to walk by rule, and (to use the language of Mr. Wesley) "not to mend our rules, but to keep them for conscience' sake." And while we readily and cheerfully protect all our members, in meetings in which we preside, in the exercise of such functions as belong to them, according to our laws and general usages, let us not forget that we are under solemn obligations to conduct ourselves on such occasions, not as the mere chairmen of public meetings, but as the pastors of Christian societies, put in trust by the ordinance of God, and by their own voluntary association with us, with the scriptural superintendence of their spiritual affairs, and responsible to the

great Head of the Church for the faithful discharge of the duties of that trust.

(27) We affectionately exhort those of our own people who are laudably active in various benevolent institutions, while they persevere in every good word and work, to guard against the danger of expending all their leisure and influence on mere local and subordinate charities, so as to neglect God's own direct and immediate institutions, such as the public preaching of the Gospel, or to deprive themselves of the opportunity of regularly attending their Classes, and of private prayer and reading of the Holy Scriptures. It should not be forgotten that the great spiritual work of God depends, under the divine blessing, on the general and conscientious use of His institutions; and that in the success of that work all other good undertakings among us had their origins, and must ever have their principal support. "These things ought ye to have done, and not have left the other undone."

(28) In order that the state of the work may be constantly under the eye of the Preachers, we agree to revive uniformly the good old custom of keeping quarterly schedules in every circuit, each of which shall contain a correct statement, for the quarter to which it belongs, of persons admitted for trial, new members fully admitted into Society after due probation, removals into other circuits, deaths, backsliders, conversions, number in the bands, and total number of members then in the Society. The Book Steward shall prepare, and furnish to every circuit, a sufficient number of printed forms of such a schedule, to be filled up by the Preachers, in reference to every distinct Class, during their quarterly visitations. And from these each Superintendent shall draw up every quarter one general schedule containing an account of all the Societies in his circuit in relation to the several particulars above-mentioned. These general circuit schedules each Superintendent is expected to produce, whenever required so to do, at the Annual District Meeting, or at the Conference.

(29) Every Superintendent is required to leave for his successor in the circuit book, not only a list of the Town and Circuit Stewards, and of the annual subscribers to our several Funds, &c., but especially an exact list of the names of all the members in his circuit, arranged in their several classes and Societies, as found at the preceding midsummer visitation.

(30) But as we are deeply sensible that the great thing to be desired, in order to a revival and extension of the work of God, without which no resolutions, or labours, or regulations will avail, is a new and more abundant effusion of the Holy Spirit on ourselves, on our Societies, and on our congregations, we solemnly agree to seek that blessing in humble and earnest

prayer. And we hereby appoint that the day of the next quarterly fast—namely, the Friday after Michaelmas Day, October 6th—shall be observed in our circuits as a day of special fasting and prayer to Almighty God. Let meetings for public supplication be held in as many places as possible—in every circuit; and let the Preachers speak largely and particularly on the subject in their sermons on the preceding Lord's Day.

(31) The various articles included in this minute shall be read by every Chairman at the regular Annual Meeting of his district, and shall then be made the subject of serious conversation among the brethren, with a view to their particular bearing on the spiritual state and circumstances of each district respectively.

## CHAPTER IX.

### APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERS.

247. No Minister can be legally appointed to the same circuit for more than three years in succession, because of the provision in the Deed of Declaration, recited in the Model Deed, viz. :—

“The Conference shall not, nor may, nominate or appoint any person for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of any chapels and premises, except ordained Ministers of the Church of England.” (Clause 11, page 135.)

248. Where there are two or more circuits in the same city or town, no Minister or Preacher on Trial shall be stationed in them so as to remain in such city or town for a period exceeding six years in succession. Notwithstanding this law, an Annual Conference shall be empowered to consider special cases on their merits, and to appoint a Minister for seven, eight, or nine years to city circuits *in the same city*, if in their judgment the interests of our circuits and our work require an extension of the six years' term.

249. The appointments of Presidents of Colleges, Theological Tutors, Missionary Secretaries, and other Connexional offices is ordinarily for a term of six years; but the Conference is at liberty to renew such appointments as often as it shall deem necessary.

250. The appointment of Book Steward is for three years, renewable on expiration of such term, as in par. 249 above.

251. A Minister cannot return to a circuit in which he has been before stationed until he shall have been absent from it six years.

252. The following regulations are laid down with regard to interchanges of Ministers between Annual Conferences :—

(1) The Minister asking for an interchange shall (except in cases provided for in clause 3) prefer his request through his Annual Conference.

(2) Should the Annual Conference decline to endorse his request, or should negotiations for an interchange have failed, the Minister may present his case to the General Conference.

(3) Should special circumstances have occurred between the close of the meeting of the Annual Conference and the assembling of the General Conference, any Minister shall be at liberty to apply for an interchange to the General Conference, without previous application to his Annual Conference.

(4) Interchanges made by the General Conference shall, except when otherwise ordered, take effect at the ordinary time of removal next following. (See par. 300 (5).)

(5) When a Minister who has travelled more than five and less than fifteen years is transferred to another Conference, he shall have the right to return to his own Conference at the end of nine years. If he shall have travelled more than fifteen years, he shall have the right to return at the end of six years.

(6) The expenses of all interconferential exchanges shall be charged *pro rata* on all the Conferences on the same basis as General Conference expenses.

253. (1) Any candidate for the Ministry employed by the British Conference, or the Missionary Committee in London, during or previous to the Conference in England of any given year, shall at the ensuing Annual Conference in Australasia, be regarded as having travelled one year.

(2) Any candidate accepted by an Annual Conference, and employed before the 25th June in any year, shall at the ensuing Conference be accounted as having travelled one year. Should he be employed after the 25th June his probation shall commence at the next ensuing Conference.

254. As it must greatly embarrass the Connexion if Chairmen of Districts be allowed to send to England for Ministers without the permission of the Conference, it is directed that all applications for Ministers shall be first sanctioned by the Annual Conference concerned, and the applications must be sent home by the President of such Conference.

## CHAPTER X.

### SUPERNUMERARIES.

255. A Minister desiring to become a Supernumerary must obtain the recommendation of the District Meeting. Where circumstances of a special kind may have transpired between the time of the District Meeting and the Annual Conference, this recommendation is not insisted on.

256. An Annual Conference can make any Minister a Supernumerary for any reason which, by it, may be deemed sufficient.

257. The General Conference has power to direct any Annual Conference to appoint to the full work any Minister

who may have been made a Supernumerary since the last General Conference. (See pars. 228, 229, 300 (9); see also pars. 380—385.) (For Rules see par. 386.)

## CHAPTER XI. LIST OF RESERVE.

258. (1) When there are a larger number of candidates for the Ministry accepted by the Conference than can be appointed to circuits, or admitted to the Theological Institution, their names are placed on the President's List of Reserve.

(2) If any are called out from this list to the full work before the 25th June following, they shall be considered to have travelled one year. (See par. 253 (2).)

(3) The President alone has power to call out persons into the full work from the List of Reserve.

(4) The names of those on the List of Reserve are to be given to the Chairmen of the Districts in which they may reside. At the District Meetings, the Superintendent of the circuit where they reside shall report to the District Meeting, and it to the Conference, whether such persons continue to be deemed proper for employment in our regular ministry.

## CHAPTER XII. CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICTS.

259. A Chairman of a District is elected by ballot at the Annual Conference, after the stations have been confirmed. He enters upon his duties the first week in April in each year. He is to preside at all the District Meetings in his district, whether Annual, Minor, or Special, except when the President is present; to convene a Special or Minor District Meeting when required (see pars. 231, 273); to give a written notice in due time to every accused Minister or Probationer, of his trial, the nature of the charge preferred against him, and the names of his accusers; to preside himself, or appoint some Minister of the district to preside, at a Special Circuit Meeting (see par. 166). He is responsible (in conjunction with his brethren) for the execution of the laws within his district; he is to have three copies of the District Minutes written, one in the Minute Book and two on foolscap paper, each duly signed by the Chairman and Secretary, one copy to be given to the President, to be preserved as a Conference Document. He is *ex-officio* a member of the Stationing Committee.

(For other duties see pars. 151, 191 (2), 202, 210, 218, 236, 237, 246 (31), 254, 258 (4), 265 (5), 319.)

260. In case of the death or incapacity from sickness or otherwise of a Chairman, the President of the Conference is empowered to appoint one of the Ministers of the district to act as Chairman so long as the vacancy or incapacity may exist.

# PART IV.

---

## DISTRICT COURTS.

---

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING.

261. The District Meeting is a Committee of the Conference, composed of all the Ministers, including Supernumeraries, who are appointed to circuits within the district, all of whom are required to be present and attend its sessions, unless unavoidably prevented, in which case a dispensation must be applied for and granted by the meeting.

262. Probationers are also required to be present; but neither in District Meeting nor at Conference have Preachers on Trial a right to vote. The election of a Representative is not an exception, save only as in par. 268.

263. At the Annual District Meeting all the ministerial and ecclesiastical affairs for the year are reviewed and considered; the character of the Ministers is inquired into; Candidates for the Ministry and Probationers—both those who remain on trial and those to be admitted into Full Connexion—are examined and dealt with (see pars. 185—215). Appeals from the lower courts are heard and decided—subject to a further appeal to the Conference—and numerous other matters are considered. (See par. 232 (4).)

264. The right of appeal to the Conference is forfeited unless it is made at and to the District Meeting.

265. The following is the order of business:—

(a) The meeting is opened with singing; the retiring Secretary reads the Scriptures, and prayer is offered.

(b) A Secretary is elected by ballot from the Ministers in Full Connexion. An Assistant Secretary (or Secretaries) is chosen, either by ballot or open voting, usually after nomination by the Secretary.

(c) The hours of session are decided upon.

The following questions are then asked, and the answers recorded in the Minutes:—

(1) What Ministers and Preachers on Trial are present?

The names of the Ministers and Probationers stationed in the district are called over by the Secretary. The case of each absentee is inquired into, dispensations are granted or refused, as the case may be, and a record made of the fact, and, if necessary, the reasons.

The number of Candidates for the Ministry is stated, and arrangements are made as to the places where they shall preach, the Ministers who are to hear them, and the time when they shall be examined; the Superintendent nominating is expected to give information to each candidate respectively. Similar arrangements are made as to the preaching and examination of those Probationers who remain on trial or seek admission into Full Connexion; the Secretary to inform them.

The list of books read by Probationers during the year is to be furnished, and their written examination in those subjects which are prescribed by the Conference is arranged for.

- (2) Have any Ministers or Preachers on Trial died during the year?

If any death has occurred it is usual to sing a suitable hymn, and prayer is offered; remarks are made respecting each deceased Minister; a brief obituary is prepared, and entered upon the Minutes, and recommended for insertion in the Minutes of Conference.

- (3) Do we recommend that any of our Ministers be made Supernumeraries at the ensuing Conference?

No Minister is to be made a Supernumerary without the recommendation of the District Meeting to which he belongs, unless, for particular reasons, the Conference, with his own consent, judge it proper. (See pars. 255, 256.)

- (4) Do we recommend that any Supernumerary be again employed in the regular work?

- (5) Are there any objections to any Minister or Preacher on trial?

Every Chairman is required to ask the following questions, distinctly and successively, concerning every brother:—

(a) Is there any objection to his moral and religious character?

(b) Does he believe and preach our doctrines?

(c) Has he duly observed and enforced our discipline?

(d) Has he competent abilities for our itinerant work?

A separate answer to each of these questions is required.

- (6) What Preachers on Trial do we recommend to be admitted into Full Connexion at the ensuing Conference?

For the examination, &c., required, see pars. 209—215.

- (7) What Preachers do we recommend to remain on Trial?

For proceedings, see "Preachers on Trial." (Pars. 199—208.)

- (8) What Candidates for our Ministry do we recommend to be received on trial at the ensuing Conference?

For all proceedings see "Candidates for the Ministry." (Pars. 185—198.)

Inquiries are here made respecting any who may be on the List of Reserve (see par. 258 (4)); or who are students in the Theological Institution. (See pars. 408 (8), (9).)

- (9) Do any of our Ministers or Preachers on Trial in this District offer themselves for the Mission work?

The names are read over, and if any offer themselves, their names are recorded in the Minutes, and reported to the Conference.

- (10) Have the Conference stations for this District been observed?

- (11) Are registers of Marriages and Baptisms kept in each circuit, and are the entries carefully made?

- (12) Can any measures be adopted for the promotion of the Work of God in this District?

Under this question the Liverpool Minutes and Twelve Rules of a Helper are to be read by the Chairman, and made the subject of serious conversation. (For Rules of a Helper see par. 244; for Liverpool Minutes see par. 246.)

- (13) What Ministers do we recommend the Conference to appoint on the various Conference Committees?

(1) Missionary Committee.

(2) Education Committee.

(3) Building and Loan Fund Committee.

(4) College Committee.

(5) Book Committee.

(6) Home Missions Committee.

(7) Privileges Committee; and any Committees of a district character.

- (14) What Ministers do we permit to attend the Conference?

- (15) What is the state of our Sunday-schools?

- (16) Have we any recommendations to offer in reference to the theological training of the Candidates for our Ministry?

- (17) Have we anything to recommend to the ensuing Conference?

- (18) When and where shall the next meeting be held?

- (19) Appeals (if any) from the lower courts have to be heard and decided at such period of the meeting as may be most convenient.

266. Matters of a local and miscellaneous character, not included in the foregoing questions, may cause some changes in, and additions to, the above.

267. The District Meeting, as well as the Conference, has the undoubted right of instituting, in its official and collective capacity, any inquiry or investigation which may be deemed expedient into the moral, Christian, or ministerial conduct and belief of any of the Ministers or Preachers on Trial under its care, even though no formal or regular accusation may have been previously made by any individual. (See par. 265 (5).)

## CHAPTER II.

### FINANCIAL DISTRICT MEETING.

268. The Financial District Meeting is a Committee of the Conference, composed—

- (1) Of all the Ministers within the bounds of the District.
- (2) The Circuit Stewards of the various circuits within the bounds of the District.
- (3) Probationers in charge of Circuits within the same limits.

269. The Financial District Meeting is held during the sessions of the Annual District Meeting, on such day or days as may be determined the previous year.

270. The order of business of the Financial District Meeting is substantially as follows; owing to the special circumstances connected with each colony, the exact order will vary in different districts:—

After singing and prayer, the following questions are asked, and the answers recorded in the Minutes:—

- (1) Who are present?
- (2) What is the state of the Connexional property in this District?
- (3) Have any new erections been completed, and have the Conference regulations relating thereto been observed?

[For these regulations see Building Committee's Rules and Regulations of the several Annual Conferences.]

- (4) Do we sanction the purchase or erection of any properties in this District?
- (5) Do we recommend the sale or leasing of any lands or buildings in this District?
- (6) What is the state of the Building and Loan Fund?

[The report of the Committee is read, considered, adopted, and any recommendations made upon it to the Conference.]

- (7) What is the state of the Contingent Fund?

[The Chairman, or Financial Secretary (where there is

one), submits the accounts of the Fund, which are passed, and expenditure authorised for the current year.]

- (8) What has been raised in this District on behalf of the Home Mission Fund?
- (9) What amount has been apportioned by the Committee of Home Missions for this District?  
[Such sums as have been apportioned to the district are voted to dependent circuits after full discussion as to the wants of the circuits.]
- (10) What has been raised for the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund?
- (11) What has been raised for the Children's Fund?
- (12) What is the number of children to be provided for in this District for the next year?
- (13) What is the number of children upon this Fund in this District?

[The Supernumerary, and Children's and Education Funds, are Connexional Funds, and under the direction of the General Conference, which meets triennially. The accounts and balance-sheets are furnished to and published by it in its Minutes; the statements submitted to the District Meetings are and can be only accounts of receipts within each district. Every third year suggestions or recommendations respecting these Funds can be made by each District Meeting to its Annual Conference, with a view to their being sent on (if approved by the Annual Conference) to the General Conference.]

- (14) What is the amount raised towards the Foreign Mission Fund?
- (15) What are the resolutions of the Meeting respecting Foreign Missions?
- (16) Do we recommend the division or alteration of any circuit in this District? (See pars. 155—157.)
- (17) What new Stations do we propose to occupy?
- (18) What circuits are under obligation to take a married instead of a single Preacher at the ensuing Conference?
- (19) What circuits ask for additional Preachers at the ensuing Conference?
- (20) What are the statistical returns of this District as required by the Conference?
- (21) Whom do we appoint to accompany the Chairman as Representative to the Stationing Committee?
- (22) Whom do we recommend as Lay-members of the various Conference Committees? [Laymen only vote.]
- (23) Have we any recommendations to make to the Conference?

## CHAPTER III.

### THE SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING.

271. The Special District Meeting is, as its name imports, a meeting, consisting of all the Ministers of any District which may be called together specially during the intervals of the Annual District Meeting, and possessing the same powers as that meeting. It is held for the settlement of any disputes, either among ministers or people, particularly at times of disaffection in any given Society or locality.

272. There may (if either of the parties concerned desire) be added four Superintendents or other Ministers from any District of the Conference, two being chosen by each of the parties concerned in the affairs to be settled by the meeting.

273. The Chairman of the District has authority to call a Special District Meeting on any application of the Preachers or people which appears to him to require it.

274. The Chairman is required to report to the Annual Conference any Special District Meeting which may have been held within his District, and to submit its Minutes.

275. A Special District Meeting may remove a Trustee, or any local officer or member from membership, when required to interfere with the local affairs of any disturbed Society.

276. The President of the Conference, if he judge it expedient, may attend and preside at any Special District Meeting.

277. The right of appeal from the decisions of a Special District Meeting is reserved to all parties; but the appeal lies direct to the Conference, and not to the Annual District Meeting.

278. For trial of a Chairman see par. 234.

### MIXED DISTRICT MEETING.

279. See par. 233.

### MINOR DISTRICT MEETING.

280. See par. 231. Members of the Church have the right of appeal to a Minor District Meeting in certain cases. (See par. 46.)

# PART V.

---

## THE CONFERENCES.

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### PLAN FOR ANNUAL AND GENERAL CONFERENCES.

281. Whereas the English Conference, held at Birmingham in 1854, by the adoption of a Plan for that purpose, formed the Wesleyan Missionary Society's Australasian and Polynesian Missions into a distinct and affiliated Connexion, to be called the "Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion," and provided, among other things, for the holding of the Annual Conferences of such affiliated Connexion at Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart Town, and, if found practicable, at Auckland and other places; and whereas such Conferences have heretofore consisted of Ministers only; and whereas the Conference held in Sydney, in 1873, approved the principle of Lay Representation in the Conferences of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, within limits to be subsequently defined; and whereas the same Conference, by and with the consent of the English Conference, made and adopted a new Constitution for such Connexion, providing, among other things, for the holding of Annual and General Conferences in lieu of the Annual Conferences theretofore held, but containing no provision whatever for Lay Representation; and whereas at the General Conference held at Melbourne, in 1875, it was resolved that, while such Conference distinctly asserted its maintenance of the New Testament doctrine that the Ministry derives its existence from Christ, and that upon Christian Ministers, to whom is entrusted the duty of taking "heed to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, to feed the Church of God," devolves the solemn responsibility of enforcing godly discipline and administering the pastoral government of the Church; and whilst it regarded this principle as being essential to the scriptural fulfilment of the ministerial office, and so vital to the constitution of

Wesleyan Methodism that in the admission of Laymen as members of the Conference it must be held to be sacred and inviolable, it appeared to such Conference to be advisable that the principle of Lay Representation should be applied with the least possible delay to the Annual and General Conferences of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, and that the Constitution thereof should be accordingly amended.

It was therefore enacted by the first General Conference which held its sessions at Melbourne in 1875, by and with the consent of the English Wesleyan Methodist Conference—which consent has been given in virtue of and in conformity with the Act of the Imperial Parliament known as “The Methodist Conference Act 1876,” and by Resolutions of the English Conference, and printed in the Minutes for the years 1876 and 1878 (see Appendix, pp. 121—123, 124—136), that so much of the various Constitutions or Plans relating to the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion as is inconsistent with or repugnant to the Constitution of such Connexion as hereinafter contained shall be and the same is hereby repealed, and that for the future the following shall be the Constitution of such Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion (that is to say) :—

The Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church shall, as heretofore, be divided into four Conferences, viz. :—(1) New South Wales and Queensland Conference, which shall include the South Sea Missions ; (2) Victoria and Tasmania Conference ; (3) South Australia Conference, including Western Australia ; and (4) New Zealand Conference. These Conferences shall meet annually, and shall be comprised in, and governed by, a General Conference, which shall hold its session once every three years, or at such other intervals, more or less, as it may deem expedient.

The Constitution and powers of the Annual and General Conferences shall be as hereinafter stated (that is to say)—

## I ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

### *I. Constitution.*

282. The Annual Conferences shall comprise all the Ministers within their respective boundaries who have been admitted by the English Conference to the full work and office of the Christian ministry, and been received by the Australasian Conference, and of such other Ministers as have been received either by the Australasian Conference or by the Annual Conferences of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, and of such as shall be hereafter received by the said Annual Conferences, together with an equal number of Laymen.

283. The Quarterly Meeting of each Circuit shall be entitled to elect one Lay Representative, who shall be elected by ballot at the Quarterly Meeting next preceding the session of the Conference to which such Circuit pertains.

284. The Committee of each Institution of the Connexion to which a Minister is or may be set apart by an Annual Conference shall have the right to elect from among the members of such Committee by ballot one Lay Representative.

285. Should the number of Laymen thus provided for be less than the number of Ministers pertaining to any Annual Conference, additional Laymen shall be elected by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit or Circuits which, according to the returns published by such Conference at its last session, contained the largest number of members. The Presidents of the several Annual Conferences shall give notice to the Circuit or Circuits which may be entitled to elect more than one Lay Representative.

