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PART 1

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Chapter 1

HISTORY

A. The Origin of the Wesleyan Movement

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

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

3. It was not Wesley’s purpose to found a church, but the awakening brought about the spontaneous origin of the “societies” which grew into the Methodist movement. Near the end of 1739, there came to Wesley, in London, eight or ten persons who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. A day was appointed when they might all come together, which from thence forward they did every week; namely, on Thursday in the

evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), he gave those advices which he judged most needful for them and they always concluded their meeting with prayer. The Membership Commitments found in this *Discipline* (260–268) represent in revised form the General Rules which Wesley gave to the members of the societies to enable them to test the sincerity of their purpose and to guide them in holy living.

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

B. The Organization of The Wesleyan Methodist Connection

6. John Wesley and the early Methodist leaders in America had been uncompromising in their denunciation of human slavery. But with the invention of the cotton gin, the economic advantages of slavery involved many ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in slaveholding. When a group of ministers in the New England Conference, led by Orange Scott, began to agitate anew for the abolition of slavery, the bishops and others in the church sought to silence them lest the peace of the church be disturbed.

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

8. The organizing convention for the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America was held at Utica, New York, May 31 to June 8, 1843. The new

organization was a “Connection” of local churches organized in annual conferences. It avoided the episcopacy, and provided for equal ministerial and lay representation in all of its governing bodies. Moral and social reform were strongly emphasized, with slaveholding and all involvements with intoxicating liquors being prohibited.

C. The Revival of the Wesleyan Experience

11. The Wesleyan Methodist Connection saw the crusade against slavery carried to a conclusion in the Civil War. Afterwards, many felt there was no reason for the Connection as such to continue, and returned to the larger Methodist bodies. Others felt, as was expressed by the 1867 General Conference, that the effects of slavery were not yet eradicated, and that the historic stand against intoxicating liquors, and the increasingly firm stand against lodges and secret societies, could only be maintained by the continued existence and activity of the Connection.

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

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

D. The Development of The Wesleyan Methodist Church

16. The revival of holiness which swept the Wesleyan Methodist Connection introduced a new emphasis on evangelism. The need for organized efforts of church extension and the need to conserve converts led to the gradual

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

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

(1) *The Hephzibah Faith Missionary Society* was organized in 1893 and eventually established headquarters at Tabor, Iowa. Some of its ministers and churches in Nebraska, its Brainerd Indian School near Hot Springs, South Dakota, and its mission field in Haiti became part of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1948.

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

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

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

E. The Formation and Development of The Pilgrim Holiness Church

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

24. A focal point for the beginning of The Pilgrim Holiness Church as an organization was the formation of the *International Holiness Union and Prayer League* in September 1897, at Cincinnati, Ohio, in the home of Martin Wells Knapp. Rev. Seth C. Rees was chosen President, and Rev. Martin Wells Knapp, Vice-President. The Union was not thought of as a church, nor intended as such, but was an interdenominational fellowship, marked by simplicity and the absence of restrictions. The primary purpose of the Union was to unite holiness people in promoting worldwide holiness evangelism. A fourfold emphasis was declared concerning the regeneration of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, the premillennial and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the evangelization of the world. The Union met the need of many people for fellowship and cooperation in the spread of scriptural holiness and grew rapidly. Extensive revival work was carried on by members of the Union, resulting in the formation of many city missions, churches, rescue homes, and camp meetings.

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

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

27. In 1919, the Indiana, Illinois-Missouri, and Kansas-Oklahoma Conferences of the *Holiness Christian Church* were received by the *General*

Assembly of the International Apostolic Holiness Church. The Holiness Christian Church had its beginning in a revival movement around Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1882, and was organized at Linwood, Pennsylvania, in 1889 as the *Holiness Christian Association*. By 1919, it was known as the Holiness Christian Church and was composed of four conferences; it also sponsored a missionary work in Central America.

28. *The Pentecostal Rescue Mission* joined the International Holiness Church in March 1922, and became the New York District. It had originated at Binghamton, New York, in 1897, and had spread until it included missions, rescue work, camp meetings, orphanage activities, churches, and a missionary work in Alaska.

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

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

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

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

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

34. The growth of The Pilgrim Holiness Church continued through revival work and evangelism in greater measure than by the uniting of other bodies. An important turning point in the organizational structure was

reached in 1930 when the General Assembly unified the administration of the denomination by providing for one General Superintendent, one General Board, and a general headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1958, a plan for three General Superintendents was inaugurated. In 1962, the General Conference, known until 1942 as the General Assembly, was designated as The International Conference in recognition of the growth and development of the overseas work.

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

F. The Formation of The Wesleyan Church

50. Merger between The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America was proposed at various times, and was voted upon by the General Conferences of the two bodies in 1958 and 1959, failing to pass in the Wesleyan Methodist General Conference by a margin of a single vote. In 1962, the General Conference of The Pilgrim Holiness Church took action expressing renewed interest in union with The Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1963, the General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church took like action, instructing its Committee on Church Union to pursue its work with all due diligence. On June 15, 1966, the Thirty-Second General Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church adopted The Basis for Merger and Constitution, and subsequently the annual conferences and local churches ratified the action. On June 16, 1966, the Twenty-Fifth International Conference of The Pilgrim Holiness Church also adopted The Basis for Merger and Constitution. Thus the formation of *The Wesleyan Church* was authorized. The General Board of The Pilgrim Holiness Church and the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church cooperated in planning the uniting General Conference, and in preparing the new book of *Discipline* for its consideration. On June 26, 1968, The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America were united to form The Wesleyan Church.

G. The Development of the World Organization

60. The merging General Conference provided tentatively for the development of the overseas churches into national or regional general conferences, as they matured and qualified for such status. As a result, the General Board of Administration appointed a World Organization Planning Committee. Its work led to a meeting of mission coordinators and national representatives from around the world in the World Organization Planning Conference, June 6–9, 1972, prior to the Second General Conference. The Planning Conference recommended setting apart those portions of the Constitution which contained the name, doctrines, and standards of conduct plus some new organizational articles, as the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, which would be binding upon all General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church. It recommended the formation of a Wesleyan World Fellowship governed by a Charter, functioning through a General Council, with eventually an International Board of Review assisting in maintaining faithfulness to the Essentials. The entire plan was approved by the 1972 General Conference, and subsequently the members of the World Organization Planning Conference effected the organization of the General Council.

65. During the following quadrennium two provisional general conferences, one step short of full status, were formed. The Caribbean Provisional General Conference was organized April 3, 1974, and the Provisional General Conference of the Philippines was organized April 22–23, 1975. The 1984 General Conference incorporated the Essentials in the Charter as an historic statement of faith with which all disciplines must agree. On June 20, 1988, the General Conference approved the elevation of The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines to full standing equivalent to that of the North American General Conference, providing for the formation of the International Board of Review. On June 21, 2004, the North American General Conference approved the elevation of The Wesleyan Holiness Church of the Caribbean to full General Conference standing. This coincided with the restructuring of The Wesleyan World Fellowship as The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

70. The first International Conference was held in June 2008 in Orlando, Florida. The 2012 International Conference approved the formation of The South Pacific Established Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church, consisting of The Wesleyan Methodist Churches of Australia and New Zealand together with the mission units of the Solomon Islands and Bougainville. The

2015 International Conference approved the formation of The Wesleyan Church of Canada as an established national conference, which was ratified by the 2016 North American General Conference. The 2016 North American General Conference also approved the formation of the Ibero-America Established Regional Conference, consisting of nineteen nations in Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa. This action was forwarded to the 2019 International Conference for approval.

H. Official Church Names

80. The following are the official names of the various units of The Wesleyan Church. Included are those whose adaptation of the name have been approved in keeping with the provisions of 205 and 340:2. These are printed for information only. Changes may be authorized when necessary by the General Board (340:2; 1655:32).

Australia: *The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia*

Bougainville: *The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bougainville*

Brazil: *Igreja Evangelica Wesleyana*

British Isles: *The Wesleyan Holiness Church*

Caribbean: (cf. 2565) *The Wesleyan Holiness Church of the Caribbean*

Chile: *Ministerio Evangelistico y Misionero “Cristo es la Unica Respuesta”*

Colombia: *La Iglesia Wesleyana de Colombia*

Costa Rica: *Iglesia Wesleyana Internacional de Costa Rica*

Egypt: *The Standard Wesleyan Church*

Ghana: *Wesleyan Church Ghana*

Guyana: *The Wesleyan Church*

Haiti: *L’Eglise Wesleyenne d’Haiti*

Honduras: *Mision Metodista Sión*

India, Central: *The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Central India*

India, East: *The Wesleyan Methodist Church of East India*

India, Western: *The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Western India*

Indonesia: *Yayasan Gereja Wesleyan Indonesia*

Liberia: *The Wesleyan Church of Liberia*

Mexico: *Iglesia Evangélica de los Peregrinos*

Mozambique: *Igreja Emmanuel Evangelica Wesleyana*

Myanmar: *The Wesleyan Methodist Church*

New Zealand: *Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand*

Nicaragua: *Asociación Mundial de Iglesias Wesleyanas de Nicaragua*

Pakistan: *The Wesleyan Church—Pakistan*

Peru: *Iglesia Wesleyana Peregrina*

Philippines (cf. 2560): *The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines*

Puerto Rico: *Iglesia Evangélica Wesleyana*

Sierra Leone: *The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone*

South Africa: *The Wesleyan Church of Southern Africa*

South Korea: *Jesus Korea Wesleyan Church*

South Pacific: *The South Pacific Conference of The Wesleyan
Methodist Church*

Suriname: *De Wesleyaanse Gemeente*

Swaziland: *Emmanuel Wesleyan Church of Swaziland*

United States and Canada: *The Wesleyan Church*

Venezuela: *Iglesia Evangélica Wesleyana*

Zambia: *Pilgrim Wesleyan Church of Zambia*

Zimbabwe: *The Wesleyan Church*

Chapter 2

MISSION OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

100. The Wesleyan Church has grown out of a revival movement which has historically given itself to one mission—the spreading of scriptural holiness throughout every land. The message which ignited the Wesleyan revival was the announcement that God through Christ can forgive men and women of their sins, transform them, free them from inbred sin, enable them to live a holy life, and bear witness to their hearts that they are indeed children of God. The message was based on the Scriptures, was verified in personal experience, and came not only in word but in the power of the Spirit. It was dynamic and contagious, and was communicated from heart to heart and from land to land. It adapted itself and gave new vitality and purpose to various kinds of church organizations.

105. The Wesleyan Church believes that to spread scriptural holiness throughout every land involves joining the entire church of Christ in a full-orbed mission to the world, including the following:

(1) Sharing the divine revelation of full salvation through Christ as recorded in the Holy Scriptures so as to evangelize the lost and to minister redemptively to human society and its institutions.

(2) Relating new converts to local churches and providing Spirit-filled and well-trained pastors and leaders for the same.

(3) Developing in the converts patterns of worship to God and of fellowship with other believers.

(4) Discipling new believers in turn to be witnesses for their Lord.

(5) Guiding believers to experience entire sanctification so they are enabled to live whole and holy lives.

(6) Providing for developing Christians lifelong nurture and instruction, encouraging each to grow toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus.

(7) Helping maturing Christians to develop a Christian interpretation of life and the universe, training them to be good stewards of the talents, time, opportunities, and resources with which Christ has entrusted them.

(8) Equipping believers for lives of dynamic service toward God and humanity, so that the full potential God has designed for each of them may be realized.

Chapter 3

CLASSIFICATION OF CHURCH LAW

A. Constitutional Law

125. Relationship to Essentials. The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church consist of an historic statement of faith and practice and are set forth in the Charter of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church (see Appendix A). Each general conference of The International Conference must subscribe to the Essentials' pronouncements and must not contravene any of its provisions in its constitutions, articles of religion, or discipline. The North American General Conference does so subscribe. The Articles of Religion and other statements of faith and practice which are a part of the Constitution of the North American General Conference are in accord with the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and are not intended to contravene or contradict them at any point.

135. Identification. The Constitution of the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church consists of Articles 1 through 12, paragraphs 200 through 385, including the Preamble, Name, Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, Elementary Principles, Observance of Sacraments, Membership, The Ministry, Organization and Government, Powers and Restrictions of the General Conference, The Supreme Judiciary, and Amendments to the Constitution. The Constitution may be amended as set forth in paragraph 385.

145. Function. The Constitution is that body of laws (cf. 135) that sets forth fundamental doctrines and practices, the basic laws, principles, and restrictions by which the Church is governed, and guarantees certain rights to its members and ministers. The Constitution takes precedence over statutory law, ritual, and all other laws and official actions of the governing bodies and officers within its jurisdiction (cf. 185). It is the law to which all statutory law, ritual, and any other legislative or official actions must conform.

B. Statutory Law

155. Statutory law consists of legislation passed by the General Conference by a majority vote in fulfillment of its duties as set forth in the

Constitution and in keeping with its provisions and restrictions and printed by order of the General Conference in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*. Such statutory law is the authority for all of the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church, including its members, ministers, churches, districts, institutions, auxiliary organizations, corporations, general divisions and offices, agencies, and any other official bodies (cf. 185). Statutory law remains in effect until amended, rescinded, or declared unconstitutional.

165. All changes in or additions to the statutory laws take effect when *The Discipline* is published following the adjournment of the General Conference unless an earlier time is ordered by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference.

C. Ritual

175. The ritual of The Wesleyan Church consists of those rites and ceremonies contained in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (cf. 5500–5999), officially approved by the General Conference by a majority of those present and voting. The “Reception of Members,” “Covenant Questions,” and “Declaration of Purpose,” in the ritual for the “Reception of Members” (5565–5567); the “Examination of Candidates” in the rituals for the “Ordination of Ministers” (5772); and the “Commissioning of Ministers” (5825) have the authority of statutory law and must be followed as prescribed. In the remainder of the Ritual, a measure of flexibility is permitted as long as nothing contradicts the Articles of Religion or any other part of the Constitution.

D. Current Authority

185. The current issue of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* is the only valid authority for the North American General Conference and its subordinate units, with the exception of those units under the Global Partners Division which have been authorized to have their own disciplines by the General Board (cf. 340:2; 2500:4–5; 2610:8).

E. Scripture References and Explanatory Notes

190. Listings of Scripture references and explanatory notes have been appended in support of the Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments. These have the status of statutory law (155).

Chapter 4

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GENERAL CONFERENCE

Preamble

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

Article 1. Name

205. The name of this communion is *The Wesleyan Church*. Wherever the use of this name is impossible or impractical, adaptation may be made by the authorized body (340:2).

Article 2. Articles of Religion

1. Faith in the Holy Trinity

210. We believe in the one living and true God, both holy and loving, eternal, unlimited in power, wisdom, and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things. Within this unity there are three persons of one essential nature, power and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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

2. The Father

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

**Ps. 68:5; Isa. 64:8; Matt. 7:11; John 3:17; Rom. 8:15;
1 Peter 1:17.**

3. The Son of God

214. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. He died on the cross and was buried, to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for all human transgressions, and to reconcile us to God. Christ rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and there intercedes for us at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all humanity at the last day.

**Ps. 16:8–10; Matt. 1:21, 23; 11:27; 16:28; 27:62–66; 28:5–9,
16–17; Mark 10:45; 15; 16:6–7; Luke 1:27, 31, 35; 24:4–8, 23;
John 1:1, 14, 18; 3:16–17; 20:26–29; 21; Acts 1:2–3; 2:24–31;
4:12; 10:40; Rom. 5:10, 18; 8:34; 14:9; 1 Cor. 15:3–8, 14;
2 Cor. 5:18–19; Gal. 1:4; 2:20; 4:4–5; Eph. 5:2; 1 Tim. 1:15;
Heb 2:17; 7:27; 9:14, 28; 10:12; 13:20; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John
2:2; 4:14.**

4. The Holy Spirit

216. We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is of the same essential nature, majesty, and glory, as the Father and the Son, truly and eternally God. He is the Administrator of grace to all, and is particularly the effective Agent in conviction for sin, in regeneration, in sanctification, and in glorification. He is ever present, assuring, preserving, guiding, and enabling the believer.

**Job 33:4; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; 14:16–17; 15:26; 16:13–15;
Acts 5:3–4; Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 4:6.**

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

218. We believe that the books of the Old and New Testaments constitute the Holy Scriptures. They are the inspired and infallibly written Word of God, fully inerrant in their original manuscripts and superior to all human authority, and have been transmitted to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine. We believe that they contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man or woman that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. Both in the Old and New Testaments life is offered ultimately through Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and humanity. The New Testament teaches Christians how to fulfill the moral principles of the Old Testament, calling for loving obedience to God made possible by the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit.

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

The canonical books of the New Testament are:

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude and Revelation.

Ps. 19:7; Matt. 5:17–19; 22:37–40; Luke 24:27, 44; John 1:45; 5:46; 17:17; Acts 17:2, 11; Rom. 1:2; 15:4, 8; 16:26; 2 Cor. 1:20; Gal. 1:8; Eph. 2:15–16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 2 Tim. 3:15–17; Heb. 4:12; 10:1; 11:39; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 1 John 2:3–7; Rev. 22:18–19.

6. God's Purpose for Humanity

220. We believe that the two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbors as ourselves, summarize the divine law as it is revealed in the Scriptures. They are the perfect measure and norm of human duty, both for the ordering and directing of families and nations,

and all other social bodies, and for individual acts, by which we are required to acknowledge God as our only Supreme Ruler, and all persons as created by Him, equal in all natural rights. Therefore all persons should so order all their individual, social, and political acts as to give to God entire and absolute obedience, and to assure to all the enjoyment of every natural right, as well as to promote the fulfillment of each in the possession and exercise of such rights.

Lev. 19:18, 34; Deut. 1:16–17; Job 31:13–14; Jer. 21:12; 22:3; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:44–48; 7:12; Mark 12:28–31; Luke 6:27–29, 35; John 13:34–35; Acts 10:34–35; 17:26; Rom. 12:9; 13:1, 7–8, 10; Gal. 5:14; 6:10; Titus 3:1; James 2:8; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 2:5; 4:12–13; 2 John 6.

7. Marriage and the Family

222. We believe that every person is created in the image of God, that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, fellowship, subordination of the self to the larger whole, and fulfillment. God's Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing the truth that this relationship is of one God with one people. Therefore God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship. We adhere to the teachings of Scripture regarding gender identity, sexual conduct, and the sacredness of marriage, and believe that sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful.¹

Gen. 1:27–28; 2:18, 20, 23–24; Isa. 54:4–8; 62:5b; Jer. 3:14; Ezek. 16; Hosea 2; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 19:4–6; Mark 10:9; John 2:1–2, 11; 1 Cor. 9:5; Eph. 5:23–32; 1 Tim. 5:14; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 19:7–8.

¹The last sentence of Article 7 was added by the 2016 North American General Conference and submitted for approval to the subsequent Caribbean and Philippine General Conferences in keeping with the provisions of 6765:1.

8. *Personal Choice*

224. We believe that humanity's creation in the image of God included ability to choose between right and wrong. Thus individuals were made morally responsible for their choices. But since the fall of Adam, people are unable in their own strength to do the right. This is due to original sin, which is not simply the following of Adam's example, but rather the corruption of the nature of each mortal, and is reproduced naturally in Adam's descendants. Because of it, humans are very far gone from original righteousness, and by nature are continually inclined to evil. They cannot of themselves even call upon God or exercise faith for salvation. But through Jesus Christ the preventient grace of God makes possible what humans in self effort cannot do. It is bestowed freely upon all, enabling all who will to turn and be saved.

Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 20:40; Ps. 51:5; Isa. 64:6; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21–23; Luke 16:15; John 7:17; Rom. 3:10–12; 5:12–21; 1 Cor. 15:22; Eph. 2:1–3; 1 Tim. 2:5; Titus 3:5; Heb. 11:6; Rev. 22:17.

9. *Sin: Original, Willful, and Involuntary*²

225. We believe that through the disobedience of Adam and Eve sin entered the world and all creation suffered its consequences. The effects of sin include disruption of the relationship between God and humanity, deterioration of the natural order of creation, and exploitation of persons by evil or misguided social systems. The whole of creation groans for redemption. Each person is born with a proclivity toward sin, manifested in an inordinate orientation toward self and independence from God, leading to deliberate acts of unrighteousness. The residual effects of Adam and Eve's disobedience include a marred human nature from which arise involuntary shortcomings, faults, infirmities, and imperfect judgments, which should not be accounted the same as willful sin. However, as manifestations of the fallen nature of humanity, these shortcomings of God's holiness still necessitate the merits of the atonement, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, and the self-control of the believer. Willful sin results when a morally accountable person chooses

²Article 9 was approved by the 2016 North American General Conference and submitted for approval to the subsequent Caribbean and Philippine General Conferences in keeping with the provisions of 6765:1.

to violate a known law of God, using freedom of choice to please self rather than obey God. The consequences of willful sin include a loss of fellowship with God, a self-absorption with one's own interests rather than love and concern for others, a bondage to things which distort the divine image, a persistent inability to live righteously, and ultimately everlasting misery and separation from God. The atoning work of Christ is the only remedy for sin, whether original, willful or involuntary.

Gen. 3; 6:5; Ps. 1; 32:1–5; 51; Is. 6:5; Jer. 17:9–10; Matt. 16:24–27; 22:36–40; Mk. 7:20–23; John 16:8–9; Rom. 1:18–25; 3:23; 5:12–14; 6:15–23; 7:1–8:9; 8:18–24; 14:23; I Cor. 3:1–4; Gal. 5:16–25; Eph. 2:1–22; Col. 1:21–22; 3:5–11; I Jn. 1:7–2:4; 3:7–10.

10. The Atonement

226. We believe that Christ's offering of himself, once and for all, through His sufferings and meritorious death on the cross, provides the perfect redemption and atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual. There is no other ground of salvation from sin but that alone. This atonement is sufficient for every individual of Adam's race. It is unconditionally effective in the salvation of those mentally incompetent from birth, of those converted persons who have become mentally incompetent, and of children under the age of accountability. But it is effective for the salvation of those who reach the age of accountability only when they repent and exercise faith in Christ.

Isa. 52:13—53:12; Luke 24:46–47; John 3:16; Acts 3:18; 4:12; Rom. 3:20, 24–26; 5:8–11, 13, 18–20; 7:7; 8:34; 1 Cor. 6:11; 15:22; Gal. 2:16; 3:2–3; Eph. 1:7; 2:13, 16; 1 Tim. 2:5–6; Heb. 7:23–27; 9:11–15, 24–28; 10:14; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.

11. Repentance and Faith

228. We believe that for men and women to appropriate what God's prevenient grace has made possible, they must voluntarily respond in repentance and faith. The ability comes from God, but the act is the individual's.

Repentance is prompted by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. It involves a willful change of mind that renounces sin and longs for righteousness,

a godly sorrow for and a confession of past sins, proper restitution for wrongdoings, and a resolution to reform the life. Repentance is the precondition for saving faith, and without it saving faith is impossible. Faith, in turn, is the only condition of salvation. It begins in the agreement of the mind and the consent of the will to the truth of the gospel, but issues in a complete reliance by the whole person in the saving ability of Jesus Christ and a complete trusting of oneself to Him as Savior and Lord. Saving faith is expressed in a public acknowledgment of His Lordship and an identification with His Church.

Mark 1:15; Luke 5:32; 13:3; 24:47; John 3:16; 17:20; 20:31; Acts 5:31; 10:43; 11:18; 16:31; 20:21; 26:20; Rom. 1:16; 2:4; 10:8–10, 17; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:8; 4:4–6; Phil. 3:9; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:25; Heb. 11:6; 12:2; 1 Peter 1:9; 2 Peter 3:9.

12. Justification, Regeneration and Adoption

230. We believe that when one repents of personal sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, that at the same moment that person is justified, regenerated, adopted into the family of God, and assured of personal salvation through the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby a person is accounted righteous, granted full pardon of all sin, delivered from guilt, completely released from the penalty of sins committed, by the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith alone, not on the basis of works.

We believe that regeneration, or the new birth, is that work of the Holy Spirit whereby, when one truly repents and believes, one's moral nature is given a distinctively spiritual life with the capacity for love and obedience. This new life is received by faith in Jesus Christ, it enables the pardoned sinner to serve God with the will and affections of the heart, and by it the regenerate are delivered from the power of sin which reigns over all the unregenerate.

We believe that adoption is the act of God by which the justified and regenerated believer becomes a partaker of all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a child of God.

Justification: Hab. 2:4; Acts 13:38–39; 15:11; 16:31; Rom. 1:17; 3:28; 4:2–5; 5:1–2; Gal. 3:6–14; Eph. 2:8–9; Phil 3:9; Heb. 10:38.

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

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

Witness of the Spirit: Rom. 8:16–17; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 2:3; 3:14, 18–19.

13. Good Works

232. We believe that although good works cannot save us from our sins or from God's judgment, they are the fruit of faith and follow after regeneration. Therefore they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and by them a living faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

**Matt. 5:16; 7:16–20; John 15:8; Rom 3:20; 4:2, 4, 6;
Gal. 2:16; 5:6; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess.
1:3; Titus 2:14; 3:5; James 2:18, 22; 1 Peter 2:9, 12.**

14. Sin After Regeneration

234. We believe that after we have experienced regeneration, it is possible to fall into sin, for in this life there is no such height or strength of holiness from which it is impossible to fall. But by the grace of God one who has fallen into sin may by true repentance and faith find forgiveness and restoration.

**Mal. 3:7; Matt. 18:21–22; John 15:4–6; 1 Tim. 4:1, 16;
Heb. 10:35–39; 1 John 1:9; 2:1, 24–25.**

15. Sanctification: Initial, Progressive, Entire

236. We believe that sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is separated from sin unto God and is enabled to love God with all the heart and to walk in all His holy commandments blameless. Sanctification is initiated at the moment of justification and regeneration. From that moment there is a gradual or progressive sanctification as the believer walks with God and daily grows in grace and in a more perfect obedience to God. This prepares for the crisis of entire sanctification which is wrought instantaneously when believers present themselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, through faith in Jesus Christ, being effected by the baptism with the Holy Spirit who cleanses the heart from all inbred sin. The crisis of entire sanctification perfects the believer in love and empowers that person for effective service. It is followed by lifelong growth in grace and the

knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The life of holiness continues through faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ and evidences itself by loving obedience to God's revealed will.

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

16. The Gifts of the Spirit

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

Luke 11:13; 24:49; Acts 1:4; 2:38–39; 8:19–20; 10:45; 11:17; Rom. 12:4–8; 1 Cor. 12:1–14:40; Eph. 4:7–8, 11–16; Heb. 2:4; 13:20–21; 1 Peter 4:8–11.

17. The Church

240. We believe that the Christian Church is the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ, who is the founder and only Head of the Church. The Church includes both those believers who have gone to be with the Lord and those who remain on the earth, having renounced the world, the flesh, and the devil, and having dedicated themselves to the work which Christ committed unto His church until He comes. The Church on earth is to preach the pure Word of God, properly administer the sacraments according to Christ's instructions, and live in obedience to all that Christ commands. A local church is a body

of believers formally organized on gospel principles, meeting regularly for the purposes of evangelism, nurture, fellowship, and worship. The Wesleyan Church is a denomination consisting of those members within district conferences and local churches who, as members of the body of Christ, hold the faith set forth in these Articles of Religion and acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of its governing bodies.

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

18. The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

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

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

Matt. 3:13–17; 28:19; Mark 1:9–11; John 3:5, 22, 26; 4:1–2; Acts 2:38–39, 41; 8:12–17, 36–38; 9:18; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16; Rom 2:28–29; 4:11; 6:3–4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27–29; Col. 2:11–12; Titus 3:5.

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

Matt. 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; John 6:48–58; 1 Cor. 5:7–8; 10:3–4, 16–17; 11:23–29.

19. *The Second Coming of Christ*

244. We believe that the certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world. At His return He will fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil.

Job 19:25–27; Isa. 11:1–12; Zech. 14:1–11; Matt. 24:1–51; 25; 26:64; Mark 13:1–37; Luke 17:22–37; 21:5–36; John 14:1–3; Acts 1:6–11; 1 Cor. 1:7–8; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–11, 23; 2 Thess. 1:6–10; 2:1–12; Titus 2:11–14; Heb. 9:27–28; James 5:7–8; 2 Peter 3:1–14; 1 John 3:2–3; Rev. 1:7; 19:11–16; 22:6–7, 12, 20.

20. *The Resurrection of the Dead*

246. We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead of all people—of the just unto the resurrection of life, and of the unjust unto the resurrection of damnation. The resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of the resurrection which will occur at Christ's Second Coming. The raised body will be a spiritual body, but the person will be whole and identifiable.

Job 19:25–27; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 22:30–32; 28:1–20; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 14:14; 24:1–53; John 5:28–29; 11:21–27; 20:1–21:25; Acts 1:3; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:1–58; 2 Cor. 4:14; 5:1–11; 1 Thess. 4:13–17; Rev. 20:4–6, 11–13.

21. *The Judgment of All Persons*

248. We believe that the Scriptures reveal God as the Judge of all and the acts of His judgment are based on His omniscience and eternal justice. His administration of judgment will culminate in the final meeting of all persons before His throne of great majesty and power, where records will be examined and final rewards and punishments will be administered.

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

22. *Destiny*

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

Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:34–46; Mark 9:43–48; Luke 13:3; John 8:21–23; 14:2–3; 2 Cor. 5:6, 8, 10; Heb. 2:1–3; 9:27–28; 10:26–31; Rev. 20:14–15; 21:1–22:5, 14–15.

Article 3. Membership Commitments

260. To be identified with an organized church is the blessed privilege and sacred duty of all who are saved from their sins and are seeking completeness in Christ Jesus. From the Church's beginnings in the New Testament age, it has been understood that such identification involves putting off the old patterns of conduct and putting on the mind of Christ. In maintaining this Christian concept of a transformed life, The Wesleyan Church intends to relate timeless biblical principles to the conditions of contemporary society in such a way as to respect the integrity of the individual believer, yet maintain the purity of the Church and the effectiveness of its witness. This is done in the conviction that there is validity in the concept of the collective Christian conscience as illuminated and guided by the Holy Spirit. The following items (265) represent historic, ethical and practical standards of The Wesleyan Church. While it is hoped that our people will earnestly seek the aid of the Spirit in cultivating a sensitivity to evil which transcends the mere letter of the law, those entering into membership are encouraged to follow carefully and conscientiously these guides and helps to holy living. Disregard of the principles embraced in these Membership Commitments subjects all credentialed ministers and any member serving in an elected leadership capacity to Church discipline (268; see also 550–610).

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

Toward God

(1) To reverence the name of God and to honor the Lord's Day by divine worship and spiritual edification, participating in those activities which contribute to the moral and spiritual purposes of this day.

Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:3, 7–11; Deut. 5:11–15; Isa. 58:13–14; Mark 2:27; Acts 20:7; Heb. 4:9.

(2) To seek only the leading of the Holy Spirit and to abstain from all forms of spiritism, such as the occult, witchcraft, astrology and other similar practices.

Lev. 19:31; 20:6; Deut. 18:10–14; Acts 19:18–19; Gal. 5:19–20.

Toward Self

(3) To exercise faithful stewardship through the wise use of their time and material resources, practicing careful self-discipline in order to further the mission of Christ's church (remembering the principle of tithing which is basic to the New Testament standard of stewardship) and to demonstrate compassion to those in need.

Prov. 3:9; Mal. 3:10; Matt. 25:34–40; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7; Eph. 5:16; Col. 3:17; James 2:15–16; 1 John 3:17.

(4) To demonstrate a positive social witness by abstaining from all forms of gambling and by abstaining from using or trafficking (production, sale or purchase) in any substances destructive to their physical, mental and spiritual health, such as alcoholic beverages, tobacco and drugs (other than proper medical purposes of drugs); and by refraining from membership in secret societies and lodges which are oath bound, believing that the quasi-religious nature of such organizations divides the Christian's loyalty, their secret nature contravenes the Christian's open witness and the secret nature of their oaths is repugnant to the Christian conscience.

Ex. 20:17; Rom. 14:21; 1 Cor. 6:12. Gambling violates the principle of Christian stewardship and the tenth commandment, is harmful to the individual in that it is emotionally addictive, is a poor example to others, and pollutes the moral climate of society.

Prov. 20:1; Rom. 6:12; 14:21; 1 Cor. 6:12–20; 10:23; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:22. Christians are to regard their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. While no “thing” of itself is sinful, the Christian should avoid the use of anything which would not help build the fellowship of the church, would not help the believers to realize their full potential in Christ, or which would enslave them. In the light of the scientific knowledge of our day concerning the actual and potential harm of these substances, total abstinence is more in keeping with these biblical principles than is moderation.

Ex. 20:3; Matt. 5:34–36; John 18:20; Acts 4:12; James 5:12. These prohibitions do not restrict membership in labor, civic or other organizations which do not contradict loyalty to Christ and the Church. When in these relationships Christian principles are violated, members shall be dealt with because of such violations and not because of the membership itself.

(5) To follow the teachings of the Scriptures regarding gender identity and sexual conduct.

Gen. 1:27; 1 Cor. 6:12–20; 7:17–24.

Toward Family

(6) To follow the teachings of the Scriptures regarding marriage and divorce. We affirm that sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful. We further affirm that marriage between one man and one woman is God’s design, and we regard sexual sin of the spouse, such as adultery, homosexual behavior, bestiality or incest, as clear biblical grounds for considering divorce, and then only when appropriate counseling has failed to restore the relationship.

Ex. 20:14, 17; 22:19; Lev. 20:10–16; Matt. 5:32; 19:19; Mark 10:11–12; Luke 16:18.

(7) To preserve the sanctity of the home by honoring Christ in every phase of family life and by demonstrating Christlike love (always avoiding violence,

including physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse toward one's spouse or family members, as well as sexual infidelity or desertion, any of which warrant church discipline for the offender and may justify separation or divorce if true repentance and appropriate counseling cannot bring about reconciliation), and by living peacefully with one another, thereby building up one's spouse and family members through word and deed, and encouraging the nurture and education of the children in the Christian faith so as to bring them early to the saving knowledge of Christ.

**Prov. 22:6; Malachi 2:13–16; Mark 10:9; 1 Cor. 7:10–16,
Eph. 5:28; 6:4.**

Toward The Church

(8) To work together for the advancement of God's kingdom and for the mutual edification of fellow believers in holiness, knowledge and love; to walk together in Christian fellowship by giving and receiving counsel with gentleness and affection; by praying for each other; by helping each other in sickness and distress; and by demonstrating love, purity and courtesy to all.

Rom. 15:1–2; Eph. 4; 1 Thess. 5.

(9) To grow in the knowledge, love and grace of God by participating in public worship, the ministry of the Word of God, the Lord's Supper, family and personal devotions and fasting.

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

(10) To preserve the fellowship and witness of the Church with reference to the use of languages. The Wesleyan Church believes in the miraculous use of languages and the interpretation of languages in its biblical and historical setting. But it is contrary to the Word of God to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or the gift of tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit or of that entire sanctification which the baptism accomplishes; therefore, only a language readily understood by the congregation is to be used in public worship. The Wesleyan Church believes that the use of an ecstatic prayer language has no clear scriptural sanction, or any pattern of

established historical usage in the Church; therefore, the use of such a prayer language shall not be promoted among us.

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

Toward Others

(11) To do good as much as is possible to all people as God gives opportunity, especially to those in the body of Christ; by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the destitute, by visiting or helping those who are sick or in prison; by instructing, correcting or encouraging them in love.

Matt. 25:31–46; Eph. 5:11; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 3:13; 10:23–25.

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

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

(13) To live honestly, be just in all dealings and faithful in all commitments.

Eccl. 5:4–5; Rom. 12:17; Phil. 4:8–9; 1 Peter 2:12.

268. These are the Membership Commitments of our Church. We believe all these to be consistent with the principles of Christ as taught in the Word of God, which is the only and sufficient rule both of our faith and practice. If any among us do not observe them, and/or habitually break any of them, we will admonish such persons in love with the hope of restoring them to lives of harmony with the above Membership Commitments. If such efforts of restoration continue to prove fruitless, official action may be taken toward termination of said persons' church membership. However, the church members are encouraged to continue efforts toward the spiritual restoration of these persons.

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

Article 4. Elementary Principles

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

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

274. Every person has an inalienable right to private judgment in matters of religion, and an equal right to express personal opinions in any way which will not violate the laws of God or the rights of others.

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

278. The pastoral or ministerial office and duties are of divine appointment, and all ordained ministers in the church of God are equal; but ministers are forbidden to be lords over God's heritage, or to have dominion over the faith of the saints.

280. The Church has a right to form and enforce such rules and regulations only as are in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, and may be necessary or have a tendency to carry into effect the great system of practical Christianity.

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

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

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

Article 5. Observance of Sacraments

290. All persons to be baptized shall have the choice of baptism by immersion, pouring or sprinkling. Since children are born into this world with natures inclined to sin, and yet the prevenient grace of God provides for their redemption during the period before reaching the age of accountability, those parents who so choose may testify to their faith in God's provision by presenting their small children for baptism, while those who prefer to emphasize

baptism as a testimony by individual believers to their own act of faith may present their children for dedication.

Mark 10:13–16; Acts 2:38–39; 16:15; 18:8.

293. The Lord's Supper shall be observed in each local Wesleyan church at least once each three months.

Article 6. Membership

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

297. The conditions of membership are:

(1) Confession of faith in Jesus Christ as evidenced by an inner witness of new birth through the Holy Spirit and a commitment to pursue holiness in all things.

(2) Christian baptism.

(3) Instruction in, acceptance of, and a commitment to abide by the Articles of Religion which are summarized in 299, the Elementary Principles, and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government.

(4) A commitment to live out the mission and vision of The Wesleyan Church through a discipling relationship within the local church.

299. Candidates for membership shall declare their agreement with the following summary of the Articles of Religion:

We believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ the Son suffered in our place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge every person at the last day.

We believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

We believe that by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith.

We believe that God not only counts the believer as righteous, but that He makes such persons righteous, freeing them from sin's dominion at conversion, purifying their hearts by faith, perfecting them in love at entire sanctification, and providing for their growth in grace at every stage of spiritual life, enabling them through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to live victorious lives.

302. The rights of membership are:

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

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

(3) The right to participate in any vote being taken by the local church conference.

(4) The eligibility to hold leadership positions (552:2–3), providing the qualifications are met (260–268; 558) and if not under discipline.

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

(6) A member in good standing in any Wesleyan church is entitled to membership privileges in any Wesleyan church to which a transfer of membership may be desired, subject to 567.

305. Church membership may be terminated only by one or more of the following (585):

(1) Voluntary withdrawal.

(2) Joining another religious body or a secret order.

(3) Expulsion after proper hearing and conviction.

(4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined by *The Discipline*.

(5) Death.

Article 7. The Ministry

310. The General Conference shall from time to time enact provisions for the training, qualification, and ordination of the ministry. Every Wesleyan minister must be a member of some Wesleyan church, and each ordained minister must be a member of a district. An ordained minister is a minister of the gospel fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

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

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

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

(3) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the other provisions of this Constitution (313:6; 323:1-2).

(4) To enjoy the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which appointment has been made by the district conference.

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

(6) To transfer in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* from one district to another, subject to the approval of the district superintendent and the General Superintendent supervising the area which includes the district into which the transfer is sought.

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

Article 8. Organization and Government

Local

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

(1) To receive and expel or discontinue members subject to the provisions of *The Discipline*. This right vests severally in each local church. (Cf. 365.)

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

(3) To grant or revoke local licenses for various ministries as provided in *The Discipline*. This right may be delegated to the church board. (Cf. 365.)

(4) To recommend persons for various ministries to the district conference. This right may be delegated to the church board.

(5) To elect its own officers and to remove the same for cause. Except as provided in 365, no pastor or other official has any right to appoint an officer or declare an office vacant. This right belongs to the church alone, and vests severally in each local church.

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

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

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

District

317. The General Conference shall organize the work at large into districts, which shall operate under its jurisdiction and promote the interests of the denomination, and whose voting membership shall include the following: All ordained ministers on the appointed, retired, reserve, and educational leave lists; licensed ministers elected to ordained minister's status; all commissioned and licensed ministers serving as pastors of Wesleyan churches; all commissioned and licensed ministers serving as associate or assistant pastors of Wesleyan churches; members of the district board of administration who are not members by some other right; and lay delegates elected as provided in *The Discipline*. In addition the district conference shall include such nonvoting members as *The Discipline* shall provide. The principle of equal representation of the ministry and the laity in the district conference shall be maintained.

320. In transacting the business of the district conference the ministers and lay members shall deliberate as one body; but on the final vote on any question, at the call of one-fourth of the members, the house shall divide, and the ministers and lay members shall vote separately; and it shall require a majority vote of each branch to pass any question upon which the division has been called.

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

(1) The right to take charge of all the ministers and churches within its bounds, as modified by 360:3e and 365 (except those serving the General Church as the General Conference shall define who shall be amenable to the General Board of Administration, and except the district superintendent who shall be amenable to the General Board of Administration), and subject to the right of the ministers and churches to enter into pastoral engagements.

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

(3) To elect and ordain ministers, and to receive ordained ministers from other denominations subject to the restrictions of *The Discipline*.

(4) To receive or decline persons recommended to it for various ministries by the pastoral charges within its bounds.

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

(6) To take such actions and adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote the interest and prosperity of the Church and to amend or rescind the same, provided it shall not add to or take from any provision of the Constitution or of *The Discipline*, and provided further that if three members of a district shall take exception to its action on the ground that it violates this restriction, they may make an appeal therefrom through the channels prescribed by *The Discipline*.

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

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

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

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

General

325. General Conference Membership. The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of ordained ministers and lay members elected by the several districts, and each district superintendent and a lay delegate elected on the district superintendent's behalf; the presidents of the general educational institutions; such officers serving the General Church as the General Conference may establish by legislation, provided that it shall at the same time enact provisions to secure such further representation as shall be necessary to continue the principle of equal lay and ministerial membership.

327. General Conference Delegates.

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

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

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

330. General Conference Sessions.

(1) The General Conference shall meet quadrennially, except that in cases of emergency or other unusual circumstances the General Board of Administration shall have the power to shorten or lengthen the interval. Each session shall be held at a time of the year specified in *The Discipline* at a place determined by the General Board of Administration; in case of emergency the General Board of Administration shall have power to change the time.

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

332. General Conference Presidency. The various sittings of the General Conference shall be presided over by the General Superintendent(s) in such order as these may determine; but in case no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference shall elect by ballot an ordained minister as president pro tem.

334. Other Officers. The General Conference shall elect by ballot such officers as it shall decide upon.

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

338. General Conference Voting. The ministers and lay members shall deliberate in the sessions of the General Conference as one body, but upon the final vote on any question except proposed amendments to the Constitution, on a call of one-fourth of the members, the house shall divide and ministers and lay members shall vote separately; and it shall require a majority vote of each branch to pass any question upon which the division has been called.

340. General Board of Administration.

(1) There shall be a General Board of Administration to carry out the will of the General Conference during the quadrennium. Such Board shall be composed of the General Superintendent(s) and such other general officers as shall be designated by the General Conference together with an equal number of ordained ministers and lay members chosen by the General Conference to represent equitably the several administrative areas of the Church. The number of such representative members shall be determined by the action of the General Conference.

(2) The General Board of Administration is the chief governing body of the Church in the interim of the General Conferences, and as such is empowered to perfect all plans necessary to the performance of its duties; it shall constitute or create the basic board of control of each and all of the Wesleyan societies and institutions now incorporated or hereafter incorporated under the laws of any state of the United States or of any province of Canada or under any other jurisdiction where such is permitted by the laws of said jurisdiction. The General Board of Administration shall have jurisdiction over mission units under the North American General Conference. It shall have the authority to approve a discipline for each unit achieving recognition as a fully established general conference and for each mission unit. In so doing, it shall have the power to adapt the name of the Church within the restrictions of paragraph 205, and to adapt the provisions of *The Discipline* of the North American General Conference, including both constitutional and statutory law, provided that it does not contravene the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church. In authorizing the adaptation of the name for a unit achieving recognition as an established general conference, it shall first consult with the highest interim administrative bodies of the other

established general conferences which are members of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

350. The General Superintendency.

(1) The General Conference shall elect by ballot from among the ordained ministers one or more General Superintendent(s), who shall be considered as the general spiritual and administrative leader(s) of the Church.

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

(3) The General Superintendent(s) shall preside over the sittings of the General Conference and over the district conferences. At the district conference over which a General Superintendent is presiding, the district superintendent shall serve by being seated at the presiding officer's table to advise and assist the chair. In the event a General Superintendent is unable to be present at a district conference, the district superintendent shall preside as chair, unless another representative appointed by the General Superintendent is present.

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

**Article 9. Powers and Restrictions
of the General Conference**

360. The General Conference shall have full power:

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

(2) To elect such officers as it shall choose and to define their duties and responsibilities.

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

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

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

(c) It shall make no rule, except as provided in 365, that shall deny any church the right to receive, discontinue or expel its own

members subject to their right of appeal; or to elect and remove its own officers; or that shall deny to the district conference the final disposition of all pastoral arrangements, except those districts in which the General Conference or the General Board has transferred the supervision to a General Superintendent or other related general official, or that shall deny to preachers and churches initial negotiations concerning the same.

(d) It shall make no rule, except as provided in 365, that will discriminate against any member or minister on account of ancestry, color or sex.

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

(f) It shall not have the power to deprive any member or minister of the right of hearing by an impartial committee, or of the right of appeal.

Article 10. Coordination of Local, District and General Discipline

365. Paragraphs 315:1 and 360:3c (stating the local church's authority over local church membership); 315:3,5 and 360:3c (stating the local church's authority over local licentiates and church officers); 323:1 and 360:3c, e (stating the district's authority over ministers and churches); and 323:1 (stating the district's authority over ministers and churches and the General Church's authority over certain officials) are not intended to require multiple hearings and appeals dealing with the same person with amenability on more than one level. Further, these paragraphs do not deal with the potential of a lay person committing offenses with effects beyond the local church or of a minister or local church committing offenses with effects beyond the district of which they are a part. Therefore, the General Conference shall enact legislation to deal properly with such cases.

Article 11. The Supreme Judiciary

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

375. The Board of Review shall have authority:

(1) To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon appeal of the General Superintendent(s), or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference.

(2) To hear and determine any appeal from the decisions of the General Superintendent(s) as to the constitutionality of an action by a district or upon a point of Church law.

(3) To hear and determine the legality of any action by any General Church board upon appeal of one-third the members thereof, or by request of the General Superintendent(s).

(4) To settle questions in dispute between districts upon appeal by a two-thirds vote of a district that claims it has a grievance against another district.

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

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

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

Article 12. Amendments to the Constitution

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

Chapter 5

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

400. The special directions are expressions by which The Wesleyan Church seeks to bear witness to contemporary society concerning the Christian life and character required by its Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments. While they may or may not be membership commitments, they are official admonitions to the members, ministers and officials of The Wesleyan Church, and provide guidelines for bearing public testimony on the issues discussed.

The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and guidance to believers as they seek to discern personal boundaries for holy living. The Scriptures illustrate that personal conscience varies among individuals on matters for which direct commands of God are not given and that what God requires as a matter of obedience for one person He may not require of all. Therefore, relying on His help through prayer, Bible study, godly counsel, and thoughtful reflection, all believers should develop “personal convictions” to aid them in conforming to God’s will as they relate to and involve themselves in their culture as witnesses for Christ. Such private opinions apply only to one’s own conduct. Legalism is the attempt to impose one’s personal convictions upon others as if they are conditions for salvation or universal standards for holiness.

Issues arise periodically that require serious deliberation by the Church as a community of believers regarding its collective witness for Christ in society. Just as He does for individuals, the Holy Spirit also instructs the Church in discerning and applying biblical principles to its corporate response to current culture. Out of these prayerful deliberations, “collective conscience” statements are born. These statements are believed to be important enough that they should be a part of the identity of the Church and should characterize the lifestyle of those who are a part of our specific “family” within the larger Body of Christ. These statements are not implied to be conditions for salvation, and as such become legalistic and judgmental. Rather they reflect commonly held values of our Church that are voluntarily accepted in order to make a positive statement to society; to protect the wellbeing and integrity of each person; to bring transformation to culture; and to be a safe haven for those seeking refuge from the damages inflicted upon them by an abusive and godless society. By speaking collectively, the Church also seeks to provide examples for and encourage young disciples, recent converts, new members, and its friends in

conforming to Christ's likeness in areas of personal conscience not yet informed by personal study and understanding of biblical principles.

These statements of collective conscience do not speak to every issue and must periodically be amended to speak redemptively to important emerging issues affecting the church and society.

A. Christian Social Concern

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

(1) **Equal Rights.** The Wesleyan Church upholds the right of all individuals to equal opportunity politically, economically, and religiously, and pledges itself to an active effort to bring about the possession of dignity and happiness by all people everywhere (cf. 220; 265:11–13; 360:3d).

(2) **Peace.** The Wesleyan Church, knowing that war results in great suffering for the bodies, minds, and souls of men and women, staggering economic loss with its legacy of debt for future generations, and the unleashing of the baser passions of life, urges that persons and nations seek by every legitimate means to avoid armed conflict among the peoples and nations of the world. The Wesleyan Church also urges that holy people everywhere pray earnestly for those in authority, so that peace may prevail (1 Tim. 2:2), and for the quick return of the Prince of Peace.

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

(4) **Care of the Body and Substance Abuse.** The Bible teaches the sanctity of the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Christians should avoid the use of anything which would damage the body, destroy the family, harm society (1 Corinthians 10:23–24), undermine the fellowship of the church, hinder reaching full potential in Christ, enslave the will (1 Corinthians 6:12), inhibit evangelism (1 Corinthians 9:19–23), breach the Lord's command to love God supremely and to love one's neighbor as oneself (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37–39), or become a stumbling block to the young in age or faith (Matthew 18:6; 1 Corinthians 8:9, 13; 10:32–33). The Wesleyan Church encourages its members to practice self-discipline and temperance in matters of proper eating, exercise, and rest. We oppose the production, sale, purchase and use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, and other harmful drugs, unless for mechanical, chemical, or medicinal purposes (cf. 265:4). The unprescribed use of hallucinogens, stimulants, and depressants, and the misuse and abuse of regularly prescribed medicines should be prohibited; only on competent medical advice and under medical supervision should such drugs be used. The consequences to society stemming from substance abuse are of major concern because of their unarguably negative impact on the spiritual character and nature of individuals and the welfare of society. These include the creation of barriers to conversion, family dysfunction and breakdown, poverty, disease and death, increased violence and crime, the incalculable loss to national economies, and the destruction of the individual caught by the power of addiction. In light of the overwhelming evidence of damage to society and the spiritual health of the individual by the abuse of such substances, we believe that even where their use may be legalized, we choose total abstinence as our appropriate response (i.e., voluntarily refraining from and totally avoiding the use of something in all unnecessary circumstances as determined by the individual Christian's conscience in submission to the lordship of Christ and the admonitions of the Church). Such abstinence is a willing act of self-discipline, an acceptance of group accountability, and never a test of salvation or an evidence of superior spirituality.

(5) **Human Sexuality.** The Wesleyan Church maintains a biblical view of human sexuality which makes the sexual experience, within the framework of marriage, a gift of God to be enjoyed as communion of a man and woman, as well as for the purpose of procreation. Sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful. Yet we believe the grace of God sufficient to overcome both the practice of such activity and the inclination leading to its practice.

(6) **Divorce and Remarriage.** On the basis of a careful study of the Scriptures, and in keeping with its Membership Commitments (265:6), The Wesleyan Church teaches the following with reference to divorce and remarriage after divorce:

(a) To obtain a divorce on other than scriptural grounds is a sin against God and humanity. Such putting asunder of what God has joined is a direct and deliberate act of disobedience against both the Law and the Gospel. It separates one from God and may subject a member to Church discipline (222).

(b) However, recognizing the fallen state of humanity, divorce has been recognized in the Scriptures as a valid and permanent dissolution of marriage with all its rights and responsibilities. Divorce is not reversible. There is no way to “restore” a dissolved marriage. The divorced (unmarried) status can be changed only by a new marriage to the same person or another person. No divorced and remarried person has two spouses, only a former spouse and a present spouse, as in Deuteronomy 24:1–4 and 1 Corinthians 7.

(c) Divorce, however sinful the act and however serious the consequences, is not “unpardonable.” A redeemed sinner or reclaimed backslider is “free” to marry “in the Lord” or to remain unmarried, a eunuch for the kingdom of God’s sake. The one exception to this freedom of choice is mentioned by the Apostle Paul. It is a believer who disobeys the commandment of God and puts away a believing spouse. That person must remain unmarried to leave room for reconciliation to the spouse (1 Corinthians 7).

(d) The right to remarry in no way excuses the sin of divorce. It only implies that the Church must forgive and restore those whom the Lord forgives and restores. Neither penance nor penalty remain to the truly penitent and restored sinner, or backslider, whatever the traumatic consequences of the sin may be.

(7) **The Lord’s Day.** God prescribed that one day a week be set aside for the spiritual, mental, and physical well being of humankind (Genesis 2:2–3; Deuteronomy 5:12–14). The Wesleyan Church encourages its members to observe the Lord’s Day in an appropriate manner (Romans 14:4–6; cf. 265:1).

(8) **Religion in Public Life.** The Wesleyan Church, believing that it is possible to allow recognition of God and the invoking of His aid in public functions without violating the personal rights and freedoms granted in many nations, advocates the enactment of suitable legislation by legislative bodies at all levels of government which will strengthen provision for the free exercise

of religion in public life and allow reference to, or the invoking of the aid of God by individuals serving, writing, speaking, leading or contributing to any public function. The Wesleyan Church further affirms its belief in the public school's duty to recognize the historical and ongoing contribution of the Judeo-Christian tradition to world cultures and modern life. The Wesleyan Church verifies the Bible is an appropriate book for reading in public schools and the right of students to pray as desired.

(9) **Public School.** The Wesleyan Church supports the right and responsibility of parents to determine what is appropriate education for their children, testing the education their children are receiving in accordance with biblical principles and striving for excellence in the education provided for all children. We maintain the right of our members to seek exemption from participation by their children in all matters that are contrary to scriptural doctrines and principles as expressed in the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, Elementary Principles or Special Directions of our Church, without prejudice to academic standing.

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

(11) **Abortion.** The Wesleyan Church seeks to recognize and preserve the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and, thus, is opposed to the use of induced abortion. However, it recognizes that there may be rare pregnancies where there are grave medical conditions threatening the life of the mother, which could raise a serious question about taking the life of the unborn child. In such a case, a decision should be made only after very prayerful consideration following medical and spiritual counseling. The Wesleyan Church encourages its members to become informed about the abortion issue and to become actively involved locally and nationally in the preparation and passage of appropriate legislation guaranteeing protection of life under law to unborn children.

(12) **Use of Time and Entertainments.** The Wesleyan Church believes that its members should exercise responsible stewardship of their time for worship, work, rest, personal leisure, and service to others. Special care should be given to honoring Christ in one's choices and pursuit of entertainments. This will include refusing to patronize and to carefully regulate the use in the home of activities, media, and communication where they feature the cheapening of human life, the gratuitously violent, the use of immoral or profane language, and the sexually explicit and pornographic. Members should avoid involvement with activities that tend to be addictive

or conducive to gambling (i.e., risking one's assets or property on the outcome of legal or illegal games of chance, including government-sponsored lotteries). We believe gambling violates the principle of Christian stewardship (i.e., trusting God's provision for us, as exemplified in Matthew 6:25–34) and the tenth commandment which forbids coveting (Deuteronomy 5:21); is harmful to the individual in that it is emotionally addictive; can be a poor example to others of how to manage the resources of God or trust in God's provision; appeals to greed; endangers families; lowers socio-economic standards and self esteem; engenders false hope; and is exploitative in that it takes advantage of the misplaced hopes, compulsions or poor judgment of others. We believe that total abstinence is the best Christian response to gambling in all its forms.