286. The Laymen eligible for election as Representatives must be Church members of four years' continuous standing, and at the time of their election must be members in the Circuit by which they are or may be elected.

## *II. Powers of the Annual Conference.*

287. Each Annual Conference shall have the same powers as the English Wesleyan Methodist Conference in regard to—

- (1) The election of its own President and Secretary.
- (2) The divisions of Circuits and Districts, or alteration of their boundaries.
- (3) The appointment of Chairmen of Districts.
- (4) The exercise of discipline upon its Ministerial Members and Preachers on Trial.
- (5) The making of any of its Ministerial members Supernumeraries.
- (6) The reception of candidates for the Ministry.
- (7) The appointment of Ministers and Preachers on Trial to the several Circuits and Churches.
- (8) The carrying out of all directions of the General Conference relative to the changes and interchanges of Ministers. In the intervals of the General Conference the Annual Conferences shall effect changes and interchanges by negotiation.
- (9) The receiving and finally deciding upon appeals from the subordinate courts of the Conference.
- (10) The direction and control of those Funds which have been heretofore known as District Funds.
- (11) And all other powers heretofore exercised by or belonging to the English Wesleyan Methodist Conference, so far as regards the "Australasian Wesleyan

Methodist Connexion," except the powers of general legislation hereinafter set forth as pertaining to the General Conference.

288. Each Annual Conference shall also have the power to recommend to the General Conference any measure which may be deemed conducive to the welfare of the Connexion.

289. In the exercise of the aforesaid powers by the Annual Conferences, the Ministers alone shall—

(1) Elect the Presidents and Secretaries of the respective Conferences, and the Chairmen of Districts.

(2) Dispose of all matters comprised in the subjoined questions, viz.:—

Quest. I.—Who are now admitted as Ministers into Full Connexion with the Conference ?

Quest. II.—What Preachers remain on trial ?

Quest. III.—What Preachers are now received on trial ?

Quest. IV.—What Students are to continue to have theological training ?

Quest. V.—What Candidates are now received for theological training ?

Quest. VI.—Who are now admitted as Native Ministers ?

Quest. VII.—Who remain as Native Preachers on trial ?

Quest. VIII.—Who are received as Native Preachers on trial ?

Quest. IX.—What Ministers become Supernumeraries ?

Quest. X.—What Supernumeraries return to the regular work ?

Quest. XI.—What Ministers have died since the last Conference ?

Quest. XII.—Are there any objections to any of our Ministers or Preachers on Trial ?

Quest. XIII.—What persons who were in Full Connexion with the Conference have now ceased to be recognised as Ministers among us ?

Quest. XIV.—How are our Ministers and Preachers on Trial stationed for the ensuing year ?

(3) Determine all appeals affecting the *status* of our members as provided for in our existing Rules.

290. For the purposes enumerated in the foregoing section, the Ministerial Members of each Annual Conference shall meet alone during the first four days of the session of such Conference, and also at such other times as will not interfere with the general business of such Conference.

291. In the election of Ministers and Laymen as Representatives to the General Conference, all the members of each Annual Conference who may be present in their respective Annual Conferences shall be entitled to vote. The voting shall be by ballot.

292. *Who may attend, and what number shall form a quorum.*—The Chairmen of Districts, *ex officio*, a Representative elected by ballot at the Annual District Meeting, and such other Ministers as may be appointed by, or obtain the permission of, their Annual District Meetings to attend the Conference; together with the Laymen elected as provided for in the foregoing section headed "Constitution." The number of Ministers and Lay Representatives who may actually attend the Conference shall be deemed competent for the transaction of business; but the Conference shall have power, whenever it may deem it expedient, to determine how many of its number shall constitute a quorum.

293. *When and where the Conference shall assemble.*—Each Conference shall assemble annually, and shall have power to fix the time and place, and to limit the duration of its sessions.

294. *President and Secretary, and who may vote in their election.*—The President shall be a Minister of not less than fifteen (15) years' standing, and the Secretary shall be a Minister of not less than ten (10) years' standing. All Ministers in Full Connexion who may be present at their respective annual Conferences shall be entitled to vote in the election of the President and Secretary. The voting shall be by ballot.

295. *Re-election to Presidency.*—Each Annual Conference shall determine for itself the time which shall elapse before a Minister shall be eligible for re-election to the office of President, provided always that no Minister shall be eligible for election two successive years.

296. *Funds of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church.*—The Funds hitherto known as District Funds shall be under the management of the Annual Conferences. The Funds known as Connexional Funds shall be under the direction of the General Conference, and the Presidents of the Annual Conferences shall see that all the regulations relating to these Funds are faithfully carried out by and within the bounds of their respective Conferences.

## II. GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### I. Constitution.

297. The General Conference shall consist of—

- (1) The Presidents and Secretaries of the Annual Conferences for the time being.
- (2) One General Secretary of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.

- (3) One General Clerical Treasurer of each of the Connexional Funds.
- (4) One General Lay Treasurer of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.
- (5) One General Lay Treasurer of each Connexional Fund.  
All the above shall be members *ex officio*.
- (6) Ministerial Representatives from each Annual Conference in the proportion for the present of one Minister to every eight (8) Ministerial Members of such Conference, provided that no Conference shall have less than two Ministerial Representatives in addition to its President and Secretary.
- (7) Lay Representatives from each Annual Conference, equal to the number of Ministerial Representatives, including the President and Secretary.

298. Representatives, whether Ministers or Laymen, shall be elected by ballot by and from among the members of each Annual Conference respectively.

*II. The General Conference shall have no power—*

299. (1) To revoke, alter, or change any of our doctrines as contained in Mr. Wesley's first four volumes of *Sermons and Notes on the New Testament*, nor to establish any new doctrine contrary thereto.
- (2) To revoke the "General Rules of our Societies."
  - (3) To make such change in our discipline as to do away with the itinerancy of our Ministry.
  - (4) To do away with the privilege of trial and appeal of our members or Ministers, as at present existing.
  - (5) To do away with the right of the Ministers to admit or expel members, subject to such guards and regulations as our Rules provide.
  - (6) To do away with the right of the Ministers to receive and ordain Ministers in our Church, as our Rules provide.

*III. Powers of the General Conference.*

300. Subject to the before-mentioned restrictions, the General Conference shall have power:—

- (1) To elect by ballot on its assembling, from its members, a Minister of not less than fifteen (15) years' standing to preside over its proceedings, and in the intervals of the sessions of the General Conference to perform such duties as the General Conference may direct. Provided, nevertheless, he shall not exercise a general superintendency nor any powers which are conferred upon other officers of the Church.

- (2) To divide the Annual Conferences, or alter their boundaries.
- (3) To create new Conferences.
- (4) To alter the proportion in which the Annual Conferences shall from time to time elect representatives to the General Conference.
- (5) To make, or direct the Annual Conferences to make, all necessary changes and interchanges of Ministers between the several Annual Conferences.
- (6) To control the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, the several Connexional Funds, and to appoint their Committees and Officers.
- (7) To review the proceedings of such Committees, and sanction or disallow the same.
- (8) To arrange the order in which the several Annual Conferences shall make provision for returned Missionaries.
- (9) To direct any Annual Conference to re-appoint to the full work any Minister who may have been made a Supernumerary since the last General Conference.
- (10) To disallow any of the regulations of the Annual Conferences which in its judgment infringe any of our constitutional principles.
- (11) And generally to legislate for the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church.

*IV. What number shall form a quorum.*

301. The General Conference, on the first day of its session, shall determine the number that shall constitute a quorum.

*V. When and where the General Conference shall assemble.*

302. The General Conference shall meet once in three years, or at such other intervals, more or less, as it may deem expedient, and shall have the power to fix the date, place, and duration of its sessions.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

#### I. THE PRESIDENT.

303. The President of an Annual Conference must be a Minister of not less than fifteen years' standing, and must be elected by ballot of the Ministers present who are in Full Connexion. (See par. 294.)

304. During the session of the Conference "the President shall have the privilege and power of two members in all the acts of the Conference during his presidency, and such other powers, privileges, and authorities as the Conference shall from time to time see fit to entrust into his hands." (Deed of Declaration, clause 6, see page 134.)

305. The President, Ex-President, and Secretary, with two senior Ministers to be nominated by the President, are to confer ordination to our Ministry by the imposition of hands. (See pars. 216, 217.)

306. During the intervals of Conference he has authority—

- (1) When applied to for that purpose, to supply any vacancies in the circuits which may be caused by death or by Preachers desisting from travelling; these vacancies are supplied from the List of Reserve, which, by order of the Conference, is left in his hands for this special purpose.
- (2) To sanction any change of Preachers which, by the decision of any District Committee, it may be deemed necessary to make; to assist at any District Meeting, if applied to for that purpose by a Chairman or a majority of Superintendents of such district.
- (3) To visit any circuit, if written to by any who are concerned, for the purpose of inquiring into its affairs with respect to Methodism, and, in union with the District Meeting, to redress any existing grievance.
- (4) To appoint, in conjunction with the Superintendent of the circuit where the next Conference is to be held, such brethren as he shall deem proper to preach in the principal chapels during Conference, in accordance with the following regulation, viz. :—

The Conference Plan is to be made subject to the approval of the President; and no Preacher who attends the Conference shall be at liberty to make an engagement to preach in any other circuit, either on the Sabbath or any other day, during the period appointed for the meeting of the Conference, or of its preparatory committees, at the time for which his name shall be inserted on the Conference Plan.

- (5) In any case when a vacancy in the chairmanship of a district shall be occasioned by death, or when a Chairman shall be incapacitated for the discharge of his duties by sickness or otherwise, the President of the Conference for the time being is empowered to appoint one of the Ministers connected with that district to act as Chairman so long as a vacancy or an incapacity for office shall exist.

- (6) The President as such is always *ex-officio* Chairman of the district in which he is stationed during the year of his presidency.
- (7) The President for the time being is an *ex-officio* member of the Stationing Committee, which he is to attend only in his official character, especially charged with the general interests of the whole Connexion. He is not eligible to be sent as representative of his district. He continues to be an official member of it during the whole of its sittings for that year; even when it may be necessary, for the completion of its business, that it should occasionally assemble after the election of the new President shall have taken place. (See pars. 319—321.)
- (8) The President of the Conference, if he judge it expedient, may attend and preside at all Special District Meetings.
- (9) The President for the year in which the General Conference is held is a member of that Conference *ex officio*.

307. In case of the death or affliction of the President during his term of office, the following regulations apply:—

- (1) *The Death of a President.*—In every such case the last surviving President shall immediately enter again into the office so vacated, and shall be considered for the remainder of that year, and until the election of a successor at the ensuing Conference, as having all the powers, privileges, and authorities of the Presidency, and as being responsible for all its duties.
- (2) *The Affliction of a President.*—On receiving notice from the President of his inability, through indisposition, to discharge the duties of his office, the last surviving President shall be considered as having all the powers, privileges, and authorities of the Presidency, and as being responsible for all its duties.

## II. THE EX-PRESIDENT.

308. (1) In the absence of the President from affliction or other causes, the Ex-President takes the chair.
- (2) He is required to deliver the ordination charge to the Ministers received into Full Connexion by the Conference.
  - (3) He is always associated with the President and Secretary in conferring ordination by the imposition of hands, and stationing. (See par. 305.)
  - (4) In case of the death, affliction, or incapacity of the President, the last surviving President is invested with his powers, and is responsible for the discharge of his duties. (See par. 307.)

## III. THE SECRETARY.

309. The Secretary must be a Minister of not less than ten years' standing, and must be elected by ballot of the Ministers in Full Connexion who are present. (See par. 294.)

- (1) He is *ex officio* a member of the Stationing Committee. (See par. 319.)
- (2) He is always associated with the President and Ex-President in the act of imposition of hands at the Ordination of Ministers. (See par. 217.)
- (3) He has (under the direction of the President) to conduct the business of the Conference; is responsible for the correct entry of the Minutes in the Conference Journal, for the correctness of the printed Minutes, for the proper transmission of resolutions and replies to memorials being sent to the proper persons, and for all the correspondence arising out of the business of the Conference; and is to discharge such other duties as the Conference from time to time may prescribe. (See also pars. 327 (12) note, 388 (8).)
- (4) The Secretary of each Annual Conference immediately preceding a General Conference is to furnish printed copies of the recommendations of his Conference to the Presidents of the Annual Conferences, that they may be supplied to the Representatives to the General Conference before they leave their respective colonies.
- (5) The Secretary for the year when the General Conference is held is *ex officio* a member of that Conference, and it is his duty to bring with him to the General Conference the Journal of his Conference.

## IV. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.

310. (1) The retiring President opens the Conference by giving out the 478th hymn, the retiring Secretary reads a portion of Scripture, and one or more Ministers, at the request of the President, engage in prayer.
- (2) The Secretary reads the names of the Ministers from the Conference plan, and each Minister is expected to be present, and take his seat according to seniority. In case of absence explanations are expected by the Conference, or a dispensation is sought by the absentee.
  - (3) The Secretary next reads the names of all the Ministers of fifteen years' standing—who are eligible for the office of President—when election by ballot for the President is proceeded with. All Ministers in Full Connexion are entitled to vote.

- (4) The retiring President announces the votes, and declares the Minister who has the highest number to be duly elected as President. He then vacates the chair, and briefly welcomes the new President, the members of the Conference all standing.
- (5) The election of Secretary is next proceeded with. The retiring Secretary reads the list of Ministers of ten years' standing—who are eligible for election—the ballot for the election of Secretary is taken, and the result announced by the President.
- (6) One or more Assistant Secretaries, and any other officers that may be deemed necessary, are elected.
- (7) A vote of thanks is presented to the Ex-President and the Ex-Secretary.
- (8) Permission to attend the Conference is asked for any Ministers (if any) belonging to other Conferences, and upon its being granted they are introduced.
- (9) The times of session, appointment of standing committees, and any other preliminary business having been transacted, the questions are considered in order which are directed by the Constitution (for which see par. 289—Quests. I. to XIV.).
- (10) If there are any appeals affecting the status of Members, these are considered and decided at such times as the Conference determines.
- (11) For the purposes enumerated in the first fourteen questions (see par. 289) the Ministerial Members of each Annual Conference meet alone during the first four days of the sessions of such Conference, and also at such other times as will not interfere with the general business of such Conference.

311. On the fifth day of the Conference the Lay Representatives take their places. After the opening of the Conference the following questions are considered :—

- (1) Do we sanction the division or alteration of any of the districts or circuits in this Conference ?
- (2) What circuits ask for additional Preachers ?
- (3) What new stations do we propose to occupy ?
- (4) What circuits are under obligation to take a married Minister instead of a single one ?
- (5) What is the number of members in our Churches ?
- (6) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting the Home Mission Society ?
- (7) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting the Contingent Fund ?
- (8) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting Church and other Trust Property ?

- (9) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting Book Affairs ?
- (10) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting the Theological Institution ?
- (11) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting our Educational Institutions ?
- (12) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting our Sabbath-schools ?
- (13) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting our Connexional Funds ?
  - (1) Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund.
  - (2) The Children's Fund.
  - (3) Foreign Mission Fund.
- (14) Who are the members of the Committee for Guarding our Civil and Religious Privileges ?
- (15) Who are the members of the Financial District Committees ?
- (16) Have we anything to recommend to the General Conference ?

[This question is considered (specially) every third year —*i.e.*, the year in which the General Conference is held.]

- (17) When and where shall our next Conference be held ?
  - (1) Memorials from the lower Church courts are dealt with at such times as the several Conferences respectively may determine.
  - (2) An Ordination Service is held as may be arranged. (See also pars. 216—220.)
  - (3) The Annual Conferences do not all adopt precisely the same order in transacting their business, and there are subjects to be considered of a strictly local kind in each colony. The above questions, however, give the general order of procedure.

**312.** For Constitution and Powers of the Annual Conference, see pars. 282—296.

**313.** The first session of the Annual Conference is open to the public. Each Conference determines for itself whether other sessions shall or shall not be open.

**314.** A Minister under suspension has no right to vote on any question in the Conference while his suspension is continued; nor even to be present at its meetings, without leave, until his own case shall be brought forward.

**315.** In regard to all matters pertaining only to an Annual Conference, its decisions are final.

**316.** In the exercise of discipline upon its Ministers, Preachers on Trial, and Church members, the decisions of the Annual Conference are final.

317. It is recommended that the several Annual Conferences commence their sessions as near as possible to the 20th day of January in each year.

318. The General Conference directs each Annual Conference to issue a Pastoral Address to the Societies under its care.

#### V. THE STATIONING COMMITTEE.

319. The Stationing Committee consists of the President and Secretary of the Conference, the General Secretary or Secretaries of Missions, and the Chairmen of Districts. These are members *ex officio*. Also one Minister sent from each district as Representative, who is elected by the united ballot of Ministers and Laymen at the Financial District Meeting.

320. This Committee meets before the assembling of the Conference, at such time as may be fixed and published in the Minutes of the preceding year.

321. When it may be necessary that the Stationing Committee should assemble after the commencement of the Conference, the President and Secretary of the preceding Conference continue to be official members of the Committee.

322. Except the Chairman of a Mission District, or a Representative sent therefrom, be in attendance at the Conference, the General Secretary of Missions shall be regarded as the Representative of such district.

323. It is the duty of this Committee to prepare and print a Plan stationing the Ministers, and submit it to the Conference.

324. The appointments proposed must be subject to the following laws of the Church:—

- (1) No Preacher to be appointed to any chapel for more than three years in succession. (Deed of Declaration, clause 11, page 135.)
- (2) Nor to return to the same circuit until he shall have been absent six years.
- (3) Nor to be stationed in the same city or town in which there are more than two circuits for more than six years in succession; except in special cases where an Annual Conference may consider the interests of circuit and other work may require an extension to seven, eight, or nine years.
- (4) Aged Ministers to be provided with circuits before any of the others.
- (5) Removals are to be for as short distances as possible.
- (6) Preachers on Trial recommended by their District Meetings to be received into Full Connexion are to give timely and explicit notice to their Representatives that it is their intention to marry during the fifth year of their itinerancy, and in such cases the Stationing Committee shall be

at liberty to appoint them to suitable circuits in the place, if necessary, of the unmarried preachers formerly stationed there.

- (7) Appointments to Connexional offices may be extended to six years, and re-appointments may be made for an indefinite number of times. The term of the Book Steward's appointment is three years; re-appointment may take place for any number of times.
- (8) Only the Ministers and Preachers on Trial whose names appear in the Minutes of the previous year are to be stationed by the Committee.
- (9) Proposed divisions of circuits which have been sanctioned by the District Meetings may be adopted provisionally by the Committee, so that suitable Superintendents may be found for them.
- (10) Proposals for the employment of an additional Minister in any circuit must be considered and allowed in full Conference before the name of any Minister be entered upon the plan of stations. (See also par. 156.)
- (11) No Minister is to be stationed by the Committee as a Supernumerary without the recommendation of the District Meeting to which he belongs. (See also par. 265 (3).)
- (12) Representatives are to write to their brethren as soon as possible informing them where they are stationed; also to the Circuit Stewards.

325. The Ministers and Preachers on Trial are expected to arrive in their new circuits between the first and second Sabbaths in April.

## CHAPTER III.

### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

#### I. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.

326. For constitution and powers see pars. 297—302.

327. The following is the order of business adopted by the General Conference:—

Question—

- (1) Who are the members of this General Conference?  
Note.—An asterisk shall be attached to the names of any absentees.
- (2) Who have been admitted as Ministers into Full Connexion since the last General Conference?
- (3) What Ministers have been received from other Conferences or Churches?
- (4) What Preachers remain on Trial?

- (5) What Students are in our Provisional Theological Institution ?
- (6) Who have been admitted as Native Ministers since the last General Conference.
- (7) Who remain as Native Preachers on Trial ?
- (8) What Ministers have become Supernumeraries ?
- (9) What Supernumeraries are again employed in the regular work ?
- (10) What Ministers have died since the last General Conference ?
- (11) What persons, who were in Full Connexion, have ceased to be recognised as Ministers among us ?
- (12) What is the number of Ministers and Members in our Churches ; and also the number of Attendants on Public Worship ?

Note.—The Secretary of each General Conference shall prepare answers to the above questions from the Minutes of the several Annual Conferences for the three preceding years, and shall lay them on the table of the ensuing General Conference at its opening. Should any unforeseen circumstance render the Secretary unable to perform this duty, it shall then devolve upon the President of the General Conference to appoint some other person in his stead. The Secretary of each Annual Conference is directed to forward a copy of the printed Minutes to the Secretary of the General Conference.

- (13) What committees do we appoint to consider the subjects to be brought before this Conference, and to bring up reports for discussion ?
- (14) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting the various Connexional Funds ?

Note.—Reports of the several Connexional Funds shall be prepared by the General Treasurers, and submitted to the Conference.

- (15) What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting the Missionary Society ?
- (16) What are the resolutions of this Conference respecting the recommendations from the several Annual Conferences ?
- (17) Have the Annual Conferences anything to report respecting the statistics and condition of our Educational Institutions—(a) Sunday-schools, (b) Day-schools (c) Colleges ?

Note.—The answer shall be supplied from the Minutes of the Annual Conferences.

- (18) What is the state of the several branches of the Provisional Theological Institution ?

- (19) What are the returns respecting the number of our Churches, Parsonages, Schoolrooms, and other properties throughout the Connexion?
- (20) What is the state of the several Book Depôts, and of our Periodical Literature?
- (21) What interchanges of Ministers are made by this Conference?
- (22) What arrangements does this Conference make respecting the appointment of returned Missionaries to the several Annual Conferences?
- (23) Does this Conference divide or alter the boundaries of the Annual Conferences, or create any new Conference?
- (24) What are the resolutions adopted on the subjects of which Notices of Motion have been given?
- (25) When and where shall our next General Conference be held?