(13) **Modesty in Attire.** The Wesleyan Church believes that our people should provide clear testimony to Christian purity and modesty by properly clothing the body and by dressing with Christian simplicity.

B. Christian Worship and Fellowship

420. Rites and Ceremonies of Churches. True religion does not consist in any ritual observances such as forms or ceremonies, even of the most excellent kind, be they ever so decent and significant, ever so expressive of inward things. The religion of Christ rises infinitely higher and lies infinitely deeper than all these. Let no one conceive that rites and ceremonies have any intrinsic worth, or that true worship cannot subsist without them. Therefore, it is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same or exactly alike, for they have always been different and may be changed according to the diversities of countries, times, and customs, provided that nothing be ordained against God's Word.

Acts 15:10, 28–29; Rom. 14:2–6, 15, 17, 21; 1 Cor. 1:10; 12:25; 14:26; 2 Cor. 13:11; Gal. 5:1, 13; Col. 2:16–17; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14; 1 Tim. 1:4, 6; 1 Peter 2:16.

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

Matt. 10:8; Luke 9:2; 10:9; Acts 4:10, 14; 1 Cor. 12:9, 28; James 5:14–16.

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

This liberty, however, is not to be construed as license (Gal. 5:13). Rather, love for Christ constrains the Christian to live a righteous and holy life as God demands. By the Spirit of God, His laws are written on the heart (Heb. 8:10). So Christians resist evil and cleave to the good, not in order to be saved, but because they have been saved.

Within the bounds of Christian liberty, there will be differences of opinion. In such cases, the believer seeks to avoid offending other believers. The stronger one is mindful of the opinions of the one with the weaker conscience (1 Cor. 8 and 10), and is careful not to put a stumbling block in another’s way (1 Cor. 10:24; Gal 5:13). On the other hand, the weak does not criticize the strong (1 Cor. 10:29–30), for the conscience of the weak may need instruction.

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

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

C. Christian Stewardship

460. Meaning of Stewardship. The Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and all things, that people are His stewards of both life and possessions, that God’s ownership and one’s stewardship ought to be

acknowledged, and that every person shall be held personally accountable to God for the exercise of their stewardship (cf. 265:3). God, as a God of system and order in all of His ways, has established a system of giving which acknowledges His ownership and humankind's stewardship. To this end, all His children should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support of the gospel.

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

Gen. 14:20; 28:22; Lev. 27:30–32; Deut. 14:22; Prov. 3:9–10; 11:24–25; Mal. 3:10–11; Matt. 23:23; Acts 4:34–35; 6:1–3; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:13–14; Heb. 7:1–2, 6, 9.

470. Methods of Fund Raising. In the light of the scriptural teaching concerning the giving of tithes and offerings (cf. 465) for the support of the gospel, and for the erection of church buildings, no Wesleyan church should engage in any method of fund raising which would detract from these principles, hinder the gospel message, sully the name of the Church, discriminate against the poor, or misdirect the people's energies from promoting the gospel.

475. Wills, Bequests and Annuities. It is essential in the exercise of Christian stewardship that careful thought be given as to what shall be done with one's estate after death. Civil laws often do not provide for the distribution of an estate in such a way as to glorify God. Each Christian should give careful attention to the preparation of a last will and testament in a careful and legal manner, and The Wesleyan Church and its various ministries through the local church, the district, world missions, extension and evangelism, education, and benevolences are recommended for consideration. The General Superintendent's office is prepared to assist in these matters (4240; 4940).

PART 2

LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter 1

LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

A. Function of Local Churches

500. The local Wesleyan church is a body of Christian believers who hold the faith set forth in the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Church, who have been duly received as members of The Wesleyan Church and formally organized according to its *Discipline*, who acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of The Wesleyan Church, who support its worldwide mission, and who meet together regularly for the purposes of evangelism, nurture, fellowship, and worship (240).

B. Types of Organization

503. A pastoral charge may consist of a single church, or of two or more churches designated by the district conference as a circuit; is supplied as a regular pastoral appointment by the district conference; and transacts business through a local conference of the covenant members. The constitutional rights of a pastoral charge are given in 315. If the district conference desires to appoint a minister to serve two or more churches that shall continue as separate pastoral charges, it may appoint the minister as pastor of one church and supply pastor of the other (3255–3260).

1. Developing Church

510. A developing church is either a formerly established church that has been reclassified by the district board of administration because it no longer meets the qualifications in 518, or a church planting project supervised by a parent church, a cluster of parenting church partners, the district board of administration, or the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division. A developing church is eventually intended to become an established church, but does not yet meet all requirements for this classification (518). Its local

organization shall be in keeping with 807. A developing church shall be authorized by the district conference (1180:24) or the district board of administration (1233:30), and shall be governed as follows:

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

(2) A membership roll shall be maintained, ordinarily for one to twenty-four members. Candidates for membership shall be examined and recommended by the pastor until such a time as a local advisory council is formed and assumes this duty; and their reception shall be authorized by the district superintendent (1310:17).

(3) As soon as qualified members are available, the district superintendent, in cooperation with the pastor, may appoint a local advisory council of three to five members. The pastor shall serve as chair of this council (cf. 807; 1310:17). The council shall exercise the duties and powers of a local board of administration (782), making all recommendations to the district superintendent or the district board of administration instead of the local church conference (1310:17). All investments in land, buildings, and equipment (1233:33; 4650-4670), matters involving employed staff, and other major decisions must be authorized by the district board of administration; and all actions of the local advisory council shall be subject to the review and approval of the district superintendent. The local advisory council shall be responsible to assist the district superintendent in qualifying the church as quickly as possible for organization as an established church.

(4) All property of a developing church shall be held by the district, with titles secured as given in 4660.

(5) A developing church may have one lay delegate to the district conference when so assigned by the district board of administration (1086; 1100:2; 1103).

(6) Each developing church shall be assigned by the district board of administration to one of the following categories for annual district conference and General Church reporting purposes, until it is organized as an established church or discontinued:

(a) District/denominational church plant (a new church initiated and supervised by the district or the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division but not yet classified as an established church in keeping with 518);

(b) Daughter church plant (a new church initiated and supervised by a parent church or a cluster of parenting church partners but not yet classified as an established church in keeping with 518);

(c) Revitalization project (a former established church reclassified by the district conference or the district board of administration in keeping with 518:7 for the intentional purpose of renewal and redevelopment); or

(d) Restart project (a former developing or established church temporarily closed by the district and subsequently reopened at the same location and/or with some of the previous members).

2. Established Church

518. Authorization for Organization. The organization of a developing church as a fully established church, or of a group of believers who have applied to a district superintendent for organization as a Wesleyan church, empowering it to assemble for business as a local church conference and to elect a local board of administration, and investing it with all the rights, powers, and duties of a local church as given in the Constitution (315) and as set forth elsewhere in *The Discipline*, may be authorized by the district board of administration and effected by the district superintendent when it meets these requirements:

(1) Twenty-five or more persons who are members or are approved and ready to be received as members when the organization shall be effected.

(2) Effective evangelism and a record of new converts and/or believers' baptisms incorporated into the church.

(3) An intentional investment of financial and human resources into community and global needs.

(4) A reasonable degree of financial stability, including the meeting of such obligations as it may have to the General Church and the district..

(5) A reasonable degree of leadership and organizational maturity, with sufficient qualified persons to staff the minimum organization provided for in 810.

(6) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church as required in 4610 (4680) or steps taken to accomplish the same.

(7) An established church may be reclassified by the district conference or the district board of administration as a developing church if such is recommended by the district superintendent and:

(a) If its membership drops to twenty or fewer (cf. 1180:24; 1233:30; 5320); or

(b) If no new converts and/or believers' baptisms have been reported by the church within the previous two years; or

(c) If no intentional investment of financial and human resources into the needs of those outside the church has been demonstrated within the two previous years; or

(d) If it ceases to meet one or more of the other conditions set forth in 518:2–5 (cf. 4670).

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

(1) The reading of the Summary of the Articles of Religion (299) and the Membership Commitments by the presiding officer.

(2) An examination of each of the candidates for membership, conducted by the presiding officer, using the questions commonly addressed to such candidates (cf. 5560–5570), and the baptism of such as have not previously been baptized. When the organization involves a church previously organized as a developing church, those who have been accepted as members of the developing church need not be reexamined.

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

Question 1: “Are you in Christian fellowship with all those who present themselves for membership in this church organization?”

Answer: “I am.”

Question 2: “In that Christian fellowship will you promise to walk with each other in love, giving and receiving counsel, sympathy, and instruction in the Spirit of Christ?”

Answer: “I will.”

(4) A declaration made by the presiding officer:

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

(5) The first session of the local church conference, with the election of officers who shall serve for the remainder of the year, or until specified, and

the installation of the officers (5915) by the person presiding over the organizational service.

(6) The report of the organization by the district superintendent to the next regular session of the district board of administration, and to the next regular session of the district conference (1180:24; 1310:14).

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

3. Urban Missional Church

523. An urban missional church is a local church located and serving in a high poverty area in a metropolitan area of over 200,000 people. It shall be recommended and approved by the district board of administration (1233:30) and must be approved by the General Superintendent. Its approval will be for two years, and may be renewed. Its organizational structure will follow the same pattern as a developing church (510:1–5). Should it cease to qualify as an urban missional church, it would move into developing church or established church status, as authorized by the district board of administration.

4. Circuit

525. Relationship of Circuit and Church. A circuit is a pastoral charge in which a district conference has grouped two or more local churches under one pastor, and designated them as a circuit, with business to be transacted by a circuit conference. Each church on the circuit shall be organized and shall conduct its business according to the regulations for an established church, and shall exercise its constitutional rights to receive, expel, and discontinue its members, to elect its own officers and trustees, and to have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in matters of controversy between itself and other units or agencies of The Wesleyan Church (315:1, 5, 6, 8). The circuit shall exercise all of the constitutional rights of a pastoral charge which are not reserved to the local church (315:2–4, 7), and take charge of all matters of circuit business as given in 525–535.

526. Developing Circuit Conference. When the churches on the circuit are all developing churches, the regulations governing a developing church will be applied to the developing circuit (510).

528. Circuit Conference. The members of the several churches on a circuit, duly called and assembled together to do business, shall constitute a circuit conference. It shall follow the same organizational and procedural

pattern as a local church conference (cf. 630–650). Its duties and powers shall be:

- (1) To call the pastor and set the terms of pastoral service (315:2; 690–722).
- (2) To license lay ministers (3410–3420) and to recommend suitable members to the district conference for district licenses as ministerial students and special workers (3015, 3033, 3460).
- (3) To elect lay delegates to the district conference (315:7; 1100–1109).
- (4) To elect a circuit secretary, such members of the circuit advisory council (530) in addition to the *ex officio* members as the circuit conference shall determine are needed to assure proper representation, and a circuit board of trustees (if such is needed, cf. 532).
- (5) To determine all matters involving two or more of the churches on the circuit, including the authorization of transactions involved in the purchase, erection, encumbrance, sale or other disposition of a circuit parsonage or other property (4740–4750).

530. Circuit Advisory Council. The circuit advisory council shall direct circuit affairs between sessions of the circuit conference, bearing the same relationship to the circuit conference that the local board of administration bears to the local church conference (750; 782). It shall consist of the pastor as chair, the circuit secretary as secretary, the chair of the circuit board of trustees, the treasurer of each local church, and such other representatives as the circuit conference shall determine are needed to assure proper representation. It shall elect one of its members as vice-chair, and shall meet at least quarterly at such time and place as it shall determine. It shall nominate the pastor, make recommendations on all matters over which the circuit conference has authority, and carry out and administer the decisions of the circuit conference (690).

532. Circuit Trustees. The circuit board of trustees shall consist of three to five members elected by the circuit conference. They shall organize themselves and carry on their work under the direction of the circuit advisory council in the same manner as the board of trustees for a local church (850–859), except that they shall have jurisdiction only over that property owned by the circuit, such as the circuit parsonage (cf. 4740–4750).

535. Circuit Committees. The circuit advisory council may appoint such committees as are necessary to the proper conduct of circuit affairs, including a nominating committee to nominate the circuit officers (cf. 820–823).

5. Mission

537. A special evangelistic, rescue or missionary work which cannot appropriately be organized as a developing church shall be carried on as a mission. A mission may be conducted by an established church subject to the approval of the district board of administration (655:16), by a district (1180:24; 1233:30) or by the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division. It shall not maintain a membership roll nor receive members. A mission shall have no local boards, officers or committees except such as are appointed by the mission director, are amenable to the mission director, and can be replaced at the discretion of the mission director.

6. Local Churches in a Developing District

542. Missions, developing churches, churches, and circuits located in developing districts shall be authorized, organized, and governed according to the *General Board Policy for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*, which shall be in harmony with *The Discipline* (cf. 4800).

7. Affiliate Church

548. An independent congregation of the Wesleyan tradition which seeks a less than full relationship with The Wesleyan Church may be recognized and listed as an affiliate church. This relationship shall exist to encourage fellowship, to include and involve the affiliated body in ministries and opportunities available to Wesleyan churches, and to eventually lead the affiliated unit into full relationship with The Wesleyan Church. Provisions and procedures to establish and govern an affiliate church relationship are located in Appendix C, paragraph 7000 et seq.

Chapter 2

MEMBERSHIP

A. Essence and Meaning of Membership

550. Membership in The Wesleyan Church is the doorway into the church following an experience of conversion whereby a person becomes a member of the body of Jesus Christ, followed by discipleship within a family of believers for spiritual life, growth, and service. Therefore it is of high importance that immediate steps be taken to shepherd, disciple, and train believers through the process of membership for mutual accountability and ministry to the church, community, and the world (cf. 566–570; 725:11; 782:8; 880:11).

551. The overall mission of membership in The Wesleyan Church is: To acknowledge believers as belonging to the body of Christ; to disciple them into a meaningful relationship with The Wesleyan Church; and to equip them for meaningful ministry in the world.

(1) The Vision of Membership. It is our belief and practice that The Wesleyan Church is not a collection of independent churches unrelated to each other nor just merely an association of churches, but rather we constitute a “family” of believers connected by our identity in Christ and our identity with one another. Membership serves as the common thread that unifies us within our diversity as a community with the passion for developing fully committed disciples of Christ. Membership is a ministry tool to use in the process of spiritual development, subsequent to conversion and leading to maturity in Christ. To enhance the discipleship process of maturing people toward Christlikeness, membership is the first step in the process of accountability. The accountability used within the community of faith is based on the primary authority of the Scriptures. We also acknowledge the role of tradition, experience, and reason to shape the collective conscience reflected in the membership and discipleship accountability process. Membership becomes the doorway into the process whereby people are disciplined and equipped to do ministry in and through the church, as a witness to the world at large.

(2) The Value of Membership. Membership in The Wesleyan Church is built on the premise that it is an initial step in one’s relationship with the church, and a doorway into the discipleship process within the life of the

church. Each local fellowship adapts its ministry scope and sequence but a common path would involve the following process:

Believing – When people come to Christ in saving faith, they become a member of the body of Christ. Membership is the door into the discipleship process in The Wesleyan Church which helps people identify the essential beliefs taught in the Bible, and how those beliefs impact our lifestyle, relationships, and our witness for Christ within the church and beyond. This faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, brings transformational growth to the believer.

Belonging – Every person who is a part of our local church fellowship appreciates a sense of belonging, which in turn opens the door for the church to disciple each believer into a fully devoted follower of Christ. The Wesleyan Church intentionally places “belonging” at the front of the believer’s relationship with the local church, and assumes the responsibility to help the believer grow into a mature child of God.

Becoming – It is the responsibility of the local church to assume the care of the persons committed to its fellowship, to develop and employ an effective process of discipleship to help its members mature in their faith and character, leading to the raising up of effective leaders. The Wesleyan Church intentionally calls people to move beyond a decision for Christ, into a life of devotion to Christ which leads to a life of service for Christ.

552. Membership Structure.

(1) Membership in The Wesleyan Church is the entry-level, basic relationship with the church for believers who are willing to participate in the common life of the church and enter into the process of discipleship through the local church. The Wesleyan Church also makes provision for young believers to be a part of the church through student membership.

(2) Leadership. Membership is the basic standard required for designated leadership positions in The Wesleyan Church at local, district, and General Church levels, as well as for all credentialed ministers (552:3). Leaders are expected to live exemplary lives and to serve as models for others to follow. Persons who are elected to serve the church in leadership positions are annually required to affirm and follow the Articles of Religion, the Membership Commitments and the Elementary Principles; be faithful in local church attendance; practice biblical stewardship; participate in active witness and service for Christ; maintain unity in the church; and agree to give proper accountability to those who are assigned spiritual authority over them by The Discipline.

- (3) Leadership positions in the local church that require a person to be a member who meets the qualifications (260–268; 558) are:
- (a) any credentialed ministry (3250–3490)
 - (b) local board of administration member (752)
 - (c) trustee (850)
 - (d) delegate to district or general conference (965, 1524)
 - (e) nominating committee member (820)
 - (f) local church secretary (638, 830)
 - (g) lay leader (833)
 - (h) witness and membership committee member (835)
 - (i) church treasurer (842)
 - (j) Sunday school superintendent or spiritual formation director (889)

B. Categories of Membership

1. Membership

553. Persons to be admitted to membership in The Wesleyan Church shall be those who meet the conditions set forth in the Constitution (297:1–4).

(1) Candidates for membership shall be examined by the local board of administration (782:8; 835–837), to determine whether they meet the requirements of the Constitution concerning their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their willingness to be instructed in and acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Discipline in matters of church government, and their willingness to enter into a membership and discipleship relationship with The Wesleyan Church through the local church.

(2) Candidates for membership who have satisfactorily passed the examination by the local board of administration, shall be voted upon by the local church conference unless the local church conference has delegated this responsibility to the local board of administration (567; 655:1). In either case, it shall require a majority vote of those present and voting to receive; and if objections are urged against the reception of a member, it shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

(3) Members will be asked to reaffirm their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan

Church through the local church annually. The local board of administration shall carry out this annual reaffirmation process in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, that choice will be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership.

(4) Persons who have been duly accepted for membership as explained in 553:2, should be received into membership in a public service, in which they shall make their confession and vows public, (5565), and be given the right hand of fellowship by the pastor or the representative of the pastor.

555. The rights of membership are set forth in the Constitution (302). The judicial process for dealing with any member charged with failure to uphold the Articles of Religion are located in the Judiciary section of The Discipline (5000–5008) and in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline and Ministerial Restoration*.

557. Guides and Helps to Holy Living. The Membership Commitments (260–268) are the biblically-based convictions historically held by The Wesleyan Church, which all members are encouraged to prayerfully consider and embrace.

558. Leadership Commitments. All those serving in elected or credentialed office in The Wesleyan Church shall be required to follow carefully and conscientiously the Guides and Helps to Holy Living found in paragraphs 260–268.

2. Student Membership

564. Those children and youth who have testified to the experience of regeneration may be received as student members immediately after their conversion and baptism. The local board of administration, having provided for their examination concerning their relationship with Christ and their intention to develop toward spiritual maturity, may receive them by majority vote. Student members should be received formally in a public ceremony led by the pastor or staff pastor. The local church shall provide a program that will guide student members toward spiritual maturity and an understanding of the importance, privileges, and commitments of membership.

565. Student members shall have all the rights of adult level members except to vote and hold office. They may become adult level members at any time the local board of administration deems they are qualified, and should be received as given in 553. If student members are not qualified for adult

level membership by their sixteenth birthday, every effort shall be made by the pastor and local board of administration during the following year to prepare them for adult level membership. When they are twenty-one years of age, they must either become adult level members or be dropped from the student membership list (cf. 782:10). Student members who desire to become adult level members shall be received as given in 553.

C. Reception of Members

566. Members in The Wesleyan Church may be received by confession of faith or by letter of transfer. Student members shall be received by confession of faith.

567. Members shall be received subject to the approving vote of the local church conference, unless the church by vote shall delegate this right to the local board of administration (655:1). In both cases, it shall be by majority vote, provided that when objections are urged against the reception of a member, it shall require a vote of two-thirds of those present and voting to receive.

568. The pastor and the local board of administration shall be responsible to provide membership classes for all members, training them in the biblical doctrines and standards of the Church, acquainting them with the history and organization of The Wesleyan Church, and explaining to them the vows of membership (297; 5565–5570).

570. When a person from another denomination presents a letter of transfer or recommendation, the pastor and the local board of administration shall examine them concerning their relationship with Christ and their Christian baptism. If they give satisfactory testimony and are willing to be instructed in and accept the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and are willing to enter into a membership and discipleship relationship with The Wesleyan Church through the local church, they may be received as members

D. Transfer of Membership

575. When any member shall request a letter of transfer to another Wesleyan church, the pastor and local church secretary shall grant it on the proper form as given in 6000–6020 providing the member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Both pastor and secretary shall sign the letter, and shall forward it to the pastor and local church secretary of the church to

which the member is transferring. The letter shall be presented to the local board of administration of the receiving church at its next session, but not later than thirty days from the date of issuance, and acted upon in the manner indicated in 578. When the member has been duly received, the second part of the form shall be completed by the receiving church and forwarded to the church granting the transfer. The date the returned letter is received shall mark the expiration of membership in the church granting the letter, and in the official membership record the local church secretary shall enter opposite the member's name, the date and Withdrawn by letter of transfer.

578. The receiving church shall handle transfers as follows:

(1) Members shall be received subject to the approving vote of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated this responsibility to the local board of administration. The transfer of membership may be questioned by the receiving church if it is evident that the person involved is not in a state of grace or is living in open violation of the Articles of Religion.

(2) The membership of a pastor, senior pastor, associate pastor, or assistant pastor and of such members of the pastor's family as so desire and have the proper credentials, shall be automatically transferred to the church to which appointed, or if the pastoral charge consists of more than one church, to the church of choice. The secretary of the church from which the pastor is moving shall forward the proper forms for the pastor's membership and that of family members who so desire to the secretary of the receiving church who shall record them without any further action by the local church conference or local board of administration.

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

582. Student membership is not transferable.

E. Termination of Membership

585. Membership in The Wesleyan Church may be terminated only by one or more of the following (305):

- (1) Voluntary withdrawal (see also 553:3).
- (2) Joining another religious body or joining a secret order.
- (3) Expulsion after proper hearing and conviction (5023:5).
- (4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined in 600–605.
- (5) Death.

590. When any member requests a letter of recommendation to some other denomination, the pastor and local church secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 6030, if the member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Such a person's membership in the local church granting the letter shall cease immediately, and the secretary shall enter opposite the member's name, the date and Withdrawn by letter of recommendation.

592. When any member requests a letter of withdrawal, the pastor and local church secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 6040. The secretary shall enter on the record book (610), opposite the member's name, the date the letter was granted and Withdrawn by letter of withdrawal. If the member's request occurs during the course of a judicial investigation, the secretary shall note on the membership record, Withdrawn under accusation, and if withdrawal occurs during the course of a hearing, Withdrawn under charges (cf. 5048).

595. When any member joins another denomination, or other religious body exercising the functions of a church, or a secret society, no hearing is necessary to remove such a member. The pastor, having investigated and ascertained the facts, shall report the same to the next session of the local board of administration, and upon the board's order the local church secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the session, and Withdrawn having joined another body.

598. When any member moves away from the church in which membership is held, and it is evident that distance will not permit full and regular participation in the life of the church, the pastor shall encourage the member to transfer membership to the Wesleyan church nearest the new residence. To that end, the pastor shall notify the Executive Director of Communication and Administration of The Wesleyan Church of the name and address of the member.

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

605. When any member fails to attend the services of the church where membership is held for one year without a reason deemed justifiable by the local board of administration, or to support the church financially, as able, the pastor and local board of administration shall seek to restore the member to active fellowship, but if unable to do so, the member's name may be dropped upon recommendation of the local board of administration and the majority vote of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the local board of administration. The secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the vote, and Discontinued by vote for persistent neglect. If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation of membership commitment, such action shall constitute neglect and shall be cause for removal.

F. Record of Membership

610. Each local church shall have a permanent record maintained by the local church secretary, in which shall be recorded all the names of the members, category of membership, the time when received and whether by confession of faith or by letter of transfer, the time and manner of termination of membership according to the list in 605, or by death; and all dedications, baptisms, marriages, pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent written record of the life and ministry of the local church.

Chapter 3

LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

A. Composition and Function

625. The members of a local church, duly called and assembled together to do business, constitute the local church conference. It is the highest governing body of a local Wesleyan church, and exercises those powers granted to the local church by the Constitution (315), and other powers specifically granted to the local church conference by the General Conference as set forth in *The Discipline* (cf. 302; 500; 555).

B. Sessions

630. Regular Sessions.

(1) **Annual Sessions.** The local church conference shall meet annually, near the close of the fiscal year, as established by the district conference (1180:18), at a time approved by the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor and announced from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance (cf. 625). Reports shall be made; the officers, local board of administration and trustees shall be elected (cf. 815; 823; 965; 1103); and such other business shall be transacted as necessary (cf. 650).

(2) **Quarterly Sessions.** The local church conference may choose to meet quarterly at such times as the district superintendent and pastor shall arrange, unless the district superintendent shall in writing delegate to the pastor full authority for setting such dates. Such quarterly sessions shall be announced from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance of the appointed time. At each session, reports shall be given and other business transacted as necessary (cf. 650).

633. Special Session.

(1) **General Business.** The local church conference may be called into special session by the pastor, or in times of emergency by the district superintendent, for the transaction of any business other than the election of officers, with announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be given not less than one week before the appointed time. Notice shall also be given one week in advance in the church bulletin, when such is available. The requirements for special sessions dealing with legal or property matters are set forth in 4040 and 4700.

(2) **Reception of Members.** In those churches in which the local church conference must vote on the reception of members (567), the pastor may call a special session for such a vote, with announcement from the pulpit in one regular service in advance of the appointed time.

(3) **Pastoral Vote.** The vice-chair of the local board of administration (635; 773), when authorized to do so by the local board of administration, and having notified the district superintendent, may call a special session of the local church conference to conduct a pastoral vote, with announcement from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance of the appointed time, except that during negotiations for calling a new pastor the announcement need be made only from the pulpit and in only one regular service in advance of the appointed time.

C. Organization and Procedure

1. Officers

635. Chair. The district superintendent, or a representative appointed by the district superintendent, shall preside over the local church conference whenever present. In their absence, the pastor shall preside, except over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a pastor. The vice-chair of the local board of administration (773) shall preside over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a pastor, if the district superintendent, or a representative appointed by the district superintendent, is not present. The vice-chair may also preside, at the request of the pastor, over other sessions of the local church conference. In emergencies, when the pastor is absent or incapacitated, the vice-chair may preside over other sessions with the permission of the district superintendent.

638. Secretary. The local church secretary, elected annually by the local church conference, shall serve as secretary of the local church conference by virtue of this office (830:1).

2. Procedure

640. Quorum. Those members who assemble for a meeting of the local church conference when such has been duly called shall constitute a quorum.

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

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

650. Order of Business. The local church conference, in all regular sessions, whether annually or quarterly, shall give special attention to the spiritual, numerical, and financial progress of the church, including the following items:

(1) Reading of minutes of last session, unless authority to approve the minutes has been delegated by the local church conference to the local board of administration.

(2) Receiving the reports of the pastor(s), spiritual formation director, Sunday school superintendent, director of women's ministry, coordinator of Wesleyan Kids for Missions, director of adult ministries, director of Wesleyan Youth, director of children's ministries, and any others the local church conference shall order.

(3) Receiving the reports of the various treasurers (cf. 863).

(4) Receiving and acting upon the reports of boards and committees.

(5) Receiving the reports of the lay ministers.

(6) Granting or renewing of local licenses for lay ministers.

(7) Recommending suitable members to the district conference for district licenses as ministerial students and special workers (315:3–4).

(8) Electing of officers, trustees and delegates.

(9) Miscellaneous business.

D. Duties and Powers

655. The local church conference has duties and powers:

(1) To approve by vote the reception of members and to expel or discontinue members unless it delegates full authority concerning membership to the local board of administration (567; 315:1). Such authority may be withdrawn from the local board of administration at any annual session of the local church conference.

(2) To call a pastor or renew the call (315:2; 692; 705; 718; 720; 735), or to vote on the termination of a renewed call as set forth in 722:2.

(3) To authorize a nominating committee, which shall be chaired by the pastor, to which the local board of administration shall elect two members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) from its membership, and to which the local church conference may, at its option, elect up to four

additional members who meet the leadership qualifications who are not members of the local board of administration (820–823).

(4) To elect the church officers (315:5), which shall consist of the lay leader (if any, cf. 833), the spiritual formation director (if any 880:5), the local church secretary (830), the local church treasurer (if any, cf. 842), the Sunday school superintendent (if any, cf. 889), the trustees (designating annually at least one trustee to serve as a member of the local board of administration (850), members-at-large of the local board of administration (cf. 752), and lay delegates to the district conference (315:5, 7).

(5) To receive reports from the pastor(s), church officers, lay ministers and other persons, boards, and committees as desired, and as listed in 650:2–5.

(6) To remove, when such is in the best interests of the church, by a majority vote of those present and voting, any church officer, trustee, or delegate mentioned in 655:4 (cf. 782:25).

(7) To license lay ministers (315:3), and to renew or revoke such license (cf. 782:20; 3410; 3420; 3440:2). This power may be delegated to the local board of administration.

(8) To recommend suitable members to the district conference for district licenses as ministerial students, licensed ministers, or special workers (315:3). This power may be delegated to the local board of administration.

(9) To adopt petitions or resolutions to the district conference, including memorials proposed for recommendation to the General Conference (1150–1156).

(10) To adopt financial policies, which policies shall be administered by the local board of administration (cf. 782:30).

(11) To authorize the enlargement or decrease of the employed staff (cf. 782:17).

(12) To adopt an annual budget (cf. 782:31), and to authorize all expenditures not provided for in the annual budget; or to delegate to the local board of administration (782:31) full authority over the annual budget.

(13) To authorize the purchase or sale of property, the erection or major remodeling of buildings (1345:2), and all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property, subject to the prior approval of the district board of administration, according to the procedure set forth in 4700–4720.

(14) To corroborate by majority vote, if not under discipline, the action of the district board of administration to discontinue the local church (1233:30).

(15) To petition the district board of administration for the incorporation of the local church when it is deemed necessary as set forth in

4000, and to authorize the local board of administration to incorporate the church when such incorporation has been approved by the district board of administration (1233:33).

(16) To authorize, subject to the approval of the district board of administration, the establishment and operation of a mission (cf. 537; 782:6; 1233:30), a branch Sunday school, or a developing church, in order to share the benefits of the gospel with others.

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

(18) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other local, or district, or general units or agencies of the denomination (315:8; see also *General Board Policy on Church Discipline*).

(19) To authorize the establishment of a day care and/or a day school of preschool, elementary and secondary levels only, when such is desired, subject to approval by the district board of administration; and to delegate governance of the day care and/or day school to the local board of administration (cf. 782:36; 1233:35). A local church conference shall not formalize post-secondary education in terms of an institute or of junior college or college-level programs, without prior approval of the district conference and the General Board. (Cf. 1180:24; 1655:36.)

(20) To authorize significant changes in mission, facilities, or finances of an established day care and/or day school, subject to approval by the district board of administration (cf. 1233:35).

Chapter 4

PASTORS

A. Function

675. A pastor is an ordained, commissioned or licensed minister, who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve as the spiritual shepherd, teacher, and administrative overseer of the local church, preaching the Word, directing the worship, administering the sacraments and ordinances of the Church, taking the comforts of the gospel to the sin-burdened, the sick and the distressed, disciplining converts, nurturing and instructing believers, equipping and enabling them for their part in ministry, and serving as chief executive officer in the government of the local church.

678. A minister who serves as the sole pastor of a church shall be referred to simply as “the pastor.” The term “senior pastor” shall be applied to the presiding minister of a multiple pastoral staff. The pastor shall be expected to carry out the full pastoral function as set forth in 675, and ultimate responsibility for the same shall rest upon the senior pastor. An associate pastor is a helping member of a multiple staff who normally shares a broad range of the shepherding and teaching responsibilities and such administrative responsibilities as are delegated (cf. 738). An assistant pastor is a helping member of a multiple staff who normally is assigned more limited and specific aspects of the pastoral function (cf. 741).

B. Manner of Pastoral Voting

1. Jurisdiction in Pastoral Voting

690. All matters related to voting on securing or retaining a pastor are the concern of a pastoral charge (503), whether it consists of a single church or a circuit. In most instances, a pastoral charge will consist of one local church, and the following paragraphs are so written. If a circuit is involved, the vice-chair of the circuit advisory council (530) assumes leadership in all negotiations, the circuit advisory council fills the role of the local board of administration, and the circuit conference rather than the local church conference is the voting body.

2. Regulations for All Pastoral Voting

691. Procedures of Candidating. In all matters related to pastoral candidating the following regulations shall be observed:

(1) Only one pastoral candidate at a time shall be presented to the congregation for a message. A decision by the local board of administration to recommend a pastor for a congregational vote, and the vote, if recommended, must take place before another candidate is considered.

(2) The support including salary, expense allowances, housing, fringe benefits, moving expenses, and related matters which the church proposes to maintain must be provided for the candidate prior to a pastoral vote.

(3) A minister who has agreed to give a candidating message and to submit to a pastoral vote at one church, cannot do the same with another church until the first candidating situation is resolved. If the local board of administration does not recommend the candidating pastor for a congregational vote within seven days, the waiting restriction no longer applies.

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

(1) All pastoral votes shall be taken at a duly announced session of the local church conference (630–633).

(2) The district superintendent, or a representative appointed by the district superintendent, shall preside over the local church conference for the taking of the pastoral vote. If neither can be present, the vice-chair of the local board of administration shall preside.

(3) All pastoral votes shall be taken by secret ballot by members with special provision for absentee ballots (695).

(4) A favorable vote by a majority of members voting shall be required (705; 718; 720; 722).

(5) The minister shall be notified by the local board of administration of the results of the vote,

(6) If the vote is favorable, the minister shall notify the local board of administration and the district superintendent by phone and in writing of a decision within seven days following the official notification of such call by the local church.

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

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

(2) The local church secretary must certify the envelope as being submitted by a member to whom the secretary has supplied a ballot, and who is eligible to cast an absentee ballot. In the event that the local church secretary is unable to certify the eligibility of the person casting an absentee ballot, the secretary may consult the vice-chair of the local board of administration to determine eligibility.

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

697. District Approval of Pastoral Agreement. A pastoral agreement, whether for an initial call or a renewal of call, must be reviewed and recommended by the district board of administration, and becomes final upon the approval of the district conference. Each year the district board of administration shall review those pastoral agreements which are continuing before making its report to the district conference (1180:26; 1233:10).

700. Time of Pastoral Changes. Except for such emergencies as resignations, removals or deaths, pastoral changes shall take place on the Monday following the second Sunday of July.

3. Regulations for Initial Call of Pastor

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

(1) The vote shall be for a two-year call, subject to such adjustment as the district superintendent shall approve, so that the term shall expire at the uniform time set by the General Conference (700).

(2) The initial call may be for four years or an extended call if such is recommended by the local board of administration and approved by the district superintendent. In case of an extended call the rules governing an extended call shall apply (720).

(3) The local board of administration, under the leadership of its vice-chair, shall counsel with the district superintendent concerning possible candidates. If the church desires to call a minister from another district or from outside the denomination, the local board of administration shall first

secure from its own district superintendent assurance that the transfer of the minister would be approved (cf. 313:6).

(4) When a candidate has been approved by a majority vote of the local board of administration (cf. 782:14), the candidate's name shall be presented as a nomination to the local church conference, and the vote shall be taken in keeping with the regulations governing all pastoral voting (692).

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

710. Initial Call Resignation. If a pastor resigns during the initial call term of service to a church, the pastor must notify the local board of administration and the district superintendent sixty days in advance. If the district superintendent and the local board of administration deem it wise, the pastor may be released sooner.

712. Initial Call Removal. During the initial call term of a pastor's service, the district board of administration may remove the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members, provided such has been requested by the local board of administration by a two-thirds majority vote in a meeting presided over by the district superintendent, or such has been recommended by the district superintendent (cf. 1233:39).

715. Ad Interim Procedures. If a pastoral charge is left without a pastor between sessions of the district conference due to death, resignation or removal, the local board of administration and the local church conference shall follow the regular procedures for securing a new pastor with all arrangements subject to the approval of the district board of administration (cf. 1233:39).

4. Regulations for Renewal of Call

718. Procedure for Renewal of Call. Whenever a pastor's term of service is expiring, unless the pastor shall give notice otherwise to the vice-chair of the

local board of administration (773) and the district superintendent, in writing and at least sixty days prior to the convening of the district conference, the pastor shall be considered as available, and a vote on the renewal of the pastoral call shall be taken in keeping with the regulations governing all pastoral voting (692).

(1) One of the following alternative procedures shall be followed:

(a) A vote for a four-year renewal of the call shall be taken. If the vote on a four-year renewal of the call is favorable, the local board of administration, after consulting with the pastor, may then recommend that a ballot vote be taken to renew the call for an extended period (720).

(b) Or, prior to the vote on renewing the call, the local board of administration, after consultation with the pastor, shall recommend to the local church conference a specific call for four years, or an extended call.

(2) A vote for a one or two-year renewal of the call may be authorized by the district superintendent upon the joint request of the pastor and the local board of administration when such is due to extenuating circumstances.

720. Special Regulations for Extended Call.

(1) When a pastor is serving for an extended period, the pastor may, when deemed advisable and when approval has been granted by the district superintendent, ask the local board of administration to conduct a vote by the local church conference on renewing the extended call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 692.

(2) When a pastor is serving for an extended period, the district superintendent shall review the pastoral agreement with the local board of administration at least quadrennially. The local board of administration by a majority vote shall either reaffirm the call or ask the local church conference to vote on renewing the call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 692.

722. Termination of Renewed Call. The service of a pastor whose call has been renewed may be terminated prior to the expiration of the term or in the interim of quadrennial reviews of an extended call (720:2) in one of three ways:

(1) The pastor may resign, provided that the termination of service is first approved by the district superintendent. Except as otherwise mutually agreed upon by the local board of administration and the district board of administration, notification of the pastor's resignation shall be given at least sixty days in advance and the resignation shall become effective in sixty days or at the time set by the district for pastoral changes (700).

(2) If one-third of the members of the local board of administration so request the district superintendent in writing, the district superintendent or a representative appointed by the district superintendent shall call and preside over a special session of the local board of administration for the purpose of deciding

on whether to call for a pastoral vote by the local church conference. If the local board of administration by majority vote calls for the taking of such a vote, and the district superintendent approves the taking of the same, it shall be taken in keeping with 692. If there is a majority vote of the local church conference in favor of retaining the pastor, and the pastor agrees to remain, the pastor shall be free to continue as if the vote had not been taken. If less than a majority are favorable to retaining the pastor, pastoral service shall terminate at the time set by the district for pastoral changes (700), or at a time mutually agreed upon by the pastor, the local board of administration and the district superintendent.

(3) The district board of administration may, by a majority vote, order the district superintendent to conduct a pastoral vote in keeping with 692. Or the district board of administration, upon the recommendation of the district superintendent (1310:22), and for the sake of the pastoral charge involved, may remove the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members (1233:39), with the services of the pastor terminating in sixty days unless ordered otherwise by the district board of administration. If at any time the district board of administration shall deem it in the interests of the district as a whole that the pastor be free to serve elsewhere, it may by majority vote request the pastor to resign.

C. Pastoral Support and Sabbatical

723. Annual Review of Pastoral Support. The pastor's cash salary and other benefits, including health insurance and employer contributions for the Wesleyan Pension Fund (WPF), shall be reviewed annually by the local board of administration prior to the annual session of the local church conference, whether or not a vote is being taken on the securing or retaining of a pastor. Proper health insurance coverage should be provided by the local church for pastor and family except in cases in which they have adequate coverage through other employment of pastor and/or spouse, or in the case of pastors serving in Canada, through the national health program. Full participation in the Wesleyan Pension Fund by the local church on behalf of all pastors is expected in the plan of support of all pastors. The obligation, responsibility, and liability for both health insurance premiums and employer contributions to WPF belong solely to the local church. The district and General Church have no obligation, responsibility, nor liability for these matters, either expressed or implied. A report of the final action on the pastor's support, whether by the local board of administration or by the local church conference, shall be sent by the local board of administration in writing to both the pastor (or pastor-elect, cf. 692:5) and the district superintendent (cf. 746).

724. Sabbatical for Pastors. Every Wesleyan church is encouraged to provide a sabbatical leave for its pastor(s) at least every seven years of service. A sabbatical shall be for a minimum of four weeks in excess of vacation time with financial provisions as approved by the local board of administration. (Cf. 723, 746.)

D. Duties and Powers

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

General

- (1) To diligently study the Scriptures, pray, and do the work assigned.
- (2) To seek, by all means, the conversion of sinners, the sanctification of believers, and the upbuilding of God's people in the most holy faith.
- (3) To pray to God for and with the flock.
- (4) To feed the flock by reading, expounding, teaching, and preaching the Word.
- (5) To have the general guidance, under the Holy Spirit, of the religious services, including the midweek service, appointing musicians (cf. 870) and cultivating the practice of corporate worship.
- (6) To administer, if an ordained (313:1), commissioned (3059:2a) or licensed minister (3044:1), the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Each pastor is encouraged to provide for the observance of the Lord's Supper at least once each month, but is required to do so at least once every three months (293). A supply pastor shall secure the services of an ordained (313:1), commissioned (3059:2) or licensed minister (3044:1) who is a pastor, for such observance (3260:2), except when authorization has been granted by a district superintendent as provided in 3260:2.
- (7) To solemnize, if an ordained (313:1), commissioned (3059:2a) or licensed minister (3044:1), the rite of matrimony, in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline* (265:6; 3111–3112); to counsel with those being married and those already married, emphasizing the spiritual values in all phases of marital and parental life, seeking to develop the spiritual ideals and resources necessary to build permanent unions and godly homes (cf. 410:6).
- (8) To comfort the bereaved and to bury the dead.

(9) To provide pastoral guidance and oversight through visitation and counsel to the members of the church and to others in need of a pastor's help. The minister, as counselor, has the right to protect the conversation with a counselee as privileged communication.

(10) To keep all members fully conversant with the Christian life-style set forth in the Membership Commitments and the biblical basis for the same, and to maintain with diligence and love adherence to these membership requirements (cf. 260–268).

(11) To be responsible for the instruction of all prospective members in the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments and polity of The Wesleyan Church, and in the meaning and purpose of church membership, holding or arranging for membership classes for all members (cf. 566–570; 782:8; 880:11).

(12) To administer the ritual of membership and to give the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the church to new members (553:4; 5550–5595).

(13) To report the names and addresses of members who have moved away to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration of The Wesleyan Church (598).

(14) To grant, in conjunction with the local church secretary, letters of transfer, recommendation or withdrawal (575; 590; 592; 6000–6040).

(15) To receive any complaint or accusation against any member of a church under personal care, and to give such prompt and careful attention as required under the Judiciary (5000–5008) and the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline and Ministerial Restoration*, and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the local board of administration for disposition (782:12).

Administrative

(16) To preside as chair of the local church conference and the local board of administration except as otherwise provided (635; 770–773), and to oversee and direct all departments and local church organizations as the chief executive officer.

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

(18) To meet with women's ministry, Wesleyan Youth, spiritual formation and any of their committees as deemed best and to call a special meeting of an auxiliary or any of its committees; to serve as an *ex officio* member of

the executive committees of the auxiliaries, and as chair, or to appoint a representative as chair, of the nominating committees of the auxiliaries.

(19) To give leadership to the missionary, evangelistic, educational, and devotional programs of the local church in harmony with objectives and programs of the district and the General Church; to request the approval of the district superintendent for the use of an evangelist or worker who is not a member of The Wesleyan Church for a revival or any other event (cf. 1310:24).

(20) To promote all the interests of the General Church and the district in the local church, in the manner and to the extent authorized by the General Conference, the General Board, and the district conference.

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

(22) To promote stewardship, emphasizing tithing and the storehouse plan as a part of the Christian's total stewardship (cf. 460–475), and to see that tithes and freewill offerings are collected regularly.

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

(24) To see that no steps are taken involving the church in financial liability without proper authorization from the local board of administration and local church conference, or without the approval of the district board of administration when such financial liability involves the mortgaging or other encumbering of the church property (655:12–13; 782:28–32; 1233:33).

(25) To see that all property and building transactions are carried out as set forth in 4700–4720.

(26) To circulate holiness literature and to use in all educational departments and agencies curriculum materials provided by The Wesleyan Church.

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

(28) To enlist youth for the gospel ministry, and for missionary and other special work, encouraging and helping them to prepare for their God-appointed task at educational institutions provided by The Wesleyan Church; to sign, in

conjunction with the local church secretary (830:3), licenses for lay ministers granted by the local church conference (655:7; 782:20); and to have the oversight over all lay ministers employing their services as constantly and effectively as possible.

(29) To recommend to the local board of administration a potential associate pastor (738); to nominate to the local board of administration an assistant pastor (741) or a lay assistant to the pastor (744); to nominate to the local board of administration all members of the employed staff, except the custodians (cf. 782:17; 856:5); and to supervise, with the assistance of the local board of administration, the services of all employed staff members, including the custodians (cf. 782:17).

(30) To see that up-to-date files are kept on church constituency, membership, Sunday school enrollment, the membership of subsidiary organizations, and subscriptions to the various district publications, and to be ready to turn over such lists to the successor in office (cf. 610; 830:2, 5; 895; 928).

(31) To see that adequate historical records and financial records are maintained for the church (cf. 610; 842:2, 6; 898).

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

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

E. Pastoral Staff

735. Pastor/Senior Pastor. An ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve as sole pastor of a church shall be referred to simply as “the pastor.” The term “senior pastor” is applied to the presiding minister in a multiple pastoral staff who bears ultimate responsibility for carrying out the function set forth in 675.

738. Associate Pastor. An associate pastor is an ordained minister or a commissioned or licensed minister, who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve along with the senior pastor and under the direction of the senior pastor as assigned by the senior pastor and approved by the local board of administration; this assignment normally includes a broad range of the

shepherding and teaching responsibilities and such administrative responsibilities as are delegated, but may be concentrated on one or more specific aspects of ministry (cf. 675). The calling and assignment of the associate pastor shall be subject to the following guidelines:

(1) The associate pastor shall have training, experience, and ministerial standing compatible with those of the senior pastor.

(2) The associate pastor is recommended to the local board of administration by the senior pastor. The associate pastor cannot be employed initially without the express recommendation of the senior pastor and the written approval of the district superintendent. The call cannot be renewed without the express recommendation of the senior pastor. Otherwise, the call is made and renewed by the local church conference in the same manner as that of the senior pastor, except that the termination point for the call can never be later than that of the senior pastor.

(3) The associate pastor's appointment may be terminated in the same manner as that for a pastor, with the additional provision that the term of service will end whenever there is a change in senior pastor in the local church where service is rendered. Whenever a senior pastor terminates service at a time other than the uniform time of pastoral change (700), the associate pastor's term shall expire at the succeeding uniform time for such change. The newly called senior pastor may recommend renewal of the call for the associate pastor to the local board of administration.

(4) If a clergy couple is appointed to the pastoral staff, only one shall be designated as senior pastor, unless the local church conference should vote to call the persons as co-pastors. In such case, the district shall appoint them as co-pastors and they shall be listed as such in the district journal (1332:8).

741. Assistant Pastor. An assistant pastor is an ordained minister or a commissioned or licensed minister, who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve under the direction of the senior pastor as assigned by the senior pastor and approved by the local board of administration; this assignment normally includes more limited and specific aspects of the pastoral ministry (cf. 678). The calling and assignment of the assistant pastor shall be subject to the following guidelines:

(1) The assistant pastor shall have the training, experience, and ministerial standing which are suitable for this assignment.

(2) The assistant pastor is recommended to the local board of administration by the senior pastor. The assistant pastor cannot be employed initially without the express recommendation of the senior pastor and the written approval of the district superintendent. The call cannot be renewed

without the express recommendation of the senior pastor. While the local church conference creates the position, the local board of administration employs the person subject to the recommendation of the pastor and approval of the district conference. Employment shall be for one year at a time except that its termination point can never be later than that of the senior pastor.

(3) The assistant pastor's appointment may be terminated at any time at the pastor's recommendation and the vote of the local board of administration. The term of service will end whenever there is a change in senior pastor in the local church where service is rendered. Whenever a senior pastor terminates service at a time other than the uniform time of pastoral change (700), the assistant pastor's term shall expire at the succeeding uniform time for such change. The newly called senior pastor may recommend the reemployment of the assistant pastor to the local board of administration.

(4) The office of assistant pastor is an employed position, subject to final approval by the district conference. It is to be assigned to no one as an honor or to provide special status.

744. Lay Assistant to the Pastor. Lay members may also serve as paid assistants. While the local church conference creates the position, the local board of administration employs the person subject to the recommendation of the pastor.

(1) The lay assistant must be a member of the local church where employed.

(2) Employment shall be for one year at a time.

(3) Employment of a licensed or commissioned special worker shall be subject to review by the district board of administration and appointment by the district conference.

746. Annual Review of Staff Support. The salaries and benefits of the pastoral staff and other employees of the church, including health insurance and employee contributions for the Wesleyan Pension Fund, shall be reviewed annually by the local board of administration in a manner parallel to that provided for the pastor. Reports on the provisions for staff and employees shall be sent to the district superintendent only for those under district appointment. (Cf. 724.)

Chapter 5

LOCAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Function

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

B. Membership

752. Local Board of Administration Organizational Options. The local church conference shall adopt one of the following structural models for the organization and election of the local board of administration (cf. 315:5). All board members shall be adult members, whose lives bear witness to the grace of holy living (297:1; 302:3–4; 552:2–3; 553:1–3); who are in harmony with our Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government (297:3; 553:1–2); and who are faithful in worship attendance, involved in personal ministry, and supportive of the church financially at least to the level of personal tithing (265:3; 297:4).

(1) **Standard Model.** The local board of administration shall be comprised minimally of the pastor as chair (675, 678, 725:16, 735), the associate pastor (if any and except when the pastor's spouse; 678, 738), the vice-chair (773), the church secretary (830), the church treasurer or business manager (842). If the church has a separate board of trustees, at least one trustee shall be designated by the local church conference to serve as an *ex officio* member of the local board of administration (315:6, 850). Additional members-at-large may be elected by the local church conference in such numbers as it shall determine. It is recommended that the total number of all voting members of the local board of administration using the standard model should not exceed twelve persons.

(2) **Alternate Models.** Alternate models of local church governance may be considered by the local church conference in consultation with the district superintendent and with the prior approval of the district board of administration. When evaluating proposed alternate models, the district board of administration shall give due consideration to safeguard the following constitutional and practical principles:

(a) All local church officers, local board of administration members, trustees, and district conference delegates must be members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558), of the local church electing them (302:3–4, 552:2–3, 815).

(b) All officers, board members, trustees, and district conference delegates must be elected by the eligible voting members of the local church conference (315:5–7). No pastor or other official has any right to appoint an officer or declare an office vacant (315:5). Since the right to elect officers and trustees vests solely in each pastoral charge (315:5–6), no board has the right to become self-perpetuating by electing its own members, other than temporarily filling unexpired terms when vacancies occur in the interim of local church conferences (782:27).

(c) Due to obvious conflicts of interest, no compensated church staff member may vote on compensation issues on the governing board of the local church by which he or she is employed. The only exception is the pastor, who is the chair but not an employee of the local board of administration, rather being called by the local church conference and appointed by the district conference (323:1–2).

(d) No member may be excluded from local church leadership on the basis of ancestry, color or gender (360:3d).

755. It is recommended that no two persons of the same household be elected to serve on the same local board of administration, that no person shall be elected to more than one office carrying *ex officio* membership on the board, and it is recommended that a former pastor should not serve on the local board of administration (3097).

758. A local church conference may, by a two-thirds vote, adopt three-year terms for the local board of administration, with approximately one-third being elected each year.

C. Sessions

760. Regular Sessions. It is recommended that the local board of administration meet monthly.

763. Special Sessions. The local board of administration may authorize special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the pastor, the vice-chair (for sessions dealing with a pastoral vote or with the pastor's financial support and related matters), or in times of emergency by the district superintendent or a representative appointed by the district superintendent. A special session may be held at any time if all members of

the local board of administration are present. Otherwise, each shall have been notified either personally or by a notice mailed to the residence of the board member at least forty-eight hours prior to the convening of the session. A special session may not be conducted in the absence of the pastor except as provided for in 773.

767. Evaluation Session. Periodically, either during regular sessions or in a session called specifically for self-evaluation, the local board of administration shall consider its priorities, review the distribution of its time, and evaluate the effectiveness of its efforts, using the duties and powers listed in *The Discipline* as a guide. The method and extent of each evaluation shall be determined by the board, but special attention should be focused on those responsibilities that are most likely to contribute to future outreach and growth to the glory of God.

D. Organization and Procedure

1. Officers

770. Chair. The pastor shall be chair of the local board of administration, *ex officio*, presiding over all sessions except as noted in 773.

773. Vice-Chair. The pastor may nominate and the local board of administration shall elect one of its members as vice-chair. The vice-chair may preside over meetings of the local board of administration when a pastoral vote or the pastor's support is under discussion (for exceptions, cf. 712; 722:2). The vice-chair may also preside over sessions or portions of sessions of the local church conference dealing with a pastoral vote or the pastor's support when neither the district superintendent nor a representative of the district superintendent are present (635; 692:2). The vice-chair may preside, at the request of the pastor, over other sessions of the local board of administration or of the local church conference. In emergencies, when the pastor is absent or incapacitated, the vice-chair may also preside over other sessions of the local board of administration and local church conference with the permission of the district superintendent. The district superintendent or a representative of the district superintendent shall preside over all sessions of the local board of administration considering the termination of a pastoral agreement (712; 722:2), and in times of emergency.

775. Secretary. The local church secretary shall be secretary of the local board of administration *ex officio* (830). If the secretary is absent, the local board of administration may elect a secretary pro tem.

2. Procedure

778. Quorum. A majority of the members of the local board of administration shall constitute a quorum.

780. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient in all items of business except when voting on the reception of a member against whom an objection has been made, which shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting (567; 782:9); and when petitioning the district board of administration to remove a pastor during the initial call, which shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting (712; 782:14).

3. Local Church Governance Philosophy

781. The health and growth of the local church is a shared responsibility, with the board focused on governing, the pastor on leading, the staff (employed or volunteer) on managing, and the congregation on ministering to the community and to one another. The local board of administration governs the local church primarily by (a) clarifying its mission and stating the primary outcomes it exists to achieve; (b) setting guiding principles within which the pastor and staff have great discretion and freedom to work in order to achieve the mission, including the adoption of operating policies, the budget, and measurable, annual goals proposed by the pastor for accomplishing the mission; (c) periodically evaluating the established goals in consultation with the district superintendent, giving special attention to rewarding achievement or requiring specific plans for improvement in areas of underperformance; and (d) protecting the pastor, staff, and church by dealing with problem issues and persons that threaten fulfillment of the mission.

As leader of the local church, the pastor is responsible for (a) inspiring and teaching the congregation through word and example; (b) chairing, motivating, and informing the board; (c) operating within the boundaries of established guiding principles; (d) proposing measurable goals for adoption by the board; (e) selecting, directing, and supervising the staff (employed or volunteer) for the daily operations and ministries of the church in order to accomplish mission-centered goals; and (f) being accountable to the board for achieving mutually agreed upon goals. In summary, the board focuses on mission clarity, policy, goals, evaluation, and accountability; the pastor and staff focus on leadership and management.

E. Duties and Powers

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

General

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

(2) To provide a place of worship.

(3) To counsel with the pastor, as the pastor may request, concerning all phases of the pastor's work, and to coordinate the work of all the officers, boards, committees, and auxiliaries of the church.

(4) To cooperate with the pastor in evaluating the health of the local church; establishing policies, goals, and objectives for more effectively fulfilling the mission of the church; empowering the pastor to pursue the goals and objectives, within the established policies and through the staff and members; and periodically receiving performance reports from the pastor regarding progress.

(5) To receive monthly reports from the pastor (725:32), associate and assistant pastor(s), church treasurer (842:3), Sunday school treasurer (898); quarterly reports from the spiritual formation director; quarterly reports from the Sunday school superintendent (889:6); and reports as the local board of administration shall require from all officers, boards, committees, auxiliaries, and auxiliary officers.

(6) To direct the church in its evangelistic outreach, seeking to win its community to Christ; to establish an extension department of spiritual formation (880:15; 913); to recommend to the local church conference the establishment and operation of a mission, a branch Sunday school, a branch small group Bible study, or a developing church, as it deems necessary and proper (cf. 537; 655:16).

(7) To adopt an annual calendar of events.

Membership

(8) To provide for the examination of all candidates for church membership, which may be done by delegating the actual examination to a committee on witness and membership (835–837); and to assist the pastor in providing church membership classes (566–570; 725:11; 880:11).

(9) To make recommendations concerning the reception of members to the local church conference, unless full authority concerning such reception has been delegated by the local church conference to the local board of administration (567; 655:1); and when such authority has been delegated, to authorize the reception of members by a majority vote, except that when an objection is raised against the reception of a member it shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to receive (553:2; 567; 780).

(10) To approve the reception of student members (564); or to drop student members from the roll (564–565).

(11) To examine the church membership roll annually, and to provide for its revision according to the provisions of *The Discipline* (553–610; cf. 655:1).

(12) To consider all accusations and charges against members of the local church, and to appoint a committee of investigation and a local judicial committee as provided for in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5012; 5105:1, 4; 5110; cf. 5221).

(13) To instruct the local church secretary concerning the removal of the name of a member who has joined another religious body or secret society (595); to recommend to the local church conference that it remove from the roll by majority vote the name of a member who has moved away and neither transferred membership to the nearest Wesleyan church nor maintained contact with and support of the former church (600), and that it remove by a majority vote the name of a member who has failed to attend or support the church where membership is held for one year without proper reason (605), unless the local church conference shall have delegated full responsibilities in such matters to the local board of administration (655:1).

Pastors, Staff and Licensed Workers

(14) To nominate pastor and associate pastor to the local church conference (705:3–4; 738:2); to assume full responsibility for securing a pastor when such is delegated by the local church conference (708); and to recommend to the district board of administration by a two-thirds majority vote the termination of a pastoral agreement if such becomes necessary during the initial call (712).

(15) To recommend to the local church conference after a favorable vote has been received for a four-year renewal of the call, the renewal of the pastor's call for an extended period (718:1a); or to recommend prior to the vote on the renewal of call, and after consultation with the pastor, a specific call for four years or, an extended call (718:1b); to review at least quadrennially with the district

superintendent an extended call and by majority vote to reaffirm the call or recommend for the local church conference to vote on renewing the call (720:2); to meet, at the request of one-third of its members and under the district superintendent or a representative appointed by the district superintendent as chair, to consider the possibility of ordering a pastoral vote before the expiration of a renewed call, and to call for such a vote by majority vote (722:2).

(16) To review annually the pastor's support and related matters (723; 724).

(17) To recommend to the local church conference the number of employed staff positions, including office secretary, custodian, and assistant pastor(s) (655:11); to employ persons for all such staff positions as have been authorized by the local church conference, subject to the pastor's nominations for office employees and assistant pastors and the board of trustees' nominations for custodians; to define the duties and working conditions of all such employees; and to assist the pastor in the supervision of all employed staff members.

(18) To employ evangelists, evangelistic singers, and other special workers as needed (cf. 1310:24).

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

(20) To recommend to the local church conference the licensing and the renewing or revoking of licenses of lay ministers (cf. 315:3; 655:7).

(21) To recommend ministerial students and special workers to the local church conference for their approval and recommendation to the district conference for district licenses (cf. 315:4; 655:8).

Officers, Boards, Committees and Auxiliaries

(22) To elect, when so authorized by the local church conference (655:3), two members of a nominating committee from among the members of the local board of administration to serve as set forth in 820–823.

(23) To elect annually at such time as it shall determine, an auditing committee (863); all spiritual formation and Sunday school leaders except the director or superintendent, and all departmental supervisors and teachers (880:7; 895–900; 906); one or more offering tellers (845:3); and such of the following as are needed and can be supplied: financial or tithing secretary (845:2), children's ministry director, local educational director (926), literature secretary (928), local missions director (930), local evangelism director (935), adult youth leader, and other special assignments.

(24) To approve two or more nominees submitted by the nominating committees, or to present other nominations as desired, for the director of women's ministry, and to ratify the election of officers by this auxiliary; to ratify the election of Wesleyan Youth officers, and to review and approve the actions of all the auxiliaries.

(25) To organize and elect such boards and committees as it deems necessary to the proper organization of the church, such as the committee on witness and membership (835–837), committee on finance and stewardship (865–868), music committee (870–873), ushering committee (873), communion committee (873), committee on missions (955), and committee on evangelism (960); and to receive and evaluate their recommendations, including their appointment of subcommittees; to serve as or to establish a spiritual formation leadership team, to determine its membership and to elect such members and to delegate full authority of the duties listed in 880:1–21 as it deems wise (cf. 875; 880:1–22).

(26) To recommend to the local church conference the removal from office of any church officer, trustee or delegate (315:5; 655:4, 6), and to remove by majority vote of the local board of administration all who fill other positions (825:4) and officers of auxiliaries.

(27) To fill all vacancies occurring in those offices elected by the local church conference, in the interim of its annual sessions, and all vacancies occurring in offices elected by the local board of administration; and to provide for the filling of vacancies in the auxiliaries in keeping with their respective constitutions.

Property and Finance

(28) To direct the local board of trustees in the maintenance of church property, the signing of notes and mortgages and the attending to all legal matters connected with the church, in keeping with the requirements of local laws (4510), and *The Discipline* (850–859; 4500–4720; 4760); or if trustee responsibility is delegated to the local board of administration by the local church conference, to care for such matters.

(29) To direct the local board of trustees to secure sufficient property and liability insurance to cover all buildings and vehicles owned and operated by the local church (856:8); or if trustee responsibility is delegated to the local board of administration by the local church conference, to care for such matters.

(30) To recommend to the local church conference financial policies, and to administer such as are adopted (cf. 655:10). The local board of

administration shall review all plans of support annually, adjusting salaries as advisable, recommending changes in the financial policies as necessary (cf. 746).

(31) To recommend an annual budget to the local church conference, to assist the pastor in securing the money necessary to fund the adopted budget, and to authorize expenditures within the limits of the adopted budget (655:12; cf. 865–868); or to assume, if such authority is delegated by the local church conference (655:12), authority to adopt the annual budget and authorize all expenditures within the limits of the budget and any expenditures not provided for in the annual budget; to provide for annual audits of all funds (cf. 863).

(32) To recommend to the local church conference: all major expenditures or investments; the purchase or sale of property, the erection or remodeling of buildings, all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property and major items of equipment (655:13; 4700–4720); and other expenditures not provided for in the annual budget (cf. 655:12).

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

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

(35) To seek advice from the district board of administration or from an investment committee authorized by the district board of administration when making investment or distribution of funds received as an undesignated estate gift, property for sale or other out-of-pattern contribution with value equal to or exceeding the total contributions for all purposes of the preceding year (cf. 1233:33).

Day Care and/or Day School

(36) To present to the district board of administration for approval a plan for a day care and/or day school following authorization by the local church conference (655:19–20) or any plans for a significant change in mission, facilities, or finances of an established day care and/or day school (1233:35); to govern and direct a day care and/or day school when such has been properly

approved (1233:35), or to govern while delegating the operation to a separate school committee; to elect the separate school committee and name its chair when thus delegating said operation; to submit an annual report to the district board of administration including organization, administration, and fiscal operations (655:18), for its approval.

(37) To establish treasuries, distinct and separate from that of a local church, to provide for the financial administration of day care centers, day schools, retirement homes, nursing homes, and such enterprises (cf. 655:19–20; 1233:35) and to adopt financial policies to assure adequate supervision and accountability.

F. Pastor's Advisory Committee

795. The local board of administration may establish a pastor's advisory committee when recommended by the pastor. This committee shall have no authority for final action in any matter except that for which the local board of administration grants such authority.

Chapter 6

LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. List of Local Church Officers, Boards and Committees

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

- (1) The church shall have the following officers and personnel, elected by the local church conference:
 - board of administration, local (750–782)
 - church secretary (830)
 - church treasurer or business manager (842)—appointment may be delegated to the local board of administration
 - delegates to district conference (965; 1086; 1100–1109)
 - pastor (675–725)
 - trustees (850–859), unless delegated to the local board of administration
- (2) The church shall have the following officers and personnel, elected by the local board of administration:
 - auditor or auditing committee (863)
 - offering teller (845:3)
 - vice-chair of local board of administration (773)
- (3) The church may have additional ministry leaders and personnel, as it deems necessary, elected by the local church conference, such as:
 - associate pastor (738)—elected by the local church conference
 - lay leader (833)—elected by the local church conference
 - spiritual formation director or Sunday school superintendent (887–890)
 - nominating committee (820–823)—up to four additional committee members who are not local board of administration members to serve with the pastor and two members elected by the local board of administration from among its membership
- (4) The church may have additional ministry leaders and personnel, as it deems necessary, elected by the local board of administration, such as:

adult ministry director, staff and team (924)
 assistant treasurer (845:1)
 assistant pastor (741)
 building committee (856:6)
 children's ministry director, staff, and team (880:2, 7–8)
 communion committee (873)
 custodial staff (782:17; 856:5)
 day care and/or day school committee (655:19–20;
 782:36–37; 1233:35)
 educational director (926)
 evangelism director and committee (935; 960)
 fellowship committee (880:19)
 finance and stewardship committee (865–868)
 financial or tithing secretary (845:2)
 judicial committee (970; 5110)
 lay assistant to the pastor (744)
 literature secretary (928)
 missions director and committee (930; 955)
 music committee (873)
 music minister or director (870)
 nominating committee (820–823)—two members elected by
 the local board of administration from its membership
 office staff (725:29; 782:17)
 pastor's advisory committee (795)
 spiritual formation leadership team (875–880)
 Sunday school staff and committee (895–903)
 ushering committee (873)
 witness and membership committee (835–837)
 women's ministry officers and committees (945)
 Wesleyan Youth adult leader, officers, and committees (922)

B. General Regulations

1. Minimum Organization

807. Developing church. A developing church may operate without any regularly constituted officers other than the pastor, but will ordinarily have a local advisory council of three to five members appointed by the district superintendent in cooperation with the pastor. The pastor and these members

will form the local advisory council. This council may then appoint such other officers and committees as are needed and for which qualified personnel are available (cf. 510:3).

810. Church. An established church, in addition to the local church conference and the local board of administration, shall have a minimum organization consisting of a local church secretary (830), a local church treasurer (842), an offering teller (845:3), an auditing committee (863), and a board of trustees consisting of at least three members (850–859). Normally it would have a Sunday school superintendent and staff (889–910). Additional offices, positions, and committees may be added as provided herewith by the local church conference and the local board of administration as need requires and as qualified personnel are available.

2. Church Officers

815. The church officers shall include all members of the local board of administration, local church trustees, lay leader, delegates to district conference and assistant treasurer, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

(1) They must be members of the local Wesleyan church electing them (302:4; 558) and members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558).

(2) They shall be elected by the local church conference at its annual session (315:5–7; cf. 820–823), except assistant treasurers (see 845) and persons filling offices designated by the local church conference as *ex officio* members of the local board of administration but chosen by the local board of administration (cf. 752). Vacancies occurring between annual sessions of the local church conference shall be filled for the unexpired term by the local board of administration. Vacancies may occur by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, by resignation from office or by removal (815:4).

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

(4) They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor, shall be amenable to the local church conference, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, upon recommendation of the local board of administration and by a majority vote of the local church conference, or as otherwise provided for (cf. 752:1; 815:2; 825:4).

3. Nominating Committee

820. Each established church may have a nominating committee consisting of the pastor as chair and two members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) elected by the local board of administration from its membership (655:3; 782:22). The local church conference may, at its option, elect up to four additional members who meet the leadership qualifications who are not members of the local board of administration. If the local church conference does not exercise its option to elect at least one additional member who meets the leadership qualifications, then the local board of administration shall elect one additional member with the leadership qualifications who may or may not be a member of the local board of administration.

823. When a nominating committee has been established, it shall present to the local church conference, at its annual session, nominations for each of the following officers: lay leader (if any), local church secretary, local church treasurer (if any), the Sunday school superintendent (if any), and one or more trustees (850). One or more names shall be presented for each office (cf. 755). The nominating committee shall present, at the properly announced session of the local church conference (cf. 965; 1103), nominations for as many delegates to the district conference as the district board of administration shall determine (1100). The nominating committee may be used for other nominations as ordered by the local church conference, or as ordered by the local board of administration for positions elected by the board (cf. 825).

4. Other Positions

825. Persons holding positions of service within the local church, other than those specifically designated as church officers in 815, and including membership on committees, shall be governed by the following regulations:

- (1) They shall be members of the local Wesleyan church electing them.
- (2) They shall be elected annually by the local board of administration (782:23, 25), or as otherwise provided (cf. 880:7).
- (3) They shall carry out their duties as given in *The Discipline* and as further defined by the local church conference and local board of administration.
- (4) They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor, shall be amenable to the local board of administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, by a majority vote of the local board of administration.

(5) Vacancies may occur by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, by resignation from office or by removal (825:4) and shall be filled for the unexpired term by the local board of administration.

5. Installation Service

828. Those elected to church offices and to other positions of service within the local church may be installed in office at an annual installation service following the ritual given in 5915–5925.

C. Witness and Membership

1. Church Secretary

830. The local church conference, at its annual session, shall elect by ballot, from among its members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558), a church secretary (cf. 820–823), to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. The church secretary shall be an *ex officio* member of the local board of administration (775). General regulations covering this office are given in 815. The duties and powers of the local church secretary shall be:

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

(2) To maintain the local church's record of membership, record of baptisms, marriages, and pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent written record of the life and ministry of the church (610).

(3) To issue, in conjunction with the pastor, all letters of transfer, recommendation, and withdrawal (575; 590–592; 6000–6040); and to sign, in conjunction with the pastor (725:28), licenses for lay ministers granted by the local church conference (655:7; 782:20).

(4) To send to the district secretary a certified list of lay delegates to the district conference duly elected by the local church conference, immediately upon their election, and subsequently to certify an alternate delegate (cf. 965; 1100–1109).

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

2. Lay Leader

833. The local church conference, at its annual session, may elect by ballot, from among its members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) a lay leader (cf. 820–823), who shall serve for one year or until a successor is elected, and whose function shall be to assist the pastor in such manner as the pastor shall recommend and the local church conference shall approve. General regulations concerning this office are given in 815. The duties of the lay leader may include any or all of the following: member *ex officio* of the local board of administration (752), leader under the pastor's direction of church prayer meetings or of small groups, classes or neighborhood prayer cells for the deepening of spiritual life and home evangelism.

3. Committee on Witness and Membership

835. The local board of administration may establish a committee on witness and membership, composed of the pastor, the vice-chair of the local board of administration, the local church secretary, the lay leader (if any), and such other members as the local board of administration shall elect. The local board of administration shall name a board member as chair of the committee, and the committee shall choose its own vice-chair and secretary. General regulations governing membership on this committee are given in 825.

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

(1) To conduct the examination of candidates for membership; to counsel with members concerning any failure to observe the Membership Commitments (265); to have initial responsibility in the annual revision of the membership roll; to assist the pastor in any attempts to restore members who have ceased to attend or support the church; and to make recommendations concerning all these matters to the local board of administration in accordance with the principles of Christian discipline (268; 782:8–13).

(2) To make recommendations to the local board of administration concerning revivals and other evangelistic efforts.

(3) To alert the local church to its responsibilities in the area of community social and political reform, recommending courses of action it deems necessary to the local board of administration (cf. 410).

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

D. Finance and Stewardship

1. Church Treasurer

842. The local church shall have either a local church treasurer or a business manager. If there is a church treasurer, that officer shall be elected by the local church conference, at its annual election, by ballot, from among the members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558), to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. Or the local church conference may authorize the local board of administration to appoint a treasurer or to appoint or employ a business manager who will assume the duties of the treasurer. The financial concerns may be represented on the local board of administration by the church treasurer or the business manager or the chair of the finance and stewardship committee as provided in 865. The duties and powers of the person charged with the local church treasury are:

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

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

(3) To make monthly reports to the local board of administration, which shall be available upon request to any member of the local church, and to make reports to all regular sessions of the local church conference.

(4) To make monthly remittances of all USF and district funds to the district treasurer and remittances of all other General Church funds to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer or directly to the general department for which the funds are intended.

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

(6) To submit all books for audit by the auditing committee annually (863), or more frequently if so ordered by the local board of administration, and to submit to the local board of administration the complete treasurer's records at such time as the person shall cease to hold the office of treasurer.

845. Assistants for the local church treasurer are provided for as follows:

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

(2) A financial secretary or tithing secretary may be elected by the local board of administration to assist the treasurer in keeping the record of individual tithes and offerings (842:5).

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

2. Board of Trustees

850. Election. The local church conference, unless the duties and powers of the board of trustees have been delegated to the local board of administration, shall elect by ballot from among its members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) a board of trustees (cf. 315:6; 820–823), three to seven in number, one or more being elected at a given annual session for a term of three years, so that the terms of all shall not expire at the same time, or they may be elected to serve until their successors are elected; provided that the manner and conditions of election may be altered to conform to the local laws. At least one of the trustees shall be designated annually by the local church conference as a member of the local board of administration (752). If the local church conference delegates the duties and powers of the trustees to the local board of administration, that board may from its membership elect from three to seven to serve as the board of trustees. General regulations covering this office are given in 815.

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

856. Duties and Powers. The local board of trustees shall carry out their duties as required by *The Discipline* (cf. 4500–4780) and shall be responsible:

(1) To carry out the instructions of the local church conference and the local board of administration in supervising, controlling, maintaining, and improving all church property (315:6; 655:13; 782:28).

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

(3) To attend to all legal matters regarding the acquisition, purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer or other disposition of property as properly authorized (4700–4720); to see that titles are correct, contain the proper trust clause (4610), are approved by the district superintendent (1310:13; 4700:5), and are recorded (4540); and to see that property and legal records are properly stored (4760).

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

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

(6) To serve, unless the local church conference shall order a larger or separate committee, as a building committee for the planning and erection of a new sanctuary, educational unit or parsonage or a major remodeling program, and to assist the pastor in preparing and submitting all building plans to the district building committee for their approval (1345).

(7) To carry out the directions of the local church conference or local board of administration concerning the purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer or other disposition of property, provided that such transactions have been approved by the district building committee and district board of administration as set forth in 4700–4780.

(8) To make recommendations to the local board of administration concerning sufficient property and liability insurance on the property and for any vehicles owned and operated by the local church, and to carry out the instructions of the local board of administration in securing such insurance (782:29).

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

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

(1) The local board of trustees must carry out the instructions of the local board of administration, the local church conference, and the district

board of administration. If a local trustee refuses to carry out such instructions when the instructions meet all the requirements of local laws and of *The Discipline*, the trustee may be removed from office as given in 815:4 (cf. 4530).

(2) The local board of trustees cannot mortgage or otherwise encumber local church property without the express authorization of the local church conference and the approval of the district board of administration as set forth in 4700–4720.

(3) The local board of trustees cannot deny the use of the parsonage, church building or other local church buildings, to the pastor who has been duly appointed by the district conference or district board of administration, nor the use of the church building to the membership of the local church and duly elected officials of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 4770).

(4) The local board of trustees cannot divert church property from The Wesleyan Church (4550; 4780).

(5) When a church is reclassified as a developing church (cf. 518:7; 1233:30), the office and power of the local board of trustees shall cease, and all property shall pass directly under the control of the district board of administration (cf. 4670).

3. Auditing Committee

863. The local board of administration shall be responsible to provide for the annual internal or external auditing of the books of the local church treasurer and of all departmental and auxiliary treasurers, either through the election of an auditing committee or the employment of an auditor. If an auditing committee is used for some or all of the treasuries, it shall consist of one to three persons. A report to certify the results of the annual audit shall be presented to the local board of administration. General regulations concerning committee members are given in 825.

4. Committee on Finance and Stewardship

865. The local board of administration may establish a committee on finance and stewardship. The local board of administration shall name a board member as chair of the committee, and the committee shall choose its own vice-chair and secretary. General regulations governing membership on this committee are given in 825.

868. The local board of administration shall assign such duties to the committee on finance and stewardship as it deems best.

E. Worship

870. Musicians, including song leaders, choir directors, organists, and pianists shall be appointed by the pastor (cf. 725:5). The local board of administration may appoint or, if authorized by the local church conference, may employ a minister or director of music nominated by the pastor (738–744). The duties of the minister or director of music shall be defined by the pastor and the local board of administration. General regulations covering these offices are given in 825.

873. The local board of administration may establish committees on music, ushering, and communion services, electing their members and defining their duties. General regulations governing membership on such committees are given in 825.

F. Spiritual Formation

1. Local Church Spiritual Formation Leadership Team

875. Membership. The local board of administration shall serve as or shall establish a local spiritual formation leadership team (782:25). The pastor shall serve as chair unless the pastor shall recommend and the local board of administration shall assign this duty to another member of the local board of administration, such as the associate or assistant pastor or other qualified person. If a separate board is established, the local board of administration shall determine its membership, electing qualified members in keeping with the provisions of 825 and/or designating *ex officio* members from among the heads of the various spiritual formation agencies and auxiliaries (870; 889; 915–928), assigning such duties to it as the local board of administration deems fit (cf. 880). The local spiritual formation leadership team shall elect its own secretary.

878. Age-level Divisions. Whenever the local spiritual formation leadership team shall so recommend, and the local board of administration shall so authorize, the local spiritual formation leadership team may organize its members and such other spiritual formation leaders and workers as it shall choose into three age-level divisions: the children's division, the youth division, and the adult division. Each division shall serve to coordinate all spiritual formation and fellowship activities conducted by the local church or any of its branches for the age level assigned.

880. Duties and Powers. The duties and powers of the local spiritual formation leadership team shall be:

(1) To study, organize, promote, and conduct, under the leadership of the pastor, and subject to the direction of the local board of administration, the total program of spiritual formation for the local church, in keeping with the denominational objectives for spiritual formation (2306), and the standards established by the General Board and promoted through the Church Multiplication and Discipleship and the Education and Clergy Development Divisions.

(2) To establish, structure, and supervise, in keeping with *The Discipline*, and the standards adopted by the General Board, such spiritual formation agencies as are authorized by the local board of administration, including the Sunday school, Wesleyan Youth, Wesleyan Kids for Missions, children's church, weekday church school, released time classes, and vacation Bible school.

(3) To coordinate all spiritual formation agencies (cf. 880:2), activities and functions of the local church, setting goals, evaluating procedures, exploring new areas of need, and assigning responsibilities to the various departments and auxiliaries.

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

(5) To recommend to the local board of administration for the consideration of the local church conference the appointment and/or the employment of a minister or director of spiritual formation, and to advise the pastor and the local board of administration in defining all duties. Such a person must be a member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of the local church appointing and/or employing the person (cf. 738–744).

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

(7) To submit nominations, or to appoint a committee of its membership to submit nominations, to the local board of administration for all members of the spiritual formation leadership team other than the Sunday school superintendent, all teachers, and to elect all other officers and teachers except the officers of Wesleyan Youth and WKFM unless the local board of administration instructs the church nominating committee to fulfill these duties (820–823).

(8) To appoint administrative committees for each educational agency other than WY or WKFM, including in each such committee the executive officer involved and other workers or advisors as shall be deemed best (cf. 903; 913).

(9) To remove from office by majority vote any worker elected by the local church spiritual formation leadership team when such is in the best interest of the work, and to recommend to the local board of administration the removal of any officer or teacher in local spiritual formation (875–928) elected by the local board of administration.

(10) To organize a training hour, providing for all age levels, selecting the necessary leaders and instructors, and assigning responsibilities to the appropriate agencies (cf. 880:2–3).

(11) To assist the pastor and the local board of administration in conducting classes in membership preparation (cf. 566–570; 725:11; 782:8; 2310:3).

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

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

(14) To promote the interests of The Wesleyan Church educational institutions in cooperation with the General Director of Education and the Ministry, the officials of the general educational institutions within the area, and the district educational director.

(15) To conduct extension classes, small group Bible studies, and branch Sunday schools when such are properly authorized (cf. 655:16; 782:6).

(16) To minister to persons on nearby college campuses and military bases in keeping with the programs promoted by the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division.

(17) To observe such special days as shall be designated by the General Board and promoted by the Church Multiplication and Discipleship and Education and Clergy Development Divisions, and as shall be designated by district agencies.

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

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

(20) To encourage and direct ministries of Christian family life in order to enrich the quality of homes and families within the local church constituency.

(21) To nominate, for election by the local board of administration, such standing or special subcommittees as the local board of administration shall approve, with a member of the local spiritual formation leadership team as chair of each.

(22) To exercise full authority in such of the duties covered under 880:1–21 as shall be delegated by the local board of administration.

2. Sunday School

a. Function

885. Each local church shall provide for systematic Bible study. The Sunday school normally serves as the basic agency for such study. Small group Bible studies and other programs or events that promote making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ are to be considered by the local church as well.

b. Administration

887. General. The Sunday school shall be governed by the local church conference and the local board of administration through the local spiritual formation leadership team, under the general supervision of the pastor. Immediate administration shall be the responsibility of either a spiritual formation minister or director or Sunday school superintendent and a spiritual formation leadership team. If administration is through a superintendent and a leadership team, the structure outlined in paragraphs 889–910 shall be followed. If administration is through a minister or director of spiritual formation, the local board of administration may determine the structure and assign responsibilities as it sees fit. In all cases, administrators shall carry out their assignment in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *General Board Policy for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*, the standard adopted by the General Board and promoted through the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, and the programs of the division and of the district spiritual formation leadership team.

889. Spiritual Formation Director or Sunday School Superintendent. The local church conference, at its annual session, may elect by ballot, from among its members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558), a spiritual formation director or Sunday school superintendent (cf. 820–823), to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. The director or superintendent shall be an *ex officio* member of the local board of administration (752), unless

the local church conference by prior action has voted to eliminate the spiritual formation director or Sunday school superintendent as an *ex officio* member of the local board of administration. General regulations concerning this office are given in 815. The duties and powers of the spiritual formation director or Sunday school superintendent shall be:

(1) To have executive supervision of the spiritual formation of the local church, administering its affairs in keeping with the provisions of 887.

(2) To consult with the pastor and the spiritual formation leadership team, if there is such (903), on all major decisions.

(3) To promote interest in and attendance in all spiritual formation endeavors.

(4) To have immediate supervision of each spiritual formation session seeing that each age division and class has the necessary leaders and that order is maintained.

(5) To counsel with the spiritual formation leaders and teachers about their work.

(6) To make a full report of statistics and general information to the local board of administration quarterly, to the local church conference at each regular session, and to the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division and the district spiritual formation director as required (cf. 895).

890. Director of Spiritual Formation. If a church seeks to provide a comprehensive approach to discipleship, including both Sunday school and small groups, upon vote of the local church conference it may elect a director of spiritual formation in place of a Sunday school superintendent. The director of spiritual formation will assume the Sunday school superintendent's responsibilities as outlined in 889, plus assume full responsibility to administer and coordinate weekday small groups under the direction of the pastor and local board of administration, seeking to provide a fully coordinated approach in local church spiritual formation.

895. Sunday School Secretary. The local board of administration shall, at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825), elect from nominations submitted by the local spiritual formation leadership team (875; 880:7) a Sunday school secretary, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. The Sunday school secretary shall maintain complete records of enrollment, attendance, absentees, visitors, and such other items as shall be required, and assist the pastor and the spiritual formation director or Sunday school superintendent in the preparation of reports involving Sunday school statistics. The local board of Christian education shall appoint such assistants as the Sunday school secretary shall require.

898. Sunday School Treasurer. The local board of administration may, at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825), elect from nominations submitted by the local spiritual formation leadership team (875; 880:7) a Sunday school treasurer, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. Or the local board of administration may recommend, and the local church conference order, that the Sunday school funds be received by the local church treasurer as part of a common treasury. If there is a separate Sunday school treasurer elected, that person shall receive, hold, and disburse the Sunday school funds as ordered by the local board of administration, reporting concerning all receipts and expenditures to the local board of administration monthly, and to each regular session of the local church conference. All General Church and district funds raised by the Sunday school shall be transferred to the local church treasurer for forwarding to the proper destination (842:1).

900. Sunday School Departmental Supervisors. The local board of administration may, at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825), elect from nominations submitted by the spiritual formation leadership team (875; 880:7) a supervisor for each department (cf. 913). The departmental supervisor shall assist the spiritual formation director or Sunday school superintendent, being responsible for the general operation of the department including the assembly period of the department, and the immediate supervision of each session of age division (cf. 889:4). The local spiritual formation leadership team shall appoint such other departmental officers as may be needed.

903. Sunday School Committee. The immediate administration of the Sunday school may be vested in a Sunday school committee, subject to the approval of and correlated with the plans of the local spiritual formation leadership team. It shall be composed of the spiritual formation director or Sunday school superintendent as chair, the pastor (or if the pastor prefers, the associate or assistant pastor), and the other age division directors of the spiritual formation leadership team.

906. Spiritual Formation Leaders or Teachers. The local board of administration shall, at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825), elect from nominations submitted by the local spiritual formation leadership team (875; 880:7) such spiritual formation leaders, teachers, and assistants as are needed, to serve for one year or until their successors are elected.

910. Amenability. General regulations covering the amenability, removal, and filling of vacancies for spiritual formation officers, departmental supervisors and teachers elected by the local board of administration are found in 825. All others appointed by the local spiritual formation leadership team are amenable to the local spiritual formation leadership team and can be replaced as it sees fit.

c. Organization

913. Guidelines for organization of spiritual formation ministries and Sunday school shall be provided through the *General Board Policy for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division* and the standard adopted by the General Board and promoted through the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division.

3. Children's Ministries

915. Each local church may maintain a local ministry to children according to the *General Board Policy for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*.

4. Youth Ministries

922. Each local church may maintain a Wesleyan Youth ministry according to the *General Board Policy for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*.

5. Adult Ministries

924. Each local church may maintain a local adults ministry according to *The General Board Policy* for spiritual formation and the standard adopted by the General Board and as promoted through the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division.

6. Local Educational Director

926. The local board of administration may, at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825), elect a local educational director, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 825. The local education director shall promote the interests of the general educational institutions within the area, in keeping with the programs of the Education and Clergy Development Division, the officials of the schools and the district educational director, and shall recruit students from the local church constituency for the schools.

7. Literature Secretary

928. The local board of administration may, at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825), elect a literature secretary, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 825. The literature secretary shall be assigned such duties as the local board of administration shall determine, such as the handling and distribution of Sunday school literature, the management of a church and/or Sunday school library, and the promoting of the interests of the Wesleyan Publishing House.

G. Missions and Evangelism

1. Local Director of Missions

930. The local board of administration may, at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825), elect a local director of missions, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 825. The local director of missions shall assist the pastor in promoting the work of world missions, in keeping with the policies and programs of the Global Partners Division, the district conference and district board of administration and the district director of world missions.

2. Local Director of Evangelism

935. The local board of administration may at the time of its annual election (782:23; 825) elect a local director of evangelism to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 825. The local director of evangelism shall assist the pastor in promoting the work of evangelism in the local church in accordance with the mission of The Wesleyan Church (100) and in cooperation with the district director of evangelism and church growth (1426). The local director of evangelism shall also assist the pastor in the follow-up and discipling of new Christians, in the recruiting and training of workers for visitation evangelism, and in the administration of evangelism and follow-up programs.

3. Women's Ministry

945. Each local church may maintain a women's ministry according to the *General Board Policy for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*.

4. Wesleyan Kids for Missions

950. Each local church may maintain a local chapter of Wesleyan Kids for Missions.

5. Committee on Missions

955. The local board of administration may establish a committee on missions, composed of the pastor, the local director of missions, the president of men's ministry or a representative of the men's group, the director of women's ministry, the coordinator of Wesleyan Kids for Missions, and such other members as the local board of administration shall elect. General regulations governing the elected membership on this committee are given in 825. The local board of administration shall name the chair of the committee, and the committee shall choose its own vice-chair and director.

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

(1) To promote the interests of Wesleyan world missions, in keeping with the programs of the Global Partners Division and the district director of world missions.

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

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

(4) To make recommendations to the local board of administration concerning missionary conventions and services.

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

6. Committee on Evangelism

960. The local board of administration may establish a committee on evangelism, composed of the pastor, the local director of evangelism, and such other members as the local board of administration shall elect. General regulations concerning membership on the committee are given in 825. The local board of administration shall assign such duties to the committee on evangelism as it deems best, including any or all of the following:

(1) To promote the work of evangelism through the local church in accordance with the mission of The Wesleyan Church (100).

(2) To organize, in cooperation with the pastor, the calling and visitation programs of the church.

(3) To organize, in cooperation with the pastor, follow-up and discipleship programs for new converts.

(4) To provide for and oversee, in cooperation with the local spiritual formation leadership team, the training of workers for outreach evangelism and discipleship ministries.

(5) To make recommendations to the local board of administration concerning evangelistic services and to assist in promotion and conducting of such efforts.

(6) To alert the church to its wider responsibilities in meeting social and material needs of its community as such needs are discovered through its calling and discipling ministries.

(7) To promote extension projects carried on by the local church.

H. Lay Delegates to District Conference

965. The local church conference, at one of its officially announced sessions, shall elect by ballot (cf. 820–823), from among its members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558), the number of lay delegates to the district conference assigned by the district board of administration and a sufficient number of alternate delegates who shall serve for the regular annual session and for any reconvened session. General regulations covering this office are given in 815 and in 1100–1109.

I. Judicial Committees

970. The local board of administration shall elect, when it deems it necessary and in accord with the regulations of the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline*, a committee of investigation or a local judicial committee. Complete regulations concerning the qualifications, procedures, and duties of such committees are given in *the General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5012; 5110).

PART 3

DISTRICT CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter 1

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

A. Definition

1000. A district is a grouping of churches created by the authority of the General Conference, within which the churches, ministers, and members of The Wesleyan Church are organized according to *The Discipline* and are under its governing authority (317).

B. Developing District

1003. Purpose. New work, or other work which does not meet the requirements for a provisional district (1025), shall be provided for by establishing a developing district.

1006. Authorization. The establishment of a developing district may be authorized by the General Conference (1590:11), upon recommendation of the General Board, or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, by the General Board. The authorizing act shall define the boundaries and assign an official name to the developing district. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the bounds of an established district in the interim of General Conference sessions must have the approval of such a district and shall be effected as required in 1060–1065 (cf. 1655:34).

1009. Jurisdiction. A developing district shall be under the jurisdiction of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division and shall be organized and administered by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship in accord with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*, and other directives from the General Board or its Executive Board (1655:27). The Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship shall be responsible for developing the work as rapidly as possible, in harmony with

the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (2306), to the status of a provisional district (1025).

1012. Organization. The superintendent, other officers, and assigned workers shall be appointed by and the granting of ordination and commissioning and issuing of licenses shall be approved by the General Superintendent, for which recommendations shall be submitted by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

1015. General Conference Representation. The developing district shall be represented in the General Conference by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, and by the superintendent of the developing district as a nonvoting member (1503:2).

C. Provisional District

1. Authorization

1020. Authorization. A provisional district is created by the General Conference, upon recommendation of the General Board (1590:11), or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, by the General Board. The authorizing act shall define the boundaries of the provisional district and assign to it an official name. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the existing bounds of an established district in the interim of General Conference sessions must have the approval of such district and shall be effected as required in 1060–1065 (cf. 1655:34).

1025. Requirements. The minimum requirements for a provisional district are:

- (1) A minimum of five churches and 200 members.
- (2) A sufficient number of ordained ministers for a district board of administration (1203).
- (3) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church as required in 4610, or steps taken to accomplish the same (4590–4630; 4650–4780; 4800–4820).
- (4) A recommendation by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship for recognition as a provisional district.

2. Organization and Government

1028. Jurisdiction. A provisional district shall be under the jurisdiction of the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, who shall supervise the district in accord with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General*

Board for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, and any other directives of the General Board or its Executive Board (1655:27; 1785:2). The Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship shall be responsible for the developing of a provisional district to meet the requirements of an established district as soon as possible (1036; 4105).

1030. Organization. A provisional district shall be organized in the same manner as an established district as set forth in *The Discipline*, insofar as possible, but with the following restrictions on its duties and powers:

(1) **District Superintendent.** The district superintendent of a provisional district shall be elected by the district conference (cf. 1180:31; 1303). The General Superintendent may, however, present one or more nominations, from which the district conference shall elect the district superintendent (1935:31). The provisional district superintendent shall confer with the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship concerning the important plans of the district, including the location of property, the erection of buildings, and financial matters (cf. 1030:3). No property within a provisional district may be received, transferred, bought or sold without the written permission of the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

(2) **District Officers, Boards and Committees.** A provisional district shall first be concerned with the election of its district officials (1255) and district board of administration (1203). Other district departmental officers, boards, and committees shall be established as qualified personnel are available. It shall be the goal of the officials of a provisional district, in cooperation with the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship (1028), to meet the requirements for a complete district organization as soon as possible (1038).

(3) **Amenability.** The minutes of the provisional district conference and its district board of administration shall be reviewed by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

3. General Conference Representation

1032. The district superintendent and a lay delegate, elected by ballot and by majority vote, shall be the representatives of a provisional district to the General Conference (1503:1a; 1506).

4. Reclassification

1034. Whenever a provisional district falls below the minimum requirements in 1025, it may be reclassified as a developing district by the

General Conference (1590:11), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the General Board (1655:25), upon recommendation of the General Superintendent.

D. Established District

1. Authorization

1036. An established district is created by the General Conference (317; 1590:10), upon recommendation by the General Board, or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, may be created by the General Board, subject to the approval of the next General Conference (1655:25, 34; 1935:40). The authorizing act shall define the boundaries of the district and assign to it an official name.

1038. The minimum requirements for an established district are:

- (1) Twenty churches.
- (2) Seven hundred fifty members
- (3) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Church as required in 4610, or steps taken to accomplish the same (4590–4630; 4650–4880; cf. 4140).
- (4) A reasonable degree of spiritual, organizational, and financial stability.
- (5) A recommendation by the General Superintendent in concurrence with the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship (1935:40).

2. Organizing Conference

1040. When an established district has been authorized (1036), an organizing session of the district conference shall be convened by the General Superintendent. The General Superintendent shall declare it to be an established district of The Wesleyan Church, vested with all the authority and power as properly belong to it according to *The Discipline*. After such has been declared, the district conference shall proceed to do business and elect its officials.

3. Reclassification

1042. If a district no longer meets one or more of the requirements for an established district (1038), it may be reclassified as a provisional district by the General Conference (1590:11), or the General Board.

1045. An established district, by a vote of its district conference, may petition the General Board for reclassification as a provisional district if it falls

below the requirements for an established district (1038). The General Board shall have authority to reclassify it as a provisional district and place it under the jurisdiction of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division (1038; 1655:34–35; 1935:33).

4. Amenability

1050. An established district is amenable to the General Conference and to the General Board. It may be placed under discipline for cause as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5350–5385; cf. 360:3e).

E. Merger or Realignment of Districts

1060. The General Conference shall have the authority to approve the merger or division of districts or the realignment of any district boundaries (317). Negotiations for such a merger, division or realignment of districts shall be under the supervision of the General Superintendent who shall work with representatives appointed for such a purpose by the General Board and the districts concerned (cf. 1655:34).

1065. Whenever each district conference involved in a merger, division or other realignment of districts shall approve the proposed plan, the General Board shall have the authority to grant final approval in the interim of General Conference sessions (cf. 1935:33; 1655:34).

Chapter 2

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. Function

1075. A district conference is the chief governing body of a district, exercising such powers as are delegated to it in the Constitution and by the General Conference as set forth in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

B. Membership

1. Plan of Representation

1080. The district conference, as required by the Constitution (317), shall be composed of an equal number of ministerial members and lay members as voting members, chosen in a way that maintains the principle of equal representation, and other non-voting members as listed herewith.

a. Voting Members

1083. Ministers. The ministerial voting members of the district conference are those who meet the following requirements:

(1) Ordained ministers under appointment (1240:I:A:1–8), retired (1240:I:B; 3370), on reserve (1240:I:C; 3360) or on educational leave (1240:I:D; 3350:1).

(2) Licensed ministers who are ordained ministers-elect (317).

(3) Commissioned or licensed ministers who are pastors, associate pastors or assistant pastors of churches in that district (317; 1240:II:A; 1240:III:A; 3059; 3030).

(4) Ministerial members of the district board of administration who are not voting members by some other right (317).

(5) Ordained ministers (including licensed ministers who are ordained ministers elect) who have applied for transfer to another district but whose processes of transfer out of the district are yet incomplete.

1086. Laity. The lay members of the district conference with voting rights are those elected as delegates by the churches or circuits of that district (315:7; 317; 1100–1109) and the lay members of the district board of

administration (317). The total number of lay members with voting rights shall be determined as set forth in 1100:1 while maintaining the principle of equal representation of the ministry and the laity. Each established church or circuit is entitled to a minimum of one lay delegate as its constitutional right (315:7; cf. 503), and, according to its number of members, to additional lay delegates allotted by the district board of administration (1100:1–5). A developing church which is judged to be qualified may be allotted one lay delegate (510:5; 1100:2; 1103).

b. Nonvoting Members

1090. The nonvoting members of the district conference, with a voice but without a vote, are (cf. 317):

- (1) Ordained ministers without appointment (1240:I:E; 3380).
- (2) Ordained ministers in process of transfer from another denomination (3104; 3390).
- (3) Commissioned or licensed ministers who are not voting members of the district conference as listed in 1083:2–4, including those in process of transfer from another denomination (3104).
- (4) Ministerial students (3015:3b; 3350:2).
- (5) Commissioned and licensed special workers (1240:V:A,B,C; 3460–3470).
- (6) Commissioned lay missionaries (1240:V:D).
- (7) Supply pastors (1240:V:E; 3260:4).
- (8) Interim pastors, unless qualifying as a voting member by some other right (1083; 3261).
- (9) District directors of men's ministry, Wesleyan Youth, women's ministry, district coordinator of Wesleyan Kids for Missions, and district directors of children's ministries and adult ministries.
- (10) Ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and licensed ministers whose process of transfer into the district from other districts are pending completion.

2. Forfeiture of Representation

1095. A local church or circuit which is under discipline as provided for in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5300–5350) shall forfeit all rights to representation by a lay delegate in the district conference (315:7; 317).

3. The Election of Lay Delegates

1100. Allotment. The district board of administration shall assign to each church or circuit the specific number of lay delegates which it shall elect as its representatives to the district conference, in keeping with the provision in 1086 for the total number of lay delegates and subject to the following regulations:

(1) The district board of administration shall first determine the total number of lay delegates required for the next session of the district conference (1086) which shall initially equal the number of ministerial voting members eligible at the time such determination is made (cf. 1083: 1–5). The district board of administration may adjust this number of lay delegates downward to be not fewer than the highest number of ministerial voting members who answered the roll call in each of the last three district conferences.

(2) One lay delegate shall first be allotted to each pastoral charge (315:7; 528:3; 317; 503), including any developing churches deemed qualified (510:5; 1086).

(3) One shall be subtracted from the number needed to balance the ministerial vote for each lay member of the district board of administration.

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

(5) The district shall promptly notify each pastor of the exact number of lay delegates allotted to that particular pastoral charge.

1103. Election. The lay delegates to the district conference shall be elected at any duly called session of the local church conference or circuit conference, by ballot, and by a majority vote of those members present and voting (823; 965). In the case of a developing church, election shall be by the local advisory council, subject to approval by the district superintendent (510:3,5). A person accepting election as a delegate has an obligation to attend faithfully the entire district conference session, unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances. The local church secretary shall promptly forward a certified list of the elected lay delegates to the district secretary.

1106. Alternate Delegates. A sufficient number of alternate lay delegates having the same qualifications (1109) shall be elected in the same manner and at the same session as the delegates (1103), and shall fill any vacancies in the order

of their election. Whenever an alternate delegate is required to serve, the pastor or local church secretary shall certify this appointment to the district secretary.

1109. Qualifications. A lay delegate must be a member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) and in good standing of the pastoral charge represented, both at the time of election and at the time of the district conference. An ordained, commissioned or licensed minister may not be elected or serve as a lay delegate.

C. Sessions

1112. Annual Session. The district conference shall meet annually at a place chosen by the district board of administration and at a time as decided upon by the General Superintendent in cooperation with the district board of administration (1233:6; 1935:28). The district secretary shall notify in writing all ministerial voting members, pastoral charges, and nonvoting members of the time and the place at least sixty days before the scheduled opening. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans adopted, the district board of administration may declare that such an emergency exists and authorize the necessary changes.

1115. Reconvened Session. The district conference may be reconvened at any time during the year by a two-thirds majority vote of the district board of administration and the approval of the General Superintendent (1935:28). A reconvened session shall also be ordered by the district board of administration when requested to do so by the General Board, its Executive Board, or the General Superintendent. The district board of administration shall designate the place and, in cooperation with the General Superintendent, establish the date, which shall be at least thirty days after the reconvened conference is announced. The district shall notify in writing all ministerial voting members, pastoral charges, and nonvoting members of the time, place, and purpose of the reconvened session. The district conference shall have the same rights and powers in a reconvened session as in the annual session.

D. Organization and Procedure

1. Officers

1120. The Chair. The General Superintendent, or a representative appointed by the General Superintendent, shall preside over the district conference, assisted by the district superintendent in the manner provided for

in the Constitution (350:3). When neither the General Superintendent nor the appointed representative is present, the district superintendent shall preside or take the responsibility for the same. If none of the foregoing is present, the district conference shall elect from among its ordained ministers a chair pro tem.

1123. The Secretary. The district secretary shall be the secretary of the district conference ex officio. The district secretary shall accurately record the proceedings and preserve them in permanent form as prescribed by *The Discipline* (cf. 1178), and perform any other duties as shall be required by the district conference.

2. Procedure

1126. Rights. The rights of the district conference are declared in the Constitution (323:1–10; 325; 327:1; 350:3; 360:3c, e; 375:2, 4, 6; 385).

1129. Quorum. A majority of all the ministerial voting members and lay delegates of the district conference (1083–1086) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

1132. Delegates. Once a delegate has been seated at the annual district conference, an alternate delegate cannot thereafter be seated in place of the previously seated delegate.

1135. Voting (317). The ministerial and lay members of the district conference shall deliberate and transact business as one body. However, on the final vote on any question, one-fourth of the members may call for a divided vote. The house shall then be divided, and the ministerial and lay members shall vote separately, with a majority vote of each branch required to pass the question on which the division has been called.

1138. Rules of Order. District conference business shall be conducted according to the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, except when otherwise ordered by *The Discipline* (cf. 1156).

1141. Suspension of Rules. The district conference may by two-thirds vote suspend any rules of order for a certain item of business, provided such a suspension does not contravene *The Discipline* or other General Conference legislation.

1144. Appeals on Questions of Order. The chair shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the district conference body. If any matter is ruled out of order by the chair on the basis that it is unconstitutional or in violation of *The Discipline*, the decision of the chair may be appealed by any member of the district conference. If the appeal is seconded, the chair shall

clearly state the question and the reasons for the decision, and the one moving the appeal shall state the reasons for the appeal. The vote shall then be taken without debate. A two-thirds vote of the district conference, present and voting, shall be required to overrule the decision of the chair. If the chair is overruled, the action of the district conference shall be suspended until a ruling shall be given by the General Superintendent as provided for in 2064.

1147. Legislation. Rules and resolutions adopted by a district conference shall continue in force until amended or rescinded, unless such actions are by nature temporary or unless an action of the district conference is declared unconstitutional or contrary to *The Discipline* as set forth in 2064 and 5445:2 (cf. 323:6).

3. Resolutions

1150. Resolutions. Resolutions may be submitted to the district conference by a local church conference, a circuit conference, the district board of administration, the annual district convention of women's ministry or Wesleyan Youth, a district board or committee concerning the work assigned to it, or any three voting members of the district conference with their signatures.

1153. Memorials. All resolutions intended for eventual recommendation by the district conference to the General Conference, including changes in *The Discipline* and any other proposals, shall be designated as "memorials" (1557–1560). Anyone authorized to submit a resolution may also submit a memorial to be passed upon by the district conference.

1156. Procedure. All resolutions shall be submitted as directed by the district conference and within a time limit as set by the district conference. The appropriate district conference committee (cf. 1168:1) shall be responsible to review each resolution or memorial as to its origin (1150), clarity, relationship to *The Discipline* and other existing legislation of the General Conference or district conference, and shall report them out to the district conference together with their recommendations. A properly submitted resolution cannot be withheld from the conference body by a committee unless withdrawn by its authors or declared out of order by the chair of the district conference as contravening *The Discipline*. The committee chair shall present any resolutions in question to the district conference chair for a ruling before presenting them on the conference floor. The district conference may by a two-thirds vote suspend the requirement that a resolution must first be reviewed by a committee (cf. 1168:1) and immediately proceed to consider and vote upon said resolution.

4. Committees

1159. The district conference shall have such committees as are required by *The Discipline*, and may create and define the duties of such other committees as are deemed necessary (1180:35–39).

a. District Conference Action Committee

1165. A district conference may establish a district conference action committee (1180:9) that shall perform the functions of a resolutions committee. It shall consist of the district superintendent, the district treasurer, and from three to nine other members elected by the conference with due consideration for lay representation (cf. 1175:2). The district conference may delegate the election of the committee members to the district board of administration. The district superintendent shall be the chair or shall appoint another to serve instead, and the committee shall elect a secretary and other officers as deemed necessary.

1168. The duties of the district conference action committee are:

(1) To receive all resolutions and memorials for the district conference, to review them, and to report them to the district conference with the committee's recommendation except as provided for in 1233:9 (1150–1156).

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

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

(4) To review the standing rules of the district in order to make recommendations to the district conference concerning the alignment of such rules with General Conference legislation, and concerning any other necessary amendments (1180:5).

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

b. District Conference Nominating Committee

1172. Each district may have a district conference nominating committee consisting of the district superintendent as chair, and two or more ministers, and

an equal number of lay members elected by the district conference (1180:10). The elected members of the nominating committee shall not succeed themselves and may not be reelected until after a lapse of one year. The committee shall organize itself. It shall serve for one year and shall meet as called by the chair.

1175. The duties of this committee shall be determined by the district conference and may include such as the following:

(1) To present nominations for the district secretary, district treasurer (see 1335), members-at-large on the district board of administration, and each elected delegate to the General Conference.

(2) To present nominations for each of the following in accord with the requirements and regulations for each as set forth in *The Discipline*, and in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* for various options in combining responsibilities or referring the power of nomination or election to other bodies: the district conference action committee (1165), the district building committee (1345), the district statistical committee (1350), the district director of evangelism and church growth (1426), the district director of Global Partners (1429), the district Sunday school director (1483), the district director of leadership training (1486), the district director of children's ministries (1489).

(3) To give special consideration for the nomination of persons that reflect the full scope of the district's geographical, ethnic, and gender constituency.

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

5. The District Conference Journal

1178. The district conference journal shall contain the complete and accurate record of the proceedings of the district conference, prepared by the district secretary who shall have the duty:

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

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

(3) To see that it contains a complete directory for the district as set forth in 1332:8.

(4) To deliver annually to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration copies of the district journal in such quantities and format as needed for the offices in the World Headquarters.

E. Duties and Powers

1180. The duties and powers of the district conference as set forth in the Constitution (cf. 1126) and as authorized by the General Conference are:

Relating to the Constitution

(1) To propose an amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote, to be submitted to the General Conference as a memorial (385; 1560; 1590:1) or to propose an amendment to the Constitution to be submitted first to the other district conferences (385; 1590:2).

(2) To vote on the ratification of an amendment to the Constitution adopted by the General Conference (385; 1590:1); and to vote on a proposed amendment to the Constitution originating in another district conference (385; 1590:2).

Relating to the General Conference

(3) To adopt memorials to the General Conference for proposed changes in *The Discipline* or for other legislation (1153; 1557–1560; 1565).

(4) To elect delegates to the General Conference as set forth in 1503–1526 (cf. 1175:1).

(5) To review all standing rules of the district and bring them into harmony with the Constitution, other provisions of *The Discipline* as currently revised and amended, and with other General Conference legislation (323:6; 1168:4).

(6) To request a special session of the General Conference in concurrence with two-thirds of the district conferences (330:2; 1532).

Relating to the District Conference

(7) To receive the appointed general representative to preside over the district conference whenever the General Superintendent is not present (350:3; 1935:28).

(8) To receive a report concerning the interests and progress of the denomination from the General Superintendent or if the General Superintendent is not present, from the general representative (1935:27, 29).

(9) To authorize, if desired, a district conference action committee, designate its number of members, and provide for the election of the members as set forth in 1165.

(10) To authorize, if desired, a district conference nominating committee, designate its number of members, elect such members, and determine its duties as set forth in 1172–1175.

(11) Space reserved.

Relating to District Administration

(12) To take charge of all ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers, ministerial students, commissioned and licensed special workers, missions, developing churches, pastoral charges, auxiliary organizations (cf. 1233:25; 7365:2) and other district work within its bounds, except when the district is under discipline (360:3c, e), and except for those members of the district who are elected as general officials (1800), missionaries appointed under the Global Partners Division (2272), and others who are amenable only to the General Board for their official duties (323:1; 360:2; 5150; 5203).

(13) To receive a report concerning their official duties from the following: the district superintendent (1310:30), the assistant district superintendent(s) (if any, 1323:6), the district treasurer (1337:8), the leaders of all district departments and auxiliaries, and any others as desired by the district conference.

(14) To consider the numerical and financial progress of the district by receiving a complete statistical and financial report as compiled and submitted by the district statistical committee (1352:1–3).

(15) To take such actions and adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote the interests and prosperity of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district, and to amend or rescind the same, provided that it shall not add to or take from any provision of the Constitution or other provisions of *The Discipline*, and provided that any three members may appeal an action of the district conference as set forth in 323:6 (cf. 2061).