Committees are to be appointed on the first day of Conference to consider the following subjects and bring up reports for discussion:—

- (a) Recommendations from Annual Conferences.
- (b) Ministerial interchanges.
- (c) Foreign Missions.
- (d) Course of study for Probationers and Provisional Theological Institutions.
- (e) Educational Institutions, Sunday-schools, Book Depôts, and Periodical Literature.
- (f) Sabbath Observance, Temperance, &c.

Note 1.—Each Committee to consist of not less than eight persons, two of whom shall be selected from among themselves by the Representatives of each Annual Conference.

Note 2.—The Committee on Recommendations shall classify the recommendations from the several Annual Conferences and forward them to the committees on the subjects to which they severally belong. Should there be any subjects for which committees have not been appointed, they shall be considered and reported on by the Committee on Recommendations.

328. Standing orders for the transaction of business are adopted by the General Conference at the time of its meeting, and are printed in the Minutes of Conference.

329. A daily record is to be kept of the proceedings of the General Conference, in which a definite statement shall be made of every motion or subject brought before the Conference; and the names of the movers and seconders of all resolutions shall be entered, together with the numbers voting *pro* and *con*.

330. In order to facilitate business, the Secretaries of the several Annual Conferences are to bring to the General Conference the Journals of their respective Conferences for reference.

331. The question as to whether the sessions of the Conference are to be open to the public, or otherwise, is decided by each Conference.

## II. THE PRESIDENT.

332. The President of the General Conference must be a Minister of not less than fifteen years' standing, and be elected by ballot; he shall retain his title, and be addressed as such when communicated with on matters affecting the general Connexional interests of our Church.

333. The President of the General Conference is requested to conduct the opening services of the succeeding Conference, and deliver an address prior to the election of the President of such Conference. In his absence such duties shall be performed by the President of the Annual Conference of the colony in which the General Conference shall be held.

334. Should any doubt arise in the carrying out of any directions of the General Conference, the reference shall be to the President as its responsible Officer, and his decision shall be binding until the next General Conference.

335. The President of the General Conference shall, in the intervals between the General Conferences, be the medium of communication with the British Conference in all matters affecting the business of the General Conference, except the Missions.

## III. THE SECRETARY.

336. The Secretary of the General Conference is to be elected by ballot, and shall continue in office until the appointment of his successor; he is the custodian of all documents and books belonging to it; and he is to prepare all business for the opening of the succeeding General Conference.

337. The Secretary of the General Conference is instructed to arrange for a service in which members of the Conference can partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the commencement of the General Conference.

338. The Secretary of the General Conference is directed to prepare a form of ticket for each quarter of the year until the next General Conference, and annually transmit a copy to the President of each Annual Conference not later than the month of August.

Should the Secretary be unable to comply with this direction, the President of the General Conference shall direct the duty to be performed by some other Minister.

## IV. APPOINTMENTS.

339. The Annual Conferences alone possess the power to appoint to Circuits, and to any Institutions within their bounds. The General Conference, however, effects interchanges of Ministers between the several Annual Conferences. (See par. 300 (5).)

340. For Interchanges of Ministers between Annual Conferences see pars. 252, 287 (8).

341. The General Treasurers of the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, including the Acting Treasurer, are appointed by the General Conference, but are nominated by the Victoria and Tasmania Annual Conference, which is also empowered to fill up vacancies in the intervals between the meetings of the General Conference.

342. The Board of Management for Foreign Missions, including the General Secretary, are appointed by the General Conference; but the nomination is with the New South Wales and Queensland Conference, which is empowered to fill up vacancies in the Board in the intervals of the General Conference.

343. The General Treasurers of the Children's Fund are appointed by the General Conference.

## V. REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL CONFERENCES.

344. Representatives to the General Conference are to be supplied before leaving their respective colonies with printed copies of the recommendations from the Annual Conferences. The Secretaries of the Annual Conferences immediately preceding a General Conference are directed to forward such copies to the Presidents of the Annual Conferences for distribution.

## VI. DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES.

345. Each Minister and Preacher on Trial in the Connexion, each Lay Treasurer of the Connexional Funds, each member of the Connexional Committees, and every member of the General Conference, are to be supplied gratuitously with a copy of the printed Minutes of the General Conference; copies are to be forwarded to the President, Secretary, and leading members of the British Conference; and the remaining copies of the Minutes are to be distributed between the Annual Conferences in the following proportion:—New South Wales and Queensland Conference, one-third; Victoria and Tasmania Conference, one-third; South Australia Conference, one-sixth; New Zealand Conference, one-sixth. Such Minutes shall become the property of the respective Conferences.

## VII. GENERAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES.

346. The total amount of expenses incurred in attending and holding the General Conference, including printing Minutes, &c., is apportioned among the various Annual Conferences in proportion to the number of Ministers and Lay Representatives which each Conference is entitled to send.

347. To facilitate the allotment of expenses, the Presidents of the several Annual Conferences shall forward as early as possible to the Secretary of the General Conference a statement showing the amount of the travelling expenses incurred by each member of his Conference in attending the General Conference, and he is authorised to apportion the amount due from each Annual Conference, receive the money, pay the President of each Conference the amount due to his Conference, and settle all the other claims. The Secretary shall lay the vouchers on the table of the next General Conference on the first day of its assembling.

Each Connexional Fund shall bear its proportion of the expenses of its General Treasurers, who are entitled to attend the Conference *ex officio*.

## CHAPTER IV.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Constitution of Committees.*

348. All Connexional and District Committees shall consist of an equal number of Ministers and Laymen.

*Committee of Privileges.*

349. The special object of this Committee is to guard the Civil and Religious Privileges of the Connexion. It is appointed annually by each Annual Conference, and consists of both Ministers and Laymen in equal numbers. Its duties are to take action during the intervals of the Conference, in regard to any subjects of legislation or otherwise, which may affect the rights or privileges of the Church, and in any matters of a legal kind, or which affect the properties of the Connexion, &c.

350. Each Conference appoints the members of the Committees of Privileges residing in or near the principal city in the colony to be a Committee to meet and take action in any case of exigency.

351. Each Annual Conference appoints any Committees which it may deem necessary for the management of the various Funds, Institutions, &c., within its boundaries.

*Social Purity.*

352. The General Conference declares its cordial sympathy with the objects of the Social Purity Societies which have been formed in some of the Australasian Colonies, and hopes that the appeals made to the various Legislatures to enact measures for the better protection of young females, and generally to diminish immorality, will meet with a satisfactory response.

*Respecting Women Preaching.*

353. We are of opinion that, in general, women ought not to preach—1. Because a vast majority of our people are opposed to it. 2. Because their preaching does not seem necessary. But, if any woman among us think she has an extraordinary call of God in public (and we are sure it must be an extraordinary call that can authorise it), we are of opinion that she should, in general, address her own sex alone. If permitted to preach, it should be (1) only in her own circuit, upon receiving the approbation of the Superintendent Minister and a Quarterly Meeting; (2) in any other circuit, upon the written invitation of the Superintendent of such circuit, and a recommendatory note from her own Superintendent.

*On permitting strangers to preach in our Churches.*

354. No stranger from another country is to be suffered to preach in any of our churches unless he come fully accredited: if an itinerant preacher, by having his name entered on the Minutes of the Conference of which he is a member; and if a local preacher, by a recommendatory note from his Superintendent.

*Appeals for Churches, &c., to be made within the Circuit.*

355. The Conference earnestly advises our friends to refuse any aid to persons begging for the erection or enlargement of churches, or for the liquidation of church debts, without any regular connexional and official authority, as such a practice tends to injure the just claims of Trustees in their own circuits.

*Government Grants for Religious Purposes.*

356. While not advocating the continuance of State grants to religion, the question of receiving grants from the Government for any purposes connected with the Church appears to be one not involving any New Testament principle, but to be simply one of Christian expediency, respecting which men of equal piety and judgment may differ in opinion and action. The reception or refusal of such grants is therefore left to the various Circuits and Trusts of the Connexion.

# PART VI.

---

## FUNDS.

---

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### LOCAL FUNDS.

##### I. SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.

357. The Ministers of our Church are supported by weekly and quarterly contributions in the classes, collections in the congregations, subscriptions from individuals, and grants from Trust or other Funds.

358. By the General Rules the Leader is directed weekly to receive what the members are willing to give towards the support of the ministry. At the quarterly visitation of the Classes the Minister is to ask every member what he is able and willing to contribute.

359. It was never intended that these financial arrangements should keep persons from meeting in Class; and if any are unable to contribute or are only able to give a small sum, none should remain away from Church-fellowship on that account.

360. Every person, before becoming a member of the Wesleyan Church, receives a copy of the "Rules of the Society," to which assent is given, and upon the conditions of which such person is received into membership.

##### II. THE CIRCUIT FUND.

361. A Methodist Circuit consists of one or more churches or preaching-places, to which one or more Ministers are appointed year by year by the Annual Conference.

362. The financial affairs of the Circuit are managed by the Quarterly Meeting. (See pars. 149—160.)

363. The raising of the necessary income is by the Rules devolved upon the Leaders, whose financial duties clearly require them to ask for and receive from their members the regular weekly subscriptions; upon the Ministers, who, at the quarterly visitation of the Classes, are directed to ask the members for

their quarterly contributions ; and upon the Circuit Stewards, who are the executive officers of the Quarterly Meeting, and are required to provide the ways and means, and disburse the necessary expenditure. (See pars. 101, 146.)

364. In addition to the contributions in the Classes there are to be—(1) Collections in the congregations, quarterly, monthly, or weekly, as each Quarterly Meeting determines ; (2) contributions from members of the congregation ; (3) grants from the Trust Funds of churches or other properties.

365. The charges upon the Circuit Fund are—(1) The salaries or allowances of the Ministers ; (2) The levies made by the Conference (*a*) for the Children's Fund, (*b*) the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, (*c*) the Contingent, or any other Fund ; (3) House rent, rates, and taxes for the Ministers' houses—or interest or other charges to Trustees in lieu of house rent ; (4) Furniture for the Ministers' houses ; (5) Horse and horse-keep where a horse is required ; (6) All other expenses incident upon and necessary to the efficient working of the Circuit.

366. In the case of Circuits receiving aid from the Home Mission (or Contingent) Fund—it is required that each quarter a copy of the quarterly balance-sheet of receipts and expenditure for the Circuit shall be sent to the Chairman of the District, so that the entire finances of the Circuit shall come under review. In regard to such Circuits the District Meeting may fix the maximum or minimum stipend of the Minister.

367. Upon memorial the District Meeting can consider and recommend, and Conference can determine upon all matters, whether of finance or otherwise, concerning any Circuits within their bounds.

### III. TRUST FUNDS.

368. See pars. 176—184.

### IV. SUNDAY-SCHOOL FUND.

369. See Institutions, par. 411, iii.—ix.

## CHAPTER II.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE FUNDS.

370. Each Annual Conference has full power respecting the establishment and management of Funds the operation of which is confined within its own boundaries, as provided in The Powers of the Annual Conference—viz.: Each Annual Conference shall have

the same powers as the English Wesleyan Methodist Conference in regard to . . . The direction and control of those Funds which have been heretofore known as District Funds.

371. All Annual Conference Funds are managed by committees appointed by their several Conferences, consisting of an equal number of Ministers and laymen, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations published from time to time by the several Conferences. (For these see Minutes of the several Annual Conferences respectively.)

#### I. THE CONTINGENT FUND.

372. The Contingent Fund is raised by each Annual Conference according to its own plans and regulations, and is for the purpose of meeting :—

- (1) The expense of holding the Annual Conference, including printing the Minutes, station lists, &c.; schedules, tickets, postages, telegrams, &c.
- (2) Cost of travelling, in case of Ministers removed from one colony to another; or transferred from one Conference to another.
- (3) Expenses incurred by Chairmen and Secretaries of Districts.
- (4) The Annual proportion of General Conference expenses. (See pars. 346, 347.)
- (5) Provision for supplies, &c., to dependent circuits in case of affliction of Ministers, and grants to Ministers in cases of sickness.
- (6) Other expenses not provided for above.

#### II. HOME MISSION FUND.

373. A Fund for the extension of the work of God in destitute parts of the colony is formed in connection with each Annual Conference.

374. In the New South Wales and Queensland Conference this is called "The Church Sustentation and Extension Society;" Victoria and Tasmania Conference, "The Home Mission Society;" South Australia, "The Home Mission and Contingent Fund Society;" New Zealand, "The Home Mission and Church Extension Fund."

#### III. CHURCH BUILDING AND LOAN FUND.

375. A Fund for the purpose of giving assistance towards the erection of Churches and Parsonages, and for the removal of debts on Church properties, is established by each Annual Conference, which adopts its own rules and regulations as to the raising and disbursing moneys, and as to the conditions upon which aid is given, whether by loan or grant.

376. In order to prevent rash and premature undertakings in Church building, which must prove a source of embarrassment to the Connexion and be oppressive to our circuits, it is enacted as a standing order that no Church shall be erected unless there is reasonable expectation that two-thirds of the entire cost shall be raised by subscriptions, including the collections at the opening services; but the Conference strongly urges that, wherever it is practicable, all the churches be erected free from debt. N.B.—It should be understood that in the colony of Victoria the sum obtained from the Loan Fund may be included in the two-thirds required.

377. The Chairman of each District is directed to collect the various deeds of our Church property, and a register of Church property is to be kept by each Chairman, as a distinct document, and by the Custodian of Deeds, where one is appointed for any colony. Each Annual Conference appoints its own Registrar or Custodian of Deeds, and the names of such officers are printed in the Annual Minutes.

#### IV. JUBILEE FUND.

378. In 1864 the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church celebrated its Jubilee, the first Missionary having landed in Sydney in October 1814. Funds were raised in the different colonies, and were applied—(1) To the formation of Loan Funds for the relief of burdened Trusts; (2) For the establishment of a *Central Theological Institution* for the training of Missionary and other candidates for the ministry. Until the latter object can be carried out, the moneys received in each colony towards a *Central Theological Institution* are to be funded, and the interest accruing therefrom may be employed in the respective colonies towards defraying the expenses of training, in any branch of our Provisional Theological Institution, such candidates for our ministry as have been received by the Annual Conference, it being distinctly understood that the Principal shall be forthcoming whenever the General Conference shall decide to have a *Central Institution*.

## CHAPTER III.

### CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.

#### I. CHILDREN'S FUND.

379. The following are the *Rules and Regulations*:—

- (1) That the amount to be raised for this Fund by each Annual Conference shall be equal to the claims arising from the number of children within its bounds.

(2) That each Annual Conference shall determine for itself, from time to time, the method by which the necessary amount shall be raised.

(3) That the allowance from the Children's Fund shall be not less than £7 per annum for each child to be provided for, and £5 per annum for each child entitled to Educational Allowances. The first payment on account of Educational Allowances shall be made in the January next succeeding to the year in which the child passed the eighth birthday.

(4) That the General Treasurers of this Fund shall receive, determine upon, register, as heretofore, all claims upon this Fund; shall forward to the Treasurers of the Annual Conferences warrants for the payment of claims upon this Fund; shall report to the General Conference for its decision all cases of disputed claims; shall receive annually the balance-sheets of the Annual Conferences; and shall generally watch over the administration of all connexional regulations relating to this Fund, and shall report to each General Conference.

(5) That each Annual Conference shall appoint a Treasurer or Treasurers of this Fund; that each Chairman of a District pertaining to such Conference shall, within a week of the close of his District Meeting, forward to his Conference Treasurers, and the Clerical Treasurer of each Annual Conference shall also, not later than 30th November, forward to the General Treasurers such information as they may require.

(6) That with a view to obtain correct returns of the number of members of Society, the General Conference directs the Annual Conferences to call the attention of the Chairmen of Districts and the Superintendents of Circuits to the law relating to the subject. The Superintendents are directed to return, in their quarterly schedules, the precise number, without any abridgement or deduction, of those to whom, after due and sufficient probation, they or their colleagues have actually given tickets in their respective circuits.

(7) That the General Treasurers keep a registry of the children of all the Ministers, with the date of their birth and death, and that Ministers be required to supply the General Treasurers direct with the information necessary to keeping such a record. That the awards received and allowances paid for children of Ministers set apart to Connexional Institutions pass through the hands and accounts of the General Treasurers, who shall register the names of the children and include their claims in the usual yearly warrants which are issued.

(8) That no allowance shall be made to children not registered on or before the 31st December preceding, and for this purpose the payments to the several claimants shall only be made upon the warrant of the General Treasurers.

(9) That the allowances shall not be payable until the commencement of the year succeeding the birth of the child. The amount then due shall be payable with the first quarter's allowance for the current year. Exceptions shall be made in favour of any child born during the first quarter of the year, whose death may have been registered by the General Treasurers before they issue their warrant for payment of claims.

(10) That the allowances cease at the ages of sixteen and eighteen for boys and girls respectively.

(11) That on the death of a child entitled to the benefits of this Fund, the said death shall be immediately reported by the parent to the General Treasurers, and the allowance shall cease to be paid at the close of the then current quarter, but a grant of £6 6s. for funeral expenses shall be made to the parent, on warrant from the General Treasurers, except in cases where the funeral expenses shall have been paid by the Quarterly Meeting of the circuit to which the father is appointed.

(12) That the financial year close on the 31st December; and that Ministers removing from one district to another receive their March quarter's allowance in the district to which they remove.

(13) That the General Treasurers shall, not later than the end of March in each year, furnish the several Conference Treasurers with lists of the number of registered children within their respective Conferences who may be claimants on the Fund, with authority to pay the allowances fixed for the year.

(14) That in the case of resignation of a Minister, or his expulsion from the Ministry, information thereof shall be forwarded to the General Treasurers by the Secretary of the Annual Conference in which it has occurred, in order that the allowances may not be continued after the quarter in which such resignation has been tendered, or such expulsion has taken place.

(15) That in the event of the death or resignation of one or both of the General Treasurers or Auditors during the interval between the holding the General Conferences, the President of the Annual Conference in which the General Treasurers or Auditors reside shall appoint a successor or successors, who shall hold office until the next General Conference.

(16) That in future in any case in which a Minister asks permission to marry before termination of the usual period of probation, his guarantee that he relinquishes any claim for children's allowances shall be given in writing, and that the guarantee be kept among the Annual Conference documents.

(17) That Ministers resting for business purposes, and not on account of health, are not entitled to draw any allowances during the time they are not in circuit work.

(18) That the Fund is not liable for children born before the usual probation of four years has expired, excepting the children of Missionaries permitted by the Missionary Committee to marry during their probation, and permitted also to return to the colonial work within that period. Any special claims put in for children born within that period shall be reserved for the consideration of the General Conference.

(19) The several claims upon this Fund are payable quarterly, and not at the end of the year.

(20) The expenses incurred by the General Treasurers shall be charged in equitable proportions upon the several Annual Conferences.

(21) The allowances to the children of Missionaries returned to colonial circuit work, and who are no longer under the direction of the Foreign Missionary Committee, are to be as per scale of payment adopted by the Conferences to which they respectively belong.

## II. SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND.

### *Supernumerary Ministers.*

380. A Supernumerary Minister is a Minister who, by reason of age, infirmity, or other causes, is permitted by the Conference to desist from the active and full work of the Ministry.

381. He must first obtain the recommendation of his District Meeting, and be made a Supernumerary by his Annual Conference. In special cases, where circumstances may have transpired between the time of the District Meeting and the Conference, the recommendation of the former cannot be obtained, and is therefore not insisted upon. (See par. 265 (3).)

382. If laid aside at an early age for some reasons which, while unfitting him for the full work of the Ministry, do not incapacitate him for employing himself in some suitable business, he is recommended to adopt that course.

383. The name of no Supernumerary Minister who is in business is to appear in the printed Minutes, but in the Journal only. He shall be considered as an accredited Local Preacher only.

384. Supernumerary Ministers are permitted to attend their District Meeting, and special inquiries are to be made in the District Meeting respecting them.

385. If they cease from business, have no pecuniary embarrassment, and no personal disqualification of a spiritual character, they may, upon the recommendation of the District Meeting, be re-appointed as Supernumeraries. (See also pars. 225, 228, 229.)

*Rules and Regulations of the Australasian Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund.*

386. Whereas the Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church at its second Annual Session, in 1856, resolved, "That it is desirable to form a Fund for the support of Worn-out Ministers and Ministers' Widows," and adopted certain rules and regulations for the management of the Fund, which were published in the Minutes of the Conference of that year; and whereas these rules and regulations were repealed by the Conference of 1861, and in their stead new rules and regulations were adopted and published in the Minutes of the Conference of that year; and whereas from time to time various regulations have, by the authority of several Conferences, been rescinded, revised, and adopted, and have been printed and published in the Minutes of the Conference; and whereas, after careful and elaborate investigation, conducted by the Rev. John Cope, it has been deemed desirable to make other alterations in the rules and regulations: it is now resolved by the General Conference that all the rules and regulations which have from time to time been adopted and are now in force shall be and are hereby absolutely repealed, and that the following shall be the Rules and Regulations of the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund of this Church, that is to say:—

(1) That those Ministers of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, who are members of the Preachers' Annuitant Society in England, shall continue such, and shall each pay an annual subscription, equal in amount to what is paid by the Ministers who are members of the Australasian Fund, to the Treasurers of the Australasian Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, who shall regularly transmit the amount received from such Ministers to the Treasurers of the Preachers' Annuitant Society in England.

That when any Ministers of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, who are members of the Preachers' Annuitant Society in England, shall become Supernumeraries, the annuities to which they may be entitled from the English Annuitant Society and the Auxiliary Fund shall be received by the Treasurers of the Australasian Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, and shall be duly passed to the credit of that Fund.

That the aforesaid Ministers, on becoming Supernumeraries, shall receive their annuities from the Australasian Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, according to the scale of allowances agreed upon and published by the General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church.

That should any of the aforesaid Ministers return to England, and engage there in the full work of the ministry, they shall be considered as belonging to the Preachers' Annuitant Society in England only, and shall not be entitled to any annuity from the Australasian Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund.