(16) To adopt financial plans which will provide for the support of the district work, and for the payment of the district obligation for the United Stewardship Fund (2015:1), assigning to each church its share of these obligations (2015:2; cf. 1233:11).

(17) Space reserved.

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

(19) To authorize employment, if desired, of one or more assistant district superintendents (if any, cf. 1320) as full-time district official(s), and further to define any duties in addition to those required by *The Discipline* (1323–1327).

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

(21) To authorize the incorporation of the district as provided for in 4100–4150. After such incorporation, the district board of administration shall carry out the will of the district conference concerning the holding of district and local church property (cf. 4680), and shall have power, on its own resolution, to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation.

(22) To elect, in states where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the law requires the property to be held by trustees, a district board of trustees from among the members of the district board of administration, which shall carry out the will of the district conference concerning the holding of district and local church property (cf. 4680), and which shall carry out its duties as set forth in 1365 (cf. 4500–4630; 4800–4880).

(23) To delegate any of its duties not restricted to the district conference by the Constitution.

Relating to Churches, Ministers, and Lay Workers

(24) To authorize the establishing of a mission (537), a developing church (510), a church (518), a circuit (525), the reclassification of a church as a developing church (518:7; cf. 1233:30), to declare a church as discontinued or abandoned (4730), and to hear a report from the district superintendent of the organization of new churches (520:6; 1310:16). Any established church that is not under discipline may not be discontinued without a corroborating vote of the local church conference (655:14; 1233:30).

(25) To determine the boundaries of each pastoral charge within the district (323:5; 1233:10c; 4750).

(26) To receive and pass upon the recommendations of the district board of administration concerning the pastoral agreements, appointments, and district conference relations, as follows (1233:10):

(a) To approve the pastoral agreements entered into between the pastoral charges and the ministers, or to alter such an agreement, or to veto the action of the pastoral charge and appoint another pastor, provided that any such alteration or veto shall be for reasons as set forth in the Constitution, and shall be voted on as a separate action by the district conference (323:1–2; 697).

(b) To appoint a pastor to those pastoral charges not yet supplied at the time of the district conference or whenever requested to do so by a local church (708) or to delegate such appointment to the district board of administration, and to appoint an interim pastor (3261:2) or to employ a qualified person as a supply pastor when deemed necessary (3260).

(c) To appoint each minister to the proper category of service or other appointment (3250–3391), appointing each ordained minister not included on the appointed list (1240:I:A) to the proper district conference relation as retired, on reserve, on educational leave, without appointment (1240:I:B-E) or in process of transfer (3104); appointing each commissioned or licensed minister to the proper category of service (1240:II:A-B; 1240:III:A-B; 3255–3391) or in the process of transfer (3104); to license as ministerial students those persons so qualified (1240:IV; 3015:1); and to appoint as commissioned or licensed special workers, designating their particular ministry (3450–3480), those who have been granted the proper commissions and licenses (1240:V:A-C) or to list them as in process of transfer (1240:V:B); and to appoint commissioned lay missionaries.

(27) To grant in concurrence with the General Board prior approval to a local church conference for post-secondary education in terms of an institute, junior college or college-level programs (655:19; 1655:36).

(28) To elect to ordination or for commissioning as a minister, a candidate the district conference deems qualified (3070), after receiving a report from the district board of ministerial development (1390:5) which shall be acted upon as a separate item of business.

(29) To grant a license, commission, recognition or restoration, in keeping with the requirements of *The Discipline*, after receiving the report and recommendations from the district board of ministerial development (1390:5), as follows:

(a) A recognition as ordained minister in process of transfer to an ordained minister being received from another denomination (3104), and a recognition as an ordained minister of The Wesleyan Church in full standing when all requirements have been met (3104:4–5).

(b) A district ministerial license, the granting of which shall become effective when the person receives appointment as set forth in 3033:7 and 3040:3 (cf. 1180:26c; 1233:10).

(c) A recognition of a commissioned or licensed minister being received from another denomination as in process of transfer (3104) and a recognition of such commissioned or licensed ministers in full standing when all requirements are met (3104).

(d) A license as a ministerial student for those who are qualified (3015:1; 3350).

(e) A license or commission as special worker, designating the particular ministry (3450–3480), or a recognition of a commissioned special worker or the equivalent thereof in process of transfer from another denomination, and subsequent recognition as a commissioned special worker in full standing when all requirements have been met (3470).

(f) A commission as lay missionary (3490).

(g) Any other license or commission as shall be authorized by *The Discipline*.

(h) The restoration or reinstatement of ordination, commission or license as set forth in 3120–3124; 3480; 5230–5248 (cf. 1390:4).

(30) To receive and pass on an annual service report, through the district board of ministerial development as set forth in 1390:7–9, from each ordained, commissioned, and licensed minister, ministerial student, and commissioned and licensed special worker; to receive an explanation from the district board of ministerial development relative to each person whose report has been found unsatisfactory, and to vote on the continuation of such person for appointment which shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence for approval (1390:9).

Relating to the Election of Officials and Committees

(31) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an ordained minister to the office of district superintendent for a term of two years (cf. 1303:2, 4; 1935:31). Reelection thereafter shall be for a term of four years or for an extended call (1303:2, 4).

(32) To authorize, if so desired, election by the district board of administration of one or more ordained minister(s) as assistant district superintendent(s) (1320).

(33) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, a district secretary (1330; cf. 1175:1), a district treasurer (1335; cf. 1175:1) or, if deemed advisable, a district secretary-treasurer and members-at-large of the district board of administration (1203–1206). The district conference may authorize the district board of administration to appoint or employ a district treasurer (1335).

(34) To designate, if it so desires, the ordained ministers of the district board of ministerial development as the council of ordination (1405; cf. 1233:37).

(35) To elect the following or to delegate election to the district board of administration:

- (a) District building committee (1345);
- (b) District statistical committee (1350–1352);
- (c) District director of evangelism and church growth (1426);
- (d) District director of Global Partners (1429);
- (e) District director of spiritual formation (1460) or a district Sunday school director (1483); and

(f) If desired, a district director of leadership training (1486), a district director of children's ministries (1489), a district director of Wesleyan Youth (1492), a district director of adult ministries (1494), and such other district ministry leaders deemed necessary.

(36) Space reserved.

(37) Space reserved.

(38) Space reserved.

(39) To elect a district board of review as set forth in paragraph 1370 (cf. 1175:2; 5218).

Relating to Church Law and the Judiciary

(40) To request, by a two-thirds majority vote, a ruling on a point of Wesleyan Church law or an interpretation of *The Discipline* from the General Superintendent (2061:1); and to appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, such a ruling to the General Board of Review (2061:3; see also *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* 5445:2).

(41) To appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, a decision of the General Superintendent on the legality of an action by the district conference, a district board or committee or a district official, to the General Board of Review (375:2; 2061; cf. 323:6; see also *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* 5445:2). All appeals must be filed with the Executive Director of Communication and Administration within sixty days after the date of the official decision on the matter.

(42) To adopt, by a two-thirds majority vote, a complaint against the General Conference or another district and order its presentation to the General Board of Review for settlement (375:4,6; see also *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* 5445:4); and to adopt such a complaint, by a majority vote, against the General Board to be presented to the General Board of Review for settlement (cf. 323:10).

(43) To appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, a judgment of the General Board of Review to the General Conference for final settlement (cf. 323:10; 380; see also *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* 5450). All appeals must be filed with the Executive Director of Communication and Administration within sixty days after the date of the official decision on the matter.

(44) To exercise judicial powers according to the provisions of the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5200–5248; 5300–5325).

Chapter 3

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Function

1200. The district board of administration carries out the will of the district conference, promotes the interests of The Wesleyan Church within the district, and serves as the chief governing body of the district in the interim of district conference sessions.

B. Membership

1203. Composition. The district board of administration is composed of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent(s) (if any, cf. 1320), the district secretary, the district treasurer, and members-at-large according to the size of the district:

(1) When a district has fewer than fifty churches, the district conference shall elect at least five members-at-large to the district board of administration, making a total board of not fewer than eight members, elected so that at least three are lay members (cf. 1203:3).

(2) When a district has fifty or more churches, the district conference shall elect at least seven members-at-large to the district board of administration, making a total of not fewer than ten members, elected so that at least four are lay members (cf. 1203:3).

(3) Whenever a district conference chooses to elect more than the minimum number of members-at-large to its district board of administration, due regard shall be given to elect a proportionate number of lay members.

1206. Regulations for a Member-at-Large. Each member-at-large of a district board of administration shall be a member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of a local Wesleyan church within the district of service, both at the time of election and throughout the tenure of membership. A ministerial member-at-large shall be chosen from among the ordained ministers of the district. The term of office shall be for one year or two years (cf. 1282), and the member-at-large shall serve from the close of the district conference at which elected until the close of the prescribed term or until a successor is elected and qualified. Regulations governing the amenability of a member-at-large of the district board of administration and

the declaring and filling of a vacancy in such office are the same as those for district officials set forth in 1265 and 1272 (cf. 1233:28a).

C. Sessions

1209. Organizing Sessions. The district board of administration shall meet immediately after the close of the district conference for an organizing session:

(1) To care for any business delegated to it by the district conference which requires immediate attention.

(2) To appoint or employ a district treasurer (1335), when such has been authorized by the district conference (1180:33).

(3) To elect those departmental officers and members of boards, leadership teams or committees and to elect or ratify the election of those officers of auxiliaries, whose terms expire at the time of the district board's organizing session (cf. 1233:20).

(4) To make plans for the year and to care for any other business as deemed necessary.

1212. Regular Sessions. The district board of administration shall meet at such time and place as it shall determine, provided that it shall meet at least once each quarter.

1215. Special Sessions. The district board of administration may authorize special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the district superintendent or in the event of an emergency when the district superintendent is unable to act, by the assistant district superintendent, if any, or if more than one assistant district superintendent, the one designated vice-chair (1320; 1323:2), or the General Superintendent or the General Superintendent's representative. A special session shall also be called when requested by the General Board or its Executive Board, or the General Superintendent. All members shall be notified at least one week in advance of a special session, except when all are able to meet on shorter notice.

1218. Evaluation Sessions. The General Superintendent shall, with the district board of administration, evaluate periodically the service of and financial provision for the district superintendent. The method and extent of such evaluation shall be determined by the General Superintendent with special attention focused on those responsibilities that are most likely to contribute to future outreach and growth to the glory of God.

D. Organization and Procedures

1221. Chair. The district superintendent shall preside as chair over the district board of administration. The designated assistant district superintendent, if any, shall preside in the absence of the district superintendent or when requested to do so by the district superintendent (1320). If neither is present, the board shall elect from among its members a chair pro tem.

1224. Secretary. The district secretary is the secretary of the district board of administration by virtue of this office.

1227. Quorum. A majority of all members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

1230. Voting. A majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by *The Discipline* or by legal or corporate requirements.

E. Duties and Powers

1233. The duties and powers of the district board of administration are:

General Duties

(1) To serve as the chief governing body of the district in the interim of district conference sessions, caring for all the interests of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district in accord with *The Discipline*.

(2) To promote the interests of the general divisions and educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church; to encourage their support and to receive their representatives.

(3) To be responsible within the district for the promotion of world missions and general evangelism and church growth (1410).

Related to the District Conference

(4) To cooperate with the district superintendent in evaluating the health of the district; establishing policies, goals, and objectives for more effectively fulfilling the mission of the district; empowering the district superintendent to pursue the goals and objectives, within the established policies and through the district's pastors and members; and periodically receiving performance reports from the district superintendent regarding progress.

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

(6) To cooperate with the General Superintendent in establishing the date for the annual session of the district conference so that the General Superintendent may preside (1112; 1935:28).

(7) To call for a reconvened session of the district conference by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration, subject to the approval of the General Superintendent, and to call for a reconvened session when requested to do so by the General Board (1115) or its Executive Board or the General Superintendent.

(8) To allot to each church or circuit of the district the number of lay delegates it shall elect to the district conference (1100).

(9) To submit resolutions directly to the district conference that will provide for a more efficient administration, better correlation and advancement of the district work, and to submit proposed memorials to the General Conference (1557; cf. 1180:3).

(10) To serve the district conference as a committee on pastoral relations and ministerial appointments, being responsible:

(a) To review all pastoral agreements between churches and ministers of the district (cf. 690–722).

(b) To receive a report from the district board of ministerial development concerning matters related to district conference appointments and relations as set forth in 1390:10.

(c) To submit to the district conference a comprehensive report covering all the churches and ministers of the district: recommending any necessary changes in the boundaries of the pastoral charges or in the classification of churches (1180:24–25; cf. 4720–4750); recommending the appointment of pastors for all churches for the coming year (cf. 510:1), including the approval, alteration or veto of pastoral agreements already made by the churches and ministers (323:2), and the appointment of pastors or the delegation of responsibility for such appointment for churches otherwise without pastors (1180:26), and recommending the appointment and/or classification of all other ordained ministers (3075:5), commissioned or licensed ministers, special workers and the licensing of ministerial students as set forth in 1180:26 and 1240 (cf. 3015:1).

(11) To carry out the following duties concerning the United Stewardship Fund (2000–2045): to submit a recommendation to the district conference for the raising of the district obligation and the apportioning to each church of its share of the district obligation (2015; cf. 1337:6); to

approve adjustments in United Stewardship Fund assessments due to building projects as set forth in 2005:2; to administer the district plan for raising the district obligation and to see that such obligation is paid in full (2015:3).

Duties Relating to District Officers, Committees and Auxiliaries

(12) To have the general oversight of all district officials (1255), district departmental officers (1275), boards, leadership teams, committees, employees, auxiliary organizations of the district; to approve their plans and to coordinate their work; and to see that the work is administered according to *The Discipline* and the directives of the district conference. (Cf. 1265–1272; 1285–1292; 1337:8; 1384; 1410.)

(13) To divide the district into zones and determine the boundaries thereof, which shall be the same for all district organizations.

(14) To incorporate the district, when so authorized by the district conference (1180:21), as provided for in 4100–4150; to serve as the board of directors of such corporation; and to have power on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation, and to exercise its corporate powers in accord with the provisions of *The Discipline* (4100–4150; 4500–4630; 4660; 4680; 4800–4880).

(15) To carry out, whenever the district is not incorporated, such duties, and to exercise such authority over district property and other legal affairs as set forth in 4500–4630 and 4800–4880.

(16) To provide for the preservation and security of all district records and archives, directing the district superintendent (1310:13; 4760), the district secretary (1332:6–7), the secretary of the district board of ministerial development (1387), and any others, concerning the care of the records placed in their custody.

(17) Space reserved.

(18) To adopt an annual budget of income and expense for the district; to set the salaries, allowances, and related matters for the district officials (1303:2) and district departmental officers; to promote the raising of district funds in keeping with the plans of the district conference (1180:16); to direct the district treasurer in the handling and disbursement of such funds (1337:3); and to have the district treasurer bonded and to set the amount of such bond, the expense for which shall be paid by the district.

(19) To employ an auditor when so authorized by the district conference and to assign the duties (1340); to direct an audit of the records and funds in the custody of the district treasurer, the district treasurers of the auxiliary organizations or any other treasurers of the district, whenever such is deemed necessary (1337:7).

(20) To appoint or employ a district treasurer when so authorized by the district conference (1335) and to elect such district departmental officers and members of the district boards or committees as required by *The Discipline* or delegated to it by the district conference (cf. 1165; 1180:20, 33, 38; 1233:37; 1245; 1340; 1345; 1350; 1355; 1416; 1426; 1429; 1430; 1440; 1446; 1460; 1471; 1489; 5175:1); to elect members of the district board of ministerial development in keeping with the requirements for that board and to ratify the appointment of the chair if the district superintendent chooses not to serve (1378–1381).

(21) To serve as or to establish a separate district board of evangelism and church growth as set forth in 1413–1423, taking a special interest in and responsibility for developing, supervising, and promoting an aggressive program of district evangelism and church growth, and to cooperate in such endeavor with the General Superintendent and the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

(22) To serve as or to establish a separate district spiritual formation leadership team as set forth in 1440–1443; to elect a chair and such members as may be decided upon (1443); to approve its plans and to assign such duties as desired (1452; 1455:9).

(23) To elect or employ, when so authorized by the district conference (1180:37), a district director of spiritual formation (1460) and to assign duties to such a director (1463:1–9).

(24) Space reserved

(25) To approve the time and place of the district conventions of women's ministry and Wesleyan Youth, to recommend to the district conference the enlargement of the membership of the women's ministry convention, to approve the nominations for the district director of women's ministry and the district president of WY or to make other nominations as desired and to ratify the election of the other district officers, and to approve the plans of the district conventions and the executive committees of women's ministry and WY.

(26) To elect four ordained ministers and three lay members as members of the district board of review, and to elect two ordained ministers and two lay members to serve as alternates and to fill vacancies as set forth in 5218.

(27) To request a ruling on a point of church law or an interpretation of *The Discipline* from the General Superintendent and to appeal the same to the Board of Review (2064; cf. 5445:2); and to request assistance from the General Board or its Executive Board, through the General Superintendent, when deemed necessary.

(28) To remove for cause or whenever the best interests of the Church and the district so require:

(a) Any of its own members, with the exception of the district superintendent (cf. 1307), by a two-thirds majority vote of all members, and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term (1206; 1265; 1272).

(b) Any departmental officer (1275), member of a board, leadership team, committee or other agency of the district or the district officers of an auxiliary organization, by a majority vote and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term(1292).

Related to Churches and Ministers

(29) To organize and supervise all pastoral charges of the district in accord with *The Discipline* and other district directives so that each one may be an effective unit of The Wesleyan Church; to guard carefully the spiritual life and general welfare of all the churches; to plan and conduct conventions, institutes or seminars for pastors and other workers in the district, promoting such for the purpose of spiritual refreshment, leadership development, greater efficiency, and a more united effort within the district and the General Church.

(30) To authorize the establishment of a mission (537; 655:15), a developing church (510), an urban missional church (536), and a church, (518) and to receive a report from the district superintendent on the effecting of such organizations (520:6); to reclassify an established church as a developing church when its number of members drops to 20 or fewer (518:5); and to declare a church as discontinued or abandoned (1180:24; 4730). Any established church that is not under discipline may not be discontinued without a corroborating vote of the local church conference (655:14).

(31) To receive the report of the district superintendent concerning the actions of the local advisory council of each developing church (510:3).

(32) To approve all pastoral agreements and make all ministerial appointments in the interim of district conference sessions, subject to the final approval of the district conference (715; 722:1, 3).

(33) To approve in writing the proposal of a local church conference for the acquisition, purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer or other disposal of real property in accord with the provisions in 4700–4780 (cf. 4000–4070), after

first receiving a written report and recommendation from the district building committee when such is required as set forth in 1345; to advise, or appoint an investment committee to advise, a local board of administration when a local church has received an out-of-pattern contribution with value equal to or exceeding the total contributions of the preceding year (cf. 782:35); to authorize the incorporation of a local church in keeping with 4000 (cf. 655:14; 4010:6); to approve the name of a new church or name change or adaptation requested by a developing or established church.

(34) To supervise and coordinate the merger of two or more churches and to establish the procedures for such mergers. The plans for merger initiated by the local board or boards of administration must be submitted for consideration and approval to the district board of administration before presenting the proposals to the local church conference for consideration and vote.

(35) To approve the plans of a local board of administration for the establishment of a day care and/or day school, and after its establishment to approve any significant change in mission, facilities or finances (cf. 655:19; 782:36–37).

(36) To take charge of any complaints or accusations against a local church or circuit within the district and to carry out disciplinary proceedings as deemed necessary in accord with the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5300–5325; cf. 5221); to intervene and protect the property rights of The Wesleyan Church and the district as set forth in 4010:6; 4770; 4840:6; and to authorize the district superintendent to call for an affirmation of loyalty and to reorganize a local church as set forth in *The General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5300–5325).

(37) To grant temporary recognition (cf. 1390:3) to ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, licensed ministers, and commissioned special workers or persons with equivalent standing, from other denominations, as being in process of transfer, subject to the action of the next district conference (1180:29a, d, e; 1310:29).

(38) To appoint the desired number of ordained ministers as a council of ordination (1405), except when the district conference shall designate the ordained ministers on the district board of ministerial development as the council of ordination (1180:34; 1390:6); and, in case of emergency, in the interim of district conference sessions, to elect to ordination a candidate recommended by the district board of ministerial development (3070:5).

(39) To consider and pass on the proposed resignation by, or a proposed vote on, a pastor after the renewal of the call, when such is considered before the term of service expires or in the interim of quadrennial reviews (722:2);

or to remove a pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration in keeping with the provisions of 712; 722:3; 1310:22; and to appoint a supply pastor, if necessary, until another pastor has been obtained (715); or to remove a supply pastor by a majority vote if deemed necessary (3260:5); and to appoint an interim pastor or to remove an interim pastor by a majority vote (3261:2).

(40) To take charge of judicial proceedings, the ordering of investigation (5012) or hearing, for any ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, ministerial student, commissioned or licensed special worker or other worker under the jurisdiction of the district (5200), in accord with the provisions of the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5203–5215).

(41) To represent the district, in the interim of district conference sessions, in judicial proceedings over matters of controversy between the district and other local, district or general units or agencies (323:10; cf. 5445:2, 4).

F. The Listing of District Conference Relations and Appointments

1240. The ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, licensed ministers, ministerial students, commissioned special workers, licensed special workers, commissioned lay missionaries, and supply pastors of the district shall be listed in the following order as appointed by the district conference (1180:26; cf. 1233:10). This listing shall be included in the district conference journal (1178) as an official district directory and shall be used for that portion of the district conference roll call.

1. Ordained Ministers

A. APPOINTED ORDAINED MINISTERS (3250–3390).

1. District Service.

The district superintendent and other ordained ministers in full-time service of the district in a ministerial capacity (3320; cf. 1327; 1460).

2. Pastoral and Local Service.

- a. Ordained ministers appointed as pastors, associate or assistant pastors, or interim pastors within the district (3255).
- b. Ordained ministers on loan to other districts of The Wesleyan Church for service as supply pastors (3100:2; 3260:1).
- c. Ordained ministers appointed to serve in a local church spiritual formation or Christian education program (3310:2).

3. Evangelistic Service.

- a. Associate general evangelists. Ordained ministers appointed as associate general evangelists (3270; 3280).
- b. General evangelists. Ordained ministers appointed as general evangelists (3270; 3275; 3285:1)
- c. Reserve evangelists. Ordained ministers appointed as reserve evangelists (3270; 3275; 3285:2).

4. Denominational Service.

- a. Ordained ministers elected by the General Conference or General Board as general officials (1800; cf. 3320).
- b. Ordained ministers employed at the World Headquarters, or those elected or employed by the board of directors of a general subsidiary corporation other than an educational institution, for full-time General Church service in a ministerial capacity as set forth in 3320.
- c. Ordained ministers appointed by the General Board for service in a ministerial capacity as missionaries or workers under the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division or Global Partners Division as set forth in 3300.
- d. Ordained ministers employed to serve in a ministerial capacity on the administrative staff or faculty of a general educational institution of The Wesleyan Church (2365) or one of the seminaries approved by the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (2382).
- e. Ordained ministers traveling and teaching in local churches and districts without a specific or pastoral assignment as itinerant Bible teachers (3310:3).

5. Chaplains (3330).

Ordained ministers approved by the Committee on Chaplains and commissioned by the government as military chaplains, or employed as full-time professional institutional chaplains.

6. Interchurch Service (3335).

Ordained ministers employed in a ministerial capacity in interchurch service, serving with an educational, evangelistic or missionary organization not directly related to The Wesleyan Church, provided such service is approved by the district conference.

7. Special Service (3345).

Ordained ministers serving in active ministry not otherwise provided for, if such service is approved by the district conference.

- 8. Affiliate Church Pastor** (3346; 7010).
Ordained ministers appointed by the district conference to service on staff of an affiliate church.
- B. RETIRED ORDAINED MINISTERS** (3370).
Ordained ministers retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, provided they were either on the appointed list, on reserve or on educational leave at the time of such incapacitation or retirement.
- C. RESERVE ORDAINED MINISTERS** (3360).
Ordained ministers available for but without appointment. An ordained minister who remains on reserve for two consecutive years shall be automatically transferred to the list of ordained ministers without appointment unless continued on reserve by vote of the district conference.
- D. ORDAINED MINISTERS ON EDUCATIONAL LEAVE** (3350:1).
Ordained ministers enrolled in a seminary or other graduate school for advanced training for church service.
- E. ORDAINED MINISTERS WITHOUT APPOINTMENT** (3380).
1. Ordained ministers not available for appointment.
 2. Ordained ministers employed in other than a ministerial capacity by the General Church (3320), by a general educational institution or one of the seminaries connected with the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (3310) or in interchurch service (3335).
 3. Ordained ministers not otherwise listed.
- F. ORDAINED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF DISTRICT TRANSFER**
Ordained ministers receiving appointment by the district conference to 1240:I:A, B, C or D but whose processes of transfer between districts of The Wesleyan Church are not yet completed.
1. The receiving district shall list the ordained minister under the appropriate category of service, followed by the notation, "Pending Completion of District Transfer." The minister shall be a non-voting member of this district until completion of the transfer (1090:9).
 2. The sending district shall list the ordained minister as having "Applied for District Transfer." The ordained minister shall be a voting member of the sending district until completion of the district transfer (3100:1; 1083:5).
- G. ORDAINED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER** (3104; 3390).
Ordained ministers from another denomination who have been granted recognition as ordained ministers in process of transfer (1180:29a; cf. 1390:3; 3104).

2. Commissioned Ministers

A. **PASTORS** (3255).

Commissioned ministers appointed as pastors or as full-time associate or assistant pastors of Wesleyan churches in that district (317; 1083:3).

B. **OTHER APPOINTMENTS.**

Commissioned ministers appointed to service in a local church spiritual formation or Christian education program (3310:2) or in a ministerial capacity to district, denominational or interchurch service (3250; 3300; 3320; 3335); itinerant Bible teachers (3310:3).

C. **COMMISSIONED MINISTERS WITHOUT APPOINTMENT** (3380).

1. Commissioned ministers not available for appointment.
2. Commissioned ministers employed in other than a ministerial capacity by the General Church (3320), by a general educational institution or one of the seminaries connected with the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (3310) or in interchurch service (3335).

D. **IN PROCESS OF DISTRICT TRANSFER.**

Commissioned ministers receiving appointment by the district conference to 1240:II:A or B but whose processes of transfer from another district of The Wesleyan Church are not yet completed.

1. The receiving district shall list the commissioned minister under the appropriate category of service, followed by the notation, "Pending Completion of District Transfer." The commissioned minister shall be a non-voting member of this district until completion of the transfer (3100:1).
2. The sending district shall list the commissioned minister as having "Applied for District Transfer." The commissioned minister shall remain a non-voting member of the sending district until completion of the transfer (1083:3).

E. **IN PROCESS OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER.**

Commissioned ministers or their equivalent from other denominations who have been granted recognition as commissioned ministers in process of transfer (3104).

F. **RETIRED COMMISSIONED MINISTERS** (3371).

Commissioned ministers retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, provided they were either on the appointed list, on reserve or on educational leave at the time of such incapacitation or retirement.

3. Licensed Ministers

A. PASTORS (3255).

Licensed ministers appointed as pastors, associate pastors or assistant pastors of Wesleyan churches in that district (317; 1083:3).

B. OTHER APPOINTMENTS.

Licensed ministers appointed to service in a local church spiritual formation or Christian education program (3310:2) or in a ministerial capacity to district, denominational or interchurch service (3250; 3300; 3320; 3335); itinerant Bible teachers (3310:3).

C. IN PROCESS OF DISTRICT TRANSFER.

Licensed ministers receiving appointment by the district conference to 1240:III:A or B but whose processes of transfer from another district of The Wesleyan Church are not yet completed.

1. The receiving district shall list the licensed minister under the appropriate category of service, followed by the notation, "Pending Completion of District Transfer." The licensed minister shall be a non-voting member of this district until completion of the transfer (3100:1).
2. The sending district shall list the licensed minister as "Applied for District Transfer." Unless a licensed minister is an ordained minister-elect, said minister shall remain a non-voting member of the sending district until completion of the district transfer (1083:2, 3).

D. IN PROCESS OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER.

Licensed ministers or their equivalent from other denominations who have been granted recognition as licensed ministers in process of transfer (3104).

4. Ministerial Students

Those approved by the district conference to be licensed as ministerial students as set forth in 3015:1.

5. Lay Workers

A. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS (3450; 3470).

List by specific category such as director of music, director of spiritual formation or Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, lay evangelist, social worker or spouse in ministry.

- B. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER** (3450; 3470).
List by specific category (refer to 1240:V:A).
- C. LICENSED SPECIAL WORKERS** (3450; 3460).
List by specific category (refer to 1240:V:A).
- D. COMMISSIONED LAY MISSIONARIES** (3490).
- E. SUPPLY PASTORS** (3260).

G. Executive Committee

1245. A district board of administration with nine or more members may establish an executive committee which shall consist of the executive officers of the district board of administration (1255). Additional members may be elected upon the recommendation of the district superintendent. The executive committee may act for the district board of administration as that board shall authorize.

Chapter 4

DISTRICT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. List of District Officers, Boards and Committees

1250. The following summarizes for quick reference the various officers, boards, and committees of the district:

- (1) The district shall have the following officers and personnel, elected by the district conference:
 - administration, board of (1200–1233)
 - delegates to General Conference (1032; 1180:4; 1503–1526)
 - district secretary (1330–1332)—or this office may be combined as district secretary-treasurer (1180:33)
 - district superintendent (1300–1310)
 - trustees, district board of (if any, subject to 1180:22; 1360; 1365; 4855)
- (2) The district shall have the following officers and personnel, elected by the district conference (unless it delegates this duty to the district board of administration):
 - district building committee (1345)
 - district statistical committee (1350–1352)
 - district treasurer (1335–1337)
 - evangelism and church growth director (1426)
 - Global Partners director (1429)
 - district Sunday school director (1483; cf. 1460)—unless duties are assigned to a district spiritual formation director
- (3) The district shall have the following officers and personnel, elected by the district board of administration:
 - auditing committee or auditor (1340)
 - ministerial development, board of (1378)
 - ordination council (1405)
 - review, board of (1370; 5218–5221)
- (4) The district may have the following committees and personnel, elected by the district conference (unless otherwise noted):
 - district conference action committee (1165–1168)—election may be delegated to the district board of administration

- district conference nominating committee (1172–1175)
 district spiritual formation director (1460; cf. 1483)
- (5) The district may have any additional ministry leaders and committees deemed necessary, elected or appointed by the district board of administration (except as noted), such as:
- adult ministries director (1494)
 - assistant superintendent(s) (1320–1327)
 - camp meeting board (1180:20)
 - children’s ministries director (1489)
 - community-based/compassion ministry director
 - conference journal editing committee (1178:1)
 - educational director (1496)—appointed by the district superintendent, unless duties are assigned to the district director of spiritual formation
 - evangelism and church growth, board of (1413–1423)
 - ethnic ministry directors
 - executive committee of the district board of administration (1245)
 - Global Partners, board of (1430–1435)
 - judicial committee (5209)
 - men’s ministry director
 - spiritual formation leadership team (1233:22; 1440–1455)
 - Sunday school committee (1468–1480)
 - Wesleyan Youth director (1233:25; 1492)
 - women’s ministry director
 - zone leaders (1233:13)

B. District Officials

1255. Identification. The district officials include the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent(s), if any, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. They are elected by the district conference with the exception of the assistant district superintendent(s) (1320), and the possible exception of the district treasurer (1335; 1180:33) by ballot and by majority vote, and are *ex officio* members of the district board of administration (1180:31–33; cf. 1203).

1258. Qualifications. A district official other than the district superintendent (cf. 1303:1) must be, at the time of election and throughout the term of service, a member with leadership qualifications of a local Wesleyan

church within the district and, if a minister, a ministerial member of the district where service is rendered (cf. 1272).

1262. Term of Office. District officials elected or appointed by the district conference or district board of administration (cf. 1250; 1255; 1275; 1303:2) may be elected or appointed for either one-year or two-year terms of service with the exception of the district superintendent (1303:2). All district officials shall assume office at the close of the district conference session at which they are elected and shall serve until the close of the district conference marking the end of their term or until their successors are elected and qualified with the possible exception of the district treasurer (1335; 1180:33).

1265. Amenability. A district official shall administer the respective office according to *The Discipline*, and as directed by the General Conference, the General Board, the district conference, and the district board of administration. District officials other than the district superintendent shall serve under the general supervision of the district superintendent, shall be amenable to the district board of administration and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district so require, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the district board of administration (1233:28a). The amenability of the district superintendent is set forth in 1307 (cf. 323:1).

1268. Reports. A district official shall report to each session of the district conference concerning all official duties (1180:13) and to the district board of administration as may be required.

1272. Vacancies. The office of a district official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district, by resignation, by removal (1265) or in the case of a minister, by ceasing to be a ministerial member of the district. In all cases other than that of the district superintendent (1303:7), the filling of a vacancy in the office of a district official until the next session of the district conference shall be by a majority vote of all members of the district board of administration (1233:28a).

C. District Departmental Officers and Committees

1275. Identification. District departmental officers include the district director of evangelism and church growth (1426), the district director of Global Partners (1429), the district director of spiritual formation (1460), the district director of leadership training (1486), the district director of adult ministries

(1494), the district director of youth ministries (1492), the district director of children's ministries (1489), the district director of men's ministry, the district director of women's ministry (1439), and the district educational director (1496). All district departmental officers and members of district boards (other than the district board of administration, cf. 1206) and committees are subject to the regulations as set forth herewith in paragraphs 1275–1292.

1278. Qualifications. A district departmental officer or member of a district board or committee (1275) must be a member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of a local Wesleyan church within the district at the time of election, with the exception of ordained ministers appointed to denominational service, and if a minister, a ministerial member of the district (cf. 1292).

1282. Term of Office. A district departmental officer (1275) or member of a district board or committee elected or appointed by the district conference or district board of administration may be elected or appointed for either one-year or two-year terms of service, unless otherwise stated in *The Discipline* (cf. 1378; 1416; 1432). A district may, by a two-thirds vote, adopt three-year terms for the district board of administration, with approximately one-third being elected each year. The district departmental officer or member of a district board or committee shall assume office at the close of the district conference session at which elected or, whenever elected by the district board of administration, at the time of the election and shall serve until the close of the designated term.

1285. Amenability. All district departmental officers and members of district boards or committees (1275) shall carry out their duties according to *The Discipline* and other directives of the General Church or district. They shall serve under the general supervision of the district superintendent and shall be amenable to the district board of administration. They may be removed by the district board of administration, by a majority vote, for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district so require (1233:27b).

1288. Reports. A district departmental officer shall report to the district conference as required by *The Discipline* or by the district conference (1180:13), and shall make other reports to the board or committee under which service is performed, the district board of administration or the district superintendent as may be requested.

1292. Vacancies. The office of a district departmental officer or membership on a district board or committee (1275) may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district, by

resignation, by removal (1285) or in the case of a minister, by ceasing to be a ministerial member of the district, or in the case of a minister serving under the special provision of paragraph 1278, by discontinuing the appointment to denominational service. A vacancy may be declared and filled for the unexpired term by the district board of administration, by a majority vote.

Chapter 5

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

A. District Superintendent

1300. Function. The district superintendent is to be the spiritual and administrative leader of the district.

1303. Qualifications and Tenure. A district superintendent shall exhibit the desire to live a holy life and demonstrate the same in practice; shall live in full accord with the vision and values of The Wesleyan Church; have passion and compassion for the lost and the least; and exhibit vision and administrative leadership. The regulations for a district superintendent are (cf. 1255–1272):

(1) **Election.** The district superintendent shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, from among the ordained ministers of The Wesleyan Church (1180:31; cf. 1935:31). If the district superintendent who is elected is from outside the membership of the electing district, the district superintendent shall immediately arrange for the transfer of local and district membership.

(2) **Term of Office.** The initial election of a district superintendent shall be for a term of two years. Reelection thereafter shall be for a term of four years or an extended period (cf. 1262). The initial term of a newly elected district superintendent begins at the rise of the district conference. However, when mutually agreed upon or deemed in the best interests of the district, the district board of administration may delay the beginning of the term of the newly elected district superintendent and provide an appropriate transition period before ending the term of the outgoing district superintendent. The salary of a district superintendent should be continued for one month beyond the date for the termination of service, unless the salary is removed by the district board of administration.

(3) **Reelection.** Unless a district superintendent whose term is expiring shall give notice to the General Superintendent and district board of administration no less than 90 days prior to district conference, the district superintendent shall be considered available. The General Superintendent shall lead the district board of administration in a formal evaluation of the district superintendent's job performance in relation to established missional goals and objectives (cf. 1935:29–30) prior to any vote on reelection to office. If necessary,

by a majority vote the district board of administration may request procedural intervention by the General Superintendent to declare that reelection by a “yes/no” vote shall not occur but that the nomination process in *Discipline* 1303:8 must be followed. When an incumbent district superintendent does not receive a majority vote on the initial “yes/no” ballot for reelection, the provision of 1303:8 for the special committee on nominations shall become effective.

(4) **Term of Reelection.** One of the following alternative procedures shall be followed:

(a) A vote for a four-year renewal of the call shall be taken. If the vote on a four-year renewal of the call is favorable, the district board of administration, after consulting with the district superintendent and upon approval of the General Superintendent, may then recommend to the district conference that a ballot vote be taken to renew the call for an extended period.

(b) Or, prior to the vote on renewing the call, the district board of administration, after consultation with the district superintendent and upon approval of the General Superintendent, shall recommend to the district conference a specific call for four years or an extended call.

(5) **Special Regulations for Extended Call.** The General Superintendent shall review the call relationship with the district board of administration at least quadrennially. At the evaluation, the district board of administration shall either reaffirm by majority vote the extended call or shall, in consultation with the General Superintendent, announce a vote of the district conference for affirmation of continuing the call.

(6) **Ex Officio Duties.** The district superintendent is a ministerial member of the General Conference (325; 1503:1a), vice-chair of the district conference (350:3; 1120), chair of the district board of administration (1203; 1221), chair of the district board of ministerial development unless electing to appoint another to serve (1381), chair of the district board of evangelism and church growth unless electing to appoint another to serve (1416), chair of the district building committee (1345), chair of the district conference action committee when such is authorized (1165), unless electing to appoint another to serve, chair of the district conference nominating committee when such is authorized (1172), and an *ex officio* member of the district conventions of women’s ministry and Wesleyan Youth.

(7) **Vacancy.** Whenever the office of superintendent is vacated other than at district conference, or when other existing circumstances warrant, the district board of administration, in consultation with the General Superintendent, shall appoint an interim superintendent to serve until the next annual session of the

district conference, or until a successor is elected or the district board of administration declares the period of service ended. An interim district superintendent shall be granted full authority to carry out the duties assigned to a district superintendent by *The Discipline*.

(8) **Special District Committee for Nominations.** Whenever a vacancy has resulted in the appointment of an acting superintendent, or whenever a district superintendent shall announce unavailability for continued service, a special district committee for nominations shall be formed with the General Superintendent as chair, comprised of the members of the district board of administration, or by persons they choose. The special district committee for nominations shall screen and select persons believed to have the qualities needed for the office of district superintendent and present one or more nominees to the district conference session. The district conference shall elect in accordance with 1303:1, and shall not be limited to the persons nominated by the special committee on nominations.

1307. Amenability. The district superintendent is amenable, as provided in the constitution, to the General Board (323:1). The district superintendent may be removed from office by the General Board, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, for cause or whenever the General Board deems it necessary for the best interests of the Church or the preservation of the district (1655:37, 40a).

1310. Duties. The district superintendent shall administer this office in accord with *The Discipline* and any other official directives from the General Conference, the General Board, the General Superintendent, the district conference, and the district board of administration. The duties of the district superintendent are (cf. 1300; 1303:6):

General

(1) To have the oversight of the Church within the district, endeavoring to lead the district forward in the fulfillment of the mission of The Wesleyan Church (100–105).

(2) To give special attention to the initiation and promotion of an aggressive program of evangelism and church growth, as approved by the district conference or the district board of administration (cf. 537; 510; 518; 1233:3, 20; 1413; 4840:6).

(3) To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry, teaching the people concerning the doctrines, purposes, and programs of The Wesleyan Church, and promoting the interests of all the general divisions and the district.

(4) To cooperate with the General Superintendent (cf. 1935:27), the General Board, and its Executive Board in the oversight of the district work and, in matters of district evangelism and church growth, with the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

(5) To assist the General Superintendent in presiding over the district conference, and to assist the representative appointed by the General Superintendent when the General Superintendent is unable to be present. If neither the General Superintendent nor a representative appointed by the General Superintendent is present, it is the duty of the district superintendent to preside or to take responsibility for the same (350:3; 1120).

District Administration

(6) To be the chair of the district board of administration (1203; 1221), and to submit recommendations to the district board of administration that will provide for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of the district work.

(7) To be the chair of the district board of ministerial development, or to appoint another to serve instead, subject to ratification by the district board of administration (1381); to be the chair of the district building committee (1345), to be the chair of the district conference action committee, when such a committee has been authorized, or to appoint the chair (1165), and to be the chair of the district conference nominating committee when such has been authorized (1172).

(8) To exercise administrative supervision over all district officials, departmental officers, boards (cf. 1416; 1452; 1496), leadership teams, committees, auxiliary organizations, missions, developing churches, churches, circuits, ministers, and other workers (cf. 3260:2) of the district with the exception of those who are amenable to the General Board (323:1; 1180:12), and to see that the plans and policies of the General Church and district are carried out.

(9) To meet with any district board, leadership team, committee, auxiliary organization or other district agency at the discretion of the district superintendent, and make such recommendations as deemed advisable; and to counsel with the various officers, directors, employees, and others serving the district concerning their work.

(10) To cooperate with the district board of administration in evaluating the health of the district; establishing policies, goals, and objectives for more effectively fulfilling the mission of the district; pursuing the goals and

objectives, within the established policies and through the district's pastors and members; and periodically providing performance reports regarding progress.

(11) To participate in at least one continuing education opportunity per year that is specifically designed for personal and professional development.

(12) To strive toward established goals and objectives approved by the district board of administration in consultation with the General Superintendent.

(13) To examine all written instruments and legal papers for the conveyance of property acquired by local churches (4700:5) or the district and to approve them as to their conformity with the requirements of *The Discipline* (4590–4880; cf. 4000–4070), the inclusion of the proper trust clause (4610), and conformity to local laws (4510); and to have the custody, under the direction of the district board of administration, of property and legal records for both the district and the local churches as provided for in 4760.

Local Churches

(14) To visit, or to appoint an assistant district superintendent, if any, or other representative to visit, each church in the district at least once a year, or according to a schedule of visits approved by the district board of administration, making careful inquiry into the progress and administration of the church and seeking to advance its spiritual life, and to preserve a written report of such visits in the district office for future reference and for the successor in office.

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

(16) To recommend that the district board of administration authorize the establishment of a mission (537), a developing church (510), a church (518), the reclassification of a church (518:7); and to preside over the organization of an established church or appoint a representative to do so (520), and to report the organization of new churches to the district board of administration and to the district conference (520:6).

(17) To supervise and promote the development of a developing church, approving the reception of members (510:2; cf. 5105), appointing the local advisory council in cooperation with the pastor (510:3), and approving the plans of the pastor and the local advisory council in the interim of sessions of the district board of administration (510:3).

(18) To approve the date for the regular session of a local church conference (630:1–2), to preside over a local church conference whenever present (635),

to convene, when deemed advisable, a local board of administration or a local church conference and preside over the same (633:1; 712; 722:2-3; 773), and carry out any other provisions for a local board of administration or conference as prescribed in *The Discipline*.

(19) To counsel with a local board of administration for the securing of a pastor (705:1-3), proactively assessing the needs of the church and providing it with specific recommendations and names of potential pastors who best fit the profile to help meet those needs. The local board of administration and the district superintendent shall approve a pastoral candidate before that person is recommended to the church for a vote. The district superintendent shall also carry out the provisions of *The Discipline* concerning the call, the renewal of a call, the review and termination of an extended call, the resignation and release of a pastor from the pastoral agreement, and other matters pertaining to pastoral relations for the pastoral charges under district care (633:3; 692:2; 705:1-3; 710; 712; 718-722; 773).

(20) To work directly with the pastors and leaders of local churches in setting goals and objectives, or appoint another district leader to do so. The district superintendent, in consultation with the district board of administration, may advise a pastor and local board of administration to consider a pastoral change if goal progress remains unsatisfactory.

(21) To approve the transfer of any ordained minister or commissioned or licensed minister from another district, in concurrence with the General Superintendent (313:6; 705:3; 3100:1) and, when objecting to such a transfer, to state any reasons if requested to do so.

(22) To recommend the removal of a pastor to the district board of administration, whenever the best interests of the church involved demand it, and to recommend to the district board of administration the appointment of a supply or interim, if necessary, until another pastor has been obtained (712; 715; 722:3; 1233:32).

(23) To perform all the functions of a pastor for a local church within the district when such church is without a pastor, or to recommend to the district board of administration the appointment of a supply pastor or interim pastor until the local church obtains a pastor (1233:32, 39; 3260:2; 3261:2).

(24) To approve the employment of an evangelist or workers of another denomination for revivals or other meetings by a local church or any district organization and, when objecting to such employment, to state any reasons if requested to do so (725:19; 782:18).

Ministers

(25) To counsel with the pastors, ministers, and special workers under district care, giving special attention to the encouragement and guidance of candidates for the ministry.

(26) To be responsible, if the General Superintendent is absent, and if the representative appointed by the General Superintendent is absent (3091), for leading the Council of Ordination (1405) in conducting the ritual of ordination (3070:6; 5750–5792), and the ritual of commissioning a minister (5800–5845), a special worker (3470; 5855), and a lay missionary (3490; 5855); to sign with the district secretary such certificates, licenses or other official forms, as are required of this office and issued to such persons as are authorized by the district conference; to have charge of services for the installation of pastors (5905).

(27) To provide or promote access to continuing education opportunities at least twice each year for the ongoing personal and professional development of all ministerial personnel.

(28) To request any special reports from the pastors, ministers, and churches that will facilitate oversight of the district.

(29) To approve in writing the temporary service of an ordained minister in a district other than the one in which membership is held (3100:2); to grant a letter of transfer or standing to any ordained, licensed or commissioned worker in good standing of the district (6440; 6460); to instruct the district secretary to enroll as a member of the district a minister who transfers from another district in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* (313:6; 3100:1; 6440–6450), and to order the enrollment of a ministerial student or special worker so transferring (3015:3c, 5d; 3480; 6440–6450); to guide a minister or special worker from another denomination seeking recognition and membership in The Wesleyan Church (3104; 3470; cf. 3117); and to provide oversight for the restoration of ministers (5230).

Reports

(30) To report annually to the district conference concerning official duties and personal ministry (1180:13), and to submit other reports to the General Board or its Executive Board, the General Superintendent and the district board of administration as required; to counsel with the General Superintendent at least once a year concerning the plans and objectives for the district, reporting to the General Superintendent on the activities of the district and progress toward its objectives during the past year (cf. 1935:27).

Judicial

(31) To receive any complaint or accusation against any person or local unit under the jurisdiction of the district (5200:1–7; 5206; 5300–5320), and to give such complaint or accusation prompt and careful attention as required in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5206:2; 5300–5320), and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the district board of administration for disposition (1233:36, 40; cf. 5212:2; 5320).

(32) To forward to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration the credentials of a minister when such have been surrendered or removed by judicial process (3100:4; 5212:2; 5230).

B. Assistant District Superintendent(s)

1320. A district may have one or more assistant district superintendents as determined by majority vote of the district conference. In those districts where the district conference has voted to have one or more assistant district superintendents, the office shall be filled from among the ordained ministers of the district (1180:32) upon nomination by the district superintendent and election by the district board of administration. One of the assistant district superintendents shall be designated to serve as the vice-chair of the district board of administration and will serve on the executive committee of the district board of administration. Also, the district board of administration shall designate one of the assistant district superintendents to serve on the district board of ministerial development. The qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as set forth in 1255–1272.

1323. The duties of the assistant district superintendent(s), if any, are:

(1) To serve as member and vice-chair (cf. 1320) of the district board of administration, presiding over the board whenever the district superintendent is not present or when appointed to do so by the district superintendent (1221).

(2) To convene the district board of administration in times of emergency when the district superintendent is not able to act (1215; 1320).

(3) To serve as member of the district board of ministerial development (1320; 1378).

(4) To assist the district superintendent and to serve as a representative of the district superintendent to local churches or district organizations as the superintendent may request.

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

(6) To report annually to the district conference concerning all official duties (1180:13), and to the district board of administration as required.

1327. A district conference may choose to have one or more assistant district superintendent(s), if any, as full-time district official(s), and shall further define the duties of the assistant district superintendent(s) in addition to those set forth in *The Discipline*.

C. District Secretary

1330. The district secretary shall be elected by the district conference by ballot and by majority vote (1180:33; cf. 1175:1). The qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as defined in 1255–1272.

1332. The duties of the district secretary are:

(1) To be the secretary of the district conference, recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and forwarding the same to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration for distribution to the general offices and divisions (cf. 1178:4).

(2) To serve as a member and as the secretary of the district board of administration (1203; 1224), recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form, forwarding a copy of the minutes of each session to each member of the board and to the General Superintendent.

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

(4) To issue and sign all certificates, licenses, and other official forms as properly authorized by the district and as prescribed for a district secretary by the General Conference or General Board (1310:26).

(5) To forward promptly to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration: the statistical and financial reports of the district conference as may be required by the General Board; a certified list of the General Conference delegates, and the certification of an alternate when a delegate is unable to attend (1512–1518); a copy of each memorial adopted for presentation to the General Conference; a copy of the official district directory for inclusion in the denominational directory, and of each change in the directory as it occurs (1332:8); and to cooperate in forwarding other

information to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration as the Executive Director may request.

(6) To be the custodian of the official district records and archives, except as otherwise provided for in *The Discipline* (1387; 4760), including the records of the district statistical committee (1352:3) and all district judicial committees (5218; 5227), and to be instructed by the district board of administration as to the exercise of such custody (1233:16).

(7) To receive an official copy of the minutes of each board, committee, auxiliary organization or other district agency, and to preserve them in the district archives.

(8) To maintain a complete and current district directory, listing the district officials, each district board or committee with the names of its members and officers, the district departmental officers (1275), the names and addresses of each ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, ministerial student, commissioned and licensed special worker, and commissioned lay missionary, the address of each mission, developing church, church, circuit, and parsonage within the bounds of the district, and other information as desired (cf. 1240).

(9) To aid in collecting books, documents, photographs or other historical materials for the historical archives of the denomination in cooperation with the Executive Director of Communication and Administration (2115:5).

(10) To notify all churches and ministerial members of the district of the time and place of the next regular session of the district conference at least sixty days in advance (1112), and to notify them of any reconvened sessions as directed by the district board of administration (1115).

(11) To perform such other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration and as pertain to this office.

D. District Treasurer

1335. The district treasurer shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote (1175:1; 1180:33), unless the district conference by prior action has voted to authorize the district board of administration to appoint the district treasurer. If the district conference authorizes the district board of administration to appoint or employ the district treasurer, said appointment shall take place at the organizing session of the district board of administration immediately after the rise of the annual district conference (1209:2). The district treasurer shall serve as an

ex officio member of the district board of administration and shall be a voting member of the district conference. Said treasurer's qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a district official as defined in 1255–1272.

1337. The duties of a district treasurer are:

(1) To serve as a member of the district board of administration (1203), and, when such has been authorized, as a member of the district conference action committee (1165).

(2) To be bonded to the amount set by the district board of administration, the cost of which shall be paid by the district (1233:18).

(3) To have custody of all district funds, unless otherwise provided for by *The Discipline*; to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the financial plans of the General Conference and the district conference and as directed by the district board of administration.

(4) To receive, record, and hold all USF funds for the General Church raised within the district and to remit such funds monthly to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer on the approved forms.

(5) To serve as a district director of stewardship, promoting stewardship and storehouse tithing on the district level, in cooperation with the General Superintendent.

(6) To prepare and submit to the district board of administration, or to another committee if such has been designated by the district conference, a recommended plan to provide for the raising of the district obligation to the United Stewardship Fund, designating the amount to be assigned to each local church as its share of the district obligation, in accord with the regulations for the United Stewardship Fund (2015); which plan, as approved by the proper board or committee, shall be presented to the district conference for adoption (1180:16; 1233:11; cf. 1165–1168); and to promptly notify the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of the district USF obligation on forms provided by the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (cf. 2015:2).

(7) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit, after the close of the fiscal year, as provided for in 1340, and at any other time as may be requested by the district board of administration (1233:19).

(8) To submit a complete financial report of all funds administered or attended to by the district treasurer, to each regular session of the district conference (1180:13); to submit reports to the district board of administration (1233:12), the district superintendent and the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer as they may require.

(9) To perform such other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration and as pertain to this office.

E. District Auditing Committee

1340. The district board of administration shall provide for the auditing of all district treasurers' books annually, either by an elected district auditing committee, or by employing a certified public accountant, chartered accountant or public accountant. Audits shall be conducted on the records and funds of the district treasurer (1337:8) and all other treasurers of district boards or agencies having custody of district funds. The audit reports shall be submitted to the district board of administration for adoption. After appropriate review, the district board of administration may submit the reports to the district conference or the respective district conventions of the auxiliaries as information. The district auditing committee, certified public accountant, chartered accountant or public accountant may perform such other duties as may be required by the district conference or the district board of administration.

F. District Building Committee

1345. There shall be a district building committee elected by the district conference (1180:35a; cf. 1175:2), unless the district conference shall delegate the election to the district board of administration. The committee shall consist of the district superintendent or the district superintendent's appointed designee as chair, and such members as shall be elected. The elected members should be persons who are capable and experienced in property transactions and the construction of buildings. General regulations governing the membership of this committee are given in 1275–1292. The duties of the district building committee are:

(1) To investigate the proposed sites for local church buildings, parsonages or other units, in order to ascertain that such properties are properly located in the community to be served and adequate in size for future expansion and parking facilities; to consider also the plans and requirements of any planning commission, if such an agency exists; to consider also the financial plans and liabilities to be incurred; to act upon the proposal of the local church and to report its findings and recommendations in writing both to the district board of administration and the local church (cf. 4700–4720).

(2) To consider the proposal of a local church, on behalf of the church or a subsidiary of the church (655:13) for the:

- (a) Purchase of land;
- (b) Purchase of land and buildings;
- (c) Construction of a new building;
- (d) Addition to or remodeling of a building when the consequent costs are anticipated to be ten percent or more of the value of the current building.

(3) To advise the local church in detail concerning the architectural plans; to consider carefully the financial liability and the plans of the local church for meeting such liabilities; and to report its findings and recommendations in writing to the local church and the district board of administration (1233:33; cf. 4700–4720).

G. District Statistical Committee

1350. Each district conference shall elect a district statistical committee of the desired number (1180:35b; cf. 1175:2), or the district conference may delegate this responsibility to the district board of administration. General regulations for the membership of this committee are given in 1275–1292.

1352. The duties of the district statistical committee are:

(1) To receive, on behalf of the district conference, complete annual statistical and financial reports from such persons, units, and agencies as the General Board shall designate, on forms approved by the General Superintendent and made available by the Executive Director of Communication and Administration; and to compile and submit to the district conference a comprehensive statistical and financial report for the district as a whole.

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

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

H. District Board of Trustees

1360. The district conference of each established district shall be incorporated or shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as set forth in

4100–4150. In places where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the local laws require property to be held by trustees, the district conference may elect from among the members of the district board of administration the members of the district board of trustees in such number as desired (1180:22; cf. 4855). The district trustees shall hold office until their term expires as members of the district board of administration and until their successors are elected and qualified. The district board of trustees shall be amenable to the district board of administration (cf. 4840; 4855). A district trustee may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration whenever it is deemed necessary for the best interests of The Wesleyan Church and the district or whenever a trustee shall refuse to carry out the directions of the district board of administration, except when such directions are contrary to local laws or to *The Discipline* (1206; 1233:28a; 1265; 4540). The office of a district trustee may also become vacant by death, cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church or cessation of membership on the district board of administration. A vacancy on the district board of trustees shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of all the members of the district board of administration (1206; 1233:28a; 1272).

1365. The district board of trustees shall administer its duties in accord with *The Discipline* (4500–4630; 4830–4880), and as directed by the district board of administration. Its duties are:

(1) To hold all district property, and such local property as may be held by the district (4660; 4680), in trust for The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 4830 (cf. 323:8).

(2) To attend to all legal matters pertaining to the district transactions for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposal of property, as ordered by the district board of administration (cf. 4840).

(3) To fulfill such other duties as pertain to their office as trustees and as may be assigned to them by the district board of administration.

I. District Board of Review

1370. Each established district shall have a district board of review, which shall consist of four ordained ministers and three lay members elected annually by the district board of administration (1233:26; 5218). Two ordained ministers and two lay members shall also be elected at the same time to serve as alternates and to fill vacancies in the order of their election (5218). The district board of review serves as an appellate body for lay members and

local churches. The duties and powers of the district board of review are set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5218–5221). General regulations governing the members of the district board of review are set forth in 1275–1292.

Chapter 6

DISTRICT MINISTERIAL SUPERVISION

A. District Board of Ministerial Development

1375. Function. There shall be a district board of ministerial development which shall be responsible for the examination and recommendation to the district conference of all candidates for ordination, license, commission, ministerial study, restoration or transfer from another denomination.

1378. Membership. The board shall consist of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent (1320), if any, and, in addition, the district board of administration shall elect as many additional members as deemed sufficient. At least two members shall be from among the laity, and the ministerial members shall be ordained. The term of office for the elected members shall be for three years, with the election so arranged that approximately one-third shall be elected each year. General regulations for the members of this board are defined in 1275–1292.

1381. Organization. The district superintendent shall be the chair unless electing to appoint another to serve instead, with such appointment subject to ratification by the district board of administration. The board shall annually elect a vice-chair and a secretary. The board may divide into smaller groups and apportion the work among them as deemed necessary, provided that all recommendations of the board to the district conference shall be adopted by the full board.

1384. Sessions. The board shall be convened by the chair in sufficient time before the opening of the district conference to enable the board to complete its work in a careful and thorough manner, and shall meet at other times as deemed necessary upon the call of the chair.

1387. Records. The secretary of the district board of ministerial development shall keep suitable and permanent records which shall be the property of the district and shall be preserved as directed by the district superintendent and the district board of administration. The secretary of the board shall keep:

(1) A correct and complete journal of the proceedings of the board meetings, an official copy of which shall be submitted to the district secretary for permanent filing (1332:7).

(2) A record of the ministerial studies and training of each licentiate and ministerial student, including the work done in a university, college, theological school or by correspondence with the Ministerial Study Course Agency. A record of all credits earned shall be recorded at least once each year in cooperation with the Ministerial Study Course Agency as set forth in 2388:1, and shall be available to the board in considering its recommendations to the district conference.

(3) A personnel record of each ordained, licensed or commissioned member of the district, on forms as authorized by the General Board, including: important personal and family information; educational qualifications; ministerial service including pastoral and other district appointments, offices held, and credentials issued by the district. Whenever a letter of transfer is granted, a transcript of the personnel record shall be provided, if requested, but the record shall remain in the permanent files of the district.

1390. Duties. The duties of the district board of ministerial development shall be:

Related to Ordination, Commissions, Licenses and Ministerial Students

(1) To examine carefully (cf. 1935:34) each candidate for election by the district conference to ordination or election to a commissioned minister's status, the granting of a district ministerial license, a license as a ministerial student, a commission or license as special worker, a commission as a lay missionary, and any other commission or license as may be authorized by *The Discipline*. The examination shall include an interview with each candidate, making such investigation as is deemed necessary to affirm the individual's:

- (a) Personal experience of salvation and entire sanctification;
- (b) Full commitment to the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, Elementary Principles, and polity of The Wesleyan Church and acceptance of its authority;
- (c) Evidence of having the qualifications for the ministry to which the candidate feels called as set forth in *The Discipline*.

The examination shall result in recommendations to the district conference for those whom the district board of ministerial development judges to be qualified for said ministry (cf. 1381; 1390:5).

(2) To consider each person recommended by a local church conference (655:8) or circuit conference (528:2) or local board of administration (655:8) for the granting of a license as a ministerial student (1240:IV; 3015:1) and to

recommend to the district conference for such license those who are deemed worthy (1180:29b, c; cf. 3350:2); to encourage all such ministerial students to enroll for ministerial training in an approved school of The Wesleyan Church (2365; 2382); to supervise and counsel them, keeping a record of their ministerial studies (1387:2) and cooperating with the director of the Ministerial Study Course Agency in supervising those enrolled in courses under the Agency (2388; cf. 3170–3210).

(3) To consider and examine any person who desires to be received into the district from another denomination, and to be recognized as an ordained, commissioned or licensed minister or commissioned special worker and to recommend to the district conference for reception as in process of transfer, and subsequently for recognition as in full standing, only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to *The Discipline* (cf. 3104; 3470); and, in the interim of district conference sessions, to make such recommendation to the district board of administration (1233:37).

(4) To consider and examine any person applying for reinstatement or restoration of ordination, commission or license and to recommend to the district conference only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to *The Discipline* (cf. 3120–3124; 5230–5248).

(5) To present to the district conference, as a separate report, a recommendation for the election of a candidate to ordination as an ordained minister (1180:28; cf. 3070:5) or commission as a minister (3059) or the reinstatement or restoration of ministerial credentials (3120–3124; 5230–5248), and to present to the district conference a combined report of all other recommendations concerning the commissioning, licensing, and recognition of ministers and special workers, and the licensing of ministerial students (1180:29; 3015:1).

(6) To serve, with the exception of the lay members, and when so designated by the district conference (1180:34; cf. 1233:38), as a council of ordination (1405); and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the district conference.

Related to the Annual Service Reports

(7) To receive, on behalf of the district conference, an annual service report (1402) from each ordained, commissioned or licensed minister, ministerial student, and commissioned or licensed special worker; to review such reports and pass on each one as follows (cf. 1180:30):

(a) A report which shows that the work has been done according

to *The Discipline* and that the annual statistical report (1352:1) has been properly submitted shall be marked as approved and returned to the person submitting it (cf. 1390:9).

(b) A report in which there are unsatisfactory answers, or which shows that the work has not been done according to *The Discipline*, or that the annual statistical report (1352:1) has not been properly submitted, shall be reviewed with the person submitting the report. If reasons for such irregularities are not satisfactory to the district board of ministerial development, the report shall be marked as unsatisfactory and returned to the person submitting it (cf. 1390:9).

(8) To investigate the reason for the failure to submit an annual service report on the part of those persons required to do so (1402; 3015:4), and to take appropriate action as set forth in 3040:1; 3059:4c; 3089:3; 3460; and 3470.

(9) To present a report (cf. 1381) to the district conference concerning the results of the examination of the annual service reports, listing all members of the district responsible to submit such reports as to whether their reports were approved, unsatisfactory or not received. The district board of ministerial development shall report to the district conference concerning a person whose annual service report has been found unsatisfactory (1390:7b) and it shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence by the district conference to approve such a person for continued appointment.

Related to Appointments and District Conference Relations

(10) To submit reports to the district board of administration concerning the following matters related to district conference appointments and relations: The results of the examination of the annual service reports (1390:8–9); the availability for appointment, and any desired changes in appointment or district conference relations, as recorded on the annual service reports; those persons qualified for a district ministerial license, the granting of which shall become effective upon their appointment (1180:26c, 29b; 1233:10; cf. 3033:7; 3040:3); those other persons qualified for a license, commission, reception from another district or denomination or restoration (1180:26, 29; 1233:10).

Related to Ministerial Development

(11) To cooperate with the district superintendent (1310:27) and the district board of administration (1233:29) in providing opportunities for the

personal and professional growth of ministers within the district. The activities of the district boards of ministerial development may include individual or group interviews, assessments, growth contracts, seminars or other means of assisting ministers to achieve their full potential for ministry.

B. Annual Service Reports

1402. Annual Service Reports. The district conference shall receive an annual service report from each ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, ministerial student, and commissioned or licensed special worker on forms authorized by the General Superintendent and made available by the Executive Director of Communication and Administration. Pastors or senior pastors shall submit the “Pastor’s Annual Service Report.” Associate and assistant pastors shall submit the “Associate/Assistant Pastor’s Annual Service Report.” Other ordained ministers and commissioned or licensed ministers shall submit the “Minister’s Annual Service Report.” Special workers shall submit the “Lay Worker’s Annual Service Report.” Ministerial students shall submit the “Ministerial Student’s Annual Service Report.” All such reports shall be submitted to the district board of ministerial development, serving on behalf of the district conference, as directed by the district board of administration or the district superintendent (1390:7–9).

C. Council of Ordination

1405. Each district shall provide for a Council of Ordination to assist the General Superintendent (1935:34; 5752), or, in the absence of the General Superintendent the representative appointed by the General Superintendent (3091), or in the absence of the appointed representative, the district superintendent (1310:26), in carrying out the will of the district conference for the ordination of ministers (3070:6; 5750–5792) and the commissioning of ministers (5805), special workers (5850), and lay missionaries (5850). The Council of Ordination may consist of the desired number of ordained ministers appointed by the district board of administration (1233:38), or the district conference may designate the ordained ministers of the district board of ministerial development as the Council of Ordination (1180:34; 1390:6). The Council of Ordination will be responsible to plan the ordination and/or commissioning services.

Chapter 7

DISTRICT MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

A. District Coordination of Missions and Evangelism

1410. The district board of administration shall be responsible within the district for the promotion of world missions, general and district evangelism and church growth, and the coordination of men's ministry and women's ministry on the district level as set forth in *The Discipline* (1233:3, 21–25).

B. District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth

1413. Function. The district board of administration shall serve as or shall establish a district board of evangelism and church growth to aid the district superintendent and the district board of administration in developing, supervising, and promoting an aggressive program of district evangelism and church growth (1233:21; 1310:2).

1416. Membership. If a separate district board of evangelism and church growth is established, it shall have as its chair the district superintendent (cf. 1310:2), unless the district superintendent shall appoint another to serve instead, with such appointment subject to ratification by the district board of administration. In addition to the chair, the board shall consist of two or more ordained ministers and an equal number of lay members elected by the district board of administration who are especially concerned and qualified for this phase of the church's mission. In addition, the district director of evangelism and church growth shall serve as an ex officio member (1426). The term of office for the elected members shall be for two years, with the election so arranged that approximately one-half shall be elected each year. Other than the chair, the board shall elect its own officers. General regulations governing the members of this board are set forth in 1275–1292.

1420. Sessions. The district board of evangelism and church growth shall meet soon after the close of the district conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as it shall decide or the district board of administration shall order. Special sessions may be called by the chair as needed.

1423. Duties. The duties of the district board of evangelism and church growth shall be:

(1) To study potential fields for district extension work and report on and make recommendations to the district board of administration concerning the same.

(2) To stimulate interest in district evangelism and church growth throughout the district to help raise the funds needed for the district church growth program.

(3) To make recommendations to the district board of administration concerning the establishment of a mission, developing church or church, the appointment of pastors for the same, and real estate transactions and building projects connected with church growth projects (cf. 1233:30, 33).

(4) To assume direct supervision of the district church growth program or a specific church growth project to the extent delegated by the district board of administration.

(5) To perform other duties as may be required by the district board of administration in the interest of district evangelism and church growth.

C. District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth

1426. A district director of evangelism and church growth shall be elected by the district conference (unless the district conference by prior action has voted to authorize the district board of administration to appoint the district director of evangelism and church growth, 1180:35; cf. 1175:2), and is an *ex officio* member of the district board of evangelism and church growth (1416). The term of office, amenability, and other requirements as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292. The duties of the district director of evangelism and church growth are:

(1) To report the election or appointment promptly to the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and to cooperate with the same in promoting the interests of general evangelism and church growth; and likewise to promote the interests of the district program of evangelism and church growth.

(2) To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the district board of administration for approval.

(3) To assist the district superintendent in arranging for visitation within the district by representatives of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division.

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of general or district evangelism and church growth at the district conference or campmeeting; to arrange for

promotional displays and the distribution of literature at district or zone meetings.

(5) To assist pastors in promoting evangelism and church growth in the local churches.

(6) To promote membership in the Church Builders' Club.

(7) To keep a record of activities, reports, and correspondence and to submit it to the successor in office.

(8) To submit an annual report of official activities to the district conference (1180:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished in the district for general and district evangelism and church growth, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(9) To perform other duties in the interest of general and district evangelism and church growth as may be required by the district conference, the district board of administration or the district board of evangelism and church growth.

D. District Director of Global Partners

1429. A district director of Global Partners shall be elected by the district conference (1180:35; cf. 1175:2), unless the district conference by prior action has voted to authorize the district board of administration to appoint the district director of Global Partners. The term of office, amenability and other requirements as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292. The duties of the district director of Global Partners are:

(1) To report the election or appointment promptly to the Executive Director of Global Partners and to cooperate with the same in promoting an interest in and a burden for world missions outreach within the district.

(2) To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 1410).

(3) To assist the district superintendent in arranging for home ministries work within the district by missionaries and representatives of the Global Partners Division.

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of world missions at the district conference or campmeeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at district or zone meetings.

(5) To assist pastors in planning for world missions conventions and in promoting world missions in the local church.

(6) To keep a record of all activities, reports, and correspondence and to submit this to the successor in office.

(7) To submit an annual report of official activities to the district conference (1180:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the district for world missions, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Global Partners; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(8) To perform other duties in the interest of world missions outreach as may be requested by the district conference or the district board of administration.

E. District Board of World Missions

1430. Function. The district board of administration shall serve as or shall establish a district board of world missions to aid the district board of administration in developing, supervising, and promoting an aggressive program of district participation in The Wesleyan Church's program of world evangelism.

1432. Membership. If a separate district board of world missions is established, it shall have as its chair the district superintendent, unless the district superintendent shall appoint a chair subject to ratification by the district board of administration. In addition to the chair, an equal number of ordained ministers and lay members shall be elected to two-year terms, with terms so arranged that approximately one-half shall be elected each year. The district board of administration shall determine the size of the board. The district director of Global Partners and the district director of women's ministry shall be *ex officio* members. General regulations governing the membership of this board are set forth in 1275–1292.

1434. Sessions. The district board of world missions shall meet soon after the close of the district conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as deemed necessary or as directed by the district board of administration. Special sessions may be called by the chair as needed.

1435. Duties. The district board of world missions is amenable to the district board of administration in fulfilling the following duties:

(1) To develop yearly and long-range plans for the promotion of world missions within the district.

(2) To stimulate interest in and increase awareness of Global Partners throughout the district.

- (3) To build a strong prayer base for world missions.
- (4) To promote increased financial support of world missions.
- (5) To assist pastors in developing local church programs for promotion of and participation in missions.
- (6) To emphasize the call to missions service and encourage those in preparation for such service.
- (7) To perform other duties as may be required by the district board of administration in the interest of world missions.

F. District Director of Women's Ministry

1439. The district director of women's ministry is a nonvoting member of the district conference unless she is a voting member by some other right (1090:9). She shall submit all district plans for women's ministry to the district board of administration for approval (1233:25). In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. She shall endeavor to guide the district activities of women's ministry into soul-winning, evangelism, pioneer work, and concern for world outreach in a coordinated effort to forward the district program.

Chapter 8

DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A. District Spiritual Formation Leadership Team

1440. Function. The district board of administration shall serve as or shall establish a district spiritual formation leadership team, which shall endeavor to develop, supervise, correlate, and promote a comprehensive district program of spiritual formation, viewing it as a total process, dealing with the whole person, aiming at a fully coordinated discipleship program in harmony with the objectives for spiritual formation as set forth in 2305 (cf. 1233:22).

1443. Membership. If a separate district spiritual formation leadership team is established, it shall have as its chair a person elected by the district board of administration. General regulations governing other members of this board are set forth in 1275–1292. Additional members shall be chosen in one of the following ways:

(1) **Supervision Option.** The district board of administration shall elect two or more ordained ministers and an equal number of lay members to serve with the chair as the district spiritual formation leadership team.

(2) **Coordination Option.** The district spiritual formation leadership team shall consist of the chair elected by the district board of administration (1233:22), the district director of spiritual formation (1460), the district director of adult ministries (1494), the district director of youth ministries (1492), the district director of children's ministries (1489), the district director of Sunday schools (1483), the district director of leadership training (1486), the district president of Wesleyan Youth (1492), the district director of women's ministries, the district coordinator of Wesleyan Kids for Missions, the district educational director (1496), and such members-at-large as the district board of administration shall elect.

1446. Organization. The district board of administration shall elect a chair of the district spiritual formation leadership team. The board shall otherwise organize itself, elect its own officers, and may elect an executive committee for ad interim business (cf. 1440).

1449. Sessions. The district spiritual formation leadership team shall meet soon after the close of the district conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as it shall determine, provided that not less

than two sessions shall be held each year. Special sessions may be called by the chair as deemed necessary.

1452. Amenability. The district spiritual formation leadership team shall be an advisory and coordinating body, and shall be amenable to the district board of administration. All plans of the team shall be approved by the district board of administration (1233:22) or, in the interim of its sessions, by the district superintendent (1310:8), before their implementation.

1455. Duties. The duties and powers of the district spiritual formation leadership team are:

(1) To develop, supervise, and coordinate the work of spiritual formation within the district; to review and coordinate plans of each director and agency, including the district director of spiritual formation, the district director of adult ministries, the district director of youth ministries, the district director of children's ministries, the district Sunday school director, the district director of leadership training, the district educational director, and others that may be appointed for spiritual formation activities in the district, which shall subsequently be submitted to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 1452).

(2) To receive reports from the various district directors and secretaries of the leadership team and to advise them concerning their work, assisting each district agency to maintain an effective program for its particular age division of spiritual formation.

(3) To advise and assist the district directors in implementing the plans and programs of the general divisions which they represent within the district.

(4) To be responsible for the planning and supervision of the summer camps for children and youth; to submit detailed plans for such camps to the district board of administration for their approval; and to carry out the approved plans.

(5) To promote the interests of the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church, particularly the general educational institutions in the area of which the district is a part, and to see that they are represented in the various youth camps and conventions as deemed appropriate.

(6) To present recommendations to the district board of administration and to the district conference for the growth of the work through the various ministries of spiritual formation, and for the financial plans and other interests of the work under their care.

(7) To define the duties of the district director of spiritual formation in addition to what is set forth in *The Discipline* and to supervise the activities of the district director of spiritual formation.

(8) To perform such other duties related to spiritual formation as are assigned by the district conference or the district board of administration.

B. District Director of Spiritual Formation

1460. The district conference may elect or employ or may authorize the district board of administration to elect or employ a district director of spiritual formation (1180:35e or see 1483 if a district Sunday school director is desired instead). The term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292, except that when the district director of spiritual formation is elected or employed by the district board of administration that board shall have authority to determine the term of office.

1463. The duties of a district director of spiritual formation shall be (cf. 1460):

(1) To promptly report the election or employment to the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, and the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development, and to cooperate with them in implementing and promoting the policies and programs of the general divisions within the district.

(2) To serve as the executive secretary of the district board of spiritual formation, if so appointed by the district board of administration (cf. 1440–1443), helping to coordinate the total program of spiritual formation within the district, and serving as a resource person in advising and assisting the various discipleship leaders in their particular phase of the work.

(3) To assume, as assigned by the district conference, the duties of the district director of adult ministries, the district director of youth ministries, the district director of children's ministries, the district director of leadership training, the district educational director, and the promotional duties of the district WY director/president.

(4) To visit the churches of the district in such order and manner as the district superintendent shall approve, assisting pastors, Sunday school superintendents, children's ministries directors, WY presidents, adult ministry directors, and other discipleship leaders.

(5) To serve as director of the summer camping program to the extent recommended by the district spiritual formation leadership team and approved by the district board of administration (cf. 1455:4).

(6) To promote the interests of the general educational institutions within the area, helping to recruit students and to promote the raising of funds.

(7) To submit an annual report of official activities to the district conference (1180:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the district for spiritual formation, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Executive Directors of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and Education and Clergy Development; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(8) To keep a file of correspondence and other records, and to submit the same to the successor in office.

(9) To perform other duties in the interests of spiritual formation as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration or the district spiritual formation leadership team.

C. District Sunday School Committee

1468. Function. The district Sunday school committee is responsible for those phases of Christian education within the bounds of the district as assigned to the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division in 2306, with particular emphasis on the Sunday school work and leadership training.

1471. Membership. Each district may have a district Sunday school committee which shall be composed of the district Sunday school director as chair (1483), the district director of leadership training (if any, 1486), and from one to three additional members-at-large as decided upon and elected by the district board of administration (1209:3; cf. 1233:20; 1455:8). Whenever the duties of either the district director of leadership training or the district Sunday school director are assigned to the district director of spiritual formation (1463:3), the district director of spiritual formation shall be an *ex officio* member of the Sunday school committee. General regulations for the members of the Sunday school committee are set forth in 1275–1292.

1474. Organization. The district Sunday school director shall be the chair, and the committee shall elect a recording secretary who shall record the proceedings of committee meetings (cf. 1332:7) and keep a permanent file of records and reports. The committee may also elect a vice-chair and a treasurer, if deemed necessary.

1477. Amenability. The district Sunday school committee shall be amenable to the district spiritual formation leadership team and through that board to the district board of administration, in all matters of district organization and program. All committee plans shall be submitted to the district spiritual formation leadership team for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 1452). In

matters pertaining to Sunday school organization, philosophy, curriculum, and objectives the committee shall carry out their work in accord with *The Discipline* and the directives of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division.

1480. Duties. The duties of the district Sunday school committee are:

(1) To promote and encourage the Sunday school work of the district, seeking to carry out the objectives of The Wesleyan Church for spiritual formation as set forth in 2305 (cf. 1468).

(2) To emphasize evangelism and soul-winning in the Sunday schools, seeking the conversion of every scholar and their enrollment in the church and promoting outreach through the establishing of branch Sunday schools.

(3) To implement the plans and policies of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division and to assist pastors and Sunday school superintendents in doing the same.

(4) To make recommendations to the district spiritual formation leadership team for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of Sunday school work (cf. 1468).

(5) To see that a Sunday school has been organized in each church, and to assist each Sunday school to meet the approved standard of achievement.

(6) To plan for Sunday school and leadership training rallies, conventions, institutes or workshops on a district, zone or local level; to arrange for special services or promotional displays at zone or district meetings; submitting all such plans to the district spiritual formation leadership team for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 1452).

(7) To assist pastors and local Sunday school officers in the organization of leadership training classes and programs.

(8) To submit recommendations for Sunday school work, including the financial plans for Sunday school promotion, to the district spiritual formation leadership team for review and coordination, and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 1452).

(9) To encourage the use of The Wesleyan Church curriculum materials.

(10) To perform other duties in harmony with its responsibility as may be assigned to it by the district conference, the district board of administration or the district spiritual formation leadership team.

D. District Director of Sunday Schools

1483. A district director of Sunday schools shall be elected by the district conference (1180:35e; cf. 1175:2), or these duties shall be assigned to the

district director of spiritual formation (1180:37; 1463:3), unless the district conference by prior action has voted to authorize the district board of administration to appoint the district director of Sunday schools. The district director of Sunday schools shall serve on the district spiritual formation leadership team. The term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292. The duties of the district director of Sunday schools are:

(1) To promptly report the election or appointment to the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and to cooperate with the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship in implementing and promoting the plans and policies of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division within the district.

(2) Space reserved

(3) To cooperate with and assist the pastors and local Sunday school superintendents in the organization and advancement of their Sunday schools according to the approved standard and in reaching the goals set by the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division and the district conference.

(4) To keep a file of correspondence and other records and to submit it to the successor in office.

(5) To submit an annual report to the district conference (1180:13) concerning official activities, and a complete statistical report for the Sunday schools; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(6) To increase the personal qualifications and capacity for Sunday school and spiritual formation work by attending denominational and other approved spiritual formation conventions, conferences, and seminars, and through correspondence courses, and periodicals as time permits and opportunity affords.

(7) To conduct any special Sunday school services or programs, or to arrange for promotional displays at the district conference, campmeeting, and other district gatherings.

(8) To give leadership to the district program of family ministries and the coordination of local church family ministries in cooperation with the adult ministries program of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division and the district director of adult ministries.

(9) To perform such other duties in harmony with the other responsibilities of this office, as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration or the district spiritual formation leadership team (cf. 1486).

E. District Director of Leadership Training

1486. A district conference may elect a district director of leadership training (1180:35f; cf. 1175:2), or the district conference may assign these duties to the district director of spiritual formation (1180:35e; 1463:3). If the district does not have a district director of spiritual formation and also chooses not to have a district director of leadership training, the duties of the district director of leadership training shall be assigned by the district conference to the district spiritual formation or Sunday school director (1483:9). The district director of leadership training shall be a member of the district adult ministries team. The term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292. The duties of the district director of leadership training are:

(1) To be responsible for the district program of leadership training under the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division; to report at once after the election to the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and to cooperate with the same in the implementation and promotion of leadership training within the district.

(2) To be certified as a director of leadership training.

(3) To formulate plans with the district spiritual formation leadership team for leadership training rallies, institutes, conventions or seminars on a district, zone or local church level; and to submit such plans to the district spiritual formation leadership team for review and coordination (1455:1) and subsequently to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 1452).

(4) To assist pastors and local church directors of Christian education in conducting classes or setting up effective programs of leadership training in the local church.

(5) To keep a permanent record of correspondence and other plans and to submit them to the successor in office.

(6) To conduct any special services or to arrange for promotional displays on leadership training at the district conference, campmeeting, and other district gatherings.

(7) To submit an annual report to the district conference (1180:13) regarding all official activities and the progress of leadership training within the district, including a statistical report; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(8) To perform such other duties, in harmony with the other responsibilities of this office, as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration or the district spiritual formation leadership team.

F. District Director of Children's Ministries

1489. There may be a district director of children's ministries elected by the district board of administration. The district director of children's ministries shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:9). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292. The duties of the district director of children's ministries are:

(1) To promptly report the election to the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, and to cooperate with the same to promote, highlight and resource local churches within the district.

(2) To serve as a member of the district spiritual formation leadership team and to work with that team for a coordinated program of all the various phases of spiritual formation throughout the district (cf.1452; 1455:1).

(3) To work with pastors and local children's ministries directors in establishing and maintaining effective children's ministries.

(4) To be responsible for district children's ministries events or activities and to arrange for informational displays at the district conference, campmeeting, summer camps, and other district gatherings.

(5) To submit an annual report to the district conference (1180:13) regarding official activities and progress of children's ministries within the district and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf.1288).

(6) To perform such other duties related to children's ministries as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district spiritual formation leadership team.

G. District Director/President of Wesleyan Youth

1492. There may be a district director/president of Wesleyan Youth who shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference unless the district director/president of Wesleyan Youth is a voting member by some other right (1090:9). The district director/president of Wesleyan Youth shall coordinate all plans for WY with the district spiritual formation leadership team and submit them to the district board of administration for approval. In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. The district director/president of Wesleyan Youth shall endeavor to guide the district activities of WY in accord with the purpose and mission of WY, and in a coordinated effort to forward the district program of spiritual formation.

H. District Director of Adult Ministries

1494. There may be a district director of adult ministries elected by the district conference or appointed by the district board of administration (1180:35f; cf. 1175:2). The district director of adult ministries shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:9). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292. The duties of the district director of adult ministries are:

(1) To promptly report the election to the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, and to cooperate with the same to promote, highlight and resource local churches within the district.

(2) To serve as a member of the district spiritual formation leadership team and to work with that team for a coordinated program of all the various phases of spiritual formation throughout the district (cf. 1452; 1455:1).

(3) To work with pastors and local adult ministries directors in establishing and maintaining effective adult ministries.

(4) To be responsible for district adult ministries events or activities and to arrange for informational displays at the district conference, campmeeting, summer camps, and other district gatherings.

(5) To submit an annual report to the district conference (1180:13) regarding official activities and progress of adult ministries within the district and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(6) To perform such other duties related to adult ministries as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration, or the district spiritual formation leadership team.

I. District Educational Director

1496. The district educational director may be appointed by the district superintendent after discussing potential candidates with the president(s) of the educational institution(s) serving that district's educational area, or the district board of administration may assign such duties to a district director of spiritual formation. The district educational director's term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275–1292. The duties of the district educational director are:

(1) To promptly report the election to the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development and to cooperate with the same in promoting the interests of the educational institutions of The Wesleyan

Church, and particularly the general educational institutions in the area of which the district is a part.

(2) To assist the district superintendent and to cooperate with the general educational institutions within the area to which the district is assigned in formulating plans for school representation within the district (cf. 2050:3), submitting all plans to the district superintendent for approval.

(3) To represent the educational institutions, or to arrange for such representation, at the summer camps, conventions, and other appropriate occasions, including promotional displays and the distribution of literature, as directed by the district board of Christian education and approved by the officers in charge of the meetings.

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services for promoting the interests of the general educational institutions during the district conference, campmeeting, and other district gatherings, arranging for promotional displays and the distribution of literature if desired, and cooperating with representatives of the educational institutions in such plans.

(5) To encourage young people to attend the schools of The Wesleyan Church, notifying such institutions of any prospective students and encouraging all pastors to do the same.

(6) To submit an annual report to the district conference (1180:13) concerning all official activities and the support given by the district for the general educational institutions, including the number of students enrolled in the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(7) To perform such other duties in harmony with the other responsibilities of this office, as may be assigned by the district conference, the district board of administration or the district spiritual formation leadership team.

PART 4
GENERAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter 1

GENERAL CONFERENCE

A. Function

1500. The General Conference is the supreme governing body of The Wesleyan Church. The basic provisions, powers, and restrictions of this body are set forth in the Constitution (325–360).

B. Membership

1. Plan of Representation

1503. The General Conference shall be composed of voting and nonvoting members as follows:

Voting Members

(1) The voting members shall consist of an equal number of ordained ministers and lay members of The Wesleyan Church (325):

(a) The district superintendent of each district and provisional district and a lay delegate elected at the same time and in the same manner as the other delegates (1512–1526).

(b) One ministerial and one lay delegate elected by an established district for every seven hundred fifty members and major fraction thereof. The district superintendent and the lay delegate elected (1503:1a) shall be the representatives for the first seven hundred fifty members.

(c) The general officials of the Church as defined in 1800, the General Superintendents Emeriti, members of the General Board who are not voting members by some other right, the presidents of the general educational institutions (2365), the general directors of Hephzibah Ministries, Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Wesleyan Native Ministries,

the Wesleyan Pension Fund, the Wesleyan Bible Conference Association, and such delegates-at-large as shall be necessary to maintain parity between ordained ministers and lay members (1508–1510).

Nonvoting Members

(2) The following when they are not voting members by some other right shall be seated as nonvoting members when present at the General Conference session: former General Superintendents and superintendents of developing districts (1015).

(3) The General Board shall designate the number of nonvoting members from mission units under the Global Partners Division, upon recommendation of the Executive Director of Global Partners.

2. Forfeiture of Representation

1506. A district or provisional district which has been placed under discipline as provided for in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5365–5370), shall forfeit all rights to any representation in the General Conference (323:9). The delegates, including the district superintendent and any delegate-at-large from that district, shall not be recognized or seated until the district or provisional district they represent is officially reinstated (5365).

3. Election of Delegates

a. Delegates-at-Large

1508. The election of delegates-at-large shall be arranged for by the recommendation of the Executive Director of Communication and Administration and the approval of the General Board in accordance with the following regulations:

(1) The parity of equal ministerial and lay membership in the General Conference shall be maintained (325; 360:3b).

(2) The established districts shall be considered in alphabetical order, and each eligible district in turn shall be appointed to elect one delegate-at-large. A provisional district shall not be eligible to elect a delegate-at-large.

1510. The General Board shall act upon the recommendation of the Executive Director of Communication and Administration in one of its sessions consistent with the provisions of paragraph 1512. The delegates-at-

large shall be elected by the appointed districts at the same time and in the same manner as the other General Conference delegates (1512–1526).

b. Delegates

1512. The delegates to the General Conference shall be elected by the district conference, by ballot and by majority vote, at its last annual session preceding the General Conference. When the last annual session is within sixty days of the opening date of the General Conference, the district conference may elect its delegates at the previous annual session. The statistical report for the annual session of the district conference at which the delegates are elected shall be used for determining the number of members, and consequently, the number of General Conference delegates (1503:1b). A certified list of all delegates to the General Conference shall be promptly forwarded by the district secretary to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration (1332:5).

1514. A person accepting election as a delegate is obligated to attend faithfully the entire General Conference session, unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances (1541).

c. Alternate Delegates

1516. Alternate delegates shall be the remaining nominees not elected to serve as General Conference delegates and shall fill vacancies in the descending order of votes received (cf. 1332:5).

1518. Whenever the district superintendent, who is an *ex officio* member of the General Conference (1503:1a), is unable to attend, the place of the district superintendent shall be filled by the assistant district superintendent (if any). If the assistant district superintendent is an elected delegate to the General Conference, the place of the assistant district superintendent shall then be filled like any other vacancy by an alternate ministerial delegate.

4. Qualifications of Delegates

a. Ministerial Delegates

1520. A ministerial delegate must be an ordained minister who is a member of the district represented, both at the time of election and at the time of the General Conference (327:2).

1522. Whenever a ministerial delegate-elect shall transfer membership to another district, the right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate ministerial delegate shall be certified (1332:5; 1516).

b. Lay Delegates

1524. A lay delegate must be a lay person who is a member with the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of a local church in the district represented, both at the time of election and at the time of the General Conference (327:3).

1526. Whenever a lay delegate-elect shall cease to meet the requirements in 1524, the right to represent the district shall be vacated and an alternate lay delegate shall be certified (1516).

C. Sessions

1. Regular Sessions

1528. The General Conference shall meet quadrennially, in the spring season at a place, date, and hour determined by the General Board (330:1; 1655:4).

1530. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans of the General Conference for the time of the next regular session, the General Board may, by a two-thirds vote, declare that such an emergency exists and authorize the necessary changes (cf. 330:1; 1655:5).

2. Special Sessions

1532. A special session of the General Conference shall be called by the General Superintendent whenever authorized to do so by a two-thirds vote of the General Board (1655:6), or when requested to do so by two-thirds of the established district conferences (330:2; 1180:6). The time and place for the special session shall be decided by the General Board (1655:5), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the Executive Board. The time shall always be later than the next session of each district conference (330:2).

1534. Any duly called special session of the General Conference shall have full authority to transact any item of business which may be transacted at a regular session.

D. Organization and Procedure

1. Officers

1536. The Presidency (332). The General Superintendent shall preside over the General Conference. When no General Superintendent is present, the General Conference shall elect by ballot an ordained minister as president pro tem.

1539. The Secretary (334). The Executive Director of Communication and Administration shall be the secretary of the General Conference and shall accurately record the proceedings, preserve them in permanent form, and perform any other such duties as shall be required by the General Conference.

2. Procedure

1541. Delegates. Once a delegate has been seated at the General Conference, an alternate delegate cannot thereafter be seated in place of the seated delegate (cf. 1514).

1543. Quorum (336). A majority of all the delegates elected by the districts shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number shall have the authority to adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

1545. Voting (338). The ministerial and lay delegates shall deliberate in the sessions of the General Conference as one body. However, upon the final vote on any question, except proposed amendments to the Constitution (200–385), on a call of one-fourth of the members, the house shall divide so that ministerial and lay delegates shall vote separately. It shall require a majority vote of each branch to pass any question upon which the division has been called.

1547. Rules of Order. General Conference business shall be conducted according to the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, except when formally suspended by the General Conference or when other procedures are required by *The Discipline* (360:1).

1550. Appeals on Questions of Order. The chair shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the General Conference. In case of such an appeal, the vote shall be taken without debate, except that the chair may state the grounds of the decision, and the appellant may state the grounds of the appeal.

1553. Suspension of Rules. The General Conference may suspend for a particular session any statutory law (155) set forth in *The Discipline* governing the procedures of the General Conference by a two-thirds majority vote.

3. Memorials

1557. Memorials to the General Conference, including proposed changes in *The Discipline* other than the Constitution (200–385), may be submitted by a district conference, a district board of administration, the General Board, a General Conference committee, the governing board of an educational or benevolent institution, the governing board of a subsidiary corporation, the general executive committee of an auxiliary organization or any ten members of the General Conference.

1560. Memorials proposing an amendment to the Constitution (200–385) may be submitted to the General Conference only by a district conference by a two-thirds vote (1180:1) or by the General Board (1655:8).

4. Committees

1563. The General Conference shall have such committees as it may deem necessary. The committees shall be nominated by the General Board, unless ordered otherwise in *The Discipline* or by the General Conference, and elected by the General Conference.

a. Committee on Memorials

1565. The General Board shall serve as the Committee on Memorials. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Memorials to receive all memorials for the General Conference, classify them, pass on each of them, and submit such memorials to the General Conference, together with the committee's recommendation, and in such order as the committee shall determine (1655:7). All memorials received no later than November 1 of the year prior to the General Conference shall be classified and printed for distribution to the General Conference delegates no later than sixty days before the opening date of the General Conference. Any memorial received by the Committee on Memorials after November 1 shall only be presented to the General Conference if it is recommended for adoption by the Committee on Memorials and if the General Conference votes to hear it.

b. General Conference Planning Committee

1570. The Executive Cabinet, with such other additional persons as it shall appoint, at least one year before the convening of a regular session of t

he General Conference, shall constitute a General Conference Planning Committee. The General Superintendent, or a person designated by the General Superintendent, shall serve as chair.

1573. The General Conference Planning Committee shall be responsible to arrange all necessary matters for the General Conference such as the lodging, meals, exhibits, space allotments, and whatever else may be necessary for the convenience and efficiency of the General Conference. They shall have the authority to carry out this responsibility and to enter into any necessary contracts, subject to the approval of the General Board or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Board.

1576. The Executive Cabinet shall formulate a program for the General Conference, including any worship services, and other special features, all of which shall be subject to the approval of the General Board or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Board.

c. Committee on Special Nominations

1580. The General Board shall serve as the Committee on Special Nominations (1655:7). The duties of this committee shall be:

(1) To receive from the General Superintendent recommendations from which to present to the General Conference one or more nominations for each of the general officials elected by the General Conference. In the event an incumbent is not nominated, the committee shall normally present two or more nominations for that office. The general officials involved are: the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development, the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, the Executive Director of Global Partners, and the Executive Director of Communication and Administration.

(2) To present nominations for the members of the Board of Review (1590:19; 5400:3; 5405).

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

d. General Conference Editing Committee

1585. The General Conference Editing Committee shall be elected by the General Board and shall be responsible for editing *The Discipline*, the *General Conference Journal*, and any other item assigned by the General Conference or the General Board. All recommendations concerning the

dedication of the *General Conference Journal* shall be referred to the General Board which shall determine the matter and instruct the committee accordingly. The committee is authorized, in consultation with the General Superintendent, to make any and all changes and additions to *The Discipline* (except changes to the Constitution, unless otherwise ordered by the General Conference) that it deems essential for implementing the intent of the General Conference in adopting specific legislation, subject to final review and approval of such changes by the General Board or its Executive Board.

e. Duties and Powers

1590. The duties, powers, and restrictions of the General Conference are set forth in the Constitution (325–360), and as hereinafter provided:

The Essentials and the Constitution

(1) To vote on an amendment to the Essentials (cf. 125).

(2) To propose an amendment to the Constitution (200–385) by a two-thirds vote, subject to ratification by two-thirds of all the members of the several district conferences, present and voting (385; 1180:1; 1560); to ratify, by a two-thirds vote, an amendment to the Constitution, which has originated in a district conference and has been approved by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the several district conferences, present and voting (385; 1180:2; 1560; 1935:47). When the voting is completed, the General Superintendent shall canvass the vote; and when the amendment has received the required majority, it shall be declared effective as constitutional law (385; 1935:47).

(3) To request, by a vote of one-fifth of its members, present and voting, a judgment from the Board of Review as to the constitutionality of an action of the General Conference (375:1); and to overrule such a judgment by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting (380).

General Legislation

(4) To have full power in keeping with the Constitution (135; 145) and by majority vote to enact statutory law (155) and to adopt ritual (175) for *The Discipline* and to adopt other rules and regulations for the Church, all of which shall be the chief authority for the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church and its subordinate units (cf. 2550); to

ratify amendments to the Charter of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church (see Appendix A) or to authorize the General Board to approve such amendments in the interim of General Conferences.

(5) To authorize a corporation to be formed and maintained for The Wesleyan Church to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs (4200); and to approve its articles of incorporation and bylaws and any or all amendments thereto, by a two-thirds vote (4270).

(6) To authorize the incorporation of any agency, institution, board organization or other similar body, as a subsidiary corporation of The Wesleyan Church (4300), and to approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws, and any amendments thereto, for such a subsidiary corporation (4300–4320). In the interim of General Conferences, this authority shall be vested in the General Board (1655:35; 4300; cf. 2362).

(7) To receive reports of the spiritual, numerical, and financial condition of The Wesleyan Church, worldwide, including reports concerning their official duties from the general officials and others designated by the General Conference (cf. 1800; 1840; 1935:17).

(8) To adopt plans for the advancement of the Church in all phases of its ministry, including the financial plans for the General Church (cf. 1995–2050).

(9) To define in a general way the duties of the general officials, subject to the additional definition of their duties by the General Board in the interim of General Conference sessions (1845).

(10) To organize the work in the United States and Canada into districts and to determine their boundaries, for which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board (317; 1036; 1655:34; 2400–2403); to authorize the establishing of an established national conference as set forth in 2610:10; and to authorize the establishing of a general conference as set forth in 2620.

(11) To authorize the establishing of a developing district (1006) or a provisional district (1020); to reclassify a provisional district (1034) or an established district (1042–1045).

(12) To group the districts into representative areas (2430–2445) to serve for the election of area representatives to the General Board and as the area divisions of Wesleyan Youth, for which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board (cf. 1655:14).

(13) To authorize the establishment, merger or dissolution of any educational or benevolent institution for the General Church or an area of the same; to define the purpose and adopt any regulations deemed necessary for the government of such institutions (cf. 2362).

(14) To determine the boundaries of the educational areas in such a way as to provide an equitable distribution of the membership and financial strength of the Church among the approved schools, for which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board (2365–2371; 2450–2470; cf. 1655:14).

(15) To designate a criterion of parliamentary procedure for itself and other representative or official bodies of The Wesleyan Church as desired (360:1).

Elections

(16) To elect by ballot and by majority vote, from among the ordained ministers of The Wesleyan Church, one General Superintendent. The General Board shall determine a process for the collection of names of eligible candidates for the office of General Superintendent. The General Board shall screen the list of candidates and interview those believed to be the best candidates in order to determine their appropriateness and availability for election. The General Board shall provide one or more nominations to the General Conference for election by ballot, allowing for nominations from the floor.

(17) To elect the following general officials by ballot and by majority vote, from one or more nominees for each office presented by the Committee on Special Nominations (1580:1) and any additional nominations from the floor of the General Conference: the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, the Executive Director of Communication and Administration, the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development, and Executive Director of Global Partners.

(18) To elect by majority vote three ordained ministers and three lay members from each of the representative areas (2430–2445) as members of the General Board (1605:2), who shall be nominated by an area caucus. Area caucuses shall be held simultaneously at a time decided upon by the General Conference, for each of which a chair shall be appointed by the presiding officer. In an area caucus, the delegates of each district and provisional district which comprise the representative area shall nominate three ordained ministers and three lay members of that area, by ballot and by majority vote, as their area representatives on the General Board.

(19) To elect by majority vote, from nominees submitted by the Committee on Special Nominations or made from the floor, five ordained ministers and four lay members as members of the Board of Review, and four ordained ministers and three lay members as alternate members (cf. 1580:2; 5400:3; 5405).

(20) To confer the title General Superintendent Emeritus upon a former General Superintendent when recommended by the General Board (1945).

Judiciary

(21) Space reserved.

(22) To hear and determine appeals from decisions of the Board of Review, and to overrule such decisions by a two-thirds majority vote (380; see also *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* 5450).

(23) To receive a report from the General Superintendent of official rulings on points of church law, interpretations of *The Discipline* and rulings on the legality of district actions; to sustain, modify or annul such rulings, in whole or in part (2061–2064).

Chapter 2

GENERAL BOARD

A. Name and Function

1600. The General Board of Administration referred to in the Constitution shall in practice be referred to under the title “General Board.” The General Board carries out the will of the General Conference, promotes the interests of The Wesleyan Church, and serves as its chief governing body in the interim of General Conference sessions (340).

B. Voting Membership

1605. The General Board is composed of the General Superintendent and area representatives:

(1) **General Superintendent.** The General Superintendent is a member of the General Board by virtue of office.

(2) **Area Representatives.** Three ordained ministers and three lay members shall be elected by the General Conference from each representative area to serve as members of the General Board (340:1; 1590:18; 2430–2445). In order to accomplish broad representation when electing area representatives to the General Board, it is recommended that no more than two persons be elected from any one district. They shall serve from the close of the session at which they are elected until the close of the succeeding General Conference and until their successors are elected and qualified. Whenever an area representative shall transfer residence or membership outside the area represented, the General Board shall declare the office vacant and shall fill the vacancy in such a manner as to maintain the representation provided for herewith. An area representative, who is not a voting member of the General Conference by some other right, is a voting member of the General Conference by virtue of membership on the General Board (1503:1c).

C. Non-Voting Participants

1606. The following are non-voting participants of the General Board: The four division executive directors, the General Treasurer/Chief Financial

Officer, the chief executive officer of Wesleyan Investment Foundation, the chief executive officer of Wesleyan Pension Fund, and all presidents of the general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church.

D. Sessions

1610. Organizing Session. The General Board shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the General Conference for an organizing session:

(1) To organize by electing officers and committees, as required by *The Discipline*, the General Conference, the articles and bylaws of the several corporations, or the policies and bylaws of the General Board.

(2) To care for any business assigned to it by the General Conference which requires immediate attention.

(3) To elect the Executive Board as provided in 1755.

(4) To care for any other necessary business.

1615. Regular Session. The General Board shall meet annually or semiannually at a time and place it shall designate or as fixed in its bylaws. The Executive Board may change the time and place by a two-thirds vote if circumstances so require (1785:1). Notice of all sessions shall be published by the Executive Director of Communication and Administration and sent in writing or electronically to all members at least four weeks in advance.

1620. Special Session. A special session may be ordered by the General Board, the Executive Board (1785:1) or the General Superintendent. All members shall be notified at least ten days before the convening of a special session (cf. 1615).

1625. Evaluation Session. Periodically, either during regular sessions or in a session called specifically for self-evaluation, the General Board shall consider its priorities, review the distribution of its time, and evaluate the effectiveness of its efforts, using the duties and powers listed in *The Discipline* as a guide. The method and extent of such evaluation shall be determined by the General Board, but special attention should be focused on those responsibilities that are most likely to contribute to future outreach and growth to the glory of God.

E. Organization and Procedure

1630. Chair. The General Superintendent shall serve as the chair of the General Board. The General Board shall at its organizing meeting following General Conference elect a vice-chair from among its ministerial members to serve as chair in the absence of or at the request of the General Superintendent.

1635. Secretary. The Executive Director of Communication and Administration is secretary of the General Board ex officio.

1640. Quorum. A majority of all the members of the General Board shall constitute a quorum.

1645. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by *The Discipline* (1530; 1532; 1655:6, 11, 16, 18, 21, 23, 40a, 4300; 5279; 5365), by legal or corporate requirements or by the policies and regulations of the General Board.

1650. Bylaws. The General Board shall adopt its own bylaws and perfect all plans necessary for the performance of its own duties, in harmony with *The Discipline* and the instructions of the General Conference.

F. Duties and Powers

1655. The General Board shall serve as the chief governing body of The Wesleyan Church in the interim of General Conference sessions, caring for and promoting the general interests of the Church, with these specific duties and powers:

Related to Leadership

(1) To join the General Superintendent and general officers in strategic planning, helping to define mission, vision, core values, and strategies, and to measure the denomination's progress in fulfilling its mission and vision.

(2) To engage in an ongoing review of the denominational structures, maintaining openness to needed changes, and making appropriate recommendations to the General Conference.

(3) To establish policies, goals, and objectives for more effectively fulfilling the mission of The Wesleyan Church within the established policies and periodically receiving performance reports from the General Superintendent, Executive Directors, and district superintendents.

Related to General Conference

(4) To select the place and determine the day and the hour at which regular sessions of the General Conference shall convene, provided that the day and the hour are within the spring season (cf. 330:1; 1528).

(5) To declare that an emergency exists requiring a change in the time of General Conference, and subsequently to alter the same (330:1; 1530).

(6) To authorize by a two-thirds vote a special session of the General Conference, and to set by majority vote the time and place of such special session (330:2; 1532).

(7) To serve as the General Conference Committee on Memorials (1565) and the Committee on Special Nominations (1580).

(8) To originate recommendations and memorials to the General Conference, including proposed amendments to the Constitution (1557–1560).

(9) To instruct the General Conference Editing Committee concerning the dedication, if any, of the *General Conference Journal* (1585).

(10) To care for any business delegated to the General Board by the General Conference.

Related to the General Board

(11) To fill, for the unexpired term, vacancies occurring among the general officials elected by the General Conference (1800; 1850) or the area representatives of the General Board (1605:2), by a two-thirds majority of the members of the General Board present and voting or by a majority of all the members of the General Board, whichever is greater (1850); and to fill vacancies occurring among the general officials elected by the General Board by majority vote; all in such a manner as to fulfill all the requirements for such offices and positions (1605:2; 1800–1810; 1903).

(12) To elect by majority vote, from among the area representatives of its own membership, three ordained ministers and three lay members to be members of the Executive Board and an ordained minister as vice-chair of the General Board (cf. 1755), who will also serve as vice-chair of the Executive Board.

(13) To refer such matters to the Executive Board as shall be deemed wise (1785); to review such actions of the Executive Board as are not final (1785:2, 6); and to receive and act upon its recommendations.

Related to the Church in General

(14) To recommend to the General Conference the number of representative areas and the boundaries of such areas for the election of representatives to the General Board (1590:12); to recommend to the General Conference the assignment of the districts to educational areas for the support of the educational institutions (1590:14) and in the interim of General Conference sessions to assign new districts to the proper area (2450).

Related to Corporations

(15) To serve as the board of directors of The Wesleyan Church Corporation and its precedent corporations (4230); to appoint committees from among its own members and to delegate to such committees the exercise of such powers in the interim of its sessions as it shall deem wise.

(16) To buy, own, hold, manage, mortgage, sell, convey, donate or otherwise acquire, encumber, and dispose of any General Church property, whether real, personal or mixed, in keeping with the trust provisions given in 4920 and to buy, sell or lease any denominational headquarters site (by whatever name it shall be called) by a two-thirds majority of the members of the General Board present and voting, except that property for which other provision is made in the articles and bylaws of subsidiary corporations, and to provide for the proper care and maintenance of such property.

(17) Space reserved.

(18) To carry out the instructions of the General Conference relative to the incorporation of any agency, institution, board organization or other similar body (1590:6); or, in the interim of General Conference sessions, to authorize the establishment of such a corporation by a two-thirds majority vote and to care for such corporation matters as the approval and amendment of articles and bylaws, all in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 2358–2362; 4300–4320; 4425).

(19) To elect by majority vote all except the *ex officio* members of all other General Church boards; to be or to elect all boards of trustees, directors or managers of subsidiary corporations, including all approved benevolent institutions, and to exercise such control and direction of said subsidiary corporations and related agencies as is provided for in *The Discipline* (cf. 2358–2362; 4300–4320), and in their several articles of incorporation and bylaws; and to remove a member of any such board, for cause or when the best interests of the Church so require, by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board (cf. 5270:4; 5282; 5288), and to fill all vacancies.

(20) To direct an annual audit, and at other times as deemed necessary, of all corporations, general offices, divisions, agencies, auxiliaries, and institutions of the Church, and to take any action required by the findings of such audit (cf. 4320:7).

(21) To have the authority to negotiate and arbitrate legal and temporal matters in cases of dispute involving the General Church without resort to the courts when the General Board, by a two-thirds vote, deems such procedure necessary; provided, however, that the emergency authority hereby granted

shall not be construed to modify or rescind any of the provisions of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* with reference to the prescribed conveyance of church property; and further provided, that this authority to negotiate and arbitrate shall not be a limit on the power or authority to resort to litigation in the courts when such procedure is deemed advisable.

Related to General Offices and Divisions

(22) To direct the general officials and those elected by the General Board in their work, in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 1830), and assigning to them such special duties as shall be deemed necessary (cf. 1590:9); to receive reports annually and as needed from the general officials and such others as *The Discipline* or the General Board shall require (cf. 1840; 4320:8), and to set the salaries and allowances of all general officials (1800) and of those elected by the General Board.

(23) To adopt a comprehensive budget for each of the general offices, divisions, agencies, and auxiliaries (1880) and apportion the USF-Educational Institutions Fund among the general educational interests; to determine the obligation to the United Stewardship Fund of churches within developing districts; and, in the interim of General Conference sessions, to designate those interests which will share in the benefits of the USF-General Fund, and to alter the percentage of the USF-General Fund, in case of emergency, by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the General Board (2005:2).

(24) To request the General Superintendent to rule on points of Church law and interpretations of *The Discipline* as set forth in 2061, to receive reports from the General Superintendent on all such rulings as a matter of information, and to appeal any such ruling to the Board of Review (375:2; 1920:24c; 5445:2). All appeals must be filed with the Executive Director of Communication and Administration within sixty days after the date of the official decision on the matter.

(25) To receive and act upon the recommendations of the General Superintendent.

(26) To recommend at the discretion of the General Board that the General Conference confer the title, General Superintendent Emeritus, upon a former General Superintendent (1590:20; 1945).

(27) To adopt official policies for the general offices, divisions, agencies, auxiliaries, and institutions of the Church, in keeping with the provisions of *The Discipline*, defining the duties of the various executive officers.

(28) To elect the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (1970); to receive, hold, borrow for, loan, and appropriate all General Church funds, in accordance with the financial plans adopted by the General Conference, through the General Treasurer, in the execution of its lawful purpose, subject to the limitations imposed by *The Discipline*, the articles and bylaws of the several corporations, and the specific provisions of trust agreements; to have the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer bonded and to set the amount of such bond (cf. 1976).

(29) To receive a report from the Executive Board regarding its annual review of all General Officers based on mutually agreed goals and objectives (cf. 1935:17).

(30) To define the duties of the Executive Cabinet (1990).

(31) Space reserved.

(32) To authorize adaptation of the church name for units of The Wesleyan Church when necessary (80; 205; 340:2); to approve a Discipline for each unit under the Global Partners Division in keeping with 340:2; and to recommend to the International Board the advancement to established national/regional conference status of qualified mission units under the Global Partners Division (cf. 6516).