(2) Each Minister now in connexion with, or who may hereafter be received into connexion with the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall be required to become a subscriber to this Fund, and shall pay the sum of £6 6s. per annum (in advance) from the date of the commencement of his ministry, except in the case of those Ministers who wish to continue in connexion with the English Fund. This payment shall cease upon becoming a claimant upon the Fund.

(3) An annual public collection shall be made in all our churches and preaching places on behalf of this Fund; and each district shall be required to raise by this or other means, a sum of not less than £6 6s. per annum for each Minister employed in the district.

(4) The sum of £3 3s. per annum shall be charged upon the funds of each circuit for each Minister who may be employed therein, which sum shall be paid into this Fund in addition to the amounts before provided for.

(5) The Missionary Committee shall be required to pay into this Fund £12 12s. per annum for each Missionary who may be employed by them in the South Sea Islands.

(6) The Treasurers shall invest from time to time any amounts which may not be required to meet the demands made annually upon the Fund, as hereinafter provided, so as to form a capital stock to provide for the prospective claims which may be made upon it; the interest received from such capital shall be applied by the Treasurers in the same manner as the income from other sources, to meet the claims of all kinds upon the Fund.

(7) A careful investigation of and report upon the state of this Fund shall be made every three years, and the Treasurers shall be authorised to call in the aid of a professional person or persons (should they deem it necessary), at the expense of the Fund, to assist them in their examination and report.

(8) The affairs of this Fund shall be administered by a Board of General Treasurers, to be appointed by the General Conference, who shall administer the Fund in accordance with the regulations which the General Conference may from time to time adopt. The Board of Treasurers shall furnish a statement of the accounts of the Fund to the General Conference, when its entire proceedings during the interval of such Conferences shall be reviewed.

(9) In the intervals of the General Conferences the affairs of

this Fund shall be under the supervision of the Victoria and Tasmania Annual Conference, which shall nominate the Treasurers for appointment by the General Conference, and also be empowered to fill up any vacancies which may occur in the Board of Treasurers in the interval between the meetings of the General Conference.

(10) In the event of a Minister resigning, or for any cause ceasing to be a Minister recognised by the Conference, the premiums which he has paid shall be returned to him, and thereupon his claims upon the Fund, and also those of his wife (if he have one), shall cease and determine.\* That if such Minister shall have been a Supernumerary, then he shall be entitled to have returned to him only the difference (if any) between the premiums which he has paid and the amount he may have received from the Fund for his furniture grant and annuity.

(11) Ministers who may be made Supernumeraries by their respective Annual Conferences shall receive annuities from this Fund according to the prescribed scale. (See page 95.)

(12) Widows of deceased Ministers shall be entitled to annuities according to the prescribed scale. (See page 95.)

(13) Ministers of less than ten years' standing, who may become Supernumeraries, shall be entitled to draw allowances as per scale for five years only, except when affliction disqualifies them from any other means of procuring a livelihood.

(14) With reference to the re-marriage of a Minister's widow: In so far as a widow's allowance is derived from the Annuitant Branch, it shall be regarded as an annuity on her life, and shall be paid to her as long as she may live, irrespective of whether she re-marry or not; but in so far as it is derived from the Auxiliary Branch,† it shall be regarded as an annuity payable during her widowhood, to be absolutely foregone in the event of her re-marriage.

With reference to the re-marriage of a widowed Minister: A widowed Minister who may re-marry while in full work shall be required to purchase from the Annuitant Branch an annuity on the life of his wife of not less than £12, the payment of which, by quarterly instalments, shall commence with the connexional year next ensuing after his decease, and shall continue for the remainder of her life. Upon compliance with this rule to the extent of the required minimum, and not otherwise, a further annual allowance of £18 shall be made from the Auxiliary

\* This does not include the return of fine or premium for second marriage, should such have been paid, but only the annual subscriptions.

† The Annuitant and Auxiliary Branches are not both published separately in the scale on page 95, but are found (approximately) in General Conference Minutes, 1878, page 24.

Branch; and for every pound purchased in the Annuitant Branch above the required minimum an addition of £1 4s. shall be made to the guaranteed auxiliary allowance, the payment of which shall commence at the same time, and be made in the same manner, as the purchased annuity, and shall continue as long as she remains a widow, provided she be less than six years his junior, and provided also that such auxiliary allowance shall in no case exceed £40 per annum. If she be more than six years his junior, he shall be required to pay the excess in the value of such auxiliary allowance which may result from the excess of his wife's juniority.\*

(15) When any Minister becomes a claimant upon this Fund, the annuity to be paid to him shall be determined, not by the years of his ministerial standing, should he not have paid for those years, but by those only for which he has actually paid his subscriptions into the Fund.

(16) A grant of £50 for furniture shall be made to every Minister upon his becoming a Supernumerary, and to every widow upon becoming an annuitant upon the Fund, whose husband shall have died in the full work. In case any Supernumerary shall return to full work, he shall repay the half of the furniture grant, and upon his again becoming a claimant upon the Fund, or his widow becoming a claimant, he or she shall receive only £25.

(17) A fine of 10s. per annum shall be paid by every Minister for every year in which he may be in arrears with his personal subscription to this Fund; but probationers shall not be charged a fine for arrears of their first year.

(18) That in all cases when a Minister rests for one year the £9 9s., in addition to his personal subscription of £6 6s., shall be paid to this Fund.

(19) That any Minister, from England or elsewhere, joining any of the Australasian Conferences shall be required to pay, or have paid on his account, in addition to his annual subscription of £6 6s., the sum of £9 9s. for each year for which he may claim.

(20) That any Minister who shall have travelled forty-four years, and continues in full work, shall be exempt from the further payment of subscriptions.

---

\* For tables by which to calculate the above, see General Conference Minutes, 1875, pp. 83—88.

387. Scale of Allowances to Supernumerary Ministers and Ministers' Widows, payable quarterly in advance.

Ministerial Standing.	SUPERNUMERARIES.		WIDOWS.		Ministerial Standing.
	Annuitant Branch.	Total.	Annuitant Branch.	Total.	
5	£ s. d. 2 5 0	50 0 0	£ s. d. 1 6 0	28 0 0	5
6	2 15 8	51 7 4	1 12 4	29 1 4	6
7	3 7 0	52 19 0	1 19 0	30 3 0	7
8	3 19 0	54 7 4	2 6 0	31 5 0	8
9	4 12 0	55 15 0	2 13 0	32 7 8	9
10	5 6 0	57 6 0	3 2 0	33 10 4	10
11	6 1 4	58 18 0	3 10 8	34 14 0	11
12	6 17 8	60 11 0	4 0 0	35 17 8	12
13	7 15 0	62 5 4	4 10 4	37 2 0	13
14	8 13 8	64 1 0	5 1 4	38 7 0	14
15	9 14 0	65 18 0	5 13 0	39 12 4	15
16	10 15 8	67 16 4	6 3 8	40 18 8	16
17	11 19 0	69 17 4	6 19 8	42 5 8	17
18	13 5 4	71 19 8	7 14 0	43 13 4	18
19	14 12 0	74 4 4	8 10 0	45 1 8	19
20	16 1 4	76 10 4	9 7 0	46 11 0	20
21	17 13 8	79 0 8	10 6 4	48 1 4	21
22	19 9 0	81 12 8	11 7 0	49 12 8	22
23	21 7 0	84 11 4	12 9 0	51 5 4	23
24	23 8 8	87 3 8	13 13 0	52 19 4	24
25	25 14 8	90 7 4	15 0 4	54 14 4	25
26	28 5 0	93 12 4	16 9 8	56 11 4	26
27	31 0 4	97 1 0	18 1 8	58 10 0	27
28	34 1 8	100 14 0	19 17 8	60 10 8	28
29	37 9 0	104 11 4	21 17 0	62 5 9	29
30	41 5 0	108 12 8	24 1 0	64 18 8	30
31	45 9 0	112 19 4	26 10 0	67 7 0	31
32	50 2 4	117 10 4	29 4 8	69 18 4	32
33	55 6 8	122 7 0	32 3 8	72 13 4	33
34	61 4 4	127 9 8	35 14 4	75 13 0	34
35	67 16 0	132 17 4	39 11 0	78 16 0	35
36	75 5 0	138 12 8	43 18 4	82 2 0	36
37	83 15 8	144 12 0	48 17 4	85 12 0	37
38	93 9 0	151 3 8	54 10 4	89 6 4	38
39	104 10 0	158 0 8	60 19 0	93 5 0	39
40	117 2 8	165 7 0	68 7 0	97 8 4	40
41	131 17 0	173 2 8	76 18 4	101 17 0	41
42	148 18 4	181 9 4	86 17 4	106 11 4	42
43	168 15 0	190 8 0	98 4 8	111 11 4	43
44	191 14 0	199 19 8	111 16 4	116 18 0	44

NOTE.—The Scale showing the proportion from the Annuitant Branch is retained, because it shows the amount due to a Minister's Widow if she re-marry. See Rule 14, page 93.

*Miscellaneous Regulations.*

388. (1) Each Annual Conference shall appoint a Treasurer or Treasurers of this Fund; and the Chairmen of the Districts pertaining to each Annual Conference shall send to the Treasurer or Treasurers so appointed by their respective Conferences, not later than seven days after the District Meetings, a statement of his accounts for the year.

(2) The Treasurers of the several Annual Conferences shall from these statements prepare a similar statement for all the districts belonging to their respective Conferences, and submit the same to the Conference at its next session. The Annual Conference Treasurers shall punctually forward to the General Treasurers all moneys which they may receive, and also the statements of accounts after they have passed their respective Conferences, with any resolutions which their Conferences may have adopted.\*

(3) The accounts forwarded to the General Treasurers shall contain a full statement of the collections made for this Fund in each circuit, and how the deficiency, if any, has been met.†

(4) The Annual Conferences shall not appoint young men, upon their being received into Full Connexion, to Married Preachers' circuits until they have paid their subscriptions to this Fund.

(5) The attention of the Annual Conferences is directed to Rule 19 of this Fund, and they are informed that the General Conference declines to sanction the sending to England for Ministers, unless compliance with the rule referred to be guaranteed.

(6) The General Conference calls the attention of the Annual Conferences to the arrears of those Ministers who are indebted to the Fund, and directs the Annual Conferences to take steps to secure the early payment of the arrears.

(7) In the Constitution it is provided that the Presidents of the Annual Conferences shall see that all the regulations of the Connexional Funds are faithfully carried out by and within the bounds of their respective Conferences.

(8) The Secretary of each Annual Conference is required and directed to furnish to the General Treasurers, within one month after the close of his Conference, the following particulars:—

(a) The name and age of every Preacher received on trial.

\* The amounts for collections are due before the 31st December of the year in which they are made. Ministers' subscriptions are due on the 1st January in advance; but if paid to the *General Treasurers* before the end of February will be exempt from fine.

† The accounts of the Conference Treasurers should always be made out on the printed forms which are furnished by the General Treasurers.

(b) The names of any whose status has been altered, either by adding to or deducting from his status as previously published in the Minutes, with the reasons for such alterations.

(c) The names of those who may have been made Supernumeraries by their Conferences. Also the names of Supernumeraries who have returned to full work.

(d) The names of any widows whose husbands have died during the year.

(9) Every Minister who marries is required, within one month, to inform the General Treasurers of the date of his marriage, and the name and age of his wife; or, failing to do this, he shall be fined the sum of £1.

(10) In case of second marriage the husband shall, within one month, inform the General Treasurers; and shall be required to arrange for the payment of the second marriage premium. Failing to send this information, he shall be fined the sum of £1.

(11) In the case of a wife's death the husband shall, within one month of the death, notify the fact, with the date thereof, to the General Treasurers.

(12) In case any Minister shall be deprived of status by his Annual Conference he forfeits his annual subscription for the year or years of which he may be deprived.

(13) Ministers' annual subscriptions are due in advance (see Rule 2); so that Probationers are required to pay for two years—viz., £12 12s.—on or before the beginning of their second year. In case they do this, they are exempted from fine for the first year. (See Rule 17, page 94.)

(14) Fines (as per Rule 17) are charged upon all subscriptions which *do not reach the hands of the General Treasurers* on or before the last day of February in each year.

### III. FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

389. See Foreign Missionary Society, pars. 390—402.

# PART VII.

---

## INSTITUTIONS.

---

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

##### I. MANAGEMENT.

390. In the intervals between the General Conferences, the affairs of the Society shall be under the supervision of the New South Wales and Queensland Annual Conference. That Conference shall nominate a Board of Management to the General Conference for appointment, and shall fill up any vacancies that may occur in the Board in the intervals between the General Conferences.

391. A copy of the Minutes of the Board of Management shall be forwarded to each of the Presidents of the Annual Conferences, to be laid by them before their respective Conferences at their next session ; and each Conference shall have the right to remit to the Board of Management any remarks or suggestions it may deem proper.

392. The Minutes of the Board of Management shall be presented at each General Conference, when the entire proceedings during the interval of such Conference shall be reviewed.

393. The Board of Management shall consist of the President and the Secretary of the New South Wales and Queensland Conference, the General Treasurers, the General Secretary, with a number of Ministers and Laymen whose names are printed in the Minutes of the General Conference from time to time.

394. *Committee of Discipline.*—The President and Secretary of the New South Wales and Queensland Conference, the General Secretary of Missions, and other Ministers named in the Minutes of the General Conference, are appointed a Committee of Discipline.

395. *Representation of Mission Districts.*—That except the Chairman of a Mission District, or a representative sent therefrom, be in attendance at the Conference, the General Secretary of Missions shall be regarded as the representative of such district.

396. One General Secretary and one General Lay Treasurer of the Society are *ex officio* members of the General Conference.

## II. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

397. (1) This institution shall be designated the "Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society."

(2) The object of this Society is to excite and combine the exertions of the churches and congregations of the Wesleyan Methodists (and of others who are friends to the conversion of the heathen world and to the preaching of the gospel generally in foreign lands) in the support and enlargement of that branch of the Foreign Missions first established by the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., the Rev. Thomas Coke, LL.D., and others, which is now carried on under the direction of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Conference, and formerly under the direction of the British Conference.

(3) Every person subscribing annually the sum of £1 and upwards shall be deemed a member of the Society, and every benefactor presenting a donation of £10 and upwards shall be deemed a life member of this Society, and entitled as such to a copy of the General Annual Report, and of each number of the Wesleyan Missionary Notices.

(4) Every Methodist Missionary Society which has already been formed, or which shall hereafter be formed, for any of the districts under the charge of the Australasian Conference, shall be entitled an Auxiliary Society for such district. Every Methodist Missionary Society already formed, or hereafter to be formed, in a particular circuit, shall be entitled a Branch Society for such circuit, or (where there are or shall be more than one such Society in the same circuit) for the city, town, or village in which it is or shall be established. And the formation of Ladies' Branch Associations, and of Juvenile Branch Societies, in connection with the Auxiliary Societies of the several districts, is also recommended wherever separate institutions of that nature are likely to be advantageous.

(5) The moneys raised in any circuit for this institution by Branch Societies or other local associations, and all other moneys in any way collected for the same object, shall be regularly paid once every quarter, or oftener, into the hands of the Treasurer of the Auxiliary Society for the district in which the said circuit is situated, with the deduction only of such sums as may have been disbursed for the incidental and local expenses of the Branch Society. And the Treasurer of every District Auxiliary Society shall remit to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the General Society once in every quarter, or oftener, all sums so received by him from the various circuits in his district, deduct-

ing only the necessary incidental expenses incurred by the Auxiliary Society.

(6) The Society's accounts shall be made up on the 31st of December in each year.

The Secretaries of every Branch Society, or other local association, shall forward annually to the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Society for their district an alphabetical list of all the benefactors and subscribers during the preceding twelve months, with an account of their respective contributions, stating at the same time what portion of the sums so received has been detained for local expenses, and what portion has been paid in to the Treasurer for the district. And the Secretaries of every District Auxiliary Society shall also forward annually to the Secretary or Secretaries of the General Society a similar list of the benefactors and subscribers in all the circuits of their district, and an abstract of the accounts of the Auxiliary Society, showing its gross receipts, its local payments, and its remittances to the General Treasurers. Such lists shall be forwarded to the General Secretary or Secretaries not later than the 21st of the following January.

(7) All persons who collect for this institution £5 and upwards annually, or 5s. and upwards monthly throughout a year, shall also be members of the General Society, and entitled to receive a copy of each Annual Report and of each number of the Wesleyan Missionary Notices.

(8) An annual public meeting of the members and friends of this Society, connected with such religious services as may be deemed expedient, shall be held during the month of March.

(9) A General Committee shall be appointed by the Conference, to whom shall be entrusted the superintendence of the collection and disbursement of all moneys raised for the Foreign Missions which may now or hereafter be carried on under its sanction, and by the Ministers in connection with it, and also the general management of these Missions according to the rules hereafter provided.

This Committee shall consist of the President and Secretary of the Conference for the time being, of nine or more Ministers and nine or more Laymen for each of the following districts, viz.:—New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and of a proportionate number of Ministers and Laymen for Auckland, Wellington, Western Australia, and any other district that may hereafter be created.

The General Committee shall meet annually at the place in which the Conference is held, and at the time appointed by the previous Conference, when the proceedings of the past year shall be reviewed, the state of the various Missions shall be considered, the probable receipts and expenditure of the year shall

be estimated, and grants shall be made to the various Mission Districts in accordance with their estimated requirements.

(10) One or more General Treasurers shall be annually appointed by the Conference, who shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

(11) One or more General Secretaries, being Wesleyan Ministers, shall be annually appointed by the Conference, who shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

(12) The members of the General Committee resident in New South Wales shall be constituted an Executive Committee to carry out during the year, in the intervals between the annual meetings of the General Committee, the measures and plans which have been decided upon in the annual meetings, to act in any case of emergency that may arise, and to transact the necessary business of the Missions.

The Executive Committee (of whom five shall form a quorum) shall meet once in every month, or oftener, for the transaction of business, and a minute account of its proceedings shall be recorded. Every three months a copy of the minutes made during the past quarter shall be forwarded by the Secretary to each Chairman of a District, to be by him communicated to the members of the General Committee resident in his district, that they may be cognisant of the proceedings of the Executive Committee.

Any member of the General Committee who may be in Sydney occasionally shall be entitled to sit and vote with the Executive Committee.

The minutes of the Executive Committee shall be produced and read at the meeting of the General Committee when the proceedings of the past year are under review.

(13) All the Missionaries supported by the funds of this Society shall be Ministers or Preachers on Trial in connection with and under the direction of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Conference.

(14) The plan for stationing the Missionaries supported by this Society shall be annually drawn up by the respective District Meetings and laid before the Conference.

(15) In the intervals of the sittings of the Conference the Executive Committee shall, with the concurrence of the President of the Conference for the time being, possess the power of recalling any Missionary whenever there shall appear to them to be a reason for such recall, and of putting any Missionary so recalled by them upon his trial before the ensuing Conference, or, in case of necessity for immediate decision, before as many of the Ministers of the New South Wales District Meeting as can conveniently assemble, who shall have power to suspend him until the ensuing Conference.



(16) For the satisfaction of the numerous friends of this Society in Australasia, on whose continued co-operation so much depends, and many of whom might make it convenient to attend at the time of the Annual Meetings of the Conference, it is agreed that a special meeting of review shall be held once a year, at the place where the Conference is held, on a day and hour appointed by the preceding Conference, and published in the Annual Minutes. All Wesleyan Methodist Ministers and all Treasurers and Secretaries of Auxiliary and Branch Societies shall have the right to attend this meeting. The persons there assembled, in conjunction with the members of the General Committee who may be present, shall review the minutes of the financial business transacted during the preceding year, and examine the general accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Missions. Any suggestions for the improvement or extension of the missionary concerns of the Wesleyan Church, which this special meeting may deem it expedient to recommend, shall be minuted by the Secretaries and promptly considered by the Conference, or at the subsequent meeting of the General or Executive Committee.

(17) It is earnestly recommended to the members of this Society, and of the Auxiliary Societies and other local associations in connection with it, to consider it as an indispensable part of their daily Christian duty to pray to Almighty God for a blessing upon its designs and upon those of all similar societies of other denominations engaged in the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, under the full conviction that unless He "prevent us in all our doings with His most gracious favour, and further us with His continual help," we cannot reasonably hope for a succession of persons of proper spirit and qualifications for the office of Missionaries, or expect their labours to be crowned with the desired success. And it is further hoped that with the same view all the members and friends of this Society will sanction in their several neighbourhoods, by their presence and influence, the monthly missionary prayer-meetings, which should be held in every chapel in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, according to the recommendation of the Conference published in the British Minutes for 1815, at which meetings extracts from the Missionary Notices containing recent intelligence from the foreign stations may be read, and united supplications offered up for the salvation of the world.

398. Returned Missionaries are to be apportioned among the Conferences in the proportion of two each to New South Wales and Victoria, and one each to South Australia and New Zealand; the wishes of such Missionaries to be consulted as far as possible.

When any Annual Conference receives a returned Missionary,

the sum of £150 is paid to it by the Mission Fund, for the purpose of establishing an additional married man's station; but in all cases where a Missionary is received into a Conference in the place of a Missionary returning to the Mission, the sum of £150 for furniture shall not be claimed.

399. The Maoris who meet in class are to be returned in the district schedules of New Zealand as members, and the regulation which required a payment to the Children's Fund on account of the Maori members be no longer enforced, but they are to be regarded in the same manner as foreign or Fiji members.

400. *Fiji*.—It is an instruction to the Missionaries in Fiji to give in a separate column in the general circuit returns the number of the white population who are full and accredited members.

401. *Native Missionaries in Fiji*.—The candidates received for the Native Ministry in Fiji are to be regarded as students for two years, during which time they shall reside in the District Institution, or be placed under the direction of their Superintendents, and such years shall not count in their probation. No subject affecting the Native Ministers in Fiji shall be brought before the Conference without the opinions thereon of both Native and English Missionaries having previously been obtained.

402. *Western Australia*—Western Australia is to stand on our Minutes in connection with the South Australian Conference, but it is to be understood that the expense of the Mission shall be borne, and Ministers supplied to it, as hitherto, by the Committee in England.

*Relation of the Friendly Islands District to the New South Wales and Queensland Conference.*

403. Recommendations originating in the Friendly Islands, and approved by the Friendly Islands Missionary District Meeting, having been forwarded to the General Conference by the New South Wales and Queensland Conference, that the Friendly Islands District should cease to be under the management of the Board of Missions, but should be connected directly with that Conference, and be entirely self-supporting: The Conference, having carefully considered the proposals submitted, resolves:—

(1) That the recommendations be agreed to, and that from and after 31st December, 1881, the Friendly Islands District be no longer under the management of the Board of Missions, but that it be a district in connection with the New South Wales and Queensland Conference.

(2) That the Friendly Islands District shall have its own separate district funds, as is the case with the Queensland District, but the balance-sheet of such funds shall be presented and the accounts reviewed by the New South Wales and Queens-

land Conference year by year. The committees of such funds shall be appointed annually by said Conference on the nomination of the District Meeting.

(3) That the Friendly Islands District, which has since 1875 been responsible for the support of the native department of the work, shall hereafter from 1st January, 1882, when this legislation shall begin to take effect, undertake the pecuniary responsibility of the entire work in that district, so as completely to relieve the Board of Missions—that is to say, it shall provide for the payment—

(a) Of the stipends of the European Ministers appointed thereunto while labouring therein.

(b) Of the allowances of the children of such Ministers for maintenance and education during the same period.

(c) Of the claims on account of the Ministers labouring therein, due by circuits to the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund at the rate of £12 12s. each.

(d) Of the allowances due on account of the children born in the islands of Missionaries who have returned, and of Ministers who may in future return from the Friendly Islands to the colonial work. Such allowances to be paid at colonial rates by the Treasurers of the New South Wales and Queensland Conference Children's Fund, who shall levy upon the Friendly Islands District an amount sufficient for such purpose.

(e) The Friendly Islands District shall also provide for outfit and passage of the Ministers required for its service.

(f) It shall bear the expense incurred by the return to the colonies, temporary or otherwise, of Ministers belonging to the Friendly Islands District, such return having been duly sanctioned.

(g) It shall also, for every Minister returning to a colonial circuit, pay the sum of £150 to the Conference by which such Minister is received, to meet the expenses of his settlement, it being understood that should any such Minister return to the Friendly Islands District no further payment shall be required on his account when he again needs a colonial circuit.

(h) When any ordained Native Minister returns from the mission field to circuit work in Tonga, the sum of £25 shall be allowed as a grant from the Missionary Society, this sum being deemed sufficient to furnish a house in Tonga, just as £150 is to furnish a house for a returned Missionary in the colonies.

(4) That in the event of the occurrence of any great calamity by which the Friendly Islands District may be rendered unable to fulfil its obligations, the deficiencies in the allowances of the Ministers may be paid by the Mission Board, provided that the rate of such allowance does not exceed the amount which is paid at present.

(5) That in case it be inconvenient or unadvisable for the Chairman of the District or a representative from the Friendly Islands to be present at the Stationing Committee, the Friendly Islands District Meeting is empowered to choose any Minister who may be present at the Conference as its representative to the Stationing Committee.

404. That in the event of the New South Wales Conference being unable at any time to supply from its own ranks the vacancies occurring in the Friendly Islands District, that Conference shall be authorised to seek such supply from the other Annual Conferences.

405. That circuits be provided for Ministers returning from the Friendly Islands District to the colonial work under the regulations which make provision for returned Missionaries.

## CHAPTER II.

### BOOK ESTABLISHMENTS.

406. The several Annual Conferences have Book Depôts for the sale of Wesleyan and other publications. Each Conference adopts its own regulations and arrangements for the management of its Depôt or Depôts. It is expected that Tract Societies will be established in the various Annual Conferences.

407. Where a Minister is appointed Book Steward, his term of office is for three years, renewable on expiration, and subject to the same usages and regulations which apply to the office of Book Steward in London, as far as they may be applicable in Australia and New Zealand.

## CHAPTER III.

### THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

408. It is considered desirable that a Central Theological Institution for the training of candidates for the ministry should be established as early as possible. Until this can be done, the following regulations are in force:—

(1) It is expedient to organise a Provisional Theological Institution for the Australasian Wesleyan Church in connection with our Collegiate Schools.

(2) That only candidates who have been accepted by the Conference shall be recognised as students in this institution.

(3) That the management of each local branch of the Provisional Theological Institution as to its finances be under the direction of the respective councils or committees of the Colleges now existing in the several colonies; and as to the education and discipline of the students, under the direction of a committee in each colony, consisting of the Chairmen of Districts within the bounds of the colony, the Ministerial Members of the respective

College Committees or Councils, with the addition in the case of New South Wales of the General Secretary of Missions *ex officio*.

(4) With reference to the support of the students, they will be expected for the present at least to bear the whole, or part, of the cost of their board and residence themselves if they shall be able. But to supply deficiencies, and to make the training as efficient as possible, the council or committee of each College shall be authorised to receive the interest of Jubilee moneys contributed for a Theological Institution, and to collect subscriptions. Students intended for the Foreign Mission work, who are unable to bear their own expenses, to be supported by the Missionary Society.

(5) Students may be received into the Institution from any colony, provided their expenses are borne by themselves, or by the colony from which they come.

(6) Students upon entrance shall sign a legal agreement to refund the cost of their training, should they retire from our work, similar to that which is required at our Theological Institution in England.

(7) Students shall, if possible, be allowed to remain for a period of three years. In the event of a student remaining three years in the institution, he shall be regarded as having travelled one year, but if he remain only one or two years, his status shall date from the time of his actual employment in the regular work.

(8) The question shall be asked every year in all the District Meetings—Have we any recommendations to offer in reference to the theological training of candidates for our ministry?

(9) A report of each branch of the Provisional Theological Institution, both as to its finances and as to the character and improvement of the students, shall be presented every year to the Conference to which it belongs, through the annual meeting of the district in which such branch is situated.

409. Each Annual Conference is authorised to appoint a central examining committee, who shall examine all candidates within its bounds, and prepare examination papers for probationers, and report to the Conference. At the session preceding the General Conference, it is to nominate a member of the committee to report upon the reading of Probationers. (See also par. 201).

## CHAPTER IV.

### SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

#### I. PRINCIPLES.

410. *First Principle*.—Sunday-schools should be *strictly and entirely religious* institutions, and ought, therefore, to be schools for *Christian* instruction and education, as it is only on this

ground that the occupation of the Lord's Day in tuition can be held to consist with the due observance of the Christian Sabbath.

*Second Principle.*—Schools designed for the religious education of children ought to be conducted in distinct and avowed *connection* with some particular branch of the visible *Church of Christ*.

*Third Principle.*—Sunday-schools should be most conscientiously and anxiously so conducted that they may not interfere, further than an invincible necessity may compel, with the *primary and universal* duties of the holy Sabbath, and, in particular, with the constant attendance of teachers and children on the public worship of God's house at the hours most generally devoted to that purpose and best adapted to secure their edification.

*Fourth Principle.*—On the same ground of vigilant concern for the best interests both of the children and of their teachers, the *bustle* and the *secularity* of mere school business should be as much as possible avoided in the management of Sunday-schools; and the spiritual objects and character of the institutions should be so carefully kept in mind as to regulate and control the whole plan and process of Sabbath education.

## II. RULES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AUSTRALASIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

411. I. Each school shall be conducted in distinct and avowed connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and shall be worked in harmony with its arrangements, and with a view to its increase and benefit.

II. Its main object shall be to instruct and train scholars in the doctrines, privileges, and duties of the Christian religion, as believed and taught by the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

III. The general management of each school shall be entrusted to a Committee, except in cases provided for in Rule XXIV.

The Committee shall consist of—

1. All the Ministers of the circuit.
2. Of the Treasurer, the General Secretary, Superintendents, and Secretaries of the school, to be appointed as herein after mentioned.
3. Of eight or more persons to be chosen as follows:—  
One quarter, being members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, by the Leaders' Meeting; one quarter, from members of the congregation or subscribers to the school, who, if not members of the Church, are nevertheless believed to be cordially attached to the principles and polity of Wesleyan Methodism, by the Leaders' Meeting; one half, being Teachers or officers, who are also members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, by a Teachers'

Meeting to be held the month before the anniversary of the school.

IV. An annual public meeting shall be held at any time of the year most convenient, to receive the general and financial report, the list of persons chosen in the manner above described to be members of the Committee for the ensuing year, and also to promote the interests of the school. When it is deemed necessary, in addition to the annual meeting, a public meeting, to promote the interests of the school and of Christian education generally, may be held at any time of the year most convenient.

V. The general duties of the Committee are: To devise means for raising the necessary supplies; to disburse the funds according to the requirements of the school; to hear and determine appeals from the Teachers' Meeting; and to exercise a vigorous control over all the affairs of the institution in accordance with its established rules.

VI. The Committee shall meet at least once a quarter, and oftener if required, with the concurrence of the Superintendent of the circuit, and five shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

VII. The Superintendent Minister of the circuit shall preside in all meetings of the Committee and of the Teachers at which he is present; in his absence, his place shall be supplied by one of the other Ministers; and if no Minister be present, by one of the officers of the institution, to be appointed by the meeting; except that in the Teachers' Meetings one of the Superintendents of the school shall preside.

VIII. The officers of the school shall be as follows:—

1. One or more Superintendents, who shall be annually appointed by the Committee, having been recommended by the Teachers' Meeting.
2. One or more Secretaries, one or more Canvassers, and a Librarian, to be annually chosen by the Teachers' Meeting, subject to the approval of the Committee.
3. A Treasurer and General Secretary, to be annually appointed by the Committee.

N.B.—All the officers shall be selected, where practicable, exclusively from the members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and shall be chosen at the first meeting of the Committee.

IX. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:—

1. The Treasurer shall receive and pay all money on account of the school, under the direction of the Committee.
2. The General Secretary shall convene and attend all meetings of the Committee, take minutes of the proceedings, and prepare a written report for the annual meeting.

3. The Superintendents shall be responsible for the punctual opening and closing of the school with singing and prayer, for the admission of scholars, and the arrangement of classes and Teachers, and for the internal management of the school.
  4. The School Secretaries shall take charge of the School Registers and Journal, give due notice of Teachers' Meetings to the Superintendent Minister and his colleagues, and to the other members of the meeting, take minutes of the meetings, and furnish periodical reports of the condition and requirements of the school to the Committee.
  5. The Canvassers shall attend the school once on each Sabbath, receive from the Secretary the list of absent scholars, visit their homes to ascertain the cause of their absence, and endeavour to promote the interests of the school by obtaining additional scholars.
  6. The Librarian shall take charge of the library, make a complete catalogue of the books, keep them in good order, and enter in a proper book the issue and return of every volume lent, with the period during which they are kept; he shall also furnish to the Committee a quarterly report of the state of the library, and the number of books issued therefrom.
- X. The qualifications, appointment, and duties of Teachers.
1. The Teachers, wherever practicable, shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church; but if not, they must at least be regular attendants at our Church, of good moral character, attached to the doctrines and discipline of Methodism, and willing to observe the rules of the school.
  2. They shall be received on trial by the Superintendent of the school; and after a probation of three months, shall be nominated by him at a regular Teachers' Meeting, and elected by the meeting, subject, however, to the approval of the Committee.  
(Fully accredited Teachers from other Wesleyan schools shall be received as such if their services are required.)
  3. Teachers must be regular and punctual in their attendance at the school, and shall endeavour to preserve among the children of their classes order and general good conduct. No officer or Teacher shall on any account strike a scholar. If a scholar misbehave, the Teacher shall endeavour by advice and persuasion to set him right, but if he fail, he shall report the case to the Superintendent, who shall administer such correction as he may deem proper; but the Superintendent shall not expel any scholar until he has laid the case before the Teachers' Meeting. The Teachers shall accompany the

scholars to the house of God, and do all in their power, both by teaching and example, to promote the great end of Sunday-schools—the religious instruction and salvation of the scholars.

4. A Teacher, when prevented from attending the school, must either provide a proper substitute or give the Superintendent timely notice of his intended absence.
5. In case any Teacher be aggrieved by the conduct of any officer or fellow Teacher, he shall be at liberty to lay the matter before the Teachers' Meeting, and if dissatisfied with its decision, he shall have the right of appeal to the Committee.

XI. There shall be a monthly Teachers' Meeting, consisting of the Ministers of the circuit, the Superintendents and Secretaries of the school, the Librarian, the Canvassers, and all the Teachers, at which, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been confirmed, the following inquiries shall be made:—

1. Have the resolutions of the previous meeting been duly carried out?
2. Are there any objections to any of the officers or Teachers?  
(The names to be gone over *seriatim*.)
3. What Teachers have been admitted on trial?
4. Are there any to be admitted in full?
5. What is the number of Teachers in the school?
6. What is the number of scholars on the roll?
7. What is the average attendance?
8. How many children have been received into the school during the last month?
9. How many have left, and from what cause?
10. Are any sick? If so, has the Superintendent been informed thereof?
11. Do the children make any visible improvement in divine knowledge?
12. Is it known that any have been converted?
13. Are any school books or other requisites needed?
14. Are any books recommended to be added to the library?  
(The proposer of any book must state at the time of proposal the general character and price of the book.)
15. What more can be done to promote the general welfare of the school?

XII. A united meeting of the Committee and Teachers shall be held once in every six months, or oftener if need be, on some suitable week-day evening, expressly for the recognition of newly-appointed Teachers, at which meeting the Chairman shall present the rules, and give appropriate advice and encouragement to the Teachers thus recognised.

XIII. In the selection of Teachers for the elder classes special attention shall be paid to their Christian experience ; and those only shall be so employed who are able to teach the scholars clearly and fully what they must do to be saved.

XIV. No person shall be continued as an officer or Teacher who shall at any time be declared by the Committee or Leaders' Meeting unfit, in respect of general character or of religious opinions, for the office he sustains, or for taking part in the Christian education of the young ; but any complaint against such person shall be submitted to the Committee prior to its being laid before the Leaders' Meeting.

XV. The elementary books employed in teaching even the younger children shall be such as contain the largest portion of scriptural instruction, and the Holy Scriptures shall be regularly used by the elder scholars.

XVI. Catechetical exercises shall form a constant part of the system of the school, and the catechisms used shall be those published under the sanction of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference.

XVII. No branch of merely secular knowledge shall be taught on the Lord's Day.

XVIII. Every school shall, if possible, have a library, which, with the school furniture, shall be the property of the Committee. No books shall be introduced without the approval of the Committee ; and, wherever practicable, the distribution of books shall take place on some week-day evening, so as not to occasion, either to the Librarian or to the readers, an unnecessary and injurious diversion of any portion of the Lord's Day from employments directly spiritual.

XIX. No sales of books or of other articles used in the school shall be allowed on the Sabbath, but suitable facilities for the supply of the scholars shall be provided on week-days.

XX. The meetings of the Committee for ordinary business shall not be held on the Lord's Day ; and Teachers' Meetings, if unavoidably so held, shall be fixed for such hours as will not interfere with attendance at public worship, society meetings, or the Lord's Supper.

XXI. Children coming from schools of other denominations shall be admitted on the application of their parents or guardians.

XXII. All the scholars shall be trained to regular attendance on public worship at the house of God, on the morning of the Lord's Day. The elder scholars shall be encouraged to attend the evening service also.

XXIII. Wherever it is practicable, a select class or classes of those scholars who are seriously disposed shall be formed for special religious instruction and prayer, and be met by suitable

teachers in separate class-rooms towards the close of the Sunday afternoon, or on some convenient time.

XXIV. Where it is deemed desirable, two or more schools in a circuit may be entrusted to the management of one Committee.

1. The Committee shall consist of:—

(1) All the Ministers of the circuit.

(2) The Treasurer, General Secretary, and General Visitors.

(3) The Superintendents and Secretaries of the schools.

(4) Eight or more persons, to be chosen as follows:—  
One-half, being Teachers, Librarians, or Canvassers, who are also members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, by a Teachers' Meeting, in the ratio of two for every school of two hundred children or under, and four for every school containing a greater number; one-fourth being members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and one-fourth being members of the congregation, who, if not members of our Church, are nevertheless believed to be cordially attached to the principles and polity of Wesleyan Methodism, by the Leaders' Meetings of the Societies with which the schools are connected, in the ratio above named as to teachers.

2. The Committee shall have power to appoint a General Visitor, whose duties shall be to visit the various schools under the direction of the Committee, to ascertain from the Secretary of each school the number of Teachers and scholars, with the average attendance of both; the number of Teachers and of scholars who are members of the Church; the number of scholars in select classes; whether the scholars regularly attend public worship on the Sabbath; to what extent the Conference Catechisms and Scripture lessons are used; and the state of the library; and he shall prepare a report to be presented to the Committee once a quarter.

3. This Committee shall exercise all the powers vested in the Committee for a single school.

XXV. Where it is deemed desirable, there shall be an annual meeting of the Sunday-school Committees, with all the Teachers and officers in each circuit.

The objects of this meeting shall be—

1. To establish mutual intercourse amongst the officers and Teachers of the schools in town and country.

2. To promote the opening of new, and the extension and improvement of existing schools.

3. To circulate information relative to the organisation and discipline of schools, and the best methods of instruction.

4. To stimulate and encourage those who are engaged in the religious education of the young in the circuit to seek greater spiritual results of their labours.

## CHAPTER V.

### SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

412. 1. As the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday-school Union in London has issued an Australasian edition of the *Wesleyan Methodist Sunday-school Magazine*, the General Conference strongly urges on the Annual Conferences the importance of its use in all our Sabbath-schools.

2. The General Conference also recommends, so far as practicable, the use of all other publications of the said Union.

3. The General Conference further recommends the formation of a Sabbath-school Union for each Annual Conference.

## CHAPTER VI.

### DAY SCHOOLS.

413. As the system of Day-school Education varies in every colony, the Conference recommends the brethren and our members in each district to avail themselves to the utmost of all means placed at their disposal, whether by the liberality of our friends or by grants from the colonial Governments, to carry out day-school education on the principles of the denomination to which they belong; principles which we believe to be truly scriptural, and so liberal as not necessarily to exclude any class of the Protestant community from the benefits of our schools.

But in cases where the Legislature has established schools of a more general character, in which, to meet the objections of other classes of the population, mere extracts from the Holy Scriptures are permitted to be used, we recommend our brethren and friends to co-operate heartily with the Legislature in rendering this less-perfect mode of education (so far as the religious element is concerned) as efficient as possible. We feel it to be our duty to assist to the utmost of our power any system of education which may be established by the colonial Legislatures.

### HIGHER-CLASS EDUCATION.

414. The Conference approves of the plan of education and management already adopted and pursued in the Newington College (Stanmore), N.S. Wales; Wesley College (Melbourne), Victoria; Horton College (Ross), Tasmania; Prince Alfred College (Adelaide), South Australia; and the Methodist Ladies' College (Hawthorn), Victoria; all of which have been established in connection with the Australasian Wesleyan Church, and are conducted with great success. The Annual Conference with

which each College is connected appoints one of its Ministers as President, and receives a report of its proceedings annually.

The Annual Conferences are urged to avail themselves of such opportunities as may offer to establish Colleges affiliated to the Universities in the several Colonies.

## APPENDIX.

No. I. Referred to in par. 6.

### RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

1. That it is very desirable to adopt some more public and formal mode of admitting new members into Society.

2. That as the circumstances of different circuits, in town and country, are very dissimilar, it is not expedient to lay down specific rules as to the exact nature of meetings to be held for the reception of new members, or as to the frequency with which such meetings should be held.

3. That, when practicable, these services may, with great advantage, be associated with the administration of the Lord's Supper.

4. That if, upon inquiry, it be found that any person, in other respects eligible for recognition, has not received Christian baptism, that sacrament shall be administered before the recognition of that person, and, if not otherwise, in connection with the recognition service.

5. That in many places it will be found convenient to recognise new members at a Society Meeting after each visitation of the Classes, this meeting being held either on Sunday afternoon, or after the Sunday evening service, or on the evening of a week-day; and that in country places such a meeting might well take the place of a week-evening service, and be announced on the plan.

Where it is deemed expedient by the Minister to employ a form in connection with the recognition service, he shall, if he think fit, make use of the following:—

FORM recommended by the General Conference for the formal recognition of members into Church membership after probation, for use at the discretion of the Minister, at the administration of the Lord's Supper, or at a Society Meeting.

At the time appointed all who are to be thus recognised shall sit apart, and then be addressed by the Minister as follows:—

Dearly Beloved,—The Scriptures teach us that the Church is the household of God, the body of which Christ is the Head, and that it is the design of the Gospel to bring together in one all who are in Christ. The fellowship of the Church is the communion that its members enjoy one with another. The ends of

this fellowship are the maintenance of sound doctrine, and of the ordinances of Christian worship, and the exercise of that power of godly admonition and discipline which Christ has committed to His Church for the promotion of holiness. It is the duty of all believers in Christ to unite in this fellowship, for it is only those that “be planted in the house of the Lord that shall flourish in the courts of our God.” Its more particular duties are to promote peace and unity, to bear one another’s burdens, to prevent each other’s stumbling, to seek the intimacy of friendly society among themselves, to continue steadfast in the faith and worship of the Gospel, and to pray and sympathise with each other. Among its privileges are peculiar incitements to holiness from the hearing of God’s Word and sharing in Christ’s ordinances, the being placed under the watchful care of Pastors, and the enjoyment of the blessings which are promised only to those who are of the household of faith.