(33) Space reserved

Related to Districts

(34) To make recommendation to the General Conference for the establishment or alteration of district boundaries (1590:10); and to approve the merger, division or other realignment of districts when each district conference involved has approved the plan (1065).

(35) To authorize the incorporation of a provisional district (4105); to approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a district, and all amendments to the same (4110); and to exercise such control and direction of said district corporations as is set forth in 4120:3, 6, 9; 4250; 4870.

(36) To grant in concurrence with the respective district conference prior approval to a local church conference for post-secondary education in terms of an institute or of junior college or college-level programs (655:18; 1180:24).

Related to Judiciary

(37) To exercise administrative and judicial discipline in accordance with the Constitution and as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church*

Discipline over officers elected by the General Conference including the general officials of the Church (360:2) and the area representatives of the General Board (340:1), over those elected or employed by the General Board (323:1), over districts (360:3c) and over district superintendents (323:1; 360:2; cf. 5270–5288; 5350–5385).

(38) To hear and determine charges against the moral character of a minister or a lay member under its jurisdiction in keeping with the provisions of the Judiciary (cf. 5125:2; 5227:1; 5270; 5279; 5282).

(39) To hear and determine any charges alleging an administrative offense in relation to official duties filed against a person under its jurisdiction and to administer discipline as it deems necessary and proper (cf. 5270; 5279; 5282).

(40) To remove from office any person under its jurisdiction whenever the best interests and preservation of the Church or the disabling physical or mental health of the person require it, subject to the following conditions:

(a) To remove from office a general official elected by the General Conference (1800:1a, b), or to remove from General Board membership an area representative, or to remove from office a district superintendent shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the General Board (5279).

(b) To remove from office a person elected or employed by the General Board (1800:2) shall require a majority vote of all the members of the General Board (5282).

(41) To hear and determine charges against a district for an offense as set forth in 5006 (cf. 375:6; 5350–5370).

(42) To administer discipline to a district which has been found guilty by the proper judicatory as set forth in the Judiciary (5350–5385).

(43) To take whatever steps are necessary to preserve the interests of the Church within the bounds of a district under discipline.

(44) To end the state of discipline for a district, by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board, when the offense has been removed to the satisfaction of said majority (cf. 5265), or to authorize the reorganization of a district (5375–5380).

Related to Public Morals and Social Concerns

(45) To determine the manner in which the Church shall cultivate the Church's awareness of its responsibility to raise a standard for social righteousness, issue guidance through the denominational periodical and other such means; establish a voice for the Church in matters for public morals and social concerns.

(46) To approve official position statements for publication on behalf of The Wesleyan Church.

G. The Executive Board

1. Function

1750. The Executive Board carries out the will of the General Board, serving as necessary in the interim of General Board sessions.

2. Membership

1755. The Executive Board shall be composed of the General Superintendent, the vice-chair of the General Board (who shall serve as the vice-chair of the Executive Board), and three ordained ministers and three lay members to be elected from among the area representatives by the General Board. They shall serve from the close of the session at which they are elected until the close of the next session of the General Conference or until their successors are elected and qualified. Whenever an area representative on the Executive Board ceases to be a member of the General Board, the General Board shall declare the office vacant and shall fill the vacancy in such a manner as to maintain the representation provided for herewith (cf. 1655:11).

3. Sessions

1760. The Executive Board shall meet immediately prior to each meeting of the General Board and at other times and places as it may determine or upon the call of the chair.

4. Organization

1765. Chair. The chair and vice-chair of the General Board shall serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Executive Board.

1770. Secretary. The Executive Director of Communication and Administration of The Wesleyan Church (2110; 4220) shall serve as secretary of the Executive Board by virtue of office but shall not be a member nor have the right to vote.

1775. Quorum. A majority of all members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

1780. Voting. A majority vote of all those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by *The Discipline*, by legal or corporate requirements, or by the policies and regulations of the General Board.

5. Duties, Powers and Restrictions

1785. In the interim of General Board sessions, the Executive Board shall exercise such powers and have such duties as may be assigned to it by *The Discipline* or by the General Board, including the power:

(1) To transact all business referred to it by the General Board; to change the time and place of a regular session of the General Board if circumstances require it (1615); and to order a special session of the General Board if deemed necessary (1620).

(2) To transact any and all other business the General Board may transact except that the Executive Board shall not make recommendations directly to the General Conference, nor take final action on the adoption of the annual budgets (1655:23) nor the amending of General Board policies (1655), nor transact any business which requires more than a simple majority vote of the General Board (cf. 1530; 1532; 1655:6, 11, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 40a, 40b, 44; 4300; 5279; 5365).

(3) To provide overall correlation of corporate entities, divisions, agencies, auxiliaries, and institutions in planning and carrying out programs adopted by the General Conference and the General Board.

(4) To serve as the members of the budget committee with the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer serving as a non-voting member of that committee.

(5) To require reports from all such officers as it shall designate and to consult with and give direction to the same.

(6) To receive a report from the General Superintendent regarding the annual review of all General Officers based on mutually agreed goals and objectives (cf. 1935:17) and issue a report of the same to the General Board (cf. 1655:29).

(7) To take emergency action by a two-thirds majority vote of all the members of the Executive Board, suspending from office a person under the jurisdiction of the General Board (1655:37), pending the action of the General Board. In the case of a general official (1800), no more than thirty days shall elapse from the time such suspension is effected until the General Board shall review the matter, either through a regular or special session.

(8) To appoint such subcommittees as it shall deem wise, and to delegate duties and powers to the same.

1790. Minutes of the Executive Board meetings shall be forwarded promptly by the Executive Director of Communication and Administration to all members of the General Board for their information and review.

H. Conflict of Laws

1796. Generally. In the event of a conflict between provisions of *The Discipline* relating to church administration at the local, district or general level and applicable local laws, such provisions of *The Discipline* may be modified to the extent deemed necessary to comply with such local laws, by utilizing the approval process hereinafter specified; provided, however, that this clause shall not be construed to give the consent of The Wesleyan Church (or any component part or affiliated entity thereof) to the regulation of its affairs by any civil authority where such regulation would violate:

(1) Any of the Essentials of the Church (cf. 2500:3);

(2) The rights of the Church or its members to freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of speech or other civil rights;

(3) Separation of church and state, in the sense of excessive entanglement of the civil authority in the affairs of the Church; or

(4) The rights of the Church to define its religious doctrines and membership requirements, to prescribe its rituals, and otherwise to maintain its polity on matters such as ordination, sacraments, religious beliefs and practice, requirements for employment by the Church (or its component parts or affiliated entities) or any other similar matters deemed by the Church to be central to the identity, faith, doctrine, and practice of the Church.

1797. Approval Process.

(1) **Local level.** If the conflict which arises relates to church administration at the local level, no modification shall be effective until approved by the district board of administration and the General Board.

(2) **District level.** If the conflict which arises relates to church administration at the district level, no modification shall be effective until approved by the General Superintendent and the General Board.

(3) **General level.** If the conflict which arises relates to church administration at the general level, no modification shall be effective until approved by the General Superintendent and the General Board.

1798. Record of Permitted Changes. The Executive Director of Communication and Administration shall maintain a record of any change

which has been approved under the foregoing procedure, and shall notify an affected level, district or general entity when the process of approving a change relevant to that entity has been approved.

1799. Report to General Conference. All modifications approved under the foregoing procedure shall be reported to the next subsequent General Conference. If a modification approved under the foregoing procedure is unacceptable to the General Conference, it may, by resolution, identify the respects in which the modification is unacceptable, and direct the General Board to formulate an alternative plan which is consistent with the instructions of the General Conference.

Chapter 3

GENERAL OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH

1800. Identification. The general officials of the Church are those general officers which are designated as follows:

(1) Elected by the General Conference:

(a) The General Superintendent (1590:16).

(b) The Executive Director of the Communication and Administration Division, the Executive Director of the Education and Clergy Development Division, the Executive Director of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, and the Executive Director of the Global Partners Division.

(2) Elected by the General Board—the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (1655:28).

1810. Qualifications. A General Official must be a member with leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of The Wesleyan Church at the time of election; and if at any time a General Official ceases to be a member with leadership qualifications, the office shall be declared vacant as provided for in 1850.

1820. Term of Office. The General Superintendent and other general officials elected by the General Conference (1580:1; 1590:16–17; 1800:1a-b) shall be elected for a term of four years, beginning thirty (30) days after the General Conference adjourns and continuing until thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the next regular session of the General Conference or until their successors are elected and qualified. When mutually agreed upon or deemed in the best interests of the Church, the General Board may approve an earlier date for the transition between a newly-elected official and an incumbent leaving office. A special session of the General Conference may declare that the term of any official is ended and order a new election. The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer shall be elected by the General Board for a term determined by the General Board. The salary of a retiring general official shall continue one month beyond the date of termination of service.

1830. Amenability. The general officials are amenable to the General Board for their official conduct, and their moral character (323:1; 360:2). They are subject to direction from the General Conference, the General

Board, and its Executive Board. They may be removed from office for cause or when the best interests of the Church or the disabling physical or mental health of the official so requires. The removal from office of those general officials elected by the General Conference (1800:1a, b) shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the General Board (1655:40a; 5279). The removal from office of those general officials that are elected by the General Board (1800:2) shall require a majority vote of all members of the General Board (1655:40b; 5279).

1840. Reports. The general officials shall report to each session of the General Conference concerning their official duties, annually to the General Board concerning their official duties and personal ministry, and at other times as required by the General Conference, the General Board or the Executive Board.

1845. World Headquarters Structure. The number and nature of general offices and divisions and the assignments of the general officials of The Wesleyan Church may be adjusted in times of exigency by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the General Board present and voting, or a majority of all members of the General Board, whichever is greater.

1850. Vacancies. The office of a general official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Church, by resignation from office or by removal (1830). When a vacancy occurs, the General Superintendent shall provide recommendation(s) to the General Board for filling the office. Vacancies in the office of those general officials elected by General Conference, except as provided for in paragraph 1845, shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the members of the General Board present and voting, or by a majority vote of all the members of the General Board, whichever is greater (1655:11). Vacancies occurring in the office of those general officials elected by the General Board (1800:2) shall be filled by a majority vote of the General Board (1655:40b; 5282).

1860. Church and District Membership. An ordained minister who serves as a general official may hold ministerial membership in any district, and church membership in any local church. The responsibilities to the General Church shall take precedence over responsibilities to the district and local church (323:1; 360:2).

1870. Residence. The general officials shall reside in or near the place where the general headquarters of The Wesleyan Church is located.

1880. Official Listing. The official listing of the offices, divisions, agencies, auxiliaries, subsidiary corporations, benevolent, and educational institutions of the General Church is:

Offices

Office of the General Superintendent
Office of the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

Divisions

Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division
Communication and Administration Division
Education and Clergy Development Division
Global Partners Division

Agency

Wesleyan Publishing House

Subsidiary Corporations (Financial Institutions)

Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc.
Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc.

Subsidiary Corporations (Benevolent Institutions)

Hephzibah Ministries, Inc., Macon, Georgia
Wesleyan Bible Conference Association, Brooksville, Florida
Wesleyan Native Ministries, Inc.

Subsidiary Corporations (Educational Institutions)

Houghton College, Houghton, New York
Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana
Kingswood University, Sussex, New Brunswick
Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina

Chapter 4

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

A. General Superintendent

1. Function

1900. The General Superintendent is the spiritual, executive, and administrative leader of the Church (350:1). As such, the General Superintendent must communicate through preaching, writing, teaching, and various uses of technology the fourfold mission and vision of the Church: evangelizing the lost, discipling believers, equipping the Church, and ministering to society. The result will be that hope and holiness will spread throughout the globe producing transformed people, communities, and cultures.

2. General Regulations

1903. The General Superintendent is elected from among the ordained ministers of The Wesleyan Church by the General Conference as a general official of the Church (325; 350:1; 1590:16), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (1503:1c), the General Board (1605:1), the Executive Board (1755), and the Executive Cabinet (1990).

1909. The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for the General Superintendent are those set forth for a general official in paragraphs 1800–1870.

3. Duties of the General Superintendent

1935. The General Superintendent shall devote full time to supervising, coordinating and promoting the various branches of The Wesleyan Church. The General Superintendent shall be responsible:

Spiritual Responsibilities

- (1) To be a steward leader of this Church and its vision.
- (2) To maintain personal integrity by establishing a spiritual accountability partner, spending daily time in God's Word and prayer, and living a balanced and pure life.

(3) To possess compassion for the lost, the poor, and the disenfranchised.

(4) To ensure the implementation of the vision of the Church in collaboration with the Executive Cabinet.

(5) To travel throughout the Church, giving such spiritual leadership and inspirational ministry as the need demands and the opportunity affords. All travel and speaking engagements are coordinated through the office of the General Superintendent.

Executive Responsibilities

(6) To preside as chair over the General Conference, General Board, and Executive Board and to call for a special session of the Executive Board (1760; cf. 5279; 5365).

(7) To supervise the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer as a direct report.

(8) To act as the President of the Corporation and fulfill the duties thereof.

(9) To network strategically with other denominations, fellowships, and organizations, or appoint representatives to do so.

(10) To mentor/coach and participate in established national/regional conferences (2615).

(11) To recommend nominations for Executive Directors of Divisions to the General Board for election by the General Conference.

(12) To recommend nominations for the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer to the Committee on Nominations for election by the General Board.

(13) To report to each session of the General Conference concerning official duties (1590:7); and to report annually to the General Board concerning official duties, personal ministry and the goals, objectives, and plans for The Wesleyan Church (cf. 1655:22, 25).

(14) To work in collaboration with the Executive Cabinet and the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer to prepare the annual budget.

Administrative Responsibilities

(15) To maintain professional integrity by attending educational workshops, reviewing publications, and establishing professional networks.

(16) To counsel with the general officials and the executive officers under direct supervision, and to assure general officials administer their work in harmony with *The Discipline*, the respective *Policy of the General Board*, and

any other directives from the General Conference, the General Board or its Executive Board.

(17) To hold the executive director of each division accountable for goals set in collaboration with the General Superintendent and the Executive Cabinet, and to submit annually to the Executive Board the evaluations of the officers of the Executive Cabinet.

(18) To serve as or to appoint the chair of the General Conference Planning Committee which is comprised of the Executive Cabinet and any others appointed by them (1570, 1576).

(19) To work in collaboration with the Executive Director of Global Partners to strategically determine the best use of the General Superintendent's presence in overseas gatherings.

(20) To supervise subsidiary corporations as specified in *The Discipline* 4300–4310.

(21) To recommend to the General Board any modifications to *The Discipline* made necessary when conflict over church administration arises at the local, district, or General Church level (1797).

(22) To serve as an ex officio member of the International Conference and International Board of General Superintendents.

(23) To designate the Chief of Staff as the emergency contact person in the absence of the General Superintendent.

(24) To appoint fraternal delegates and representatives for The Wesleyan Church to other denominations or religious organizations unless otherwise provided for by the General Conference or the General Board.

(25) To visit annually and conduct an administrative survey of each educational and benevolent institution; to approve the bylaws (4350:2); to review, as needed, the records and minutes of affiliate corporations (4350:7, 9); and to exercise care lest any adjunct entity create the impression of being a part of any entity of The Wesleyan Church (4370:5).

(26) To meet with any governing board, district board of administration, committee or other official body, at the discretion of the General Superintendent, and make those recommendations deemed necessary to uphold *The Discipline* and carry out the directives of the General Conference (350:4), the General Board (1655) or its Executive Board (1785).

Responsibilities Related to Districts

(27) To exercise general supervision over each district, provisional district and developing district, and the work of its superintendent; to schedule and

conduct a minimum of one personal conference each year with each district superintendent, counseling the district superintendent regarding plans and objectives of the district for the year and receiving reports of activities and progress toward objectives during the past year (1310:30); and to meet periodically with each district board of administration to evaluate the service of and financial provision for the district superintendent (1218) and to evaluate the performance of the district board of administration.

(28) To arrange the dates for the district conferences, in consultation with district superintendents, so the General Superintendent may be present; to approve a reconvened session of a district conference (1115); and to appoint a general official as a General Church representative to a district conference whenever the General Superintendent is unable to attend (350:3).

(29) To work with district superintendents and district boards of administration to establish four-year missional goals, and to annually evaluate progress toward meeting those goals.

(30) To conduct a formal evaluation of district superintendents prior to any vote to reelect to office.

(31) To consult with a district board of administration prior to a search for a new district superintendent regarding its vision, the type of leadership necessary to accomplish the vision, and to recommend specific persons capable of accomplishing the vision as nominations for district superintendent to a district conference; to counsel a district board of administration in the appointment of an acting or interim district superintendent (1303:7); to chair the special nominating committee named to select nominees for the office of district superintendent (1303:8); and to have charge of the service of installation of a district superintendent (5930).

(32) To conduct new district superintendent orientations and in-service training; and create on-going mentor/coach relationships, and other judicatory training events, in conjunction with peer-to-peer district superintendents' meetings.

(33) To recommend to the General Board the reclassification of a provisional district to the status of established district.

(34) To preside over the ordination of ministers (3070:6; 5750–5792), the commissioning of ministers (3059:1f; 5800), and lay workers (5850) or lay missionaries when present (1310:26; 1405), and to deliver the address or, if absent, to appoint a representative to preside over the ordination service and deliver the address; and to sign all credentials, certificates, and other forms incidental to this office. If the General Superintendent is unable to be present to preside over a district's service of ordination or commissioning of ministers,

first to be considered to represent the General Superintendent will be a former General Superintendent in good standing (cf. 1310:26, 1405, 3059, 3091, 5752).

(35) To receive recommendations from the Education and Clergy Development Division and respective districts, and give final approval regarding the transfer of any ordained, commissioned or licensed minister into a district (1915), in concurrence with the district superintendent of that district (313:6; 1310:21; cf. 3100:1), as well as the reception of a minister from another denomination (3104).

(36) To consult, when needed, with a district board of administration concerning the purchase, location, encumbrance, sale, transfer or other disposition of real property used for district purposes such as a district parsonage, headquarters or campground (cf. 4150; 4840:1); to receive from each district superintendent property conveyance reports on approved forms (1310:13); and to approve the purchase, conveyance or mortgage of any local or district property of a district placed under discipline (4870; 5066).

(37) To work with appointed representatives and the Executive Cabinet to recommend to the General Board any merger, division, or realignment of districts (1060).

Responsibilities toward Educational Institutions

(38) To relate directly to the presidents of Wesleyan educational institutions regarding the vision and goals of their institutions and how these impact The Wesleyan Church.

(39) To attend board of trustees meetings of each educational institution at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

Judicial Supervision

(40) To carry out judicial responsibilities as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* 5206; 5209; 5239; 5242; 5245; 5279; 5282; 5365; 5375.

(41) To receive recommendations from the Education and Clergy Development Division and respective districts and give final approval for recommendation to the General Board that the disciplinary requirements have been met for the restoration of a minister, and to forward such request and certification to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration.

(42) To consult with the Executive Board regarding the discipline of ministers, officers, churches, and districts (*General Board Policy on Church Discipline* 5245:2).

(43) To consult with the Executive Board before issuing any official ruling on points of Church law and interpretations of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* when properly requested to do so or whenever deemed necessary for the proper administration of the Church:

(a) A request for such a ruling shall be submitted, in writing, by the following for the work under their jurisdiction: the General Board, the Executive Board (1785), a general official, the governing board of an institution or subsidiary corporation, a district conference (1180:40) or a district board of administration (1233:27).

(b) A ruling may be appealed to the Board of Review by the party submitting the original request or by the General Board (370; 375:2; 1180:40; 5445:2). All appeals must be filed with the Executive Director of Communication and Administration within sixty days after the date the official ruling is published by the General Superintendent. An official ruling that is not upheld by the Board of Review shall be null and void, unless the action of the Board of Review is overruled by the General Conference (375:2; 380).

(44) To rule on the legality of an official action by a district conference, any district board or committee, or a district official as follows: Any three or more members of The Wesleyan Church within a district or provisional district may request such a ruling and shall submit their petition in writing, signed by each petitioner (323:6). The General Superintendent shall decide if the official act in question, in whole or in part, is deemed properly taken according to the Constitution (200–385), or other provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 155–185), stating reasons for the ruling in writing. If the action is ruled as contravening the Constitution, or other provisions of *The Discipline*, it shall be null and void. Appeals from the decision of the General Superintendent may be made by the petitioners or the district board of administration to the General Board of Review (375:2).

(45) To submit a report of all official rulings on points of law, interpretations of *The Discipline* or other formal judicial acts to the next session of the General Board or its Executive Board for their information, and to the next session of the General Conference for final review and approval (1590:23). Upon approval by the General Conference, such rulings shall become the law of the Church and shall be incorporated into the appropriate section(s) of *The Discipline*. A record of such rulings shall

be inserted in a special appendix of the next issue of *The Discipline* as follows:

The General Superintendent on (date) officially interpreted (identify item) and the General Conference on (date) sustained (GC-), thereby authorizing this provision to mean: (insert the ruling).

(46) To request a ruling from the Board of Review on the constitutionality of an act of the General Conference (375:1), the legality of an act of any General Church board (375:3), and the legality of any issues arising between a district and the General Conference (375:6). (Cf. 5445:1, 3, 4.)

(47) To canvas, with the Executive Cabinet, the vote taken by the several district conferences on an amendment to the Constitution and the Essentials originating in the General Conference and, when the amendment has received the required majority, to declare it effective as constitutional law (1590:2).

4. General Superintendent Emeritus

1945. The General Conference, upon recommendation of the General Board (1655:26), may confer the title of General Superintendent Emeritus upon a former General Superintendent, provided the former General Superintendent shall have served as a General Superintendent for two or more quadrennia and shall have reached the sixty-fifth birthday, or shall have become disabled (cf. 1590:20). It is understood that the tenure of the emeritus relation is for life. A General Superintendent Emeritus is a voting member of the General Conference (1503:1c).

B. The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

1970. Function. The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer has custody of the General Church funds and accounting records and is responsible for assigned fiscal management.

1976. Duties. The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer is elected by the General Board as a general official (1800:2), and is an *ex officio* member of the General Conference (1503:1c) and the Executive Cabinet, and serves as the chief financial officer for The Wesleyan Church Corporation (1800:2, 4220). The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer is amenable to the General Board, serves as a nonvoting resource person to the board, and is under the supervision of the General Superintendent (1935:7, 17). The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer shall exercise leadership in this

office in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer*, and other directives as may be given by the General Conference, the General Board or its Executive Board. The term of service and other regulations for this office are provided for in 1810–1870.

C. Executive Cabinet

1990. The general officials (1800) shall be ex officio members of the Executive Cabinet with responsibility for internal cooperation and to provide leadership in keeping with the *General Board Policy for the Executive Cabinet* (cf. 1655:30). All members of the Executive Cabinet shall be available to attend the meetings of the General Board except for executive sessions, and shall be invited to speak to any issue.

D. General Church Financial Plan

1. Summary

1995. The financial plan for the General Church shall consist of the United Stewardship Fund, special offerings, and planned gifts:

(1) **United Stewardship Fund** shall be established and administered as set forth in 2000 through 2045.

(2) **Special offerings** shall be authorized and administered as set forth in 2050 and shall provide support for world missions, supplementary support for general evangelism and church growth and the general educational institutions and support for such other purposes as may be authorized by the General Conference or the General Board.

(3) **Planned gifts** shall be promoted through the General Superintendent's office as set forth in 1920:13, and the funds shall be administered by the General Treasurer.

2. United Stewardship Fund

a. Definition

2000. The **United Stewardship Fund** is a unified budget for the financial support of designated General Church interests and the general educational institutions. It shall consist of two parts:

(1) **The USF-General Fund** shall provide support for General Church administration, general benevolent institutions, ministerial training, and other General Church ministries.

(2) **The USF-Educational Institutions Fund** shall provide support for the approved general educational institutions as listed in 2365 and in a manner as set forth in 2040 (cf. 2377).

b. Basis

2005. The USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund shall be determined annually by a percentage (2005:2) of the base income of all churches for the previous fiscal year which shall be computed in the following manner (cf. 2005:3):

(1) **Base Income.** The base income shall be the total income of a local church and all of its departments for the previous fiscal year less money received:

- (a) From loans (borrowed money).
- (b) From the sale, rental or lease of property.
- (c) From grants from other entities including the general church, districts, governments, corporations, and other non-profits.
- (d) From a bequest through a will, trusts, and estates.
- (e) From day care centers, day schools, retirement homes, nursing homes, and such enterprises (cf. 782:35).
- (f) From investment earnings.
- (g) From designated funds for major building projects that have been approved by the district board of administration (2005:3b).
- (h) From money raised for district or denominationally approved church plants and sent through the district or the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division.
- (i) From money raised for urban missional churches
- (j) Additionally, funds that were received from assessable contributions that were dispersed to the following will be exempt from the base income:

For offerings and approved projects of or event registrations operated by:

The Communications and Administration Division
 The Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division
 The Education and Clergy Development Division
 The Office of the General Superintendent

The Office of the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer
The Global Partners Division
For contributions to Hephzibah Ministries.
For contributions to Wesleyan Native Ministries
For contributions to World Hope International
For contributions to World Hope Canada

(2) **Percentage.** The percentage for determining the USF-General Fund and a separate percentage for determining the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, shall be fixed by the General Conference (1590:8). The percentage in each case shall be applied to the assessable income as defined in 2005:1 except as provided for in 2005:3. In the event of an emergency during the interim of General Conference sessions, the General Board may alter the percentage of the USF-General Fund by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members (1655:22).

(3) **Exceptions and Adjustments**

(a) **Assessment Limits and Maximum.** All churches shall be subject to full assessment on all assessable income up to \$500,000. Above that level, there shall be a graduated reduction in the percentage applied. For that portion of a church's assessable income between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000, there shall be a reduction of one in the total percentage divided proportionately between the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund. For that portion between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000, there shall be a reduction of two in the total percentage divided proportionately between the two funds. For that portion that exceeds \$2,000,000, there shall be no assessments. The percentage in each case shall be applied to the same base income as defined in 2005:1 subject to the exceptions and adjustments set forth in 2005:3b-f.

(b) **Building Project Adjustment.** Whenever a local church engages in a major building project (1345:2) and fund drive which has been granted district board of administration approval, the involved local church's base income figure shall be reduced by the amount of designated funds received for the approved project.

(c) **Mother Church Exception.** For the first year following the planting of a daughter church, the mother church shall pay the USF assessments based upon the base income (cf. 2005:1) received in the mother church during that first year.

(d) **New Church Plant Adjustment.** Whenever a district plants a new church, the USF obligation for that church shall be phased in over

the first five years of its operation in the following manner: For the first year of operation, there will be no obligation; for the second year the assessment will be set at 25 percent of the regular assessment; for the third year at 50 percent; for the fourth year at 75 percent; and for the fifth year at 100 percent.

(e) **Developing Church Adjustment.** Whenever a developing church is deemed to be under financial duress by the district board of administration, that board may subtract up to \$40,000 from the USF base income used to calculate the USF obligation.

(f) **Restart Project.** When a district declares a church to be a restart project (510:6d), the USF obligation shall be phased in over the first five years of its operation in the following manner: For the first year of operation, there will be no obligation; for the second year the assessment will be set at 25 percent of the regular assessment; for the third year at 50 percent; for the fourth year at 75 percent; and for the fifth year at 100 percent.

(g) **Urban Missional Church Exception.** Whenever a local church is designated as an urban missional church, the USF obligation for that church shall be set at 50 percent of the regular assessment (523).

c. District and Local Regulations

2015. District Responsibility. Each district and provisional district, with the exception of the work under the Global Partners Division, shall be responsible to raise its share of the United Stewardship Fund, including the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, in accord with the following regulations:

(1) **District Obligation.** The obligation of a district or provisional district shall be an amount equal to the designated percentage of the total base income, as defined in 2005:1–2, of all developing churches and churches of the district, subject to such exceptions and adjustments as are indicated in 2005:3. When this amount has been paid in full to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, for both the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, a district has met its obligation to the United Stewardship Fund. The computations for the district obligation shall be based on the financial reports of the local churches as compiled by the district statistical committee (1352:1), prior to the annual district conference.

(2) **District Apportionment.** The district conference shall apportion its total obligation among the local churches under its jurisdiction by assigning an

amount to each as its share of the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund respectively, under whatever plan the district conference shall adopt after receiving a recommendation from the district board of administration (1233:11; 1337:6). Each local church shall be promptly notified of the amount assigned by the district by the person appointed by the district superintendent. The district treasurer shall promptly notify the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of the district USF obligation on forms provided by the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (1337:6).

(3) **District Administration.** The district board of administration shall be responsible to administer the district plan for raising the United Stewardship Fund and shall be responsible to see that the district obligation is paid in full for both the USF-General Fund and USF-Educational Institutions Fund (1233:10). All USF money received by the district treasurer shall be remitted monthly to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer on the approved forms.

2025. Local Church Responsibility. The pastor and the local board of administration shall be responsible for the faithful collection of the amount assigned by the district to their church, and shall raise it on the undivided plan. The local church treasurer shall forward all money received for the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund monthly to the district treasurer (cf. 842:4). A local church has met its obligation to the United Stewardship Fund when it has paid in full to the district treasurer the amounts assigned to it by the district for both the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund. In a developing church, the pastor and the local advisory council shall have the responsibility for raising the United Stewardship Fund.

2030. Developing District Responsibility. The obligation of a developing district, or of the churches within a developing district, to the United Stewardship Fund shall be determined by the General Board (1655:22). The assigned obligation shall be raised by the superintendent of the developing district, under the direction of the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and in accord with the *Policy of the General Board for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*.

d. General Church Regulations

2035. USF-General Fund, Beneficiaries and Apportionment. The USF-General Fund shall provide support for General Church divisions and ministries and be apportioned among them as follows:

(1) **Beneficiaries.** The designated beneficiaries to receive support from the USF-General Fund are: the administrative offices of the General Superintendent, and the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer; the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division; the Communication and Administration Division; the Education and Clergy Development Division; the Global Partners Division and such other benevolent institutions, offices or agencies of the General Church as the General Conference or the General Board shall designate from time to time.

(2) **Apportionment.** The apportioning of the USF-General Fund among the designated beneficiaries (2035:1) shall be determined annually by the General Board.

2040. USF-Educational Institutions Fund, Beneficiaries and Apportionment. The USF-Educational Institutions Fund shall provide support for general educational institutions and general ministerial education, and shall be apportioned among them as follows:

(1) **Beneficiaries.** The beneficiaries receiving support from the USF-Educational Institutions Fund shall include the general educational institutions (2365); approved programs for subsidizing ministerial training; the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (2382); and the Ministerial Study Course Agency (2385–2388).

(2) **Apportionment.** The General Board shall determine the apportionment of the USF-Educational Institutions Fund among the beneficiaries listed in 2040:1.

2045. General Promotion and Administration. The General Superintendent's office shall promote the raising of the United Stewardship Fund. The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer shall cooperate with the General Superintendent's in such promotion and shall administer the USF funds as provided for in *The Discipline* and as directed by the General Board (1976).

3. Special Offerings

2050. Special offerings, in addition to the United Stewardship Fund for the support of General Church ministries and world outreach of The Wesleyan Church, shall include the following offerings and other such offerings as shall be authorized by the General Board. No agency, division, institution, organization or similar body of The Wesleyan Church may solicit offerings or present financial appeals without the approval of the General Board.

(1) **Global Partners Support.** The Global Partners Division shall be supported by various approved offerings of the General Church, funds raised

through missionary home ministries work, other solicitations, and money raised by auxiliary organizations.

(2) **Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings.** Two special offerings, apart from and in addition to the United Stewardship Fund, shall be received annually throughout the Church: a November self-denial offering for the Global Partners Division and an Easter offering for the church multiplication movement.

(3) **Solicited Offerings.** The Global Partners Division, the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, and the general educational institutions shall raise financial support for the work under their care by sending representatives to visit the districts, local churches, members, and constituency of the Church. District and local officials shall receive them and cooperate in their work. Offerings received shall be used as designated and shall be in addition to and apart from United Stewardship Fund, and shall be remitted promptly through the regular channels. The Global Partners Division shall not engage in home ministries work within the week prior to Easter, and the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division shall not do fund-raising work within the week prior to Thanksgiving or on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. Exception to the above may be made with the approval of the Executive Directors of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and Global Partners. An educational institution shall do its school representation work in the manner decided upon in the plans for such institutions approved by the General Board.

(4) **Auxiliary Organizations.** Any auxiliary shall raise financial support for approved projects in accord with their respective constitutions and subject to the general oversight of the General Board.

(5) **Other Contributions.** Other offerings, contributions, bequests, and donations shall be used as specified by the donor and may be forwarded through the regular channels to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer. Those individuals who prefer to contact the General Superintendent's office or a division or institution concerning annuities, bequests, and other special contributions may do so.

E. Interpretations of Church Law

2060. Informal Opinions and Inquiries about Church Law. The Executive Director of Communication and Administration shall respond to routine inquiries from ministers or members seeking informal opinions about points of Church law or practical applications of *The Discipline of The*

Wesleyan Church. Such opinions are not “official rulings,” but are offered rather as general advice and recommendations to assist church leaders and members in the proper, day-to-day administration of the Church. The Executive Director of Communication and Administration shall keep a log of such inquiries processed by that office for periodic reporting to the General Superintendent.

2061. Official Rulings. Official rulings are formal clarifications of Church law and authoritative interpretations of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* that become the temporary law of the Church, subject to being overruled or sustained by the next session of the General Conference. The General Superintendent shall prepare or may instruct the Executive Director of Communication and Administration to research and write initial drafts of official rulings when such are properly requested or whenever the General Superintendent deems necessary for the proper administration of the Church:

(1) A request for an official ruling shall be submitted to the General Superintendent, in writing, by the following: the General Board, the Executive Board (1785), a general official, the governing board of an institution or subsidiary corporation, a district conference (1180:40) or a district board of administration (1233:27).

(2) The General Superintendent shall consult with the Executive Board of the General Board prior to giving final approval to and signing all official rulings or interpretations.

(3) A ruling may be appealed to the Board of Review by the party submitting the original request or by the General Board (370; 375:2; 1180:40; 5445:2). All appeals must be filed with the Executive Director of Communication and Administration within sixty days after the date the official ruling is published by the General Superintendent. An official ruling that is not upheld by the Board of Review shall be null and void, unless the action of the Board of Review is overruled by the General Conference (375:2; 380).

2062. Reporting Official Rulings. The General Superintendent shall submit a report of all official rulings on points of law, interpretations of *The Discipline* or other formal judicial acts, to the next session of the General Board or its Executive Board for their information, and to the next session of the General Conference for final review and approval (1590:23). Upon approval by the General Conference, such rulings become the law of the Church and shall be incorporated into the appropriate section(s) of *The Discipline*. A record of such rulings shall be inserted in a special appendix of the next issue of *The Discipline* as follows:

The General Superintendent on (date) officially interpreted (identify item) and the General Conference on (date) sustained (GC-), thereby authorizing this provision to mean: (insert the ruling).

2064. Rulings on District Actions. The General Superintendent shall rule on the legality of an official action by a district conference, any district board or committee, or a district official as follows: Any three or more members of The Wesleyan Church within a district or provisional district may request such a ruling and shall submit their petition in writing, signed by each petitioner (323:6). The General Superintendent shall decide if the official act in question, in whole or in part, is deemed properly taken according to the Constitution (200–385), or other provisions of *The Discipline* (cf. 155–185), stating reasons for the ruling in writing. If the action is ruled as contravening the Constitution, or other provisions of *The Discipline*, it shall be null and void. Appeals from the decision of the General Superintendent may be made by the petitioners or the district board of administration to the General Board of Review (375:2).

2066. Requests for Rulings by the Board of Review. The General Superintendent shall request a ruling from the Board of Review on the constitutionality of an act of the General Conference (375:1), the legality of an act of any General Church board (375:3), and the legality of any issues arising between a district and the General Conference (375:6). (Cf. 5445:1, 3, 4.)

2068. Canvassing Votes on Constitutional Amendments. The General Superintendent, with the Executive Cabinet, shall canvas the vote taken by the several district conferences on an amendment to the Constitution originating in the General Conference and, when the amendment has received the required two-thirds vote, shall declare it effective as constitutional law (1590:2).

F. General Board of Review

2070. Members. The General Board of Review is the appellate body for those who appeal the decisions of a general judicial committee and the judicatory for those who are subject to General Church jurisdiction (365; 1655:37). The General Board of Review shall consist of nine members, five of whom shall be ordained ministers and four of whom shall be lay members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of The Wesleyan Church.

(1) Their term of office shall be for four years. They shall serve from the close of the session of the General Conference at which they are elected until the close of the next session of the General Conference or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(2) A member of the General Board of Review may not at the same time be a member of the General Board.

(3) The General Conference shall elect by majority vote the members of the General Board of Review, from nominations presented by the Committee on Special Nominations. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the General Conference (1580:2; 1590:19).

Members of the General Board of Review shall recuse themselves in the case of conflict of interest. Whenever a member is disqualified, the chair shall appoint an alternate for the hearing of that particular case (5405), provided that such appointment shall maintain the membership of the Board as five ordained ministers and four lay members who meet the leadership qualifications.

2075. Alternates. The General Conference shall elect, in the same manner described in 2070:3, four ordained ministers and three lay members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) to serve as alternate members of the General Board of Review, with the same qualifications (2070:2) and term of office (2070:1) as the members (cf. 1590:19). (Duties, powers, and procedures of the General Board of Review are located in *The General Board Policy for Church Discipline and Ministerial Restoration*.)

Chapter 5

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

2100. Vision. The vision of the Communication and Administration Division is to spread hope and holiness that transforms lives and nations by promoting The Wesleyan Church's Christ-exalting message and biblical values; by making denominational news and information, official views, and mission-aligned resources readily available to its leaders, members and diverse constituents; and by assisting church personnel with essential legal, creative, editorial, and other administrative support.

2105. Purpose. It is the division's purpose to pursue this vision through serving the Church as its public voice, image guardian, media liaison, corporate agent, and legal representative; through the strategic use of electronic, digital, broadcast, video, print, and social media; through creative design, innovative messaging, public relations, resource production, marketing, and advertising; through efficient and effective recordkeeping, knowledge management, statistical analysis, information reporting and sharing, writing and editorial services, web design and supervision, reception and directory services, internal communications, and technology systems management and support; through providing professional advice and official responses related to legal and polity concerns; and through offering training, coaching, consulting, networking, convention or major event registration and project management services, and calendar coordination for those involved in the Church's governance and administration at all levels.

2110. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Communication and Administration Division is elected by the General Conference as a general official (334; 360:2; 1539; 1580:1; 1590:17; 1800), and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (1503:1c) and the Executive Cabinet (1990). The Executive Director of Communication and Administration is amenable to the General Board, serves as a nonvoting resource person to the board, is under the supervision of the General Superintendent (1935:16–17), and serves as secretary of The Wesleyan Church Corporation (4220). The Executive Director of Communication and Administration shall exercise leadership in this office in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for the Communication and Administration Division*, and other directives as may be given by the General Conference, the General Board or its Executive Board. The term of service and other regulations for this office are provided for in paragraphs 1810–1870.

2115. General Duties. The Communication and Administration Division and its executive director shall:

(1) Have custody of the official and legal records, surrendered ministerial credentials, and archives of The Wesleyan Church, including copies of all official minutes of General Church boards and committees, materials copyrighted by The Wesleyan Church, titles and deeds, legal records and other essential documents.

(2) Maintain compliance with approved electronic and print document retention and destruction policies.

(3) Serve as the repository for all trademark, copyright, and intellectual property rights belonging to The Wesleyan Church Corporation.

(4) Appoint and supervise the work of a recording secretary for the General Conference, the General Board, and the Executive Board.

(5) Maintain a legal resource and referral network to inform, advise or consult local churches, districts, general officials, and other Church entities and leaders regarding legal matters; be responsible for filing legal documents and doing necessary legal research on behalf of the General Church; and review and evaluate issues of organizational legal compliance, analyzing and suggesting alterations for all legal documents and contracts obligating The Wesleyan Church Corporation prior to their execution.

(6) Develop forms and systems for gathering, reporting, archiving, and analyzing vital statistics, historical data, and official directory information for General Church entities, General Church boards and personnel, district leaders, ministerial personnel, local churches, and local church leaders, securing input from the Executive Cabinet for developing annual local church statistical report forms and ministers' annual service report forms.

(7) Oversee public relations, internal and external communications, crisis communications to protect the Church when facing potential challenges to its reputation, media and creative services, publishing operations, and information technology for the General Church.

(8) Design and develop the denominational website and social networking experiences, supervising, updating, and maintaining content in all formats that complies with communication policies and guidelines.

(9) Coordinate translation services for materials as requested by general officials or authorized division personnel.

(10) Develop, review periodically, and make recommendations regarding electronic communication security policies, as well as document retention and destruction policies, for approval by the Executive Cabinet.

(11) Serve as the image and brand guardian for The Wesleyan Church, creating, reviewing and approving all official logos and visual identity guidelines;

producing and revising a standardized manual of style for denominational publications, letterheads, general officials' annual reports, projected audiovisual templates, web banners and sites, promotional items, exhibits, displays, advertisements, and other materials intended for public distribution; and holding all general officials and divisions accountable for observing mutually agreed quality standards.

(12) Provide expert editorial assistance, graphic design, web design, and project management services (including writer's contracts, copyright procurement or permissions, copyright management, production, and distribution services) to all general officials and divisions to ensure that all published materials are in harmony with the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles of The Wesleyan Church, and that they conform to branding and quality assurance standards approved by the Executive Cabinet.

(13) Edit and produce books and other resources (under the aegis of the Wesleyan Publishing House or other corporate imprimaturs) when such have been approved by the Executive Cabinet, which serves as the General Church book committee.

(14) Acquire resources produced by local churches and Wesleyan writers to recommend to division executive directors or the book committee on the basis of their potential for use by a wider market, and assist in their publication and distribution.

(15) Research, develop, edit, publish, market, and distribute other publications, first impression and denominational identity and information pieces, curriculum materials, religious literature and supplies in consultation and collaboration with the general officials, divisions, agencies, auxiliaries, and institutions of The Wesleyan Church.

(16) Edit new editions of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* following each General Conference, produce the official *General Conference Journal*, and maintain up-to-date General Board policy manuals and official minutes.

(17) Coordinate training for leaders involved in local church governance (e.g., trustees, treasurers, secretaries, vice chairpersons, local board of administration members, etc.).

(18) Develop potential revenue streams to assist in funding division priorities and services.

(19) Further, the specific vision, mission, strategic plan, core values, and general duties for the Communication and Administration Division shall be prepared by the divisional leadership in collaboration with the General Superintendent and be presented to the Executive Cabinet for ratification and to the General Board for final approval.

Chapter 6

GLOBAL PARTNERS DIVISION

2258. Vision. The ultimate objective of The Wesleyan Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing with all people the good news and glorious experience of full salvation.

2259. Purpose. The Global Partners Division is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church in those fields and areas beyond the national borders of the United States and Canada, and in such other places as shall be assigned to it as approved by the General Conference or the General Board.

2261. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Global Partners Division is elected by the General Conference from among the ordained ministers of The Wesleyan Church as a general official, and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (1503:1c) and the Executive Cabinet (1990). The Executive Director of Global Partners is amenable to the General Board, serves as a nonvoting resource person to the board, and is under the supervision of the General Superintendent. The Executive Director of Global Partners shall exercise leadership in this division in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for the Global Partners Division*, and other directives as may be given by the General Conference, the General Board or its Executive Board. The term of service and other regulations for this office are provided for in 1810–1870.

2262. Strategic Directives. The strategic directives of the Global Partners Division and its executive director shall be to:

(1) Evangelize the nations of the earth, seeking the salvation of the individuals and the entire sanctification of believers as the primary responsibility of all missionary work.

(2) Gather the converts into churches and enlist them in the work of God's kingdom.

(3) Give special emphasis to the training of workers and leaders for the Church.

(4) Share the benefits of the gospel, and to facilitate evangelistic work through specialized ministries such as medical, educational, literacy, and benevolent work.

(5) Promote, in accordance with scriptural and indigenous principles, the growth and development of the churches in each field or area to a church

body that is spiritually mature, well organized, financially responsible, and missionary minded, and that can assume its place in The Wesleyan Church.

(6) Further, the specific vision, mission, global strategic plan, core missiological values, and general duties for the Global Partners Division shall be prepared by the divisional leadership in collaboration with the General Superintendent and be presented to the Executive Cabinet for ratification and to the General Board for final approval.

3. Missionaries

2272. A missionary or other worker duly appointed to serve under the Global Partners Division may retain membership in the local church and district where membership is held as of the time of appointment by the General Board. The missionary or other worker shall also relate to the national church where assigned and shall hold membership as set forth in *The Discipline* or other regulations adopted for the particular field to which assigned and according to the *Policy of the General Board for Global Partners*. The missionary or other worker shall be amenable for all conduct to the proper authorities on the field or area of service, the Executive Director of Global Partners and the General Board as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* and the *Policy of the General Board for the Global Partners Division*.

4. Organization of Mission Units

2275. Mission units under the Global Partners Division shall be organized on four levels:

(1) A **developing district** shall be a unit which does not meet the requirements for a provisional district.

(2) A **provisional district** shall be a unit with a minimum of five churches, two hundred members, and a sufficient number of ordained ministers for a district board of administration.

(3) An **established district** shall be a unit with a minimum of twenty churches and seven hundred fifty members.

(4) A **national or regional conference** shall be a unit with two or more provisional or established districts.

2278. Mission units under the Global Partners Division shall be entitled to send representatives to the North American General Conference on a plan of representation determined by the General Board (325).

2281. Membership Rights. In keeping with the Statement of Relationship (6730) contained in the Essentials (see the Charter of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church), members of units under the Global Partners Division have the right to transfer membership not only among local Wesleyan churches but also from one unit under the division to any other unit under the division, or to districts within the United States or Canada (2550), subject to paragraph 567.

2284. Transfer of Ministers. The transfer of ministerial credentials from one unit under the Global Partners Division to any other unit under the division, or to any district of the United States or Canada may be effected with the understanding that consideration must be given to differences in requirements for licensing and ordination of ministers as provided for in the various books of discipline of units worldwide (cf. 6730).

2287. Eligibility for Holding Office. As outlined in paragraph 2500:5, units under the Global Partners Division are expected to adopt, subject to the approval of the General Board, a discipline or other similar document for the administration of the churches within their boundaries. While the right to be elected to office is worldwide, the right to hold office shall be exercised within the administrative jurisdiction of each book of discipline.

Chapter 7

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION AND DISCIPLESHIP DIVISION

2305. Vision. The vision of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division is to make more and better disciples, leaders, and healthy churches within The Wesleyan Church and beyond of every age, ethnicity, and community. The church should be the pinnacle of declaring the truth of full salvation through Christ as recorded in the Holy Scriptures for both personal and public holiness. The local church is to guide sinful, fallen men, women, youth, and children of every culture, background, and ethnicity to experience the crises of conversion and entire sanctification that lead to dynamic service to God and humanity, fed by continuous, transformational growth into the fullness of Christ. The outcome of this process will be healthy, multiplying churches and ministries that boldly reach the lost, the least, and the leaders of all generations, communities, and cultures with the hope of Jesus Christ.

2306. Purpose. The Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division is responsible for carrying out the church multiplication objectives of The Wesleyan Church within the borders of the United States and Canada, and in such other places as shall be assigned to it by the General Conference or the General Board; carrying out, on the General level, the discipleship objectives of the Church through such means as Sunday school, small group ministries, the promotion of Christian family life, children's ministries, youth ministries, young adult ministries, and adult ministries; and serving as the Church's resource agency with regards to church health, church planting, evangelism, discipleship, and membership development.

2307. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division is elected by the General Conference from among the ordained ministers of The Wesleyan Church as a general official, and is an ex officio member of the General Conference (1503:1c), and the Executive Cabinet (1990). The General Director is amenable to the General Board, serves as a nonvoting resource person to the board and is under the supervision of the General Superintendent (1935:16–17). The Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship shall exercise leadership in this division in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*, and other directives as may be given by the General

Conference, the General Board or its Executive Board. The term of service and other regulations for this office are provided in 1810–1870.

2310. General Duties. The Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division and its executive director, shall:

(1) Ignite a movement and implement tools and support systems for various forms of church planting and community-based ministries (including urban and cross cultural emphases) in cooperation with district superintendents and the Global Partners Division.

(2) Create a passion throughout the church that desires an intentional disciple-making process for children’s ministry, youth ministry, and adult ministry of all ethnicities that is grounded in a biblically rooted approach to Christlikeness that results in ongoing practices of daily spiritual disciplines, service inside and outside of the church, outreach, compassion, mercy, justice, stewardship, fellowship, church membership, church health, and church multiplication.

(3) Design multigenerational, multicultural discipleship materials, worship resources, experiences, training, and opportunities for both clergy and laity, which reflect biblical and Wesleyan-Arminian values and thought leading to holy living and church membership; and develop a Wesleyan-Arminian scope and sequence for lifelong discipleship instruction and curriculum content for Sunday school, small group and other ministries, reviewing and recommending materials suitable for Wesleyan Church use from a variety of sources.

(4) Create and implement opportunities for leadership development with regard to spiritual formation, evangelism, church health, and church multiplication, including specific leadership opportunities for women, ethnic minorities, and next generation leaders.

(5) Define, set benchmarks, and implement strategies for local church health in consultation with district superintendents.

(6) In consultation with district superintendents and pastors who are involved in urban church ministry, develop and refine, as needed, specific criteria for designating urban missional churches from among those who apply (523).

(7) Design and implement relevant ministries with and for women.

(8) Develop strategic partnerships which enhance effective local church ministries to every generation, culture, and ethnicity.

(9) Develop a network of “teaching churches” that will serve other churches in making more and better disciples, leaders, and churches, as well as equipping lay leaders across the Church.

(10) Supervise and serve on the boards of directors of Hephzibah Ministries and Wesleyan Native Ministries.

(11) Encourage and resource the work of Wesleyan general evangelists.

(12) Maintain loan guarantee funds for properties in developing districts and manage permanently restricted funds for which the division is responsible.

(13) Develop potential revenue streams to assist in funding division priorities and services.

(14) Further, the specific vision, mission, strategic plan, core values, and general duties for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division shall be prepared by the divisional leadership in collaboration with the General Superintendent and be presented to the Executive Cabinet for ratification and to the General Board for final approval.

Chapter 8

EDUCATION AND CLERGY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

2338. Vision. The vision of the Education and Clergy Development Division is to spread hope and holiness that transforms lives and nations by promoting The Wesleyan Church's Christ-exalting message and biblical values by infusing Wesleyan theology and values throughout Wesleyan Higher Education; by ensuring effective ministerial education, development, and programs; and by providing pastoral care systems assisting districts and supporting healthy ministerial leadership.

2339. Purpose. It is the division's purpose to pursue this vision through serving the Church by coordinating the implementation of The Wesleyan Church's objectives for Christian education as they relate to the training of Christian ministers, missionaries, and educators on the study course, college and seminary levels, the development of youth in higher education for various fields of service, and continuing education and career development for the ministers of The Wesleyan Church; by assisting in identifying and clarifying God's call to ministry; by providing the programs and resources for the training, credentialing, and continuing development of ministers; and by establishing the standards for credentialed ministry and tracking progress made toward meeting certification.

2340. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Education and Clergy Development Division is elected by the General Conference from among the ordained ministers of The Wesleyan Church as a general official, is an ex officio member of the General Conference (1503:1c) and the Executive Cabinet (1990), and is a member and the executive secretary of both the Committee on Chaplains (2395) and the Wesleyan Educational Council (2355). The Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development is amenable to the General Board, serves as a nonvoting resource person to the board, and is under the supervision of the General Superintendent. The Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development shall exercise leadership in this division in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for the Education and Clergy Development Division*, and other directives as may be given by the General Conference, the General Board or its Executive Board. The term of service and other regulations for this office are provided in 1810–1870.

2341. General Duties. The Education and Clergy Development Division and its executive director, shall:

(1) Give leadership to and oversee the educational institutions of Wesleyan Higher Education ensuring that biblical Wesleyan theology and values are reflected in every discipline and that the vision and purpose of the educational institutions and approved seminaries is aligned with and complementary to the vision and purpose of The Wesleyan Church.

(2) Facilitate, through the Wesleyan Educational Council, the networking of educational institutions with church constituencies, districts, and local churches resulting in a stream of ministerial students being prepared to serve the church, with an emphasis on internships, continuing education, recruitment, and placement for Kingdom ministries.

(3) Provide and/or coordinate a strong network of non-traditional ministerial preparation opportunities that serves second-career ministerial students and that is complementary to educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church.

(4) Provide pastoral care systems with the goal of developing healthy pastoral leadership.

(5) Encourage and integrate ethnically diverse ministerial leadership for all areas of Church life.

(6) Assist persons in identifying and clarifying God's call to vocational and credentialed ministry.

(7) Set standards for ministerial preparation for all levels and types of service.

(8) Enroll and track the academic progress of every ministerial student, record all grades, and certify the completion of courses of study for ordination, licensing, commissioning, transfer of ministerial credentials.

(9) To make recommendations to the General Superintendent regarding the restoration of deposed ministers, in keeping with the *General Board Policy on Ministerial Restoration*.

(10) Facilitate the development of District Boards of Ministerial Development with systems for assessment, credentialing, and development of the ministerial team for the Church.

(11) Provide financial support and incentives, e.g., Ministerial Loan-Grant and other scholarship funds, to encourage a growing stream of ministerial students in colleges and seminaries, as well as Wesleyan students in other disciplines of study.

(12) Recruit, support, guide, track, and provide resources for current and future faculty development to serve in Wesleyan higher education, especially in the area of ministerial training.

(13) Coordinate all vocational chaplaincy ministries for the Church, endorsing military and civilian chaplains, specifically providing networking, support, and representation for military chaplains.

(14) Provide advocacy and support for growing women-in-ministry and ethnic clergy leadership movements in The Wesleyan Church.

(15) Maintain relationship with all Wesleyan Colleges/Universities and their boards of trustees by attending all board meetings, guiding compliance to the *Standards for Educational Institutions*, as well as reviewing and recommending changes to the *Standards* to the General Board.

(16) Coordinate events designed to meet the vision and purpose of the division, such as: Doctrinal Symposia, New Pastor Orientation, DBMD Institutes, Chaplain Institutes/retreats, leadership development, Fellowship of the Called, professors of religion from all Wesleyan institutions symposia, FLAME institutes, district ministerial institutes and non-traditional training by institutions, pastor workshops for continuing education, student events at World Headquarters, and faculty development events.

(17) Promote Wesleyan student enrollment in Wesleyan institutions.

(18) Develop new revenue streams and allocate revenue to finance division priorities.

(19) Further, the specific vision, mission, strategic plan, core values, and general duties for the Education and Clergy Development Division shall be prepared by the divisional leadership in collaboration with the General Superintendent and be presented to the Executive Cabinet for ratification and to the General Board for final approval.

3. Wesleyan Educational Council

2355. The Wesleyan Educational Council shall consist of the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development, who shall serve as its executive secretary (2341), and the president and chair of the board of trustees for each general educational institution (2365). The Council shall serve as an advisory body to the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development.