Into this holy fellowship you who have already received the sacrament of baptism, and have been under the care of approved leaders, come now to be publicly admitted. We rejoice in the grace of God vouchsafed unto you in that He has called you to be His followers, and that thus far you have run well. You have heard how blessed are the privileges and how solemn are the duties of membership in Christ’s Church, and before you are fully admitted thereto it is proper that you do here renew your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose by answering the following questions :—

(1) Do you believe that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God, and the only sufficient rule of Christian faith and practice ?

*Answer*—I do.

(2) Have you “a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from your sins ?”

*Answer*—I have.

(3) Do you here, in the presence of God, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and accept the obligations implied in your baptism ?

*Answer*—I do.

(4) Will you cheerfully be governed by the General Rules, Laws, and Regulations of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church—as they are published from time to time by the authority of the General Conference,—hold sacred the ordinances of God, contribute of your substance according to your ability to the support of the Gospel and the various benevolent enterprises of the Church, and endeavour as much as in you lies to promote the welfare of your brethren and the advancement of the Redeemer’s kingdom ?

*Answer*—I will.

The Minister shall then repeat the names of the candidates, and shall say to them—

We welcome you to the communion of the Church of God, and in testimony of our Christian affection and the cordiality with which we receive you, I hereby extend to you the right hand of fellowship, and pray that you may be a faithful and useful member of the Church militant, till you are called to the fellowship of the Church triumphant, which is “without fault before the throne of God.”

Then shall the Minister offer prayer.

## No. II. Referred to in par. 25.

### TEMPERANCE.

The several Annual Conferences are recommended to adopt the following rules and regulations for their temperance organisations :—

#### *Title.*

Every circuit organisation for the promotion of Temperance shall be called a “Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Society.”

#### *Principles.*

1. That every Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Society must recognise the principle of the co-operation of abstainers and non-abstainers.
2. That in the formation of such societies the Superintending Minister shall be first consulted, and his concurrence obtained.
3. That every such society shall use the forms of declaration hereinafter contained.

#### *Objects.*

To promote temperance, and to remove the causes which lead to intemperance. The following are the special objects which these societies should seek to secure :—

1. The diminution of the number of licensed houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the shortening of the time during which they may be opened each day.
2. The suppression of wine-shops throughout the country.
3. The closing of public-houses during the whole of the Lord's Day.
4. The curtailment, by appeals to the licensing authorities, of facilities for the sale of intoxicating liquors.
5. The refusal of night licenses to houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

6. The removal from public-houses of benefit and friendly societies, and the discontinuance of the payment of wages at such houses.

7. The discouragement of the use of intoxicants in "toasts" and "drinking of healths," in social calls and "treating," in business and commercial transactions, and in "footing" and similar customs.

8. The encouragement of refreshment-houses and reading-rooms in which strong drink shall not be supplied.

9. The reclaiming of those who have erred through strong drink.

10. The educating of public opinion in the foregoing objects ; and the sending of petitions to Parliament, when deemed desirable, by the Connexional Committee on Temperance.

11. The encouragement of special prayer for the divine blessing upon the temperance movement.

#### *Management.*

1. The Superintendent of the circuit shall be *ex officio* chairman of Committee of Management ; but may, when he shall see fit, appoint one of his colleagues to act in his place.

2. The Committee of Management shall, if practicable, be composed of abstainers and non-abstainers. One-half at least of this Committee shall be members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and the remainder regular attendants on the Wesleyan Methodist ministry.

3. The Ministers of the circuit shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee ; the other members of the Committee shall be elected by the members of such society at their annual meeting.

4. The Committee shall at its first meeting elect a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Committee shall meet as frequently as circumstances may require, and, if no Minister be present, shall elect some other member to preside.

#### *Membership.*

1. All the persons who shall sign and observe either of the following declarations shall be regarded as members :—

[Abstaining Members.]

I hereby promise to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages ; and will endeavour to promote the objects of this society.

[Non-Abstaining Members.]

I hereby promise to exert myself for the suppression of intemperance, and will endeavour to promote the objects of this society.

2. Members shall be requested to contribute towards the expenses of the circuit organisation.

## BANDS OF HOPE.

*Objects.*

The specific object of the Bands of Hope is to educate the young in the principles and practice of sobriety.

Among the kindred objects desired to be secured by Bands of Hope are :—The regular attendance of our young people upon public worship ; the inculcation of the moral duties of industry, honesty, truthfulness, cleanliness, kindness ; the discouragement of the practice of smoking ; and the creation of disgust for all bad or offensive habits, Sabbath breaking, swearing, gambling, and such like. Basing all moral duties upon the authority of Holy Scripture, the Band of Hope with its special organisation and appliances is adapted to be an important auxiliary to the Sunday-school and the Church, and thus to supply a need which has long been felt and acknowledged.

*Preliminary Steps in Forming a Band of Hope.*

It is the duty of the promoters of this movement—

First—To obtain the sanction of the Superintendent of the circuit.

Second—To bring the proposal to establish a Band of Hope before the Teachers' Meeting and before the Committee of the school ; so that it may be worked in harmony with the other arrangements of the school, and that its efficiency and usefulness may be secured.

Third—To make application to the Superintendent Minister for the use of a room in which the meetings of the Band of Hope may be held.

*General Rules.*

The following Resolutions are proposed as the basis of management for each Band of Hope :—

I. It shall be conducted in distinct and avowed connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the increase and welfare of which it shall seek to promote in every practicable way.

II. The general management shall be entrusted to a committee consisting of—(1) All the Ministers of the circuit ; (2) a Treasurer ; (3) a Conductor, Secretary, and Registrar, who shall be members of Society, and, by preference, officers or teachers in the Sunday-school ; (4) four or more persons, of whom it is desirable one-half at least should be abstainers. The Officers and Committee to be elected annually by the Sunday-school Committee. The Committee to meet once a quarter, or oftener if necessary, for the transaction of business.

III. That the Band of Hope meetings be held regularly ; to begin and end promptly at the time announced, always with singing and prayer. No ordinary meeting should be prolonged beyond an hour and a quarter.

IV. That the speakers at such meeting shall be connected with our own or some other branch of the Christian Church.

V. That the following be the form of declaration adopted :  
 " I promise to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages."

VI. That children above the age of seven years be eligible as members ; children under that age may be enrolled as candidates, without making the declaration.

#### *Officers.*

1. PRESIDENT.—The Superintendent of the circuit, or one of his colleagues, shall be *ex officio* president ; but as it is not practicable for the president to attend all the ordinary meetings of the Band of Hope, it is desirable to elect a vice-president or conductor, whose duty it shall be to attend every meeting, arrange the programme, receive the speakers, and in other ways see that the business of each meeting is properly carried out.

2. SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall take minutes at committee meetings, prepare reports, conduct correspondence, and make arrangements for meetings.

3. REGISTRAR.—The registrar shall keep account of officers and members of the Band of Hope, register admissions and attendance, record reasons for absence and withdrawal, fill up the declaration cards, and supply tickets of membership.

[In many places it may be necessary that the offices of Secretary and Registrar should be held by the same person.]

The books necessary for the Secretary and Registrar are—A minute-book, to contain the record of the proceedings of the committee ; an admission book, for entering name, age, address, &c., of the members received ; and an attendance register, for showing the regularity with which the members attend the meetings.

#### *Membership, &c.*

Any child above seven years of age desiring to become a member, whose parents do not object, shall write his or her name under the following declaration :—" I agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages."

A declaration book shall be provided and kept for that purpose.

When the declaration has been kept for one month the candidate will be an acknowledged member, and should purchase the card of membership.

Especial care should be exercised in the admission of members. The greatest pains should be taken to ascertain that the child understands the nature of the engagement into which it desires to enter.

#### *The Conduct of the Band of Hope.*

Every meeting shall be commenced with devotional exercises. There should be two or three short addresses. Singing should be regarded as an important feature in every meeting. If any recitations be introduced, nothing vulgar or theatrical should be allowed.

In conducting Bands of Hope, it should ever be remembered that the sentiments and music introduced will linger in the memory, and influence the feelings and character through subsequent years; hence they should always be pure, refining, elevating. The singing should be lively; the speakers should aim not only to interest and amuse, but also to *instruct*, and thus to build up character on the basis of Christian principle—ever bearing in mind that “the harvest answereth to the seed.”

N.B.—No sale of literature shall be permitted on the Lord’s Day.

#### *Auxiliary Agencies.*

The efficiency of Bands of Hope may be greatly promoted by the introduction of carefully selected literature; by the formation of a singing class; by the discreet supervision of all festival arrangements; by the collection of small subscriptions from those who are able to become paying members; and, in many cases, by the establishment of a Savings Bank.

#### *Relation to the Sunday-school.*

As the religious character and harmonious working of the Bands of Hope will depend largely upon their close connection with the Sunday-school, it is very desirable that they should, as far as possible, be countenanced and promoted by the Superintendents, officers, and Teachers of the several schools with which they are associated.

#### *The Chief Aim.*

In order to secure the blessing of Almighty God, the Band of Hope should be carried on in the spirit of faith and prayer; the children should be clearly taught that total abstinence is no substitute for scriptural conversion; and the whole organisation should be constantly regarded as only a means to the great end of winning souls for Christ, and of retaining them within the fold of His Church.

“THE METHODIST CONFERENCE ACT, 1876.”

No. III. Referred to in par. 281.

(For Act, see page 124.)

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BRITISH CONFERENCE ON AUSTRALASIAN  
AFFAIRS, 1876.

“1. Resolved, that under and by virtue of the Methodist Conference Act, 1876, this Conference doth hereby delegate to and confer upon the Australasian Conference, and upon the four Annual Conferences constituted by it, and severally called the New South Wales and Queensland Conference, the Victoria and Tasmania Conference, the South Australia Conference, and the New Zealand Conference, the powers, privileges, and advantages vested in this Conference under and by virtue of the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th clauses of the late John Wesley’s Deed Poll, dated the 28th day of February, 1784, so far as such powers, privileges, and advantages are exercisable and available within the limits of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion as defined in the resolution of this Conference passed in the year 1854.

“2. That all acts which shall be done by virtue of the delegation hereby conferred shall not require any confirmation or approval by this Conference, and shall not be entered on the journals or minutes thereof.

“3. This Conference doth hereby declare that all ministers being now or hereafter members of or admitted into connexion with the Australasian General Conference, and the New South Wales and Queensland Annual Conference, the Victoria and Tasmania Annual Conference, the South Australia Annual Conference, and the New Zealand Annual Conference, or any of them, and all persons now or hereafter upon trial for such admission, shall be eligible for appointment to the use and enjoyment of any chapels, dwelling-houses, school-houses, and premises situate within the limits of such Conferences, in the same manner and to the same extent as if such persons had been admitted into connexion with this Conference.

“4. That the operation of the foregoing resolutions shall be confined to the geographical limits within which the authority of the said Australasian Conference extends, under and by virtue of the resolution of the Conference passed in the year 1854 constituting such Australasian Conference.” (English Minutes 1876, pp. 194, 195.)

## RESOLUTIONS OF THE AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE, 1878.

At the General Conference held in Sydney in May, 1878—

“The Secretary having presented the certified copy of the Methodist Conference Act of 1876, and several documents relating thereto having been submitted by the Rev. Gervase Smith, D.D., the Representative of the British Conference, the Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church hereby expresses its hearty thanks to the British Conference for obtaining from the Imperial Parliament an Act which enables the British Conference to delegate certain powers and privileges to and upon Conferences in Australasia and elsewhere, and which legalises the admissions, appointments, and expulsions made by the Australasian Conference.

“It further records its obligations to the British Conference for the trouble it has taken, and the expense it has incurred, in the preparation and passing of this Act, and for the confidence manifested in delegating to this Conference and the four Annual Conferences similar powers, privileges, and advantages to those which the British Conference itself possesses under and by virtue of the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th clauses of the Deed Poll of the late Rev. John Wesley, without requiring the acts done in virtue of such delegation to be confirmed by the British Conference and entered on its journal.

“With reference, however, to the resolutions passed in pursuance of the Act, as some doubt exists as to the meaning of the designation ‘Australasian Conference,’ employed on the first resolution, this Conference respectfully requests the British Conference to pass a declaratory resolution which would definitely specify the Conference that is meant when the words ‘Australasian Conference’ are used, and which, in order to preserve the unity of the Connexion, would also declare that the powers conferred on the Annual Conferences are exercisable or available by any or either of them only under such regulations as have been, or shall from time to time hereafter be made by the General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church.’

## RESOLUTIONS OF THE BRITISH CONFERENCE, 1878.

In compliance with the request contained in the foregoing report, the British Conference, at its session begun in Bradford on Tuesday, 23rd July, 1878, adopted the following resolutions:—

“Whereas it is expedient to remove any doubts which may arise respecting the meaning and application of certain resolutions of ‘the Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists,’ held at Nottingham, in England, in the year 1876, which resolutions are duly recorded in the journal of the said ‘Yearly

Conference,' and were passed under and by virtue of the Methodist Conference Act, 1876, and which resolutions relate to the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Conference, constituted by the said 'Yearly Conference' in the year 1854, and now called and known as 'The General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church,' and also respecting the four Annual Conferences comprised in and governed by the said 'General Conference,' and described by name in the said 'resolutions':

"Now, therefore, the said 'Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists,' assembled at Bradford, in Yorkshire, in England, this 2nd day of August, 1878, hereby resolves and declares as follows—that is to say:

"The words 'The Australian General Conference,' used in the said resolutions of the said 'Yearly Conference,' were intended to designate and refer to 'The Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion,' constituted by the said 'Yearly Conference' in the year 1854, and now called and known as 'The General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church,' and the said 'Yearly Conference' hereby declares this to be the true meaning and application of the said words in the said 'resolutions.'

"And this 'Yearly Conference' further declares that the powers conferred by the said 'resolutions,' so far as the same powers relate, or may relate, to 'Local Conferences' in connexion with the said 'General Conference,' were intended by the same 'Yearly Conference' to be exercisable by any and every 'Local Conference,' which now is, or hereafter may be, connected with the said 'General Conference' under the regulations of the said 'General Conference,' but only in accordance with the provisions and declarations of the late Reverend John Wesley's Deed Poll of 1784, and of any Trust Deed founded thereon or referring thereto, and to the General rules and usages of 'the People called Methodists.'

"And this 'Yearly Conference' further declares that the second of the 'resolutions' passed at the said Conference held in Nottingham aforesaid, was intended to provide that no act whatsoever which shall be done by virtue of the delegation thereby conferred shall require confirmation or approval by this 'Yearly Conference,' or shall be entered as necessary to its legality and sufficiency on the journals or minutes thereof, and that the said 'resolution' is to be so received and observed.

"Signed on behalf and by order of the said 'Yearly Conference.'

"JAMES H. RIGG, D.D., *President.*

"M. C. OSBORN, *Secretary.*"

No. IV. Referred to in par. 281.

## AN ACT

To enable the YEARLY CONFERENCE of the PEOPLE called METHODISTS to delegate or confer certain Powers to or upon Conferences in Australasia and elsewhere and to confirm past Acts in relation thereto and for other Purposes.

[ROYAL ASSENT, 27TH JUNE, 1876.]

Preamble  
recites Rev.  
John Wes-  
ley's Deed  
Poll, 28th  
Feb., 1784.

WHEREAS on the 28th day of February 1784 the Reverend John Wesley theretofore Fellow of Lincoln College in the University of Oxford Clerk duly made and published a Deed Poll or Deed of Declaration which was enrolled in the High Court of Chancery and wherein after reciting that divers buildings commonly called Chapels\* with a messuage or dwelling-house or other appurtenances to each of the same belonging situate in various parts of Great Britain had been given and conveyed by him and also by divers other persons from time to time to certain persons upon trust that the Trustees thereof should permit and suffer the said John Wesley and such persons as he should for that purpose from time to time nominate and appoint at all times during his life at his will and pleasure to have and enjoy the free use of the said premises that the said John Wesley and the persons so appointed by him might therein preach and expound God's Holy Word and upon a similar trust in favour of his brother Charles Wesley and his nominees during his life and after the decease of both of them then that the said Trustees and their heirs and assigns for ever should permit and suffer such persons and for such time and times as should be appointed at the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists and no others to have and enjoy the said premises for the purposes aforesaid:

Defines  
"Yearly  
Conference."

And whereas the said Deed Poll further recites that for rendering effectual the Trusts created by the said several Gifts and Conveyances and that no doubt might arise with respect to the same the said John Wesley as donor of the said several premises had thought it expedient to explain the words "Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists" contained in all the said Trust Deeds and to declare what persons were members of the said Conference and how the succession and identity thereof was to be continued Then the Deed declares of whom the said

\* "Chapel" in this "Act," and in the "Deed Poll," is convertible with "Church" in other parts of the volume.

Conference had always consisted and further declares that the one hundred persons then named in the Deed Poll did on the day of the date of the deed constitute the said Conference and that they and their successors to be appointed as the Deed prescribes and subject to the Regulations therein prescribed should for ever be taken construed and be the Conference of the people called Methodists :

And whereas the said Deed Poll prescribes that the Conference might admit into connexion with them or upon trial any persons whom they should approve to be preachers under the care and direction of the Conference the name of such persons with the time and degrees of their admission being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference And the Deed prohibits the Conference from appointing any person to the use and enjoyment of the said Chapels and premises who is not either a Member of the Conference or admitted into connexion with the same or upon trial or to appoint any person for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of the same Chapels and premises except ordained Ministers of the Church of England :

Regulates admission of Ministers.

And whereas the following is the 13th Article or Regulation of the said Deed Poll :—

Provides for appointment of Delegates.

“ And for the convenience of the chapels and premises already or which may hereafter be given or conveyed upon the Trusts aforesaid situate in Ireland or other parts out of the kingdom of Great Britain the Conference shall and may when and as often as it shall seem expedient but not otherwise appoint and delegate any member or members of the Conference with all or any of the powers privileges and advantages hereinbefore contained or vested in the Conference and all and every the acts admissions expulsions and appointments whatsoever of such member or members of the Conference so appointed and delegated as aforesaid the same being put into writing and signed by such delegate or delegates and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference and subscribed as after mentioned shall be deemed taken and be the acts admissions expulsions and appointments of the Conference to all intents construction and purposes whatsoever from the respective times when the same shall be done by such delegate or delegates notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary :”

And whereas a copy of the said Deed Poll is contained in a Schedule to this Act and it is hereinafter referred to as “ the Deed Poll of 1784” And “ the Yearly Confer-

“ence of the people called Methodists” is hereinafter referred to as “the Yearly Conference:”

Death of  
John and  
Charles Wes-  
ley.

And whereas the said John Wesley died in the year 1791 his brother Charles Wesley having previously died :

Model Deed.

And whereas in order to attain uniformity in the Deeds of Settlement and Declarations of Trusts of Chapels Schoolhouses and other hereditaments and premises thenceforward to be settled upon trusts for the benefit of the said people called Methodists the Yearly Conference caused to be prepared in the year 1832 “A Release of “Freehold Ground for the purposes of a Methodist “Chapel with a Declaration of Trusts intended as a Model “Deed to be referred to in subsequent Conveyances” and the said Deed is now known and used and referred to as “the Model Deed for the settlement of Wesleyan Metho- “dist Chapels:”

And whereas the said Model Deed after reciting at length the said Deed Poll of 1784 conveys the piece or parcel of land hereditaments and premises therein described to Trustees in trust to build thereon a Chapel or place of Religious Worship and a Dwellinghouse or Dwellinghouses Vestryroom Schoolroom and other offices and appurtenances or with or without them as the Trustees shall deem fit And upon further trust to permit and suffer the said Chapel with the appurtenances to be used occupied and enjoyed as and for a place of religious worship by a congregation of Protestants of the said people called Methodists in the Connexion established by the said John Wesley and for public and other meetings and services held according to the general rules and usage of the said people called Methodists and to permit and suffer such person and persons only to preach and expound God’s Holy Word and to perform the usual acts of religious worship therein as shall be from time to time approved and for that purpose duly appointed by or under the authority of the Yearly Conference from time to time held under the orders and regulations of the said Deed Poll of 1784 And the said Deed enables the Trustees with the consent of the Conference testified in writing under the hand of the President thereof for the time being to sell the premises and provides for the appropriation of the purchase-money :

Australasia  
defined.

And whereas since the year 1832 the said Model Deed has been generally adopted with only such variation as the circumstances of each case have required for the settlement of Wesleyan Methodist Chapels in Great Britain and it has been so adopted for the settlement of Wesleyan Methodist trust properties in Australasia in

which term is included in this Act the continent of Australia and the several colonies and settlements on the said continent including New South Wales South Australia West Australia Victoria and Queensland and also Tasmania New Zealand and the Fiji and other Polynesian Islands:

Acts of Legislature of New South Wales 2nd Vict. No. 7.

And whereas an Act was passed in the year 1839 by the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales (2 Victoria No. 7) to regulate the religious affairs of Wesleyan Methodists Independents and Baptists whereby the Trustees appointed under an Act of 1837 (7 William IV. No. 3) were authorised to transfer chapels and lands held by them to new Trustees to be held upon the trusts stated in any Model Deed recognised and established by the usages of the particular Society:

And whereas in the year 1840 a Model Deed was prepared for the settlement of Wesleyan Methodist Chapels in New South Wales which after reciting the foregoing facts conveys the premises therein comprised upon similar trusts to those declared by the English Model Deed and by virtue of which such persons only are authorised to preach and expound God's Holy Word and perform the usual acts of religious worship therein as shall be duly appointed by or under the authority of the Yearly Conference and similar Deeds have been executed in the other Australian Colonies and under such Deeds all the property settled in trust for the people called Methodists in the said Colonies is held:

Australasian Model Deeds

And whereas the Yearly Conference in the year 1854 resolved that the Australasian and Polynesian Missions then under the direction of the Yearly Conference should thenceforth be called "the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Connexion" for the purposes of which connexion the Yearly Conference constituted "the Australasian Conference" consisting of Missionaries who were then members of or admitted into connexion with the Yearly Conference and of such other Ministers as should thereafter be received by the Australasian Conference into its own Body subject nevertheless to the maintenance of the doctrine and discipline of the Yearly Conference and to the power on the part of the Yearly Conference to disallow any rules made by the Australasian Conference inconsistent with such doctrine or discipline:

Formation of Australasian Conference.

And whereas between the years 1855 and 1873 the Australasian Conference has with respect to Australasia exercised the powers of the Yearly Conference relating to the admission and expulsion of Ministers and has appointed to the use and enjoyment of Wesleyan Methodist

Chapels and trust properties in Australasia Ministers in connexion with such Australasian Conference but not strictly in connexion with or expressly appointed by the Yearly Conference or by any delegate duly appointed by the Yearly Conference in conformity with the Deed Poll of 1784 :

And whereas in the year 1873 the said Australasian Conference constituted four annual Conferences severally called the New South Wales and Queensland Conference the Victoria and Tasmania Conference the South Australian Conference and the New Zealand Conference such Conferences nevertheless being comprised in and governed by a General Conference assembling once in every three years :

Confirma-  
tion of their  
acts by  
Yearly Con-  
ference.

And whereas the Minutes of the said Australasian Conference have been transmitted annually to the Yearly Conference and in the year 1875 the Yearly Conference passed the following resolution :—

“ Whereas various Chapels and other Trust Properties  
“ in Australasia are settled by reference to some Deed  
“ or Deeds relating to property in Great Britain and  
“ therefore the use of such Chapels and other properties  
“ may be held to depend for its validity upon the  
“ appointment of this Conference It is hereby resolved  
“ that the appointments of Ministers to the use of such  
“ Chapels and other properties made by any of the  
“ Conferences recently held in Australasia having been  
“ now entered in the Journal shall be and they are  
“ hereby respectively taken and had as the acts of this  
“ Conference :”

“ The Conference hereby approves of those acts of  
“ its late President by which he has sanctioned in its  
“ behalf the sale of several Chapels and other Trust  
“ Properties situated in different parts of Australasia  
“ during the past year :”

And whereas doubts have arisen whether the delegation by the Yearly Conference of its powers and authorities to the Australasian Conference and the subsequent admissions appointments and expulsions by the Australasian Conference respectively have been legal and it is expedient that such doubts should be removed Subject nevertheless to any rights which may have accrued by reason of the proceedings aforesaid :

And whereas Societies of the said people called Methodists in the Connexion established by the said John Wesley have been formed to whom it is inconvenient to appoint as delegates members of the Yearly Conference in conformity with the said Deed Poll of 1784 and it is

expedient that provision should be made for the more convenient delegation of all the powers of the Yearly Conference or of such of those powers as the Yearly Conference shall from time to time define :

And whereas the purposes aforesaid cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament :

MAY IT THEREFORE PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

That it may be Enacted and BE IT ENACTED by the QUEEN'S Most Excellent MAJESTY by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in the present Parliament assembled by the authority of the same as follows that is to say :—

1. This Act may be cited as “The Methodist Conference Act 1876.” Name of Act.

2. The resolution hereinbefore recited of the Yearly Conference held in the year 1875 shall be deemed as valid and effectual for the purposes thereof as if the same were authorised by and in conformity with the Deed Poll of 1784 or any Model Deed or Conveyance or Declaration of Trusts whereby any land Chapel or other premises in Australasia has or have been conveyed or settled in trust for or to the use of the people called Methodists Provided that this enactment shall not prejudice any rights which may have arisen by reason of want of conformity between the Resolution and the Deed Poll of 1784 or any Model Deed or Conveyance or Declaration of Trusts or by reason of the Acts or defaults of the Yearly Conference or of any Conference in Australasia. Confirming Acts of Yearly Conference.

3. All and every the admissions expulsions and appointments heretofore made by the Australasian Conference or approved by it or by any Conference or other authority constituted by it shall be as valid and effectual as though the same had been the admissions expulsions and appointments of some delegate or delegates duly authorised and appointed by the Yearly Conference in pursuance of the power in that behalf contained in the Deed Poll of 1784 And the Australasian Conference and any Conference constituted by them shall be deemed to have been such Delegates of the Yearly Conference for the purposes aforesaid. Confirming past Acts of Australasian Conference.

4. The Yearly Conference may delegate to or confer upon any Conference or Conferences of the people called Methodists (hereinafter referred to as Local Conferences) already or hereafter to be constituted by the Yearly Conference (elsewhere than in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) all or any of the powers privileges and advantages which the Yearly Conference is empowered Yearly Conference may delegate powers.

to delegate by virtue of the thirteenth Article of the Deed Poll of 1784 and any such delegation may be made with or without the power of revoking or amending the same And any such delegation may provide that the acts to be done by virtue thereof shall or shall not require confirmation or approval by the Yearly Conference or to be entered on the Journals of Minutes thereof And every such delegation shall be as valid and effectual for all purposes as if the same were authorised by the said thirteenth Article and not further or otherwise.

Providing  
for appoint-  
ment of  
Ministers.

5. The Yearly Conference may declare that any persons being members of or admitted into connexion with any Local Conference or with any Australasian Conference or upon trial for such admission shall be eligible for appointment to the use and enjoyment of any Chapels dwelling-houses school-houses and premises situate within the limits of such Conference or Conferences in the same manner and to the same extent as if such persons had been admitted into connexion with the Yearly Conference.

Appoint-  
ment of  
Delegates.

6. The Yearly Conference may from time to time delegate any person or persons being either in connexion with it or being a member or members of any Local Conference to exercise all or any of the powers mentioned in the thirteenth Article hereinbefore recited of the said Deed Poll of 1784 and every such delegation shall be as valid and effectual for the purposes of the said article as if the person or persons delegated were a member or members of the Yearly Conference and not further or otherwise.

For Main-  
tenance of  
doctrine and  
discipline.

7. Provided and it is hereby expressly enacted that nothing contained in this Act shall enable the Yearly Conference so to delegate any of its powers privileges and advantages to any Local Conference or to do or suffer anything whereby any person shall be appointed or approved to the use and enjoyment of any land chapel or premises conveyed or settled in trust for or to the use of the people called Methodists who does not conform to the provisions and declarations of the Deed Poll of 1784 and of any Trust Deed founded thereon or referring thereto and who does not conform to the doctrines and the general rules and usage of the people called Methodists.

Saving Acts  
of Colonial  
Legislature.

8. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to invalidate or repeal the hereinbefore recited Acts of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales or anything done or suffered by virtue of the said Acts.

## SCHEDULE

CONTAINING DEED POLL OR DEED OF DECLARATION OF THE  
REVEREND JOHN WESLEY.

To all to whom these presents shall come John <sup>DEED POLL.</sup> Wesley late of Lincoln College Oxford but now of <sup>28 Feb., 1784.</sup> the City Road London Clerk sendeth greeting :

Whereas divers buildings commonly called Chapels with a messuage and dwelling-house or other appurtenances to each of the same belonging situate in various parts of Great Britain have been given and conveyed from time to time by the said John Wesley to certain persons and their heirs in each of the said gifts and conveyances named which are inrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery upon the acknowledgement of the said John Wesley pursuant to the Act of Parliament in that case made and provided upon trust that the Trustees in the said several Deeds respectively named and the survivors of them and their heirs and assigns and the Trustees for the time being to be elected as in the said Deeds is appointed should permit and suffer the said John Wesley and such other person and persons as he should for that purpose from time to time nominate and appoint at all times during his life at his will and pleasure to have and enjoy the free use and benefit of the said premises that he the said John Wesley and such person and persons as he should nominate and appoint might therein preach and expound God's Holy Word And upon further trust that the said respective Trustees and the survivors of them and their heirs and assigns and the Trustees for the time being should permit and suffer Charles Wesley brother of the said John Wesley and such other person and persons as the said Charles Wesley should for that purpose from time to time nominate and appoint in like manner during his life to have use and enjoy the said premises respectively for the like purposes as aforesaid and after the decease of the survivor of them the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley then upon further trust that the said respective Trustees and the survivors of them and their heirs and assigns and the Trustees for the time being for ever should permit and suffer such person and persons and for such time and times as should be appointed at the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists in London Bristol or Leeds and no others to have and enjoy the said premises for the purposes aforesaid And whereas divers persons have in like manner given or conveyed many chapels with messuages and dwelling-houses or other appurtenances to the same belonging situate in various parts of Great Britain and also in Ireland to certain Trustees in each of the said gifts and conveyances respectively named upon the like trusts and for the same uses and purposes as aforesaid (except only that in some of the said gifts and con-

DEED POLL. veyances no life estate or other interest is therein  
 28 Feb., 1784. or thereby given and reserved to the said Charles  
 Wesley) And whereas for rendering effectual the  
 trusts created by the said several gifts or conveyances and that  
 no doubt or litigation may arise with respect unto the same or  
 the interpretation and true meaning thereof it has been thought  
 expedient by the said John Wesley on behalf of himself as donor  
 of the several Chapels with the messuages dwelling-houses or  
 appurtenances before mentioned as of the donors of the said  
 other Chapels with the messuages dwelling-houses or appurte-  
 nances to the same belonging given or conveyed to the like uses  
 and trusts to explain the words Yearly Conference of the people  
 called Methodists contained in all the said Trust Deeds and to  
 declare what persons are members of the said Conference and  
 how the succession and identity thereof is to be continued :

Now therefore these presents witness that for accomplishing  
 the aforesaid purposes the said John Wesley doth thereby  
 declare that the Conference of the people called Methodists in  
 London Bristol or Leeds ever since there hath been any Yearly  
 Conference of the said people called Methodists in any of the  
 said places hath always heretofore consisted of the preachers and  
 expounders of God's Holy Word commonly called Methodist  
 Preachers in connection with and under the care of the said  
 John Wesley whom he hath thought expedient year after year  
 to summons to meet him in one or other of the said places of  
 London Bristol or Leeds to advise with them for the promotion  
 of the Gospel of Christ to appoint the said persons so summoned  
 and the other preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word  
 also in connection with and under the care of the said John  
 Wesley not summoned to the said Yearly Conference to the use  
 and enjoyment of the said Chapels and premises so given and  
 conveyed upon trust for the said John Wesley and such other  
 person and persons as he should appoint during his life as  
 aforesaid and for the expulsion of unworthy and admission  
 of new persons under his care and into his connection to be  
 preachers and expounders as aforesaid and also of other persons  
 upon trial for the like purposes the names of all which persons  
 so summoned by the said John Wesley the persons appointed  
 with the Chapels and premises to which they were so appointed  
 together with the duration of such appointments and of those  
 expelled or admitted into connection or upon trial with all other  
 matters transacted and done at the said Yearly Conference have  
 year by year been printed and published under the title of  
 Minutes of Conference And these presents further witness and  
 the said John Wesley doth hereby avouch and further declare  
 that the several persons hereinafter named to wit [*here follow the  
 names and descriptions of one hundred persons*] being Preachers  
 and expounders of God's Holy Word under the care and in

connection with the said John Wesley have been and now are and do on the day of the date hereof constitute the members of the said Conference according to the true intent and meaning of the said several gifts and conveyances wherein the words Conference of the people called Methodists are mentioned and contained and that the said several persons before named and their successors for ever to be chosen as hereafter mentioned are and shall for ever be construed taken and be the Conference of the people called Methodists nevertheless upon the terms and subject to the regulations hereinafter prescribed (that is to say) :

First. That the members of the said Conference and their successors for the time being for ever shall assemble once in every year at London Bristol or Leeds (except as after mentioned) for the purposes aforesaid and the time and place of holding every subsequent Conference shall be appointed at the preceding one save that the next Conference after the date hereof shall be holden at Leeds in Yorkshire the last Tuesday in July next.

Second. The act of the majority in number of the Conference assembled as aforesaid shall be had taken and be the act of the whole Conference to all intents purposes and construction whatsoever.

Third. That after the Conference shall be assembled as aforesaid they shall first proceed to fill up all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence as after mentioned.

Fourth. No act of the Conference assembled as aforesaid shall be had taken or be the act of the Conference until forty of the members thereof are assembled unless reduced under that number by death since the prior Conference or absence as after mentioned nor until all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence shall be filled up by the election of new members of the Conference so as to make up the number one hundred unless there be not a sufficient number of persons objects of such election and during the assembly of the Conference there shall always be forty members present at the doing of any act save as aforesaid or otherwise such act shall be void.

Fifth. The duration of the yearly assembly of the Conference shall not be less than five days nor more than three weeks and be concluded by the appointment of the Conference if under twenty-one days or otherwise the conclusion thereof shall follow of course at the end of the said twenty-one days the whole of all which said time of the assembly of the Conference shall be had taken considered and be the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists and all acts of the Conference during such yearly assembly thereof shall be the acts of the Conference and none other.

Sixth. Immediately after all the vacancies occasioned by death

DEED POLL. or absence are filled up by the election of new mem-  
 28 Feb., 1784. bers as aforesaid the Conference shall chuse a  
 President and Secretary of their assembly out of  
 themselves who shall continue such until the election of another  
 President or Secretary in the next or other subsequent Confer-  
 ence and the said President shall have the priviledge and power  
 of two members in all acts of the Conference during his presi-  
 dency and such other powers priviledges and authoritys as the  
 Conference shall from time to time see fit to entrust into his  
 hands.

Seventh. Any member of the Conference absenting himself  
 from the yearly assembly thereof for two years successively  
 without the consent or dispensation of the Conference and be  
 not present on the first day of the third yearly assembly thereof  
 at the time and place appointed for the holding of the same  
 shall cease to be a member of the Conference from and after  
 the said first day of the third yearly assembly thereof to all  
 intents and purposes as though he were naturally dead But  
 the Conference shall and may dispense with or consent to the  
 absence of any member from any of the said yearly assemblies  
 for any cause which the Conference may see fit or necessary and  
 such member whose absence shall be so dispensed with or con-  
 sented to by the Conference shall not by such absence cease to  
 be a member thereof.

Eighth. The Conference shall and may expel and put out from  
 being a member thereof or from being in connection therewith  
 or from being upon trial any person member of the Conference  
 or admitted into connection or upon trial for any cause which  
 to the Conference may seem fit or necessary and every member  
 of the Conference so expelled and put out shall cease to be a  
 member thereof to all intents and purposes as though he was  
 naturally dead and the Conference immediately after the expul-  
 sion of any member thereof as aforesaid shall elect another  
 person to be a member of the Conference in the stead of such  
 member so expelled.

Ninth. The Conference shall and may admit into connection  
 with them or upon trial any person or persons whom they shall  
 approve to be preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word  
 under the care and direction of the Conference the name of  
 every such person or persons so admitted into connection or  
 upon trial as aforesaid with the time and degrees of the admission  
 being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference.

Tenth. No person shall be elected a member of the Conference  
 who hath not been admitted into connection with the Conference  
 as a preacher and expounder of God's Holy Word as aforesaid  
 for twelve months.

Eleventh. The Conference shall not nor may nominate or  
 appoint any person to the use and enjoyment of or to preach

and expound God's Holy Word in any of the Chappels and premises so given or conveyed or which may be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid who is not either a member of the Conference or admitted into connection with the same or upon trial as aforesaid nor appoint any person for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of any Chappel and premises already given or to be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid except ordained ministers of the Church of England.

DEED POLL.  
28 Feb., 1784.

Twelfth. That the Conference shall and may appoint the place of holding the yearly assembly or at any other city town or place than London Bristol or Leeds when it shall seem expedient so to do.

Thirteenth. And for the convenience of the Chapels and premises already or which may hereafter be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid situate in Ireland or other parts out of the Kingdom of Great Britain the Conference shall and may when and as often as it shall seem expedient but not otherwise appoint and delegate any member or members of the Conference with all or any of the powers priviledges and advantages hereinbefore contained or vested in the Conference and all and every the acts admissions expulsions and appointments whatsoever of such member or members of the Conference so appointed and delegated as aforesaid the same being put into writing and signed by such delegate or delegates and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference and subscribed as after mentioned shall be deemed taken and be the acts admissions expulsions and appointments of the Conference to all intents constructions and purposes whatsoever from the respective times when the same shall be done by such delegate or delegates notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary.

Fourteenth. All resolutions and orders touching elections admissions expulsions consents dispensations delegations or appointments and acts whatsoever of the Conference shall be entered and written in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference which shall be kept for that purpose publicly read and then subscribed by the President and Secretary thereof for the time being during the time such Conference shall be assembled and when so entered and subscribed shall be had taken received and be the acts of the Conference and such entry and subscription as aforesaid shall be had taken received and be evidence of all and every such acts of the said Conference and of their said delegates without the aid of any other proof and whatever shall not be so entered and subscribed as aforesaid shall not be had taken received or be the act of the Conference And the said President and Secretary are hereby required and obliged to enter and subscribe as aforesaid every act whatever of the Conference.

DEED POLL. 28 Feb., 1784. Lastly. Whenever the said Conference shall be reduced under the number of forty members and continue so reduced for three yearly assemblies thereof successively or whenever the membership shall decline or neglect to meet together annually for the purposes aforesaid during the space of three years that then and in either of the said events the Conference of the people called Methodists shall be extinguished and all the aforesaid powers privileges and advantages shall cease and the said Chappels and premises and all other Chappels and premises which now are or hereafter may be settled given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid shall vest in the Trustees for the time being of the said Chappels and premises respectively and their successors for ever Upon trust that they and the survivors of them and the Trustees for the time being do shall and may appoint such person or persons to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein and to have the use and enjoyment thereof for such time and in such manner as to them shall seem proper.

Provided always that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to extinguish lessen or abridge the life estate of the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley or either of them of and in any of the said Chappels and premises or any other Chappels and premises wherein they the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley or either of them now have or may have any estate or interest power or authority whatsoever.

In witness whereof the said John Wesley hath hereunto set his hand and seal the Twenty-eighth day of February in the Twenty-fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four

JOHN WESLEY.

Signed and delivered (being first duly stamped) in the presence of	}	WILLIAM CLULOW
		Quality Court Chancery-lane London.
		RICHARD YOUNG Clerk to the said William Clulow.

Taken and acknowledged by the Rev. John Wesley party hereto this 28th of February 1784 at the Public Office before me

EDWARD MONTAGU.





# INDEX.



\* \* \* *The references are to the numbered paragraphs, except where "page" is mentioned.*

ACCOMMODATION Bills Prohibited	- - - - -	21
Acting Treasurer Supernumerary Fund	- - - - -	341
Admission into Full Connexion (see "Full Connexion")		
Agitating the Society, Rules against	- - - - -	15, 39, 42
Allowances to Supernumerary Ministers and Widows	- - - - -	387
Alteration of Circuit Boundaries	- - - - -	152 (7b), 159
Annual District Meeting	- - - - -	261-267
Annual Conference, Constitution of, 282-286 Powers of, 287-296 Who Mem- bers of, 292 Who elect to General Conference, 291 When and where Assemble, 293 Who may be President and Secretary, and who Vote, 294, 303 As to Re-election, 295 Control of Funds, 296 Powers of the President, 304, 306 President to ordain, 305 <i>Ex-officio</i> Member of General Conference, 306 (9) Provision in case of incapacity or death of President, 307 Ex-President, The, 308 Secretary, The, 309 Order of Proceedings, 310 First Session open to Public, 313 Suspended Minister no Vote, 314 Decisions final on Local Matters, 315 No Appeal from, on Matters of Discipline, 316 To issue a Pastoral Address, 318 Funds, 370-378		
Annual District Meeting (see "District Meeting")	- - - - -	261-267
Appeal against Verdict of Leaders' Meeting, when, 39, 40, 41, 46; to Minor District Meeting, 46 Against Alteration of Circuit Boundaries, 159 Special Circuit Meeting for, 165-175 From Special Circuit Meeting, 168-174 From Minor District Meeting 231 (5), 238 From Annual District Meeting, 263 None from Decision of Conference, 316		
Appeals for Churches outside Circuits	- - - - -	355
Appointment of Ministers	- - - - -	247-252, 339-343
Auditors of Trust Accounts	- - - - -	105
BANDS of Hope Recommended, 25 Rules for, Appendix, page 118		
Bankrupt, on Members becoming	- - - - -	21
Baptism, Teachings of the Church respecting, 73, 74 Regulations respect- ing, 75-79 Obligation of Parents in regard to, 73, 74, 78 To be properly Registered, 79 By whom to be administered, 75, 245 (7)		
Baptised Children and the Church	- - - - -	89-92
Bazaars, Lotteries, Games of Chance, &c., Prohibited	- - - - -	26 (4)
Betting and Gambling Prohibited	- - - - -	26 (4) (5)
Book Establishments, 406, 407 Steward, Term of Appointment, &c. 250, 407		
Bribery at Elections Prohibited	- - - - -	26 (3)
Burial of the Dead	- - - - -	88