D. Educational Institutions

1. Ownership and Control

a. Basic Principles

2358. The educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church shall be governed in harmony with these principles:

(1) All schools, in fulfilling the mission of The Wesleyan Church, shall seek to produce Christian workers and committed lay members for the church of Jesus Christ. The Church recognizes that more than one type of educational institution will be needed. Some institutions will devote themselves primarily to the preparation of full-time Christian workers for the Church. Some colleges, recognizing the God-given mandate to explore and bring under dominion the whole range of knowledge for the glory of God and the good of mankind (Gen. 1:26–28; 9:1–7; Matt. 6:10; 1 Cor. 3:21b–23; 2 Cor. 10:5; 1 Tim. 4:4–5), will offer a Christian liberal arts program. Some students will use such a curriculum as training for full-time, church-related vocations or as a foundation for graduate training for such vocations; some to prepare for other vocations in which they have been called to serve Christ, His Church and His world.

(2) The Church and all its schools shall work in the closest harmony. In its legislative assemblies, the Church defines its faith. In its classrooms, the Church studies, expounds, and defends its faith. In the congregation, the Church worships its Lord and proclaims its faith. To safeguard the doctrinal purity of the Church, it shall be required that all schools maintain and promote the doctrinal position of the Church as set forth in its Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles. Any person employed on the administrative staff or faculty of an educational institution of The Wesleyan Church must affirm adherence to the doctrine of entire sanctification and other doctrines of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in the Articles of Religion.

(3) In establishing its educational institutions, and in guiding their life and work, The Wesleyan Church seeks to provide the highest possible quality of Christian education for its own constituents and for other persons who wish to study under its auspices without regard to race, national origin or gender (265:12; 360:3d).

b. Lines of Authority

2362. Ultimate authority over the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church rests with the General Conference (cf. 1590:13). In practice this authority is delegated to the General Board and consists of the following:

(1) Authority, by two-thirds vote, to establish, merge or dissolve an educational institution, or to enter into a cooperative agreement with other persons/groups of like theological and behavioral commitment in the ownership and operation of an educational institution.

(2) Authority to provide for and deal with all matters pertaining to charters and bylaws.

(3) Provision for boards of control in keeping with 340:2.

(4) The adoption and revision of such *Standards of the General Board for Educational Institutions* as the General Board shall deem to be wise.

(5) The General Board is not empowered or authorized to contravene, override or set aside a decision of a college board of trustees except as is provided and specifically stated in 2362:1–4.

2. General Educational Institutions and Curricula Offerings

2365. The general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church are:

(1) Houghton College, Houghton, New York.

(2) Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana.

(3) Kingswood University, Sussex, New Brunswick.

(4) Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

(5) Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina.

2368. Each of the four-year colleges shall maintain a curriculum which satisfies the educational requirements for ordination as an ordained minister by The Wesleyan Church.

3. Educational Areas

2371. The established districts, provisional districts, and developing districts of The Wesleyan Church in the United States and Canada shall be divided into four educational areas (1590:14), corresponding in general with the four representative areas of the Church, and in general with the regional accreditation associations serving the area in which the schools are located. The boundaries of the educational areas are given in 2455–2470.

2374. Each general educational institution shall be considered as serving all the districts of the area or areas to which it is assigned.

4. Financial Support

2377. The financial support of the general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church shall be provided for as follows:

(1) **The United Stewardship Fund-General Fund (2035).** The USF-General Fund shall include provision for the Education and Clergy Development Division (2338), and the Wesleyan Educational Council (2355).

(2) **The United Stewardship Fund-Educational Institutions Fund** (2040). The USF-Educational Institutions Fund shall provide for the support of the approved general educational institutions (cf. 2365; 2450–2470), the Ministerial Study Course Agency (2385–2388), the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (2382), and the subsidizing of ministerial training (cf. 2035:1).

(3) **Special Offerings.** Each general educational institution shall supplement its income through school representation work, solicitations, and special offerings (cf. 2050:3).

E. Educational Agencies

1. Wesleyan Seminary Foundation

2382. The Wesleyan Seminary Foundation is the Church agency providing for the advanced training of Wesleyan ministers. Its connection with a particular institution, the official agreement between The Wesleyan Church and the institution, and consequent policies and programs shall be determined as provided by the General Board. The Foundation shall be under the direction of the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development.

2. Ministerial Study Course Agency

2385. Ministerial training within The Wesleyan Church will ordinarily take place in one of the approved educational institutions. However, for those persons whose circumstances make such institutional education impossible in whole or in part, the Education and Clergy Development Division shall provide correspondence courses of study. The correspondence courses shall also be open to others who wish to prepare for Christian service. (Cf. 3200–3210.)

2388. The Ministerial Study Course Agency shall be maintained at the denominational headquarters to centralize and standardize the keeping of records on all students for the various ministries recognized by The Wesleyan Church and the administering of the correspondence study courses for those ministries (3200–3210). It shall be directed by the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development. The duties of the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development in this connection shall be:

(1) To maintain records on all students for the various ministries recognized by The Wesleyan Church, whether enrolled in educational institutions or in correspondence courses (3170:1–3), and including students of the lay minister's course of study (3210:4; 3420), commissioned minister's course of

study (3059:1b; 3210:3); the pre-ordination course of study (3040:2; 3051:1; 3070:3; 3210:1), the courses of study for specialized ministries (3210:2), and the special worker's courses of study (3210:5; 3460–3470). The records shall include transcripts, grades, courses finished, and current standing. The Agency shall exchange needed information with the educational institutions and the local and district boards directing the students, issuing an annual report concerning progress for the year and current standing to each student, a similar report on each student of the lay minister's course of study to the local board of administration of the local church where membership is held, and a similar report on each student recognized by the district to the home district board of ministerial development prior to the session of the district conference (cf. 1387:2; 1390:2; 3040:2; 3460).

(2) To provide a correspondence course for each course required in each course of study, securing the services of a qualified instructor and approving the choice of textbooks and study plans, providing for the registration of students properly authorized to use the correspondence courses (cf. 3170:3), and providing study guides and instructions as well as examinations which shall be administered through an ordained minister whenever possible (cf. 3200).

(3) To provide suitable transcripts and to issue certificates upon the satisfactory completion of the work assigned (cf. 6410).

(4) To evaluate any training taken outside the institutions and agencies of The Wesleyan Church by a student for one of the ministries recognized by The Wesleyan Church, to judge the equivalence of such outside training to the appropriate course of study, and to report any conclusions and recommendations to the appropriate local board of administration or district board of ministerial development (3070:3; 3104:4; 3170:4; 3470).

F. Committee on Chaplains

2395. The Committee on Chaplains shall include the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development as its executive secretary, with other members to be selected as provided by the General Board.

Chapter 9

BOUNDARIES

A. District Boundaries

2400. The boundaries of an established district, provisional district or developing district shall be defined by the General Conference or, in the interim of its sessions, by the General Board as set forth in 317; 1006; 1020; 1034; 1036; 1042–1045; 1060–1065; 1590:10–11; 1655:34.

2403. The boundaries of the districts in the United States and Canada are:

(1) The **Atlantic District** shall include the Atlantic Provinces (New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island) and the State of Maine.

(2) The **Central Canada District** shall include the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

(3) The **Central New York District** shall include those portions of the states of New York and Pennsylvania in an area bounded as follows: beginning at the northernmost point of Jefferson County, New York, on the St. Lawrence River, and continuing southeastward along the northern boundaries of Jefferson, Lewis, and Herkimer Counties to the eastern boundary of Herkimer County, thence south along the eastern boundary of Herkimer County to the southwest corner of Hamilton County, thence southwest in a direct line to the easternmost point of Madison County, thence south along the western boundaries of Otsego and Delaware Counties to the Pennsylvania state line, thence including that part of Wayne County, Pennsylvania, which is north of Routes 106 and 6, thence west to include Susquehanna, Bradford, and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania, thence west on the New York state line and north to include that part of the state of New York which is east of the Western New York District.

(4) The **Chesapeake District** shall include the District of Columbia; the states of Delaware and Maryland; and shall include the Accomack, Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Northampton, Prince William, and Stafford counties and the Winchester Wesleyan Church of Winchester in the state of Virginia, but with the exception of the New Hope Fellowship Wesleyan Church of Fairfax, Virginia.

(5) The **Crossroads District** shall include that part of the state of Indiana which is north of the northern boundaries of Vigo, Clay, Owen, Morgan,

Johnson, Rush, Fayette, and Union Counties, and north of U.S. Highway 40 in Hancock County.

(6) The **East Michigan District** shall include that part of the state of Michigan which is east of the following boundary: beginning from the northwest corner of Tuscola County at Saginaw Bay, thence south along the western boundary of Tuscola County to Genesee County, thence west and south along the boundary of Genesee County to Livingston County, thence west and south along the boundary of Livingston County and continuing south along the western boundary of Washtenaw County to Lenawee County, thence west and south along the Lenawee County line to the Ohio state line, except the church in Hudson; and shall include the church in Lennon, Michigan and the Detroit Avenue church in Toledo, Ohio.

(7) The **Eastern New York/New England District** shall include that part of the state of New York which is north and east of the Central New York District, bounded on the south by a line beginning on the New York-New Jersey state line at the Hudson River and continuing eastward to the southwestern corner of Connecticut; and shall include the states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

(8) The **Florida District** shall include the state of Florida.

(9) The **Greater Ohio District** shall include the state of Ohio, and shall include churches in Parkersburg, South Parkersburg, and Weirton, West Virginia.

(10) The **Illinois District** shall include the state of Illinois.

(11) The **Indiana South District** shall include that part of the state of Indiana which is south of the northern boundaries of Vigo, Clay, Owen, Morgan, Johnson, Rush, Fayette, and Union Counties, and south of U.S. Highway 40 in Hancock County, and the church in Mecca, Indiana.

(12) The **Iowa-Minnesota District** shall include the states of Iowa and Minnesota.

(13) The **Kansas District** shall include the state of Kansas.

(14) The **Kentucky-Tennessee District** shall include the state of Kentucky, the state of Tennessee, and the churches in LaFayette and Rossville, Georgia.

(15) The **Mountain Plains District** shall include the states of Colorado, Louisiana, ~~and~~ Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas.

(16) The **North Carolina East District** shall include that part of the state of North Carolina which is east of the following boundary: beginning at the Virginia-North Carolina state line, following State Road 87 south to Reidsville, thence south on U.S. 29 to Greensboro, thence southwest on Interstate 85 to Salisbury, thence

south on U.S. 52 to Wadesboro, thence east on U.S. 74 to Laurinburg, thence south on U.S. 15 and U.S. 401 to the South Carolina state line, with the exception of the Midway church near Randleman and Peele's Chapel near Hamlet, and shall include the church in Kernersville, North Carolina.

(17) The **North Carolina West District** shall include that part of the state of North Carolina which is west of the following boundary: beginning at the Virginia-North Carolina state line, follow State Road 87 south to Reidsville, thence south on U.S. 29 to Greensboro, thence southwest on Interstate 85 to Salisbury, thence south on U.S. 52 to Wadesboro, thence east on U.S. 74 to Laurinburg, thence south on U.S. 15 and U.S. 401 to the South Carolina state line, with the exception of the church in Kernersville, and with the further exception of Macon and Jackson Counties but including that portion of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Jackson County beginning at a point one-quarter mile from Cherokee, North Carolina, on the Jackson and Swain County line on the Soco Gap Road and running directly southeast to Sheep Rock Mountain, and then following the southern watershed of Soco Creek to Water Rock Knob in Haywood County; and shall include the Midway church near Randleman, Peele's Chapel near Hamlet; and shall include the following churches in South Carolina: Clover, York and Rock Hill (York County); Prevatt's Chapel, Fletcher's Chapel, and Bennettsville (Marlboro County).

(18) The **North Michigan District** shall include that part of the state of Michigan which is north and west of the following boundary: beginning at the northwest corner of Ottawa County at Lake Michigan, thence east in a straight line to the northwestern corner of Ionia County, thence east along the northern boundaries of Ionia, Clinton, and Shiawassee Counties to the western boundary of Genesee County, then north and east along the Genesee County line to the eastern boundary of Saginaw County, thence north along the eastern boundaries of Saginaw and Bay Counties to Saginaw Bay, except the Rockford church.

(19) The **Northwest District** shall include the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

(20) The **Pacific Southwest District** shall include the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, except for Spanish language churches (see 2403:25).

(21) The **Penn-Jersey District** shall include that part of the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York in an area bounded as follows: beginning on the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line at U.S. 15, thence northward on U.S. 15

to the southern boundary of Tioga County, thence east along the southern boundaries of Tioga, Bradford, and Susquehanna Counties to the western boundary of Wayne County at Forest City, thence eastward across Wayne County on Routes 106 and 6 to Narrowsburg, thence southeast along the New York State line to the Hudson River, thence east to the southwestern corner of Connecticut, thence eastward to include Long Island, thence southward to include all of New Jersey, thence westward along the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line to U.S. 15.

(22) The **Shenandoah District** shall include the states of Virginia and West Virginia, except the counties of Accomack, Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Northampton, Prince William, Stafford, the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, and the Winchester Wesleyan Church in Winchester, Virginia, the South Parkersburg Wesleyan, Parkersburg Fourteenth Street Wesleyan, and Weirton Chapel Hill Wesleyan in West Virginia; and shall include the New Hope Fellowship Wesleyan Church in Fairfax, Virginia.

(23) The **South Carolina District** shall include the state of South Carolina except the Clover, Rock Hill, and York churches in York County and the Prevatt's Chapel, Fletcher's Chapel, and Bennettsville churches in Marlboro County; and shall include Jackson and Macon Counties in the state of North Carolina, except the part of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Jackson County assigned to the North Carolina West District.

(24) The **South Coastal District** shall include the state of Alabama, the state of Georgia with the exception of the churches in LaFayette and Rossville, and the state of Mississippi.

(25) The **Southwest Hispanic District** (Distrito Hispano Suroeste de la Iglesia Wesleyana) shall include all Spanish language churches in Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada.

(26) The **Tri-State District** shall include the states of Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

(27) The **West Michigan District** shall include that part of the state of Michigan which is south and west of the following boundary line: beginning at the northwest corner of Ottawa County at Lake Michigan, thence east in a straight line to the northwestern corner of Ionia County, thence east along the northern boundaries of Ionia, Clinton, and Shiawassee Counties to the western boundary of Genesee County, thence south along the western boundaries of Genesee, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Lenawee Counties to the Ohio state line, except the church in Lennon, Michigan; and shall include the churches in Hudson and Rockford, Michigan.

(28) The **Western New York District** shall include that part of the states of New York and Pennsylvania in an area bounded as follows: beginning on

Lake Ontario at the northwest corner of Monroe County, thence south and east along the western boundary of Monroe County to the Genesee River, thence southward following said river in the direction to include Mount Morris, thence southeast along the canal to the village of Dansville, thence along the boundary between Steuben and Allegany Counties to the Pennsylvania state line, thence west along the New York state line to the southwest corner of Chautauqua County, thence north along the western boundary of Chautauqua County to Lake Erie; thence following the New York state line along Lake Erie, Niagara River, and Lake Ontario to the point of beginning; and shall include Potter and McKean Counties in the state of Pennsylvania.

(29) The **Western Pennsylvania District** shall include that part of the state of Pennsylvania in an area bounded as follows: beginning at the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, thence north to Lake Erie, thence east along Lake Erie to the New York state line, thence south and east along the New York state line to the western boundary of McKean County, thence south on the western boundary of McKean County, thence east along the southern boundaries of McKean, Potter, and Tioga Counties to U.S. 15, thence south on U.S. 15 to the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line, thence west on the Pennsylvania state line to the point of beginning.

(30) The **Wisconsin District** shall include the state of Wisconsin.

B. Representative Area Boundaries

2430. The NORTH CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE AREA shall include the Crossroads, East Michigan, Greater Ohio, Illinois, North Michigan, West Michigan, and Wisconsin Districts.

2435. The NORTHEASTERN REPRESENTATIVE AREA shall include the Atlantic, Central Canada, Central New York, Chesapeake, Eastern New York/New England, Penn-Jersey, Western New York, and Western Pennsylvania Districts.

2440. The SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE AREA shall include Florida, Indiana South, Kentucky-Tennessee, North Carolina East, North Carolina West, Shenandoah, South Carolina, and South Coastal Districts.

2445. The WESTERN REPRESENTATIVE AREA shall include the Iowa-Minnesota, Kansas, Mountain Plains, Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southwest Hispanic, and Tri-State Districts.

C. Educational Area Boundaries

2450. The merger of districts and of educational institutions between sessions of the General Conference may lead to changes in the educational area boundaries, which changes may be made by the General Board (cf. 1655:13).

2455. The NORTH CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Indiana Wesleyan University and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the North Central Representative Area, and the Indiana South District (cf. 2430; 2440).

2460. The NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Houghton College and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the Northeastern Representative Area (cf. 2435).

2465. The SOUTHERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Southern Wesleyan University and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the Southern Representative Area (cf. 2440) except for the Indiana South District which shall remain in the North Central Area.

2470. The WESTERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Oklahoma Wesleyan University and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the Western Representative Area (cf. 2445).

PART 5

WORLD ORGANIZATION

Chapter 1

BASIC PRINCIPLES

2500. The Wesleyan Church, in the fulfillment of its mission to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world (100–105), recognizes the following as basic principles for its worldwide organization:

(1) The missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church, as set forth in 2258–2262, call for dynamic worldwide evangelism, resulting in the planting of local churches, which in turn develop into national church structures in the host countries or regions, each of which should become a partner in world evangelism as a unit of The Wesleyan Church worldwide.

(2) Such national churches shall be organized as developing districts, provisional districts, established districts, and national or regional conferences as set forth in 2275. As they increase in spiritual, numerical, financial, and organizational strength and maturity, they may become established national/regional conferences and/or general conferences as set forth in 2610–2625.

(3) The Essentials is a statement of faith, practice, and relationship which serves as a unifying bond for all units of The Wesleyan Church around the world. This statement is incorporated in the Charter of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church (see Appendix A; cf. 125) and no unit of The Wesleyan Church may contravene any of the provisions of the Essentials in the development of its own book of discipline or in establishing church structures and practice.

(4) The church in each field or area under the Global Partners Division shall endeavor to establish its own pattern of government, since it is recognized that variations in local conditions, cultural patterns, governmental regulations, and other factors require local adaptations in the organizational structure of the church.

(5) The organization and government of the various units under the Global Partners Division shall be set forth in the *Policy of the General Board for the Global Partners Division* and a book of discipline or a supplement to *The Discipline* shall be approved by the General Board for each unit (205; 340:2; 1655:27).

(6) It shall not be the purpose of The Wesleyan Church to keep units under the Global Partners Division dependent on the parent body, but to develop strong churches that are aggressive in assuming responsibility for progress and growth in their own countries or regions, as well as having the vision of participating in the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church worldwide.

Chapter 2

GENERAL CONFERENCES AND ESTABLISHED NATIONAL/REGIONAL CONFERENCES

2550. The North American General Conference shall be composed of the established, provisional, and developing districts in the United States and Canada, all of which are governed by the North American *Discipline*. The regional/national conferences, established districts and developing areas under the North American Global Partners Division (2275), and the established national/regional conferences (2610) are all governed by their own disciplines as approved by the General Board (2500:5), and shall be represented in the North American General Conference according to a plan approved by the General Board (325; 1655:32).

2560. The General Conference of The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines shall be composed of all developing districts, provisional districts, and established districts in the Philippines and Indonesia and such other units as it shall receive.

2565. The General Conference of The Wesleyan Holiness Church of the Caribbean shall be composed of all developing districts, provisional districts, and established districts in the Caribbean and such other units as it shall receive.

A. Established National/Regional Conferences

2610. A mission unit may be advanced to the status of an established national/regional conference by the authority of the North American General Conference (6515:2; 6745:11) when it meets the following requirements:

(1) An effective church organization on the local, district, and/or national/regional levels.

(2) Effective programs for the nurture and training of members, new converts, children, young people, and lay workers.

(3) An effective program for ministerial training.

(4) Evidence of responsible stewardship of life and possessions, including the proper management of funds and the provision for the support of its own pastors, workers and officers.

(5) A defined and operational program of evangelism, church planting, and cross-cultural mission outreach.

(6) The existence of a property-holding body, or more than one such body, if required by local laws.

(7) Agreement to adhere to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.

(8) A discipline as approved by the General Board.

(9) A recommendation for such status from the Executive Director of Global Partners.

(10) Authorization for such status from the North American General Conference (cf. 6515:2; 6745:11).

(11) Approval of such status by The International Conference (6745:11).

2615. An established national/regional conference has “defined autonomy,” the right to manage its own internal governance which includes revising its discipline as long as it does not violate the Essentials. An established national/regional conference remains in relationship with the North American General Conference and the General Superintendent has a continuing role as mentor/coach and participation in the established national/regional conference.

B. General Conferences

2620. An established national/regional conference may be advanced to the status of a general conference by The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church, upon authorization by the North American General Conference (1590:10; 6745:10; cf. 6515:2i).

2625. A General Conference is a body which has full authority over the Church in its assigned territory, in keeping with the provisions of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church. A General Conference has the right to manage its own internal governance, including revising its discipline, as long as it does not violate the Essentials.

C. General Conference Interrelations

2630. The relationships between general conferences shall be supervised by the International Board of Appeals. (See Appendix A.)

2640. The unity of The Wesleyan Church worldwide is to be recognized and maintained through the relationships provided in the Charter of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church (see Appendix A). The North American General Conference shall relate to all other general conferences as outlined in the Charter, including the recognition of the right of members and ministers to transfer membership and/or credentials between general conferences, subject to the same approval as that provided for transfers between its own local churches and districts (325; 1655:31; 6730).

Chapter 3

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

2650. There shall be an International Conference of The Wesleyan Church for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church (100–105), the coordinating of the activities of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, the promoting of a closer fellowship and mutual understanding, and the providing of a means for joint planning and cooperative action among all units and general conferences of The Wesleyan Church. (Cf. 6505.)

2660. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall consist of those bodies which have originated in or which have affiliated with The Wesleyan Church which adhere to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and other provisions of its Charter.

2670. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall function through its quadrennial sessions composed of representatives from each general conference, each established national/regional conference, and each mission unit functioning under a missions department. The number of representatives from each unit shall be determined according to the number of members, with due regard to the principle of lay representation. In the interim of International Conference sessions, it shall function through the International Board and the International Board of General Superintendents.

2680. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall be organized and governed in accord with its Charter. (See Appendix A.)

PART 6

MINISTRY

Chapter 1

MINISTERIAL ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

A. Meaning of Ministry

3000. Ministry in the Christian context means service. It is a term which has been lifted out of the commonplace through the modeling of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is identified in both the Old and New Testaments as the Servant or Minister of God and man. His service involved His humiliation in the incarnation, His self-forgetful teaching and healing activity, and His shameful suffering and death on the cross for the redemption of the human race. Our Lord also chose this term to characterize the activity of His followers in obedience to His commands and mission. He called all members of His body to a general or corporate ministry which would glorify Him, edify the church, and evangelize the world. And He made such possible through imparting to each believer one or more gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7–27) in order that each member might participate in the work of the ministry and contribute to the growth and development of the whole body (Eph. 4:11–16).

B. Qualifications and Call of the Specialized Minister

3003. While God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, assigns to each believer a part in the general or corporate ministry of the church, He also calls some to a specialized or representative type of ministry. As Christ called unto Him whom He would, chose and ordained His twelve apostles “that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach” (Mark 3:14), so He still calls and sends forth His messengers to be servants of the servants who make up the whole church. And as the Holy Spirit impresses this call upon the individual involved, He also confirms the call through the Church. It is the responsibility of the Church both to recognize and endorse God’s call, providing for the training and employment of those He selects, and to respect the office of the specialized ministry by refusing its exercise to those

not called of God. The Church's endorsement may be limited to a probationary period, taking the form of a license, or it may be granted on a more permanent basis, taking the form of commissioning or ordination.

3006. The Wesleyan Church believes that four marks will concur in the person whom God has called: grace, gifts, fruit, and an abiding sense of a divine call. All candidates for ministerial license, commission or ordination shall be examined concerning each of these marks:

(1) As to grace, are they converted? are they entirely sanctified? are they manifesting the fruit of the Spirit? are they worthy examples to the church and to the world?

(2) As to gifts, are they able to think clearly? to understand and communicate clearly matters related to salvation? to speak persuasively? to practice loving care? to provide leadership?

(3) As to fruit, have any been truly convicted of sin and converted to God through their ministry? and have believers been edified?

(4) As to an abiding sense of a divine call, can they testify to a continuing and increasing conviction that they have been chosen by God for a specialized and representative ministry?

3012. Any person sustaining a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures and the Membership Commitments (265:5–7; 410:5–6; 3108) shall be ineligible for licensing, commissioning or ordination in The Wesleyan Church.

C. Ministerial Student

3015. Those pursuing ministerial studies under the direction of the district board of ministerial development shall include those licensed as ministerial students as follows:

(1) **Ministerial Student.** A member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of The Wesleyan Church who confesses a call to be a minister (cf. 3000–3006) may be granted a license as a ministerial student by meeting the following requirements in order:

(a) Membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting the license.

(b) Recommendation from the local church conference or the local board of administration (655:8) to the district conference for license as a ministerial student.

(c) Readiness to pursue studies with all diligence until completed, to prepare for ordination, and to give oneself wholly to the ministry in The Wesleyan Church when studies are completed.

(d) Examination by the district board of ministerial development (1390:2) relative to qualifications for ministry (cf. 3000–3006) including a personal religious experience, ministerial call, and evidence thereof, and its recommendation to the district conference for the granting of the license (1390:5).

(e) Enrollment in the Ministerial Study Course Agency and in a program of ministerial education approved by the district board of ministerial development.

(f) Recommendation by the district board of administration for appointment as a ministerial student (3350:2) and its adoption by the district conference (1180:26c; 1233:10c; 1390:2).

(g) Issuance and signing of the license by the district superintendent and the district secretary (6260).

(2) **Renewing a License for a Ministerial Student.** The license for a ministerial student may be renewed annually by meeting the following requirements:

(a) The reports from both the ministerial student and the Ministerial Study Course Agency show that progress has been made in the course of study.

(b) The ministerial student shows readiness to continue studies in preparation for ordination in The Wesleyan Church (3350:2) or, for one having just completed the course of study, to take an appointment within the coming year.

(c) The proper reports have been made (3015:4).

(3) **Rights of a Ministerial Student.** As long as a ministerial student qualifies for and receives a license the student shall have the right:

(a) To preach the gospel.

(b) To be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:4).

(c) To transfer from one district to another (3015:5d); the district superintendent shall send a letter directly to the district superintendent of the district to which the student is transferring and the student shall continue to be considered a member of the former district until a reply has been received from the latter district that the student has been duly received as a member of a local church within the district and has been duly enrolled as a ministerial student by the district.

(d) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such a court (302:4; 313:7; 5200; 5206–5212).

(4) **Duties of a Ministerial Student.** A person holding a license as a ministerial student shall be responsible to report annually to the district board of ministerial development concerning progress in studies (1390:2) and service (1390:7); and to report to the district superintendent and the board of ministerial development at other times as required.

(5) **Regulations for a Ministerial Student.**

(a) A ministerial student is amenable to the district which grants the license, and the license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 5206–5212.

(b) A ministerial student's credentials shall consist of the license, signed annually by the district superintendent and the district secretary (6260), and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district secretary (6430).

(c) A ministerial student from another denomination will need to qualify for such license in The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 3015:1.

(d) A ministerial student, when transferring district membership (cf. 3015:3c; 3100:1), in addition to a letter of transfer, shall be supplied by the district superintendent and the district board of ministerial development with a properly attested statement of standing in the ministerial study course.

D. Licensed Minister

3030. Identification. A licensed minister is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by a district conference, through the granting of a ministerial license which serves as authorization for and appointment to actual service in the ministry, subject to supervision and evaluation, as a step toward ordination. A licensed minister may be a former ministerial student who has qualified for and been appointed to regular service in one of the categories listed in 3250–3345.

3033. Granting a District Ministerial License. A member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of The Wesleyan Church who confesses a call of God to be a minister (cf. 3000–3006), may be granted a district ministerial license by meeting the following requirements in order:

(1) Membership in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting the license.

(2) Satisfactory service as a ministerial student in The Wesleyan Church for at least one year.

(3) Certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing completion of the courses adopted as being prerequisites for licensing (6410; cf. 3170:1–4; 3210).

(4) Recommendation from the local church conference to the district conference for a district ministerial license (655:8).

(5) Readiness to accept the district conference's appointment to active service in one of the categories listed in 3250–3335; to pursue the studies with all diligence until completed; to prepare for ordination; and to give oneself wholly to the ministry.

(6) Examination by the district board of ministerial development (1390:1) relative to the qualifications for the ministry and for a district ministerial license (cf. 3000–3006; 3033:1–5), including a personal religious experience, ministerial call, and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and subsequent recommendation by the district board of ministerial development to the district conference for the granting of a district ministerial license (1390:5).

(7) Recommendation by the district board of administration for immediate appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 3250–3335.

(8) Adoption by the district conference of the separate recommendations of the district board of ministerial development (3033:6) and of the district board of administration (3033:7).

(9) Issuance and signing of the license by the district superintendent and the district secretary (6260; cf. 1310:26; 1332:4).

3040. Renewing a District Ministerial License. A district ministerial license is effective for one year only, and authority to carry on the office and work of a minister under such a license shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the district conference until such time as the holder of the license is commissioned or ordained to the ministry. A minister may be granted renewal of the ministerial license by meeting the following requirements:

(1) Satisfactory service under a previous appointment, including loyalty to and compliance with the rules of The Wesleyan Church and of the district, and including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed minister fails to file the annual service report (1402), unless such failure is due to illness, injury or a similar emergency, the license shall not be renewed (cf. 1390:8).

(2) Confirmation through the annual report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency that the minister has completed at least two courses in the pre-ordination study course (3210:1). The pre-ordination study course must be completed within seven years of service under a ministerial license. The

ministerial license shall not be renewed beyond the seventh year unless an extension of time is granted by the district board of ministerial development (cf. 3059).

(3) Agreement to continue under district appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 3250–3335 or for one having completed the course of study for ordination, to take an appointment, within the coming conference year.

3044. Rights of Licensed Minister. As long as a minister qualifies for and receives a district ministerial license, the minister shall have the right (cf. 313):

(1) To preach the gospel (313:1), and, when appointed as a pastor or full-time associate or assistant pastor of a Wesleyan church, to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony wherever local laws will permit.

(2) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the approval of the district conference and other regulations of *The Discipline* (313:3; 323:1–2).

(3) To enjoy, if appointed as a pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which assigned by the district conference (313:4); and to serve the assigned pastoral charge without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church (313:5; cf. 3114–3117).

(4) To be a voting member of the district conference if an ordained minister-elect or if the pastor, an associate pastor or assistant pastor of a Wesleyan church in that district (317; 1083:2–4). To be a nonvoting member if otherwise classified or appointed (1090:3). To be eligible for election to any office not restricted to ordained ministers or lay persons.

(5) To transfer in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent and the General Superintendent (313:6; cf. 3055:3; 3097; 3100:1).

(6) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (313:7; 5200; 5206–5212).

3051. Duties of a Licensed Minister. A person holding a district ministerial license shall be responsible:

(1) To enroll in the pre-ordination study course (3210:1) under the Ministerial Study Course Agency and the district board of ministerial development, and to pursue the study course with all diligence until completed, either through a program of ministerial training at one of the Wesleyan

educational institutions, or through correspondence courses from the Ministerial Study Course Agency (cf. 3200).

(2) To serve the district faithfully under whatever appointment is received, seeking to complete the service requirements for ordination as quickly as possible.

(3) To report annually to the district conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 1402; 3040:1), and to the district superintendent and the board of ministerial development as required (cf. 725:32).

3055. Regulations for a Licensed Minister.

(1) A licensed minister is amenable to the district which grants the license, and the license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 5206–5212.

(2) A licensed minister's credentials shall consist of the license, signed annually by the district superintendent and the district secretary (3033:9; 6260), and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district secretary (6430).

(3) A licensed minister, when transferring district membership (cf. 3100:1), in addition to a letter of transfer, shall be supplied by the district superintendent and the district board of ministerial development with a properly attested statement of standing in the pre-ordination study course and a record of service under the appointment of the district conference.

E. Commissioned Minister

3059. Identification. A commissioned minister is one who may have demonstrated calling, gifts, and usefulness, who has responded to the call to ministry, yet after counsel with and agreement by the district board of ministerial development, has chosen not to pursue full ministerial development as an ordained minister, and has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of a district conference and by a commissioning service and thus has been invested with those functions of the Christian ministry essential to this level of service. The commissioned minister shall be subject to the following regulations:

(1) **Qualifications for Commissioning.** A licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church who has an abiding conviction of God's call to be a minister (cf. 3000–3006) may be commissioned as a minister by meeting the following requirements in order:

(a) Forty years of age or older at the time of receiving a license as a ministerial student or a person who because of aptitude or other extenuating circumstances is approved by the district board of administration.

(b) Satisfactory service as a licensed minister with appointment by the district for a minimum of two years.

(c) Certification from the Ministerial Study Course Agency that the commissioned minister's course of study or its equivalent has been completed (3210:3). The commissioned minister's course of study must be completed within six years of service under a ministerial license. The ministerial license shall not be renewed beyond the sixth year unless an extension of time is granted by the district board of ministerial development.

(d) Recommendation of the district board of ministerial development after consultation with the district board of administration (cf. 3059:1).

(e) Election by the district conference by a majority vote to a commissioned minister's status (1180:28, 29).

(f) Public service of commissioning (5800), in which the minister shall witness to a Christian experience, conviction of a divine call to the ministry, commitment to the doctrines and practices of The Wesleyan Church, and loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, after which the minister shall be separated to the Christian ministry through the laying on of hands in the person of the General Superintendent (if present, cf. 1935:34), or the representative appointed by the General Superintendent (1935:34; 3091); the district superintendent (1310:23) and a Council of Ordination (1405).

(g) Issuance and signing of a commission certificate by the General Superintendent, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (6280).

(2) **Rights of a Commissioned Minister.** As long as a commissioned minister maintains spiritual life, moral character, and faithful ministry, and is neither under discipline nor expelled from the ministry, the minister shall have the right (313):

(a) To preach the gospel and to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnize the rite of matrimony wherever local laws will permit (313:1).

(b) To be eligible for election to any office not restricted to ordained ministers or lay persons. The commissioned minister shall not be eligible for election as district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, member-at-large on the district board of administration, member of the district board of ministerial development, nor as a delegate to General Conference.

(c) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the approval of the district conference and other regulations of *The Discipline* (313:3; 323:1-2).

(d) To enjoy, if appointed as a pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which appointed by the district conference (313:4); and to serve the pastoral charge without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church (313:5; cf. 3114–3117).

(e) To be a voting member of the district conference if pastoring a Wesleyan church or serving as an associate or assistant pastor of a Wesleyan church (317; 1083:3), or a nonvoting member of the district conference if appointed to some other category of service or in the process of transfer (317; 1090:3).

(f) To transfer in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent over the district into which transfer is sought (313:6; 3097; 3100:1).

(g) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (313:7; 5200; 5206–5212).

(3) **Duties of a Commissioned Minister.** A commissioned minister shall be responsible:

(a) To be devoted without reservation to the Christian ministry, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the appointment of the district conference in determining and occupying the field of service.

(b) To report annually to the district conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 1402; 3059:4c), and to the district superintendent as required (cf. 725:32).

(c) To voluntarily file all credentials with the district superintendent if service in one of the categories of ministry listed in 3250–3335 ceases for four or more consecutive years (cf. 3124); this does not apply to those listed under 3370–3371.

(d) To voluntarily surrender credentials if guilty of an offense which would disqualify from service as a commissioned minister (cf. 5230; 5233–5236).

(4) **Regulations for a Commissioned Minister.**

(a) A commissioned minister is amenable to the district where membership is held, and may be deposed from the ministry and ordered to surrender credentials by judicial process as set forth in 5206–5212.

(b) A commissioned minister's credentials shall consist of the commission certificate (6280) and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district secretary (6430).

(c) A commissioned minister who fails to file the annual service report (1402) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial development, and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. One who then fails to report shall be declared withdrawn from the district, and this person's name shall be so entered upon the minutes of the district conference.

(d) When a commissioned minister surrenders the commission certificate after acknowledging guilt for an offense (3059:3d), or is ordered to surrender it after due judicial process (5212:4), it shall be lawful to publish such fact in the official church publication.

F. Ordained Minister

3067. Identification. An ordained minister is a minister whose calling, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of a district conference and by the solemn act of ordination (5750–5792), and thus has been fully invested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

3070. Qualifications for Ordination. A licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church who has an abiding conviction of God's call to be a minister (cf. 3000–3006) may be ordained by meeting the following requirements in order:

(1) Membership with the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting ordination.

(2) Satisfactory service for two years subsequent to completion of the pre-ordination study course, except for those who have been under appointment and supervision during the years spent completing said course of study. This service must be full-time (as determined by the district board of ministerial development) in one of the categories of service listed in 3250–3335. At least one year must have been in The Wesleyan Church within the district in which ordination is to take place except as hereinafter provided. In case of a ministerial student graduating from a three-year divinity course at an approved seminary, the service requirement is for one year. If ordination is to be in a district other than the one in which the service requirement was met, the district board of ministerial development of the appointing district must recommend the student to the ordaining district.

(3) Certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing completion of the pre-ordination course of study or of its equivalent (6410; cf. 3170:4; 3210:1).

(4) Examination by the district board of ministerial development relative to qualifications for the ministry and for ordination (cf. 3000–3006; 3070:1–3), including a personal religious experience, ministerial call, and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, particularly a personal commitment without reservation to each of the Articles of Religion and the Membership Commitments and loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and a subsequent report by the district board of ministerial development to the district conference (1390:1, 5).

(5) Election by the district conference to ordained minister's orders (1180:28). In case of an emergency, a candidate who has been recommended by the district board of ministerial development may be elected to ordained minister's orders by the district board of administration in the interim of the sessions of the district conference (1233:38).

(6) Public service of ordination (3091; 5750–5792), in which the minister shall witness to a Christian experience, affirm conviction of a divine call to the ministry, commitment to the doctrines and principles of The Wesleyan Church, and loyalty to The Wesleyan Church, after which the minister shall be separated to the Christian ministry by the Church through the laying on of hands in the person of the General Superintendent (if present, cf. 1935:34), or the representative appointed by the General Superintendent (1935:34; 3091), the district superintendent (1310:23), and a council of ordination (1405).

(7) Issuance and signing of a certificate of ordination by the General Superintendent, district superintendent and district secretary (6300).

(8) The General Superintendent, after consultation with the district board of ministerial development of the involved district, may postpone the intended ordination of any candidate and/or refer the same to the district board of ministerial development for further consideration.

3075. Rights of an Ordained Minister. An ordained minister who maintains spiritual life, moral character, and faithful ministry, and is neither under discipline nor expelled from the ministry shall have the right (cf. 313):

(1) To preach the gospel and to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship and to solemnize the rite of matrimony (313:1).

(2) To be eligible for election to any office in the Church for which ordained ministers are eligible (313:2).

(3) To contract the pastoral relationship with local Wesleyan churches subject to the other provisions of *The Discipline* (313:3).

(4) To enjoy, if appointed as a pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which assigned by the district conference (313:4); and to serve the assigned pastoral charge without interference by unauthorized activities of another minister of The Wesleyan Church (313:5; cf. 3114–3117).

(5) To be a voting member of the district conference if under appointment, retired, on reserve, on educational leave or a member of the district board of administration (317; 1083:1; 1240:I:A-D) and a nonvoting member if without appointment or in the process of transfer (1090:1–2); and to have these conference relations changed only after careful investigation by the district board of administration, and interview if possible (1233:9c).

(6) To transfer in the manner prescribed by *The Discipline* from one district to another, subject to the concurrence of the district superintendent over the district into which transfer is sought (313:6; cf. 3100:1).

(7) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (313:7; 5200; 5206–5212).

3085. Duties of an Ordained Minister. An ordained minister shall be responsible:

(1) To be devoted without reservation to the Christian ministry, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the appointment of the district conference in determining and occupying a field of service.

(2) To report annually to the district conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 1402; 3089:3), and to the district superintendent as required (cf. 725:32).

(3) To attend and participate in the annual district conference, unless excused in writing by the district superintendent.

(4) To be faithful in attendance, in tithe, and in participation in the ministries of a local Wesleyan church, if one is within driving distance. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted only by the approval of the district board of administration.

(5) To voluntarily file all credentials with the district superintendent if service in one of the categories of ministry listed in 3250–3346 ceases for four or more consecutive years (cf. 3124); this does not apply to those given other ministerial listings set forth in 3350:1; 3360; 3370.

(6) To voluntarily surrender credentials if guilty of an offense which would disqualify one for service as an ordained minister (cf. 5212; 5230–5251).

3089. Regulations for an Ordained Minister.

(1) An ordained minister is amenable to the district where membership is held, and may be deposed from the ministry and ordered to surrender credentials by judicial process as set forth in 5206–5212.

(2) An ordained minister's credentials shall consist of the certificate of ordination (3070:7; 6300), and an annual pocket certificate of standing, issued and signed by the district secretary (6430).

(3) An ordained minister who fails to file the annual service report (1402) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial development, and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. If no report is filed at that time the district shall declare the minister withdrawn and shall record the action upon the minutes of the district conference.

(4) When an ordained minister surrenders the certificate of ordination because guilty of an offense (3085:4), or is ordered to surrender it after due judicial process (5212:4), it shall be lawful to publish such fact in the columns of the official church publication.

3091. Ordination Service. The public service of ordination shall be presided over by the General Superintendent or a representative appointed by the General Superintendent. If the General Superintendent is unable to be present to preside over a district's service of ordination or commissioning of ministers, first to be considered to represent the General Superintendent will be a former General Superintendent in good standing. The service shall be planned by the district superintendent and the Council of Ordination; the time and place shall be subject to the approval of the General Superintendent. The General Superintendent shall deliver the ordination sermon except when delegating that responsibility to another. The rituals of commissioning ministers, special workers, and lay missionaries may be blended with the ordination service or may be conducted separately. The laying on of hands shall be by the General Superintendent (or the representative appointed by the General Superintendent), the district superintendent, the Council of Ordination and such other ministers as they shall invite (cf. 1310:26, 1405, 3059, 3067, 5752).

G. General Regulations for Ordained Ministers and Commissioned or Licensed Ministers

1. Special Advice to Ministers

3093. John Wesley's "Rules of a Helper" have perhaps never been excelled as counsel to ministers, whether young or old. These "Rules" are, in part, as follows:

(1) Be diligent. Never be unemployed a moment, never be triflingly employed, never while away time; spend no more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

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

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

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

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

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

(7) Be ashamed of nothing but sin. Let your industry, as well as your humility, commend itself to all.

(8) Be punctual: do everything exactly at the time.

(9) Do not mend the rules, but keep them; not for wrath but for conscience' sake.

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

2. Membership of Ministers

3097. Local Church Membership. Each Wesleyan minister, whether ordained, commissioned or licensed, must be a member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) of a local Wesleyan church (310). If serving as a pastor, membership is automatically transferred to the church of service (578:2). If serving in some capacity other than that of a pastor, the

holding and transfer of local church membership shall occur in the same manner as a lay member. A commissioned or licensed minister must be a member of a local Wesleyan church within the district where appointed or licensed. An ordained minister may be a member of a local Wesleyan church outside the district where ministerial membership is held except when regulations governing a particular appointment or office prohibit such (cf. 578:2; 1258; 1278). In recognition of the undesigned but inherent potential to create divided loyalties or undermine the strengths of new pastoral leadership, ministers should be discouraged from remaining in the congregation or community immediately following pastoral service in that place. If a minister leaves a pastoral assignment to accept appointment to another service category or to begin retirement and, for such reason as a prior home purchase and/or no other Wesleyan church in the community, feels it necessary to retain membership and worship in the church where pastoral leadership was just terminated, it is recommended that said former pastor shall not accept appointment to the local board of administration (cf. 755).

3100. District Membership. An ordained or commissioned minister shall be a member of the district where appointed to service (cf. 3059:4), and each licensed minister a member of the district which issues the license (cf. 3015:3b; 3044:4; 3075:5). The ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister's district membership shall be subject to the following regulations:

(1) If a minister desires to accept a pastoral call from a church within the bounds of another district, or if a minister not serving as a pastor desires to transfer ministerial membership to another district, the minister must first obtain the written permission of the General Superintendent and the district superintendent over the district into which transfer is desired (313:6; 1310:21). When such has been obtained, the minister shall ask the district superintendent for a letter of transfer (6440; cf. 1310:29) to be sent directly to the district superintendent of the district into which transfer is desired (cf. 3055:3). The minister shall continue to be considered as a member of the former district until a reply has been received from the district to which application has been made stating that the minister has been duly enrolled as a member of the district conference (6450; cf. 1310:29). To avoid dual listings, ministers receiving appointment by the receiving district conference prior to completion of enrollment shall be listed in that district conference journal as an ordained, commissioned or licensed minister Pending Completion of District Transfer (1240:I:F; 1240:II:D; 1240:III:C).

(2) In an emergency, an ordained minister may serve as supply pastor of a church located within the bounds of a district other than the one in

which ministerial membership is held (cf. 3260:1), provided that such an arrangement has the written approval of the superintendent of each district involved (1310:29), and does not continue beyond the next session of the district conference in which membership is held without the consent of the district conference.

(3) If a minister so requests, the district superintendent may grant a letter of standing (6460; cf. 1310:29), which shall immediately terminate ministerial membership in The Wesleyan Church. Such a letter of standing shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance in the case of an ordained minister, or until the next session of the district conference from which withdrawn in the case of a commissioned or licensed minister (3124).

(4) If a minister joins another denomination or, in writing, declares withdrawal from the Church, said action shall immediately terminate ministerial membership in The Wesleyan Church (cf. 3124), upon recommendation of the district superintendent to the district board of administration.

(5) If a minister leaves for parts unknown or fails to submit the annual service report (1402; 3059:4c; 3089:3), the district board of administration may recommend and the district conference may order that the minister be declared withdrawn (cf. 3040; 3120; 3124).

(6) No letters of transfer or standing shall be granted to any minister by a district superintendent until satisfactory evidence is given by the applicant that no outstanding debts are unprovided for, and that the minister has honorably withdrawn from the contract for service with the church or district.

3. Reception of Ministers from Another Denomination

3104. Reception of a Minister from Another Denomination. An ordained minister from another denomination, or a minister from another denomination who has been ordained to deacon's orders or who has been licensed or authorized in some manner equivalent to the commissioning or licensing of a Wesleyan minister by a district conference, may seek reception into The Wesleyan Church as an ordained minister or commissioned or licensed minister, as the case may justify (1233:37) according to the following procedure:

(1) The applicant shall complete a written application for transfer provided by the Executive Director of Communication and Administration office and present it, along with a valid letter of standing or photocopy of ministerial credentials and photocopies of transcripts or other records of ministerial training, to the district superintendent (1310:29), who shall research the

applicant's background, check references, and verify his or her current credential status and good standing.

(2) If favorable to the transfer, the district superintendent shall so recommend in writing and request approval by the General Superintendent with copies of the application, credentials, and educational records submitted by the applicant. If approval is granted, the General Superintendent shall forward copies of the applicant's ministerial credentials and educational records to the Ministerial Study Course Agency for its evaluation.

(3) The applicant shall be examined by the district board of ministerial development relative to Christian experience, call, and qualifications for the ministry as given in 3000–3006 (cf. 3059:1; 3070:4), and to the nature of ordination, commission or license.

(4) If the district board of ministerial development so recommends (1390:3), the district conference may appoint the applicant as an ordained minister in process of transfer (1180:29a; cf. 1240:I:G; 3390; cf. 3067), a commissioned minister in process of transfer (1240:II:E; 3059; 3391) or a licensed minister in process of transfer (1240:III:D; 3391), which relation shall continue for one year unless the district conference shall by vote extend it. While serving under this relation, the applicant is a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:2, 3), may serve as a supply pastor (3260), and shall seek to satisfy any requirements in ministerial training, particularly in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity. If at any time the district board of administration shall determine that it is not in the best interests of the district to continue the relation, they may by majority vote terminate the relation and any supply assignment, and thus dismiss the applicant from all ministerial relations to The Wesleyan Church. An ordained minister in the process of transfer shall have authority to administer the sacraments and perform marriages, while serving as a supply pastor (3260:2).

(5) If the year of service is satisfactory and all requirements in ministerial training have been met as evidenced by the certification of the Ministerial Study Course Agency, the district board of ministerial development may recommend to the district conference that the applicant be recognized as an ordained minister or commissioned or licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church and be received as a ministerial member of the district (1390:3). If the transferring minister has not previously joined a local Wesleyan church within the district, this must be done prior to the vote by the district conference receiving the applicant as a ministerial member of the district. If an ordained minister in process of transfer faces extensive additional academic requirements, and age or other extenuating circumstances make it doubtful to

the applicant and the district board of ministerial development that such requirements can be met, the district board of ministerial development may authorize the applicant to qualify for commissioned minister's status and proceed accordingly (cf. 3059).

(6) When an ordained minister or commissioned minister has been received, a proper certificate validating the ordination or commission shall be signed and issued (6320). For the licensed minister, a license shall be issued (6260).

4. Minister and Marriage

3108. Any minister who enters into a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures, and to those expositions of Scripture as set forth in the Membership Commitments (265:5–7; cf. 410:5–6), after having been ordained, commissioned or licensed, shall be dismissed from ministerial standing, provided that guilt shall be established in accord with the judicial processes set forth in *The Discipline* (5206–5212).

3111. In performing marriages, Wesleyan ministers shall not unite in marriage any person who is divorced, unless such divorce and remarriage is in keeping with the Scriptures and the Membership Commitments (265:5–7). In carrying out this duty, the minister shall be guided by the principles set forth in 410:6.

3112. In performing marriages, Wesleyan ministers shall not unite in marriage persons of the same gender.

5. Relationship to Other Ministers and Churches

3114. Each minister of The Wesleyan Church shall respect the rights of each other minister within the field of labor, and shall not interfere with the work of, nor influence anyone against any pastor, district official or other minister of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 313:5). In the event of any such violation of ministerial ethics, the aggrieved person may file a complaint with the district superintendent (5004:2, 4; 5206).

3117. If a Wesleyan minister shall engage to serve another denomination, or an interdenominational or independent work, as a pastor or in some other regular capacity, except by permission of the district conference, or in the interim of its sessions, by permission of the district board of administration, the district board of administration may recommend and the district conference may order that the minister be declared withdrawn. If serving within the territory of a district other than the one to which the minister belongs, the minister must have not only the

permission of the district in which membership is held, but also the permission of the district superintendent over the territory where labor is proposed (1310:29). An ordained minister serving outside The Wesleyan Church with the permission of the district in which membership is held shall be placed either on the appointed list in the category of interchurch service (3335) or special service (3345) or listed as an ordained minister without appointment (3380).

6. Reinstatement of Ministers

3120. If a licensed minister or ministerial student ceases to be licensed or is declared withdrawn from the district conference, and was neither under charges nor under discipline, the minister may at a later time again be recommended by the local church conference and qualify for and be granted a district license.

3124. An ordained minister or commissioned minister who has voluntarily filed credentials with the district superintendent (3059:3c; 3085:3), or who has taken a letter of standing and has not used the same within the prescribed time (3100:3), or who has been declared withdrawn when neither under charges nor under discipline (cf. 3059:4c; 3089:3; 3100:4; 3117; 5380), may be reinstated in the office of an ordained minister or commissioned minister in The Wesleyan Church, if such is approved by the district board of ministerial development and district board of administration of the district in which ministerial membership is sought, and if such reinstatement is approved by the General Superintendent.

Chapter 2

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

A. Priority of Ministerial Education

3150. The importance of the training of the Christian minister has been evident ever since Christ gave the name of “disciples” or “learners” to His first preachers, and ever since the aging Paul provided for successive classes of ministerial students by admonishing Timothy, “The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). Such training becomes even more urgent in an age when the thirst for knowledge is almost universal, when human knowledge is multiplying, and when formal education on the highest level is becoming the normal pattern for a large segment of society. The Wesleyan Church gives priority in its organization and its educational institutions to the training of its youth for the Christian ministry and related fields of labor (cf. 2358:1). The Church expects each person who answers the call to preach to prepare thoroughly for this ministry and to continue this ministry devoted to being an able dispenser of divine wisdom.

B. Administration of Ministerial Education

3160. The administration of ministerial education in The Wesleyan Church involves both general and district bodies, officers, and agencies. The General Conference adopts the overall framework for ministerial training and establishes the various agencies and schools responsible to carry out the work (1590:4, 9, 13; 2362). The General Board provides the frame work for adopting the basic courses of study and coordinating the total program (1655:21, 26; 3200–3210). The Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development promotes the enlistment and preparation of candidates for the ministry, and directs the Ministerial Study Course Agency, which maintains records on all ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church and administers the correspondence courses (2341; 2385–2388). The various colleges and the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation adapt the basic study courses to their use, and enroll candidates for the ministry in classroom preparation. The district board of ministerial development has a part in recognizing potential ministers, in encouraging and guiding them in their training, and in administering the oral

examination to a candidate prior to recommendation for ordination or commission (1390:1; 3059:1c; 3070:4).

C. Types of Ministerial Education

1. Programs of Study

3170. The following programs of study are open to the candidates in meeting the educational requirements for becoming an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church.

(1) **Seminary.** It consists of graduation from a four-year course of study at one of the institutions of higher education of The Wesleyan Church, plus graduation from a three-year divinity course under the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (cf. 3170:4). This is recommended as the most adequate academic preparation for the Wesleyan minister. Graduation from a three-year divinity course at an approved seminary reduces the period of service required before ordination (cf. 3070:2). One-year and two-year master's degrees in ministerial preparation are not as adequate as the standard three-year divinity course, but may be combined with undergraduate courses to meet academic requirements for ordination.

(2) **College/University.** It consists of graduation from one of the institutions of higher education of The Wesleyan Church, involving the completion of a minimum of four years' work and covering the authorized ministerial study courses (3200; 3210:1-3). This is recommended as the minimum academic preparation for becoming an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church.

(3) **Correspondence.** It is recognized that some individuals are converted late in life, and hear God's call to the ministry after the normal time for education has passed and family responsibilities make attendance at an institution of higher education extremely difficult. In such cases, a district board of ministerial development may grant special permission to a candidate for the ministry to secure part of the training through correspondence courses administered by the Ministerial Study Course Agency. These courses will of necessity concentrate on the specialized subjects needed for the ministry, and the district board of ministerial development shall encourage such candidates to secure training in the more general educational subjects in formal class settings (cf. 3210:1). (Cf. 1390:2.)

(4) **Training Outside The Wesleyan Church.** Some candidates for the ministry will have secured some or all of their higher education outside the

institutions and agencies of The Wesleyan Church. In such a case, the district board of ministerial development shall forward copies of transcripts or other records of study to the Ministerial Study Course Agency so that it can carefully evaluate such work in terms of its equivalence to the ministerial courses of study of The Wesleyan Church, giving particular attention to the candidate's qualifications in the areas of Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity (2388:4; 3033:3; 3059:1b; 3070:3; 3104:2). Subsequent to each evaluation and the report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency, the district board of ministerial development shall have the right to require additional work until it and the Agency are fully satisfied that all requirements for the Wesleyan ministry have been met. (Cf. 1390:2.)