- CANDIDATES for the Ministry, Regulations concerning, 153, 154, 185-198  
 Nominated by Superintendent, 154, 185, 188 Enquiries to be made by Superintendent, 186-188, 190 Approved by Quarterly Meeting, 155, 189 Be heard by Members of Quarterly Meeting, 188 Qualifications required for, 155, 186, 190 Duty of Quarterly Meeting respecting, 155 Trial Sermon to be preached, 190 Examination before District Meeting, 191, 192 Satisfactory Medical Certificate to be obtained, 192 Examination in Special Cases before three Superintendents, 194 Character inserted in District Minutes, 195 Character also in Special Book, if required, 195 Not to give up Business, 196 Usually to be Unmarried, 197 Proviso in case of Married Men, 197 To Offer for General Work, 198 How disposed of by Conference, 193
- Catechisms, use of, required in Sunday Schools and Families 18, 98, 246 (25)  
 Catechumens, Classes and Tickets - - - - - 90  
 Chairman of Districts, Trial of, 234 Duties of, 259 Provision for incapacity or death of, 260
- Children Baptised, Relation of, to the Church, 73, 89 Weekly Meetings of, enjoined, 90 Directions as to their training, 18, 74, 92
- Children's Fund, Rules and Regulations of - - - - - 379  
 Church Sustentation and Extension Fund - - - - - 374  
 ——— Building and Loan Fund, 375 Rule as to Proportion of Debt, 376
- Churches, Building of, to be sanctioned by Quarterly Meeting - 152 (7a)  
 Circuit, A Methodist, defined - - - - - 361  
 ——— Quarterly Meeting (see "Quarterly Meeting") - - - - - 149-160  
 ——— Fund, The, 152 (3) (4), 361-367 How raised, 363, 364 By Whom disbursed, 362 Charges upon it, 365 Aid from Contingent Fund, 366  
 ——— Memorial Meeting, Regulations concerning (see "Memorial Meeting"), 161-164
- Circuit Stewards, their Duties defined, 101 Right to Nominate Ministers for Invitation, &c., 102-104 Members of Financial District Meeting, 105- Leaders' Meeting, 105 Auditors of Trusts, 105 How and when Appointed, 106 Term of Office, 108 Proviso as to Residence and Doctrine, 100, 109
- Class Meeting, Origin and Nature of, 1 (1) (2) (3) Class Meetings defined, 3, 50  
 Class Leader, Duties of (see also "Leader") - - - - - 1 (3), 3, 246 (21)  
 Class, Quarterly Visitation of - - - - - 8, 245 (2), 246 (17)  
 Colleges - - - - - 414  
 Communicants, Rules respecting - - - - - 48, 84, 246 (23)  
 Conference (see "Annual and General Conference")  
 Conformity to the World Prohibited - - - - - 16, 17  
 Connexional Funds - - - - - 379-389  
 Consanguinity, Degrees of, Relating to Marriage - - - - - 20  
 Constitution of Annual and General Conferences - - - - - 281-302  
 ——— Committees - - - - - 348  
 Contingent Fund, The - - - - - 372  
 Covenant, Renewal of the - - - - - 68, 69  
 Custodian of Deeds to be Appointed - - - - - 377
- DANCING Prohibited, Rules respecting - - - - - 17  
 Day Schools - - - - - 99, 413  
 Dead, Burial of the - - - - - 88  
 Deed of Declaration (or Poll Deed), Wesley's, page 131

- Deed, Model, The Trusts of, Epitomised - - - - 176-184
- District Meeting, Annual, The, 261-267 All Ministers and Probationers to be present, 261, 262 The Affairs of the year reviewed, 263 Appeals from lower Courts heard, 263, 264 Order of Business, 265 Right of Examination of Ministers without formal charge, 265 (5), 267 Financial, 268-270 Order of Business, 270
- District Meeting, Special - - - - - 271-278
- Mixed - - - - - 233, 279
- Minor - - - - - 231, 280
- Division of Circuits, Regulations respecting - - - 152 (7*b*), 157-159
- Doctrine, Proviso respecting - - - - - 178 (5), 299 (1)
- Doctrinal Qualification of Officers - - - - - 100
- EXPULSION of Members, Rules respecting - 27, 30, 33, 37, 42-47, 147(*b*)
- Ministers - - - - - 240-243
- Expenses of Interchanges, 252 (6) Of General Conference, 346, 347
- Ex-President of Annual Conference, 308 To deliver Ordination Charge, 308 (2) To join in act of Ordination, 308 (3) Proviso in incapacity of President, 308 (4)
- FAMILY Religion enjoined, Rules respecting - - - 18, 246 (24) (25)
- Fasting enjoined - - - - - 64, 65, 246 (15)
- Fiji, White Members in, 400 Native Missionaries, 401
- Financial District Meeting, The - - - - - 268-270
- Foreign Missionary Society, 390-405 Under Direction of New South Wales Conference, 390 Minutes of Board to be sent to Presidents, 391 Also to General Conference, 392 Board of Management, 393 Committee of Discipline, 394 Representation of Mission Districts, 395 General Secretary *ex-officio* Member of General Conference, 396 Lay-Treasurer Member of General Conference, 396 Rules and Regulations, 397 Appointment of Returned Missionaries, 398 Grant, with Returned Missionaries, 398 Maori Members, 399 Fiji, White Members in, 400 Fiji Native Missionaries, 401 Western Australia, 402
- Friendly Islands, Regulations concerning, 403 District of, New South Wales Conference, 403 (1) (2) Provision for European and Native Missionaries, 403 (3, *a* to *e*) As to Return of Ministers, 403 (3, *f*, *g*) Grant for Returned Missionaries, 403 (3, *g*, *h*) Assistance in Case of Calamity, 403 (4) Representation in Stationing Committee and Conference, 403 (5) Supply of Ministers from other Conferences, 404 Circuits for Returned Ministers, 405
- Full Connexion, Admission into, defined, 209 Steps to be taken for, 210 Examination and Trial Sermons, 211-213 Declaration as to belief in Doctrine and Discipline, 214 Reception into, by the Conference, 215
- GAMBLING and Betting of all kinds Prohibited - - - 26 (4) (5)
- General Conference, Constitution of, 297-302 Of whom composed, 297-300 (1) Members to be elected by ballot, 298, 300 (1) Powers of Legislation restricted, 299 Powers of, 300 Power to divide, or alter, or create New Conferences, 300 (2) (3) Control of Connexional Funds, 300 (6) May disallow Regulations of Annual Conferences, 300 (10) Number to form a Quorum, 301 When and where to meet, 302 Retiring President to open Conference, 333 Order of Proceedings, 327-331 Lord's Supper administered at opening, 337 Sessions, open or other-

- wise, 331 President, Qualification and Election of, 332 President, responsible Officer of the Conference, 334, 335 Secretary, Election and duties of, 336-338 Appointment of Officers by, 341-343 Power to direct Interchanges, 300 (5) Rules for Interchanges, 252 Representatives to, 344 Distribution of Minutes of, 345 Expenses of, 346, 347
- General Rules of the Society, 1 To be given to Candidates for Membership, 5
- Government Grants for Religious Purposes - - - - 356
- HELPER, The Twelve Rules of a - - - - 244, 246 (5)
- Higher Education - - - - - 414
- Home Mission Fund, The - - - - - 373
- Hymns, Directions respecting use of, 71 (2) (3) (6) Sunday-School, 97  
Sunday-School Anniversary, 71 (3), 97
- INTERCHANGES of Ministers, Regulations concerning, 252 Expenses of, 252  
(6) By whom made, 300 (5), 287 (8)
- JUBILEE Fund, its Purpose - - - - - 378
- LADIES' College - - - - - 414
- Lay Representatives to Annual Conference, Qualifications of, 286 How and by whom elected, 152 (7g), 283-285
- Lay Representatives to General Conference, Qualifications of, 298 How and by whom elected, 297 (4)-(7) Each Conference Institution to elect, 297 (1)-(5) To be supplied with Recommendations from Annual Conference, 344 To be supplied with Minutes, 345
- Leaders' Class, How Appointed, 138 Duties of, 1 (3), 140, 246 (19)-(21), 358, 363 Members of Leaders' Meeting, 137 Members of Quarterly Meeting, 149 (3) Half-yearly Examination of, 140, 246 (19)
- Leaders' Meeting, A Veto on giving Tickets, 9, 147 (a) Trial before, Regulations for, 27-47 Constitution of, 143 To be held regularly, 145, 246 (18) Business of, 147 A Jury for Trial of Members, 147 (b) May Memorialise Conference, 147 (c) Cannot Suspend Rules, 148 Manner of Conducting, by Ministers, 246 (26) Proviso where no Leaders' Meeting, 36
- List of Reserve - - - - - 258
- Liturgy, when not used - - - - - 71 (1)
- Liverpool Minutes, The - - - - - 246
- To be read at Annual District Meeting - - 246 (31)
- Local Option Recognised and Recommended - - - - 25
- Local Preachers must meet in Class, 123 How appointed, 124-126 No Appeal from Decision of Meeting, 130 Not to hold Love Feast without approbation of Superintendent, 132 Insolvency of, 133 Members of Quarterly Meeting, 134 Responsible to Leaders' Meeting as to their Membership, 135 Meeting held Quarterly, 127 Constitution of, 127, 128 Order of Business, 129 Decisions of, final as to Office, 130 Cannot remove a Preacher from Membership, 135 Quarterly Meeting to act where no Local Preachers' Meeting, 124
- Lord's Day, Rules respecting, 23, 24. Ministers to enforce its observance, 246 (24)
- Lord's Supper, the, Who may be admitted to, 11 Teaching of the Church respecting, 80 By whom administered, 81, 245 (7) Form of administration, 83 Members and Communicants urged to attendance, 84, 246 (23)
- Lotteries at Bazaars, &c., Prohibited - - - - - 26 (4)

Love Feasts, Who may be admitted to, 11	Origin and Nature of, &c., 55-57
Who may conduct, 245 (6)	
Loyalty to the Sovereign enjoined	26 (1)
MARRIAGE, Rules respecting, 20, 85-87, 221-226	Of Preachers on Trial, 200,
221	To consult Superintendent, 222. Only to marry in the Lord, 223
	Give notice to Stationing Committee, 224
Matrimony, Solemnisation of	85-87
Membership, Condition of, 1 (4), 15	What constitutes, 2, 4
	Public reception into, 6
	Who receives into, 8, 10
	To take notes of removal, 13
	Tickets of, renewed quarterly, 8
	Tickets, when withheld, 7, 28, 31
Members, Duties of (see "General Rules"), 1 (4) (5), 246 (27)	Public reception of, 6
	Not excluded by sickness or distance, 7
	Beyond the bounds of Circuits, 13
	To meet in Class in own Circuits, 14
	Marriage of, 20, 87
	Becoming Bankrupt, 21
	Trial of, Regulations respecting, 27-47
Memorial Meeting, Circuit, How and when held	161, 162
	Powers and Limits of
	161-164
Methodist Conference Act, 1876, page 124	Referred to in the Constitution, par. 281
	Resolutions of British Conference Concerning, pages 121, 122
	Resolution of Australasian Conference Concerning, page 122
Ministers, Ordination of, 216-220	Marriage of, Regulations relating to, 221-226
	Not to follow Trades, 227-229
	Supernumerary, Regulations respecting, 228, 229, 255-257, 380-388
	Trial of, Regulations concerning, 230-233 (see also "Trial of Ministers")
	Expulsion of, Regulations concerning, 240-243
	Modes of Trial, Regulations concerning, 235-239
	Duties of, Twelve Rules of a Helper, 244
	Duties of Superintendents, 245
	Liverpool Minutes, 246
	Term of Appointment to one Circuit, 247
	Term of Appointment in one City, 248
	Term of Connexional Offices, 249, 250
	Return to the same Circuit, 251
	Interchanges between Conferences, 252
	Status of, Regulations concerning, 253
	From England obtained by Presidents of Conference only, 254
	Suspension of, 238
	Suspended Minister, How supported, 239
	Support of Ministry, 357-367
Minor District Meeting, The	231, 280
Minutes of General Conference, Distribution of	345
Mission Fund, Foreign (see "Foreign Mission Society")	389
Missionary Society, Foreign	390-405
Prayer Meetings to be held	60
Society, Rules of	397
Mixed District Meeting, The	233, 279
Model Deed, the Trusts thereof Epitomised	177-184
NATIONAL Calamities, &c., Prayer for	62, 246 (30)
Notes of Removal, Members to take	12
OFFICERS, Doctrinal Qualification of	100
Open-air Preaching enjoined	70, 246 (6)
Ordination of Ministers, when takes place, 216	By whom performed, 217,
308 (3)	Proviso in Special Cases, 218
	In case of Missionaries, 219
	Form of Service, 220
	Ex-President to give the Charge, 308 (2)
Organs, how to be used	71 (10)
PARSONAGES, Erection of, to be sanctioned by Quarterly Meeting	152 (7a)
Pastoral Visitation enjoined	245 (4), 246 (16) (17)

Pastoral Address to be issued by Annual Conference, 318	To be read at Society Meeting, 54, 245 (13)	
Poll Deed, or Deed of Declaration, Wesley's, page 131		
Poor Steward, Duties of, &c. -	-	- 114-117
Prayer Meetings. Regulations respecting -	-	- 58-63, 246 (10)
Prayer, Congregation to kneel during -	-	- 71 (8)
Preachers on Trial, Term of Trial, 199	Not to Marry, 200, 221	Course of Reading for, 201
Examinations of, 202	Annual Trial Sermons, 203	Members of Official Meetings, 204, 205
Under direction of Chairman, 205	Not to administer Sacraments without written permission, 206	May celebrate Marriage where registered, 206
Name omitted if cease travelling, 207	How received if resigned from other Conference, 208	When Probation ends, 199
President of Annual Conference, who may be, 294, 303	Powers of, 304-306	Duties of, 306
President of General Conference, Powers and Duties of -	-	- 332-335
Privileges, Committee of -	-	- 349-351
Probationers (see "Preachers on Trial")		
Public Reception of Members, 6	Form for, page 114	
Public Worship, Regulations respecting -	-	- 1
QUARTERLY Meeting The Circuit, Constitution of, 149	Chairman of, 150, 151	Order of Proceedings of, 152
Election of Circuit Stewards by, 152 (7f)	Election of Lay Representatives, 152 (7g)	Memorialising Conference, 152 (7h)
Invitation of Ministers, 153	To Sanction Erections, 152 (7a)	Recommend Alteration or Division of, 152 (7b), 157-159
Approval of Candidates, 154, 155	When Act as Local Preachers' Meeting, 124, 160	Members of, to hear Candidates, 188
Spirit of Conducting, by Chairman, 246 (26)		
Quarterly Visitation of Classes -	-	- 8, 246 (17)
Fast-Days -	-	- 65, 246 (15)
RECOGNITION of New Members, Form for, page 114		
Removal, Notes of, to be taken -	-	- 12
Renewal of the Covenant -	-	- 68, 69
Reserve. List of -	-	- 258
Rules of the Society, General, 1, to be given to Persons on Trial -	-	- 5
of the Children's Fund -	-	- 379
Supernumerary Ministers' and Widows' Fund -	-	- 386
Rules and Usages of the Australasian Methodist Church defined -	-	- 179
SABBATH, the Christian, Rules respecting -	-	- 23, 24, 246 (24)
Sacraments. The -	-	- 72-84, 245 (7)
Schedule Book, Circuit. to be kept -	-	- 245 (21), 246 (28) (29)
School Houses. Erection of. to be sanctioned by Quarterly Meeting -	152 (7a)	
Secretary of Annual Conference, 294, 297, 309, 319, 327 (12), note	Duties of, 309	Member of Stationing Committee, 309 (1)
Joins in Act of Ordination, 309 (2)	<i>Ex-officio</i> Member of General Conference, 309 (5)	To take Journal to General Conference, 330
Secretary of General Conference. Powers and Duties of, 327 (12), 336, 338		
Foreign Missions, 393, 396	Appointed by General Conference,	
342		
Sectarian Spirit condemned -	-	- 246 (12)

- Sentence after Verdict by Leaders' Meeting, by whom given - 42
- Singing, Directions concerning - - - - 71 (3) (4) (5)
- Smuggling Prohibited - - - - 26 (2)
- Society, General Rules of - - - - 1
- Meeting, Who may be admitted to, 11 Meetings, of whom constituted, 51 When to be held, 52-54, 246 (9) (14)
- Society Stewards, Duties defined, 110, 111 Members of Leaders' Meeting, 111 Members of Quarterly Meeting, 112 How and when Appointed, 113
- Social Purity, Resolution concerning - - - - 352
- Special Circuit Meeting, Powers and Duties of, 165-175 Appeal to, only in Cases of Factious Conduct, 39, 40, 168 Who Chairman of, 166 Notice for re-hearing at, 170, 171 Who to Appoint the Meeting, 172 Appeal from whom, 173, 174 Proviso if Meeting not Constituted, 175
- Special District Meeting, The - - - - 271-278
- Stationing Committee, Its Constitution and Powers - - 319-324
- Steward, see "Circuit Steward," "Society Steward," "Poor Steward," "Trustee (or Church) Steward"
- Strangers Preaching in our Churches - - - - 354
- Students in Theological Institution must be accepted Candidates, 408 (2) Support of, 408 (4) (5) Must sign agreement to refund, 408 (6) Remain three years if possible, 408 (7)
- Sunday Schools, Directions concerning, 93-98 Principles of, 410 Rules and Regulations of, 411 Unions recommended, 94, 95, 412 Publications to be used, 412 (2) Catechisms enjoined, 18, 98, 246 (25) Fund, 369
- Superintendent Minister, Epitome of Duties of - - - 245
- To consult colleagues in cases of discipline, 42, 245 (3) Not to expel within one week of trial, 43. Can appeal in certain cases, 40, 41, 168 (2) Accountable for discipline of circuit, 245 (15) (22) Preachers on Trial his pupils, and see they have certain books, 245 (1) (14) To admit and exclude members, 245 (2) Arrange for Visitation of Classes, 245 (2) Consult colleagues in cases of proposed expulsion, 245 (3) Attend to pastoral visitation, 245 (4) Keep correct lists of members, 245 (4) (5) To appoint all Circuit Meetings, 245 (6) Preside at all Circuit and Connexional Meetings, 245 (6) Duty respecting administration of Sacraments, 245 (7) To make Circuit Plans, 245 (8) Hold Local Preachers' Meetings, 245 (9) Nominate Candidates for Ministry, 245 (9) Nominate various Circuit and Society Officers, 245 (9) Prepare Schedules for District Meetings, 245 (10) Hold regular Leaders' Meetings, 245 (11) Attend and preside at Trustees' Meeting, 245 (12) Appoint Society Meetings, 245 (13) Furnish accounts to Financial Secretaries, &c., 245 (16) (18) (19) Look for Candidates for Missionaries, 245 (16) See properties settled on Model Deed, 245 (17) Arrange for Juvenile Classes, 245 (20) Provide Circuit Schedule Book, 245 (21)
- Supernumerary Ministers in business Local Preachers only, 228, 382, 383 Name on Journal only, 228, 383 To attend District Meeting, 228, 384 Made by Conference only, 255-257, 380 Return to Full Work, 257 Fund, Rules and Regulations of, 380-388 Scale of Allowances for, 387
- Support of the Ministry, 357-367 Rule respecting Contribution of Members, 358 Compact to comply with this Rule, 15, 360
- Suspended Minister, Provision for, 239 No Vote in Conference, 314

- TEMPERANCE enjoined, 25 Societies to be encouraged, 25 Local Option to be supported, 25 Rules for Society, Appendix, page 116 Bands of Hope, Rules for, Appendix, page 118
- Theatrical Entertainments, Attendance at, Prohibited - - - 17
- Theological Institution, 408, 409 Enquiry respecting, in District Meeting, 408 (8) Report of, to Conference, 408 (9)
- Tickets of Membership renewed Quarterly - - - 8, 246 (17)
- Time of Ministers' removal to New Circuits - - - 325
- Trial and Expulsion of Members, 27-47, 147 (b) All entitled to demand a Trial, 27, 28 When Member refuses to appear, 33 May be heard in his absence, 33 Accusation to be made in Writing, 34 Proviso where no Leaders' Meeting, 36 Of Trustee, 37, 38 Appeal from Verdict, 39, 40, 45, 46 Sentence by Superintendent, 42
- Trial of Ministers, Regulations concerning, 230-243 By Minor District Meeting, 231 When not Residing in same District, 231 (4) Appeal to Annual District Meeting, 231 (5) Appeal to Annual Conference, 231 (5) Chairman may decline to call a Minor District Meeting, 231 (6) Report of Proceedings to District Meeting, 231 (7), 232 (4) By Annual District Meeting, 232 By Mixed District Meeting, 233 By Special District Meeting, 271-278 Charge to be heard in District Meeting before in Conference, 235 Chairman to send Written Charge, 236 Decisions of Church Courts to be peaceably submitted to, 238 Of Chairman, Regulations for, 234
- Trusts of Model Deed Epitomised - - - - 177-184  
 ----- Rules and Usages of Methodism defined - 179, 180
- Trust Funds - - - - - 368
- Trustees, Duties and Powers of, 176-184 How and by whom Appointed, 181, 182 Receipts and Expenditure, &c., 183 (1)-(7) (13) Books to be shown to Superintendent, 183 (7) Not accountable for Loss by Co-Trustee, 183 (8) Power to sell, 183 (9) (11) (12) Notice of intention to sell to Conference, 183 (12) Application of Purchase-money, 183 (10) Exclusion or Withdrawal of, 183 (14) Trial of, Provision for, 37, 38, 183 (15) When Members of Quarterly Meeting, 183 (16) When Chairman of Trustee Meetings, 184 (1) Chairman has Casting Vote, 184 (7) Meetings, Ordinary and Special, 184 (2) (3) Who to Summon Meetings, 184 (4) What Valid Notice, 184 (5) Decisions binding on Absentees, 184 (7)
- Trustee, Trial of, 37, 38 [Or Church] Steward, Duties of, 118-122 Who may be appointed, 120 Term of office, 122
- Twelve Rules of a Helper - - - - - 244
- UNION Sunday School - - - - - 412
- VERDICT of Leaders' Meeting, no Appeal Against, 39, 174 Appeal in Cases of Factious Conduct, 39, 40, 168 Special Circuit Meeting, 167
- WATCH Nights - - - - - 66, 67, 246 (15)
- Widows' Fund (see "Supernumerary Fund")
- Women Preaching - - - - - 353
- World, Conformity to, Condemned - - - - - 16, 17
- YOUNG, Directions respecting Training of, 74, 92 Relation of, to the Church, 73, 89 Weekly Meetings for, directed, 90, 246 (13) Annual Sermon to the, 91 (See also "Sunday Schools")







2715669

DSM/ 287.01/ M

The laws and regulations of  
the Australasian Wesleyan  
Methodist Church.

STATE LIBRARY  
OF N.S.W.



N2143280