2. Courses of Study

3200. The Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development shall develop courses of study for pre-ordination, specialized ministries, commissioned ministers, and special lay ministries (2341:1–3). Each course of study shall be composed of a number of courses, each course being implemented by a college or seminary course of two or more hours, or by a correspondence course involving the use of a study guide issued by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, the intensive study of one or more textbooks plus collateral reading, and other pertinent study assigned by the Agency, and an examination prepared by the Ministerial Study Course Agency and taken in the presence of an ordained minister. No credit shall be given for any correspondence course in which the final grade is less than passing.

3210. The following courses of study shall be provided:

(1) **Pre-ordination Course of Study.** It shall require as a prerequisite a high school diploma or its equivalent. It shall consist of four years of college and/or seminary-level work, and shall cover necessary general education courses as well as the full range of ministerial training subjects—biblical, historical, theological, and practical, including courses in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity.

(2) **Courses of Study for Specialized Ministries.** These shall consist of special adaptations of the pre-ordination study course (3210:1) for those who are called to the work of minister of music, minister of Christian education or others as deemed necessary.

(3) **Commissioned Minister's Course of Study.** It shall consist of two years of college-level work, and shall incorporate biblical, historical, theological, and practical courses, including courses in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity.

(4) **Lay Minister's Course of Study.** It shall consist of one year of college-level work, and shall include courses in Wesleyan doctrine, the history of The Wesleyan Church, the polity of The Wesleyan Church, including a study of *The Discipline*, and other basic ministerial subjects.

(5) **Special Workers' Courses of Study.** These shall be designed to prepare lay members for special fields of service, such as director of music, director of spiritual formation, evangelistic singer, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist, and social worker. Such study courses shall consist of two years of college-level work, and shall include courses in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity, and such other subjects as are pertinent.

3. Continuing Education

3240. The Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development shall adopt within structure provided by the General Board varying programs of continuing education for the ordained ministers, ordained ministers' spouses, commissioned ministers and spouses, and commissioned special workers of The Wesleyan Church (2341:15).

Chapter 3

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

A. Categories of Service

3250. While The Wesleyan Church recognizes only two levels of ministry which in and of themselves have a degree of permanency, that of ordained minister and that of commissioned minister, it also recognizes that the ordained minister, commissioned minister or licensed minister preparing for ordination may serve the Church in various capacities. Christ has called some to be “apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph. 4:11–12). The Church recognizes the following categories of service to which a district conference may appoint an ordained minister, or, as circumstances warrant, a commissioned or licensed minister (1180:26): pastor (3255–3260); evangelist (3270–3285); missionary (3300); educator or itinerant Bible teacher (3310); administrator (3320); chaplain (3320; cf. 3330); interchurch service (3335); special service (3345); and affiliate church pastor (3346). Service within these categories that qualifies as being “in a ministerial capacity” would include that service for which ministerial training is required or greatly desired. The General Board adopts guidelines for each category which will aid district boards in identifying the kinds of service which are considered to be “in a ministerial capacity.”

1. Pastors

3255. Regular Pastoral Service. The pastoral office is defined in 675. In The Wesleyan Church, pastoral service includes the pastor of a church (735), an associate pastor (738), and an assistant pastor, who may specialize in such ways as minister of spiritual formation, minister of music, minister of visitation or minister of youth (741). An ordained minister appointed by a district conference to any of these levels of pastoral service in connection with a Wesleyan church, developing church or mission shall be placed on the appointed list (cf. 1240:I:A:2); a commissioned or licensed minister appointed as pastor, associate pastor or assistant pastor of a Wesleyan church shall be a voting member of the district conference (317; 1083:3; 1240:II:A; 1240:III:A; 3044:4; 3059:2e).

3260. Supply Pastors. A district conference (503; 1180:26b; 1240:V:E), or, in the interim of its sessions, the district superintendent and the district board of administration (1233:32,39;1310:22–23) shall have the power to appoint a supply pastor, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

(1) A supply pastor may be a Wesleyan ordained minister or commissioned or licensed minister serving under some other appointment or an ordained minister on loan from one district to another (cf. 503; 1240:I:A:2b; 3100:2), a commissioned or licensed special worker (3460–3470), a minister in process of transfer from another denomination (3104), a minister who belongs to another denomination, a ministerial student, a lay minister or a lay member.

(2) A supply pastor shall be appointed temporarily to fill the pulpit and to provide a spiritual ministry, but shall not have authority to administer the sacraments or to perform marriages unless that authority adheres on some other basis, and shall not perform the administrative function of the pastor except in filing of reports unless authorized to do so by the district superintendent (cf. 1310:8, 23). If a supply pastor is serving a congregation isolated from Wesleyan ministers, making it difficult to provide for administration of the sacraments (725:6), the district superintendent may grant the supply pastor special authorization to administer them.

(3) A supply pastor's church membership shall not be automatically transferred to the church of service.

(4) A supply pastor shall be granted a certificate of authorization to supply on the form provided in 6240, and shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference unless qualifying as a voting member by some other right (1090:7).

(5) A supply pastor may be removed or replaced at any time by the district board of administration (1233:39; 1310:22–23; cf. 5200:4; 5215:1).

3261. Interim Pastors. A district conference (503; 1180:26b), or, in the interim of its sessions, the district superintendent and the district board of administration (1233:32, 39; 1310:22–23) shall have the power to appoint an interim pastor, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

(1) A pastoral charge receiving an interim pastor must participate in an assessment process led by the district superintendent or a representative designated by the district superintendent to evaluate local church health and pastoral leadership needs.

(2) An interim pastor shall be appointed for a specific period mutually agreed upon by the pastor, the local board of administration, and the district

superintendent (usually not more than 24 months). This period may be modified based upon the recommendation of the district superintendent and the approval of the district board of administration. An interim pastor may be removed or replaced at any time by a majority vote of the district board of administration (1233:40; 1310:22–23; cf. 5200:5; 5215:1).

(3) An interim pastor may be fully empowered to exercise administrative authority in the local church, if a Wesleyan ordained, commissioned or licensed minister, and shall fulfill all the functions of the pastor or senior pastor of a pastoral charge or circuit (725), which may include presiding as chair of the local church conference and the local board of administration (except as provided in 635 and 770–773).

(4) An interim pastor's local church membership and district ministerial membership shall not be automatically transferred to the church of service, given the temporary nature of the appointment. However, an interim pastor may personally request transfer of local church membership and district ministerial membership if desired.

(5) An interim pastor may be a nonvoting member of the district conference if ministerial membership is maintained in another district (1090), or unless qualifying as a voting member by some other right (1083).

2. Evangelists

3270. Functions. An evangelist is an ordained minister or commissioned or licensed minister who devotes time to traveling and preaching the gospel without any specific pastoral assignment, and who is authorized by the Church to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land. The Wesleyan Church recognizes three levels of evangelistic service to which a district conference may appoint ministers: associate general evangelist, general evangelist, and reserve evangelist.

3275. Examination. Before appointment as an evangelist, the candidate shall be examined carefully by the district board of ministerial development relative to personal Christian experience, full personal commitment to and support of the Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments, to the government, institutions and best interests of The Wesleyan Church, gifts and aptitudes for the work of an evangelist, and the intention to devote time to the work of evangelism.

3280. Associate General Evangelist. An associate general evangelist is an ordained minister, commissioned minister or licensed minister appointed by a district to serve in the field of evangelism. An ordained minister so appointed

shall be placed upon the appointed list (cf. 1240:I:A:3a). A commissioned or licensed minister so appointed shall be listed under “B. Other Appointments” (1240:II:B; 1240:III:B) and is a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:3). To receive such an appointment, the minister must devote a major portion of time to do the work of evangelism. Those entering the field of evangelism will serve in this category for at least two years. To be continued in this appointment the minister must conduct at least 40 services devoted to evangelism each year after the first year of appointment.

3285. General Evangelist. A general evangelist is an ordained minister appointed by a district conference to the field of evangelism and recommended for service to the church. An ordained minister so appointed shall be placed on the appointed list (cf. 1240:I:A:3b). Appointment as general evangelist is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

(1) Upon completion of two years of service as an associate general evangelist, the district board of administration may recommend that person to the district conference as a general evangelist. The two-year requirement may be waived if, in the judgment of the district board of administration and the district conference, an ordained minister is uniquely qualified to serve the General Church in this capacity. Endorsement of the district conference, the General Superintendent, and the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship shall be required for appointment as a general evangelist. Upon approval for appointment to the category of general evangelist a certificate of such appointment shall be issued and signed by the district superintendent, the district secretary (cf. 6340) and the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

(2) Appointment and certification as a general evangelist shall only be continued in subsequent years if the evangelist reports to the district conference at least 80 services each year devoted to evangelism. At the time this requirement is not met, the general evangelist shall be reclassified as an associate general evangelist or reserve evangelist.

3286. Reserve Evangelist. An ordained minister who, due to age or physical disability, is limited in activities may be appointed as a reserve evangelist (cf. 1240:I:A:3c). Appointment and certification as a reserve evangelist shall be by the district. To qualify for renewal of the appointment, the reserve evangelist shall be required to conduct a satisfactory level of evangelistic service each year as determined by the district board of ministerial development.

3295. Evangelistic Reports. Each associate general or general evangelist shall file an annual service/statistical report with the district statistical committee, the district board of ministerial development and the Church

Multiplication and Discipleship Division on forms approved by the General Superintendent and made available by the Communication and Administration Division.

3. Missionaries

3300. When an ordained or licensed minister has been appointed by the General Board to serve in a ministerial capacity under the Global Partners Division or under the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, the district conference shall list the minister as if it had made the appointment. An ordained minister so appointed shall be placed upon the appointed list (1240:I:A:4c) and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1). A commissioned or licensed minister so serving shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (cf. 1090:3; 1240:II:B; 1240:III:B). (Cf. 2272.)

4. Educators/Itinerant Bible Teachers

3310. Ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers may serve as educators in educational institutions, or itinerant Bible teaching ministers to local churches and districts, and be appointed as follows:

(1) When an ordained, commissioned or licensed minister has been employed to serve in a ministerial capacity on the administrative staff or faculty of one of the general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church, or of one of the seminaries approved by The Wesleyan Seminary Foundation, the district conference shall list the minister as if it had made the appointment. An ordained minister so serving shall be placed upon the appointed list (cf. 1240:I:A:4d) and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1). A commissioned or licensed minister so serving shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:3).

(2) An ordained, commissioned or licensed minister may be employed in a ministerial capacity in spiritual formation or a special Christian education program of a local Wesleyan church, subject to review by the district board of administration and appointment by the district conference (1180:26;1233:10). An ordained minister so appointed shall be placed upon the appointed list (1240:I:A:2c) and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1). A commissioned or licensed minister so serving shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (cf. 1090:3; 1240:II:B; 1240:III:B).

(3) When an ordained, commissioned or licensed minister devotes time to traveling and teaching in local churches and districts without a specific or pastoral assignment, the minister shall be recognized as an itinerant Bible teacher subject to recommendation and appointment by the district conference of which the minister is a member. An ordained minister so appointed shall be placed on the appointed list (1240:I:A:4e), and shall be a voting member of the district conference. A commissioned or licensed minister so appointed shall be a non-voting member of the district conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (1240:II:B or 1240:III:B) as is appropriate.

5. Administrators

3320. When an ordained minister has been elected by the General Conference as a general official (1800), or an ordained, commissioned or licensed minister has been employed at the World Headquarters, or elected or employed by the board of directors of a general subsidiary corporation other than an educational institution, to serve the General Church in a ministerial capacity, or an ordained minister has been elected by the district conference as district superintendent or full-time assistant district superintendent, or an ordained, commissioned or licensed minister has been elected or employed for full-time service of the district in a ministerial capacity, the district conference shall list the minister as if it had made the appointment. An ordained minister serving in this manner shall be placed on the appointed list (cf. 1240:I:A:1, 4a, b), and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1). A commissioned or licensed minister so serving shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under either “Commissioned” or “Licensed Ministers, Other Appointments” (cf. 1090:3; 1240:II:B). Any ordained or commissioned minister employed by the General Church in other than a ministerial capacity shall be placed on the appropriate list of ministers without appointment (cf. 1240:I:E; 1240:II:C).

6. Chaplains

3330. When an ordained minister has been approved by the Committee on Chaplains and commissioned by the government as a military chaplain, or employed as a full-time professional institutional chaplain, the district conference shall list the chaplain as if it had made the appointment. An ordained minister serving in this capacity shall be placed on the appointed list (cf. 1240:I:A:7) and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1).

7. Ministers Engaged in Interchurch Service

3335. An ordained minister employed in a ministerial capacity as an officer in a church-related organization serving The Wesleyan Church, or approved upon careful evaluation of the district conference to serve with an educational institution, evangelistic or missionary organization not directly related to The Wesleyan Church, shall be appointed to interchurch service and shall be listed by the district as an appointed ordained minister (cf. 1240:I:A:6) and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1). A commissioned or licensed minister so appointed shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (cf. 1240:II:B; 1240:III:B). Ministers serving in this category shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), available from the district superintendent, also signed by the district superintendent and the supervisor of the district/judicatory of the ministry with which the minister is serving. The MOU will clarify reporting and accountability responsibilities of this service as well as defining the length of service expected in this appointment. Service extending beyond five years of initial appointment in this capacity must be approved by the district board of administration.

8. Ministers Engaged in Special Service

3345. An ordained minister serving in active service not otherwise provided for shall be appointed to special service, if such service is approved by the district conference and shall be listed by the district as an appointed ordained minister (1240:I:A:7) and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1). Ministers serving in this category shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), available from the district superintendent, also signed by the district superintendent and the supervisor of the district/judicatory of the ministry with which the minister is serving. The MOU will clarify reporting and accountability responsibilities of this service as well as defining the length of service expected in this appointment. Service extending beyond five years of initial appointment in this capacity must be approved by the district board of administration.

9. Affiliate Church Pastor

3346. An ordained Wesleyan minister appointed by the district conference to serve on staff of an affiliate church shall be listed by the district as a minister

appointed to affiliate church pastor (cf. 7010; 1240:1:A:8) and shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1).

B. Other Assignments

1. Students

3350. The district conference may list ordained ministers and others pursuing ministerial studies in keeping with these regulations:

(1) **Ordained Minister on Educational Leave.** An ordained minister without other appointment who enrolls in a seminary or other graduate school for advanced training for church service shall be listed as an “ordained minister on educational leave” (1240:I:D). An ordained minister so appointed shall be a voting member of the district conference (1083:1).

(2) **Ministerial Student.** A student engaged in full-time study in preparation for ordination, either by enrolling in the four-year or five-year ministerial or pre-ministerial course of a Wesleyan educational institution, or in an approved theological seminary or other approved graduate-level program of theological education, or by pursuing full-time study in the Ministerial Study Course Agency either by correspondence or by work in a college along with correspondence, if the student meets all other qualifications (3015:1), may be granted a license and appointed by the district conference as a ministerial student (3015:1). The ministerial student shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:4).

2. Reserve Ministers

3360. An ordained minister on reserve is one available for appointment but left without one (1240:I:C). The ordained minister on reserve shall be a voting member of the district conference (317; 1083:1). An ordained minister remaining on reserve for two consecutive years without definite appointment shall be automatically transferred to the list of ordained ministers without appointment (3380) unless continued on reserve by the district conference (1180:26c).

3. Retired Ministers

3370. Ordained Ministers. An ordained minister who is retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, and who was on either the

appointed list, on reserve or on educational leave at the time of retirement or incapacitation, shall be placed on the retired list (1240:I:B). A retired ordained minister shall be a voting member of the district conference (317; 1083:1). When special circumstances are present, the district conference may place an ordained minister without appointment on the retired list.

3371. Commissioned Ministers. A commissioned minister who is retired shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1083:3; 3059).

4. Ministers Without Appointment

3380. An ordained or commissioned minister in active service outside The Wesleyan Church with the consent of the district conference but who is not eligible for inclusion in 3345 or 3350:1, or an ordained or commissioned minister who is not available for appointment, or an ordained or commissioned minister who is not otherwise provided for in the appointed, reserve, educational leave or retired lists shall be placed on the appropriate list of ordained or commissioned ministers without appointment (1240:I:E; 1240:II:C). An ordained or commissioned minister without appointment shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:1, 3).

5. Ministers in Process of Transfer From Another Denomination

3390. Ordained Ministers. An ordained minister seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Church from another denomination shall be listed by the district conference for the first year and until all deficiencies in educational or service requirements are cared for as an ordained minister in process of transfer (cf. 1240:I:G; 3104; 3170:4). An ordained minister in process of transfer shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:2).

3391. Other Ministers. A commissioned or licensed minister or ordained deacon seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Church from another denomination shall be listed by the district conference for the first year and until all deficiencies in educational requirements are cared for as a commissioned or licensed minister in process of transfer (cf. 3104). A commissioned or licensed minister in process of transfer shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:3).

Chapter 4

SPECIAL LAY MINISTRIES

A. Lay Minister

3400. Identification. A lay minister is a lay member of The Wesleyan Church whom the local church conference, or the local board of administration if so delegated, has licensed to preach or serve (655:7), under the pastor's direction and as opportunity affords (725:28), thus providing for the employment and development of gifts and usefulness.

3410. Granting a Lay Minister's License. A local Wesleyan church member, who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558), and who applies for a license as a lay minister or who is presented as a candidate for such license by the pastor shall be examined by the local board of administration. If the local board of administration is satisfied that the candidate shows promise of the proper gifts and usefulness, it shall recommend to the local church conference the granting of a license (782:20), unless the local church conference has delegated such authority to the local board of administration. When the license has been authorized (650:6; 655:7), the pastor and local church secretary shall issue the license on the approved form (6200; cf. 725:28; 830:3).

3420. Renewing a Lay Minister's License. A lay minister's license is effective for one year only, and authority to preach or serve under such a license shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the authorized body. The authorized body may renew the license if its holder has served satisfactorily under the pastor's direction, if personal gifts and graces give promise of continued usefulness, and if the annual report of the Ministerial Study Course Agency shows that the lay minister has completed two courses in the study course for lay ministers (3210:4) during the year, or if the lay minister holds a certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing that the study course has been completed.

3430. Duties of a Lay Minister. A person holding a lay minister's license shall be responsible:

(1) To enroll in the course of study for lay ministers under the Ministerial Study Course Agency (3210:4), and to pursue it with all diligence until completed, either through a program of ministerial training at one of the Wesleyan educational institutions or through correspondence courses from the Ministerial Study Course Agency. Any training taken outside The Wesleyan

Church shall be carefully evaluated by the Ministerial Study Course Agency which shall have authority to determine to what extent it may be credited toward the prescribed study course (3170:4).

(2) To assist the pastor as directed (725:28), preaching as often as opportunity affords, including the holding of evangelistic services in neighboring churches with the pastor's approval or serving in other ways befitting the lay minister's gifts and local needs.

(3) To report the progress of studies and the nature and extent of labors to the pastor and the local board of administration as they shall require (782:5) and to the local church conference annually (650:5; 655:5).

3440. Regulations for a Lay Minister.

(1) A lay minister has no authority to solemnize marriages or to administer the sacraments, except as provided for in 3260:2, nor any vote in the local board of administration nor in the district conference unless elected thereto.

(2) A lay minister is amenable to the local church conference, and the license may be revoked by the authorized body for cause or when the best interests of the church so require (655:7; 782:20).

(3) A lay minister who transfers membership may also ask for a letter of standing as a lay minister (6220), and present it to the pastor of the church to which transfer is sought for consideration by the local board of administration there in issuing a new license.

B. Special Worker

3450. Function. A special worker is a lay person with a sense of divine leading to serve the Church as a director of music, director of spiritual formation or Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist, social worker or in some other special capacity, and who has been authorized to carry on such work by a district conference.

3460. Licensed Special Worker. A Wesleyan Church member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) may be granted a special worker's license by the district conference (1180:29e) provided that the candidate has been recommended for such license by the local church conference, or by the local board of administration if so delegated (655:8; cf. 782:20), that the candidate promises to pursue the course of study for the particular field of service (3210:5), and that the candidate has been recommended for such license by the district board of ministerial development

after careful examination concerning Christian experience, gifts, calling, and experience in the particular field of service (1390:5). The license shall be issued and signed by the district superintendent and district secretary (6360; cf. 1310:23; 1332:4). The license may be renewed annually by continued qualification as above, if the candidate completes two courses in the course of study as attested by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, and if service is satisfactory, including the proper filing of reports. If a licensed special worker fails to file the annual service report (1402), unless such failure is due to illness, injury or a similar emergency, the license shall not be renewed (cf. 1390:8). The licensed special worker shall be amenable to the district (1233:39), and the license may be revoked between sessions of the district conference by judicial process as set forth in 5200:3; 5206. A person from another denomination holding a district license as a special worker or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of a minister (3104).

3470. Commissioned Special Worker. A licensed special worker may be commissioned by the district conference provided that the worker has completed the course of study (3210:5) or its equivalent (3170:4) as certified by the Ministerial Study Course Agency (6410), has served satisfactorily under a district special worker's license for at least two years, and has been recommended for commissioning by the district board of ministerial development after careful examination concerning Christian experience, gifts, calling, and experience in the particular field of service (1390:5). The commissioning shall include the affirmative vote of the district conference (1180:29e), a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 5855 (cf. 1405; 3091), and the issuance of a commission signed by the General Superintendent, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (6380; cf. 1310:26; 1332:4; 1935:34). The commission shall be continuous until such time as the worker ceases to be active in the particular field of service and files the commission with the district superintendent, or unless deprived of the commission by judicial process (5200:3; 5206). A commissioned special worker who fails to file the annual service report (1402) for two successive years, shall be notified by the district board of ministerial development and requested to report at the next session of the district conference. A commissioned special worker who then fails to report, shall be declared withdrawn from the district, and the special worker's name shall be so entered upon the minutes of the district conference (cf. 1390:8). A person from another denomination holding a commission as a special worker or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Church subject to the regulations which govern the reception of an ordained minister (1233:37; 1390:3; 3104).

3480. General Regulations for Special Workers. A licensed or commissioned special worker shall be a local church member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558). A commissioned special worker’s membership must be in a local church within the district that authorizes the service, and shall serve under the direction of the pastor, or upon the call of local churches, or under a district or general agency, as the case may be. The special worker shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:5), and shall report annually to the district conference (1390:7). The special worker may be granted a letter of transfer or standing (6440–6460). The license or commission of a special worker may only be restored in keeping with the provisions of 5230–5248. See also the *General Board Policy on Ministerial Restoration 2002–2022*.

C. Lay Missionary

3490. A lay member who has been appointed to service under the Global Partners Division, or under the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, shall be commissioned by the district conference (1180:29f) as a lay missionary. The commissioning shall include a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 5855 (cf. 1405; 3091), and the issuance of a commission signed by the General Superintendent, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (6400; cf. 1310:26; 1332:4; 1935:34). The commission shall be continuous with the period of service. The missionary shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:6). The missionary shall be amenable in keeping with the provisions of 2272.

PART 7
CORPORATIONS
Chapter 1
LOCAL CHURCH CORPORATIONS

A. Authorization

4000. A local church within an established district may be incorporated (cf. 655:14) when so authorized by the district board of administration (1233:32). The Wesleyan Church shall provide local churches with access to information to assist in the incorporation process. Each incorporated local church shall be responsible to ensure that it complies with all state reporting and filing requirements to remain in good standing. The incorporation of a local church within a developing district or provisional district may be authorized when deemed necessary by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

4005. The articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a local church shall be according to the standard provisions in 4010, any other pertinent requirements of *The Discipline*, and the requirements of local laws as advised by competent legal authority, and shall be approved in writing by the authorizing district board of administration or official (4000).

B. Standard Provisions

4010. The standard provisions for the incorporation of a local Wesleyan church are as follows, provided that whenever such standard provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent necessary to conform with such local laws (4510).

(1) The name of the corporation shall be: “ _____ (name or place) Wesleyan Church, Inc.”

(2) The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and/or educational purposes within the meaning of IRC section 501(c)(3), including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations

that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in its *Discipline* (cf. 100–105; 2105, 2259; 2306; 2339), and shall not be for the pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof, and especially, to purchase, hold in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, manage, encumber, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of property, real, personal or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the corporation; to acquire or erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, the use and occupancy of its ministers, Christian education, and other purposes in keeping with the doctrines and principles of The Wesleyan Church; to receive, manage and hold in trust for members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character that may be given, bequeathed or conveyed to the local church or to the trustees of the local church as such, and to administer the same and income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor or testator; provided that any and all of the foregoing purposes shall be carried out in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* as legislated and declared from time to time (cf. 4040). Further, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on

(a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or

(b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

(3) The corporation shall be subject to The Wesleyan Church, its duly elected officials and its rules and regulations as set forth in its *Discipline* from time to time and as otherwise legislated and declared in keeping with said *Discipline*.

(4) The bylaws of the corporation shall include *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* as legislated and declared from time to time; and no other bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of said *Discipline* (4005).

(5) The term for which the corporation is to exist is perpetual.

(6) If the corporation shall be dissolved or become inactive, or whenever the board of directors (4010:7) shall cease to function or cease to be amenable to The Wesleyan Church as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5305–5320), any or all assets of the corporation shall inure to the district of which the local church is a member, and the district

board of administration shall be authorized and empowered to carry on the function of said board of directors (1233:33, 36), provided such district is then exempt under 501(c)(3), and if not, then the assets shall inure to another district or entity of The Wesleyan Church at the discretion of the General Board, provided such district or entity is then exempt under 501(c)(3); and if no such Wesleyan entity exists that is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity, then to a similar organization which is tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(7) The directors of the corporation shall be the members of the local board of trustees as set forth in *The Discipline* (cf. 850–859; 4500–4780), who shall carry out the directions of the local church conference (655:13), and the local board of administration (782:28) as set forth in *The Discipline*. A member of the board of directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities or obligations of the corporation.

(8) The members of the corporation shall be the members of the local church, or such other body as local laws may require, provided that each voting member of the corporate body shall be a member of The Wesleyan Church.

C. Ownership

4030. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments made of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for an incorporated local church shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust for the use and benefit of such local church and The Wesleyan Church, and subject to *The Discipline*, regulations and appointments of said Church as from time to time legislated and declared. Every instrument or conveyance of real property shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 4610 (cf. 4690) and shall be approved by the district superintendent as being in conformity with the requirements of *The Discipline* (1310:13).

D. Acquisition, Sale, Transfer or Mortgage of Property

4040. An incorporated local church shall acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer or otherwise dispose of real property subject to the following authorization and conditions:

(1) A resolution authorizing the proposed action shall be recommended by the local board of administration (782:32) and passed by the local church conference (655:13) in corporate session, or such other corporate body as local

laws may require and as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the local church corporation, with the members thereof acting in their capacity as members of the corporate body, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at any regular or special session duly called for such purpose (630:1–2; 633:1), provided that notice of such intended action shall be given to the members of the local church through announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be at least one week prior to the meeting at which the action shall be presented, and in the church bulletin, when such is available (cf. 633:1), and through such other notice as may be required by local laws or by the bylaws of the local church corporation.

(2) The district building committee shall study the proposal of the local church whenever the purchase of property, the construction or remodeling of buildings or other work of the committee is involved as set forth in 1345, and shall give its written recommendation to the district board of administration and the local church.

(3) The written approval of the district board of administration as stated in 1233:33 shall be necessary and shall be affixed to the written instrument involved.

(4) The resolution authorizing such proposed action shall direct and authorize the corporation's board of directors (4010:7) to take all necessary steps to carry out the action so authorized, and to cause to be executed, as hereinafter provided, any necessary contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage or other written instrument.

(5) The board of directors of the local church corporation (4010:7) shall take such action and adopt such resolutions as may be necessary or required to carry out the proposal as approved, provided that such shall be in conformity with *The Discipline* and as required by local laws (4510).

(6) The chair of the board of directors (4010:7), or another designated director shall submit all written instruments of conveyance and title for the acquisition of property to the district superintendent for the approval of the district superintendent as to their conformity with *The Discipline* as stated in 1310:13 and shall see that permanent legal and property records are properly stored as required in 4760.

E. Other Regulations

4060. An incorporated local church and/or its board of directors (4010:7) may not divert property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Church and is subject to other regulations concerning local church

property as set forth in *The Discipline* in 4500–4630, 4700–4780, and any other pertinent provisions.

4070. The proceeds from the sale of any real property by an incorporated local church shall only be used for the purchase or improvement of property for that local church, unless otherwise authorized by the district board of administration as set forth in 4720–4730 (cf. 1233:33).

Chapter 2

DISTRICT CORPORATIONS

A. Authorization

4100. Except where prohibited by state or provincial law, the district conference of each established district shall be incorporated or shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained as a subsidiary corporation of The Wesleyan Church (1180:21; 4310) such as will enable it to receive, hold in trust, encumber, sell, transfer, and otherwise dispose of district property and such local property as may be held by the district (cf. 323:8; 4660–4680; 4730–4750; 4770–4780), and to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs in such manner as may be directed by the district conference (1180:21) from time to time and according to *The Discipline* (4590). In places where such incorporation is prohibited by law, or where the law requires the property to be held by trustees, the legal affairs of the district shall be administered as set forth in 4830–4880.

4105. A provisional district may be incorporated when so recommended by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and authorized by the General Board (1655:34) or its Executive Board, and such incorporation shall be according to the standard provisions for an established district (4120).

4110. The articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a district, and any amendments thereto, shall be according to the standard provisions in 4120 and any other pertinent requirements as set forth in *The Discipline*, and shall be subject to the approval of the General Board (1655:35).

B. Standard Provisions

4120. The standard provisions for the incorporation of a district of The Wesleyan Church shall be as listed herewith, provided that when such standard provisions shall conflict with local laws under which the incorporation is effected, said standard provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent required by the local laws (4510):

(1) The name of the corporation shall be: “_____ (official district name) District of The Wesleyan Church, Inc.”

(2) The primary purposes for which the corporation is formed shall be religious, benevolent, charitable, and educational in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in its *Discipline* (cf. 100–105; 200; 2200; 2300), and shall not be for the pecuniary gain of the members thereof, and especially shall be to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be held in trust, in the corporate name, for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 4140; to acquire or erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, the use and occupancy of its ministers, Christian education, and other activities that are in harmony with the doctrines and purposes of The Wesleyan Church; to receive and hold in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real, personal or mixed, that may be given, devised, bequeathed or conveyed to the district, or to the district board of trustees as such, for any purpose consistent with the purposes of the corporation and to administer the same in accordance with the direction of the donor, trustor or testator; and in addition to have all other powers as are expressly or impliedly given to said corporation by the laws under which it is incorporated when such do not contravene the provisions of *The Discipline*.

(3) The corporation shall be subject to The Wesleyan Church, its duly elected officials, and its rules and regulations as set forth in *The Discipline* as legislated and declared from time to time and as otherwise directed by the General Conference (1590:4) and the General Board (1655:35); and shall not have authority to divert property from the ownership or use of The Wesleyan Church and its duly elected officials (cf. 4870–4880).

(4) The bylaws of the corporation shall include *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* as legislated and declared from time to time, and no bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of said *Discipline* (4110).

(5) The term for which the corporation is to exist is perpetual.

(6) The district board of administration, duly constituted and organized as required in 1203–1230, shall be the board of directors of the district corporation (1233:14), shall exercise its corporate powers, shall carry out the duties assigned to the district board of administration in *The Discipline* in all matters relating to property in 4830–4840 and any other provisions. It shall carry out the directions of the district conference (1180:22;

1233:15), and, in the interim of its sessions, shall have power to act on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal or mixed, as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the purpose of the district and so to order the district board of trustees (1360–1365; 4855), provided that in transactions concerning real property used for district purposes, such as a district parsonage for the district superintendent, district headquarters or district campground, the district board of administration shall consult with the General Superintendent (1935:36), and further provided that said district board of administration shall be subject to the general regulations concerning property as set forth in 4500–4630. The district board of administration of an incorporated district, acting as its board of directors, may authorize and direct the district corporation to guarantee in writing any note, mortgage, contract or any other evidence of indebtedness, of any local church of said district. The district board of administration shall be amenable to the district conference, the General Board, and the General Conference (cf. 4870–4880). A director shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities or obligations of the corporation.

(7) The board of directors (4120:6) shall be authorized and empowered to institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in the name of the district corporation to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Church within the bounds of the district, including all matters relating to property and the rights to property, whether arising by gift, devise or otherwise, for all property held by the district corporation and all property held by local churches, circuits, or other agencies within the bounds of the district.

(8) The members of the corporation shall be the members of the district conference as constituted and organized in 1080–1109, or such other body as local laws may require, provided that all voting members of the corporate body shall be members of The Wesleyan Church.

(9) In the event the corporation shall be dissolved, or become inactive, or whenever the board of directors (4120:6) shall cease to function, any and all assets of the corporation shall inure to The Wesleyan Church Corporation (4200), and the General Board, in the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation, shall carry on the functions of the corporation and exercise its corporate powers and shall be authorized to institute any necessary legal or equitable actions to preserve the interests and rights of the district and of The Wesleyan Church (1655:35).

C. Ownership

4140. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments made of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for an incorporated district shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and of such district and subject to *The Discipline*, regulations and appointments of said Church, as from time to time legislated and declared. Every instrument or conveyance of real property shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 4610 (cf. 323:8).

D. Other Regulations

4150. The members (4120:8) and/or board of directors (4120:6) of a district corporation shall not have authority to divert any property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Church and its duly elected officials, and said members and/or board of directors are subject to the regulations concerning property held by a district as set forth in *The Discipline* (cf. 4870–4880; 5375). The board of directors of a district corporation shall consult with the General Superintendent concerning transactions involving real property used for district purposes such as a district parsonage, headquarters or campgrounds (1935:36; cf. 4840:1).

Chapter 3

THE WESLEYAN CHURCH CORPORATION

A. Name and Purpose

4200. The General Conference shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained for The Wesleyan Church such as will enable it to receive, own, encumber, sell, transfer, and otherwise dispose of property, and such as will facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as may be directed by the General Conference from time to time (1590:5). Said corporation shall be known and incorporated under the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation.

B. Board of Directors and Bylaws

4210. The General Board, duly constituted as required by *The Discipline* (1605–1650), shall be and constitute the board of directors of The Wesleyan Church Corporation and of each of its precedent corporations as listed in 4230. The corporate powers, business, and other affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised, conducted, and controlled by its board of directors in accord with its articles of incorporation and bylaws, *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* as from time to time amended (which shall serve as the Bylaws of the Corporation), and any other directives of the General Conference (1655:10, 15), and the laws of the several states (4510). The Executive Board, duly constituted as required by *The Discipline* (1750–1790), shall be the executive committee of said board of directors and shall exercise its powers and authority in the interim of its sessions except for that business which requires more than a simple majority of said board (1785:2), shall carry out such duties as are required of it by the board of directors, and shall be subject at all times to the control of said board of directors (cf. 1750; 1785). The board of directors shall be authorized to appoint committees from among its own members and to delegate its corporate powers to such committees as it may deem wise in the interim of its sessions, all as may be permitted by the corporation laws of the state of Indiana.

C. Officers

4220. The president, vice-president, and other officers of the Corporation shall be elected by the board of directors, with the exception of the Executive Director of Communication and Administration who shall be the secretary of the Corporation and the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer who shall be the treasurer of the Corporation (1976). All officers shall serve as set forth in the bylaws.

D. Precedent Corporations

4230. The Wesleyan Church Corporation shall receive and administer new trusts and funds, and so far as may be legal, shall be the legal and ecclesiastical successor in trust and carry out the functions of “The Pilgrim Holiness Church Corporation,” an Indiana corporation, “The Pilgrim Holiness Church Corporation,” a Michigan corporation, “The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America,” a New York corporation, “The Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America,” a New York corporation, “The Wesleyan Educational Society,” a New York corporation, “The Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America,” a New York corporation, “The Woman’s Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Inc.,” a New York corporation, “The Missionary Bands of the World,” an Indiana corporation and “The Pentecost Bands of the World,” an Illinois corporation; and so far as is legal and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive from its said precedent corporations all trust funds and assets of every kind and character, real, personal or mixed, held by them or any one of them and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said precedent corporations. Nothing herein contained, however, shall be construed to require the dissolution of any of the precedent corporations above listed, and they shall continue to administer such funds as may not be legally transferred to the new corporation (4210–4220).

E. Indemnification of Officers

4235. To the extent not inconsistent with applicable law, every person (and the heirs and personal representatives of such person) who is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of The Wesleyan Church shall be indemnified by the Church against all liability and reasonable expense that

may be incurred by him or her in connection with or resulting from any claim, action, suit, or proceeding (a) if such person is wholly successful with respect thereto or, (b) if not successful, then if such person is determined to have acted in good faith, in what he or she reasonably believed to be the best interests of the Church (or, in any case not involving the person's official capacity with the Church, in what he or she reasonably believed to be not opposed to the best interests of the Church) and, in addition, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, is determined to have had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was lawful (or no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful). The termination of any claim, action, suit, or proceeding, by judgment, settlement (whether with or without court approval), or conviction, or upon a plea of guilty or of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not create a presumption that a person did not meet the applicable standards of conduct. (The entire Articles of Incorporation that provide indemnification are on file with the Office of the Secretary and with the Indiana Secretary of State.)

F. Donations, Bequests, Devises

4240. The Wesleyan Church Corporation shall receive and hold in trust by donation, gift, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise, any property, real, personal or mixed, in any state in the United States of America or any other country, in behalf of The Wesleyan Church or any of its subsidiary interests, for any benevolent, charitable, religious or educational purpose and to administer the same and the income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor or testator and in the interests of the general department, office, institution, agency, society or other body contemplated by such donors, trustors or testators, the whole to be under the direction of and amenable to the General Conference (1590:4-5). The board of directors shall have power, with the advice of competent investment counsel, to invest, reinvest, buy, sell, transfer, and convey any and all funds and properties which it may hold in trust, subject always to the terms of the legacy, devise or donation and shall, whenever it is necessary to do so, determine the use or uses of each such fund or trust which shall correspond with the general intentions of the donor, trustor or testator.

G. Power of Intervention

4250. The General Board as the board of directors shall be authorized and empowered to intervene and institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in

the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Church anywhere, including all matters relating to property and rights to property, whether arising by gift, devise or otherwise, or where held in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church (1655:21; 4120:3; 4590; 4770; 4870–4880).

4260. Whenever any group of ministers or members shall put themselves in an attitude of insubordination or disobedience to The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 5010, the General Board shall be empowered to institute and carry out disciplinary proceedings as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5305–5320; 5355–5380), and pertinent provisions of *The Discipline*, and, when deemed necessary, may authorize the General Superintendent or other general official(s) to request an affirmation of loyalty and reorganize the district or other unit involved as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5320–5325; 5375–5380). Whenever such insubordination occurs in a local church, the General Board shall intervene only when the district officials or district board of administration over the local church shall fail or refuse to act.

H. Amendments

4270. The articles of incorporation for The Wesleyan Church Corporation may be amended (i) by the General Conference by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special session (1590:5) , or (ii) by a two-thirds vote of the General Board when designated and authorized by the General Conference.

Chapter 4

SUBSIDIARY AND AFFILIATE CORPORATIONS AND ADJUNCT ENTITIES

A. Authorization of Subsidiary Corporations

4300. The General Conference may authorize the incorporation of any agency, institution (for matters relative to a general educational institution, cf. 2362), board, organization or similar body as a subsidiary corporation of The Wesleyan Church, and shall approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws and any amendments thereto (1590:6). The General Board shall carry out the directions of the General Conference regarding such subsidiary corporations, assign each one to the supervision of the General Superintendent; and, in the interim of General Conference sessions, may authorize such an incorporation by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members, and may approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws and any amendments thereto for any subsidiary corporation except as otherwise restricted by the General Conference (1655:18).

B. Subsidiary Corporations

4310. Definition. Those corporate units of The Wesleyan Church which are intrinsic to the priority mission of the Church are known as subsidiary corporations. These include the following:

(1) Districts (cf. 4100–4150). Local churches, whether incorporated or unincorporated (cf. 4000–4070), are units of the related district and subject to the authority of said district as set forth in *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 1233:29–41; 1310:14–24; 4650–4780).

(2) General Educational Institutions (cf. 2365).

(3) The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc. (cf. 4400–4425).

(4) Hephzibah Ministries Inc. The Hephzibah Ministries Inc. in Macon, Georgia, is incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia. It is administered by a board of directors elected by and amenable to the General Board (1655:18). The board of directors shall administer all matters pertaining to Hephzibah Ministries Inc. in accord with *The Discipline* (4570), the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the corporation.

(5) Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc. The Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of

Indiana. It is governed by a board of directors of eleven members elected by the General Board (1655:19). The board of directors shall administer all matters pertaining to the Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc. in accord with *The Discipline* (4570), its articles of incorporation and bylaws, and is amenable to the General Board.

(6) Other corporate units may be designated as subsidiary corporations by the General Conference or a two-thirds vote of all members of the General Board.

C. Basic Provisions of Subsidiary Corporations

4320. The articles of incorporation or charter for the incorporation of any agency, institution (other than a district, cf. 1000–1496), or a general educational institution (cf. 2362), board, organization or similar body as a subsidiary corporation (4300; 4310:6), now established or hereafter created, and its bylaws, shall be in accord with the following basic provisions, provided that whenever such basic provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be modified to the extent required by local laws (4510):

(1) The purposes of the subsidiary corporation shall be in keeping with the religious, charitable, benevolent, and educational purposes of The Wesleyan Church and consistent with its doctrines and principles as stated in *The Discipline* (cf. 100–105; 200; 2105; 2259; 2306); and pecuniary profit shall not accrue to the members of the corporation.

(2) The bylaws of the corporation shall include *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* as amended from time to time (4570); and no bylaws may be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of *The Discipline* or contrary to local laws as stated in 4510. The bylaws, and any amendments thereto, shall be subject to the approval of the General Board, who shall also have the right to initiate any such bylaws or amendments, provided they do not contravene any action of the General Conference (1655:18).

(3) The General Board shall be and constitute the board of directors or shall elect the members of the board of directors as required by the Constitution except where prohibited by local laws (340:2; 1655:19; 4510), and shall have the authority to remove for cause any member thereof (1655:40b).

(4) All members of the boards of directors and all principal officers of subsidiary corporations in 4310:1 shall be Wesleyan Church members who meet the leadership qualifications. Two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each board of directors of other subsidiary corporations shall be Wesleyan Church

members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558). The remaining one-third (1/3) of those boards of directors may be non-Wesleyan.

(5) A member of the board of directors may not be held personally liable for any debts, liabilities or obligations of the corporation.

(6) All fiscal operations shall be under board control, with budget, investment, and cash control by a board of directors of no less than seven members.

(7) The General Board shall be authorized to direct an annual audit of all assets, records, and other affairs of the corporation, and at any other time as it shall deem necessary (1655:20), and all records shall be open to the General Superintendent (1935:25) and to any other representative the General Board shall appoint for such a purpose.

(8) The board of directors shall make a complete and faithful report of finances and other activities to the General Board at any time as shall be required by such General Board (1655:22).

(9) An official copy of the minutes of all meetings of the board of directors and of the financial reports shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Communication and Administration of The Wesleyan Church for permanent filing as requested.

(10) The bylaws shall establish proper safeguards for the borrowing or loaning of funds, and it shall be required that there will be adequate security by full mortgage protection or the like whenever there is an investment in property.

(11) All property, whether real, personal or mixed shall be held in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 4610.

D. Affiliate Corporations

4340. Definition. An affiliate corporation may be formed and exist when a subsidiary corporation (cf. 4310) of The Wesleyan Church seeks to develop responses to social, humanitarian or community needs which can best be achieved by a separate legal entity. This may be for the purpose of carrying on specific religious, benevolent, charitable or educational activities apart from the usual activities of the subsidiary corporation, such as, but not limited to, the operation of nursing homes, retirement centers, special educational or recreational activities and the like. When the organization and operation of such a ministry is desired, it shall be incorporated apart from the subsidiary corporation and termed an affiliate corporation.

E. Basic Provisions of Affiliate Corporations

4350. The articles of incorporation or charter for the incorporation of any affiliate corporation hereafter created (other than by an educational institution, (cf. 2362; 4320), and its bylaws, shall be in accord with the following basic provisions, provided that, whenever such basic provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be modified to the extent required by local laws:

(1) The principal purpose of an affiliate corporation shall be to augment one or more of the religious, charitable, benevolent or educational purposes of the subsidiary corporation with which it is affiliated, and pecuniary profit shall not accrue to the members of the affiliate corporation.

(2) The bylaws of the affiliate corporation shall be in accord with the bylaws of the subsidiary corporation with which it is affiliated, as amended from time to time, and no bylaw may be adopted by the affiliate corporation that is inconsistent with the provisions of the charter or bylaws of such subsidiary corporation or contrary to local, state or federal laws governing the affiliate corporation. The bylaws, and any amendments thereto, shall be subject to the approval of the board of directors of the subject subsidiary corporation, and the concurrence in writing of the General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church after the receipt of competent legal counsel (1935:20, 25).

(3) The board of directors of the subsidiary corporation shall be and constitute, or shall elect, the members of the board of directors of the affiliate corporation, and shall be and constitute the membership of such corporation, except where prohibited by local laws, and shall have the authority to remove for cause any member.

(4) All principal officers of the affiliate corporation and at least two-thirds of the board of directors shall be Wesleyan Church members who meet the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558) or ministers of The Wesleyan Church. The affiliate corporation's bylaws (4350:2) may provide for up to one-third (1/3) of the board of directors to be believers who are non-Wesleyan.

(5) Except where liability is allowed by law, a member of the board of directors of the affiliate corporation may not be held personally liable for any debts, liabilities or obligations of the corporation.

(6) All fiscal operations, including budget, investment, and cash control, shall be under the control of a board of directors of not less than seven members.

(7) The board of directors of the affiliate corporation, other governing board or the General Superintendent, shall be authorized to direct an annual

audit of all assets, records or other affairs of the corporation, and at any other time as it or General Superintendent shall deem necessary, and all records shall be open to the General Superintendent and to any other representative the board of directors of the subsidiary corporation shall appoint for such a purpose (1935:20, 25).

(8) The board of directors of the affiliate corporation shall make a complete and faithful report of finances and other activities annually, and at any other time as shall be required, to the board of directors of the subsidiary corporation with which it is affiliated.

(9) An official copy of the minutes of all meetings of the board of directors and of the financial reports shall be forwarded to the chair and the secretary of the board of directors of the subsidiary corporation for permanent filing and to the General Superintendent (1935:20, 25).

(10) The bylaws of the affiliate corporation shall establish proper safeguards for fiscal soundness, legal requirements, integrity of purpose, and protection of the assets of the corporation.

(11) All property of the affiliate corporation, whether real, personal or mixed, shall, in the event of the liquidation or dissolution of such corporation, devolve upon and pass to The Wesleyan Church Corporation or one of its subsidiary corporations.

F. Adjunct Entities

4370. Definition. An adjunct entity may exist when an entity heretofore has been developed in response to social, humanitarian or community needs for the purpose of carrying on activities which are apart from the usual activities of a subsidiary corporation, such as, but not limited to, the operation of nursing homes, retirement centers, special educational or recreational activities, and the like. Where the operation of such an adjunct ministry presently exists, and where such entity fails, prior to January 1, 1990, to incorporate and hereafter exist and conduct its affairs as an affiliate corporation (4340; 4350), it shall exist apart from any subsidiary, any affiliate corporation and The Wesleyan Church Corporation, and shall be termed an adjunct entity. In all such latter cases, the governing body of the subject subsidiary corporation shall use its best efforts on a continuing basis to cause the adjunct entity to meet the following conditions:

(1) The relationship between the adjunct entity and any subsidiary corporation, affiliate corporation or The Wesleyan Church, shall only be described and shown as "related through common religious heritage" rather than by use of name or such words as "agent," "agency," "subsidiary," or "affiliate."

(2) All financial responsibility arising from conduct of any activities of the adjunct entity shall be that solely of the adjunct entity, and no such responsibility shall fall upon any subsidiary corporation, affiliate corporation, The Wesleyan Church Corporation or any member or former member of the governing body thereof.

(3) No subsidiary corporation shall directly or indirectly elect, approve nominations for or confirm elections or selections of, members of the board of directors or other governing body of any adjunct entity.

(4) The real, personal or mixed property of the adjunct entity shall not be held in trust for a subsidiary corporation, an affiliate corporation or The Wesleyan Church.

(5) The adjunct entity shall, to the satisfaction of the subject subsidiary corporation or affiliate corporation, and the General Superintendent, take all necessary and other reasonable measures to avoid creating the impression to the public, or any part thereof, that its existence or operation is in any fashion sponsored, controlled or operated by the subsidiary corporation, an affiliate corporation or The Wesleyan Church Corporation (1935:20, 25).

4390. Restriction. Except as expressly permitted by paragraphs 4310, 4320, 4340 or 4350, no two or more members of the Board of Directors of The Wesleyan Church Corporation or of the board of directors or other governing body of any subsidiary corporation or affiliate corporation of The Wesleyan Church Corporation, whether acting individually or severally, shall directly or indirectly form or become members of any corporation, association, partnership or other legal entity which promotes, sponsors, encourages or in any manner engages in any activity which directly or indirectly purports to be sponsored or operated in any manner by or in the name of The Wesleyan Church or any subsidiary or affiliate corporation, except as authorized by a two-thirds vote of the General Board. Provided, however, that nothing contained in this paragraph 4390 or elsewhere in this Chapter 4 of Part 7 of *The Discipline* is intended to prohibit the formation or operation of one or more private foundations or supporting organizations as described in Internal Revenue Code Section 170(b)(1)(E)(ii) or Section 509(a)(3) (or any successor provisions thereto of such Code) which benefit The Wesleyan Church.

Chapter 5

PENSION CORPORATION

The Wesleyan Pension Fund

4400. Purpose. The Wesleyan Church shall maintain and conduct a pension plan to be known and incorporated as The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc., for the benefit of its ministers and other persons as defined in the bylaws.

4405. Government. All matters pertaining to The Wesleyan Pension Fund shall be administered by a Board of Pensions who shall govern The Wesleyan Pension Fund in accord with *The Discipline* (4570) and its articles of incorporation and bylaws. The Board of Pensions is amenable to the General Board.

4410. Duties and Powers. This corporation shall receive and administer new trusts and funds and shall be and is directed and authorized to honor and carry out all commitments made by The Pilgrim Pension Plan, Inc., to its members through its bylaws and the commitments made by The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America to its ministers through the Superannuated Ministers' Aid Society and the Wesleyan Retirement Plan, as stated herewith:

(1) The Board of Pensions of The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc. shall be and constitute the Board of Pensions of The Pilgrim Pension Plan, Inc., which corporation shall continue in full force and effect until such time as all of its liabilities shall have been satisfied and discharged, at which time any remaining assets thereof shall, insofar as may be legal, by appropriate action of the General Conference be paid over to and become a part of The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc.

(2) The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc., insofar as may be legal, shall be the successor in trust of the Superannuated Ministers' Aid Society of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, a New York corporation and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive from its precedent corporation all trust funds and assets of any kind and character; real, personal or mixed held by it; and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said precedent corporation. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to require the dissolution of the said precedent corporation and it shall continue to administer such funds as may not be legally transferred to the new corporation.

(3) The Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc. insofar as may be legal, shall be the successor in trust for the Wesleyan Retirement Plan of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Inc., and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive all trust funds and assets of any kind or character pertaining to the Wesleyan Retirement Plan, real, personal or mixed, held by said corporation; and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said precedent corporation.

4425. Bylaws of The Wesleyan Pension Fund. The bylaws of the Wesleyan Pension Fund are to be maintained in a current and accurate form. Copies of the official and complete bylaws shall be provided upon request to any member of the Wesleyan Pension Fund. The bylaws of the Wesleyan Pension Fund may be amended by the Board of Pensions, subject to ratification by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the General Board (1655:17).

PART 8

PROPERTY

Chapter 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS

A. Application

4500. The general regulations set forth in this chapter shall be binding on all trustees and their governing bodies of The Wesleyan Church, whether local, district or General Church, including all institutions, subsidiary corporations, and similar bodies, unless otherwise stated in *The Discipline* or in the articles of incorporation and bylaws governing such trustees.

B. Local Laws

4510. All provisions of *The Discipline* relating to property, both real and personal and relating to the formation and operation of any corporation, are conditioned upon their being in conformity with the local laws (4580) of the country, state, territory or other like political unit within the geographical bounds in which the property is located; and in the event of conflict therewith, said provisions of *The Discipline* shall be modified to the extent required to conform with any such local laws. This regulation, however, shall not be construed to give the consent of The Wesleyan Church to deprivation of its property without due process of law, or to the regulation of its affairs by statute where such regulation violates the constitutional right of freedom of religion, separation of church and state or the rights of the Church to maintain its polity.

C. Requirements

4520. A trustee must be a Wesleyan Church member who meets the leadership qualifications (260–268; 558). Whenever a trustee ceases to be a member with said qualifications for any reason, the office as trustee shall be declared vacant and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term in the manner provided in *The Discipline*.

4530. All trustees shall administer their duties in accord with *The Discipline* as from time to time amended, as directed by the governing body to which they are amenable, and subject to local laws as set forth in 4510. Whenever a trustee refuses to carry out properly given orders and instructions and submit to the authority to which amenable, the trustee may be removed from office and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term as provided for in *The Discipline*.

4540. A board of trustees shall have and hold in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church any and all property committed to it; shall see that titles are good; that deeds and all written instrumentalities are in harmony with *The Discipline* and with local laws as set forth in 4510; that all property deeds and titles contain the required trust clause as set forth in 4610; that they are promptly recorded; that abstracts and all other legal papers are properly stored and secured; and shall perform such other duties as are required of them in *The Discipline* or by the governing body to which they are amenable, and in the case of incorporated bodies, as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws or charter of the corporation.

D. Restrictions

4550. A trustee or board of trustees and/or its governing body may not divert property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Church.

4560. A board of trustees shall not normally accept a deed which contains a clause by which the land conveyed may revert to the original grantor, the heirs or assigns of the original owners.

E. Terms

4570. “*The Discipline*” shall always refer to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* as from time to time legislated and declared (125–175; 185; 385; 1590:1–2; 2066).

4580. “Local laws,” whenever used in *The Discipline*, shall be construed to mean laws, including regulations and case law, of the civil jurisdiction(s) applicable to the matter at hand. With respect to property matters, this would normally be the law of the jurisdiction within which the property is located, and with respect to any other legal matters, would normally be the law of the civil jurisdiction(s) within which the matters arise.

F. Trust Clause and Release Therefrom

4590. All property, whether real, personal or mixed, acquired by any local church, circuit, district, institution, agency or other similar body of The Wesleyan Church, whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall be held in trust for The Wesleyan Church, incorporated as The Wesleyan Church Corporation under the laws of the state of Indiana, and shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 4610 (cf. 315:6; 323:8). The absence of the trust clause in the evidence of the title or other written instruments, regardless of whether such absence is due to mistake, inadvertence or willful omission, shall in no way exclude a local church, circuit, district, institution, agency or similar body, whether incorporated or unincorporated, from or relieve it of its responsibility to The Wesleyan Church and subjection to the authority of said Church, and such property can only be sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of in accord with the provisions of *The Discipline*, concerning the sale, transfer or encumbrance of property.

(1) For property in developing districts see 542; 4650; 4800; 4920; cf. 4200–4260; 4500–4630.

(2) For property in provisional districts see 1025:3; 1030:1, 3; 4650; 4810–4820; cf. 4200–4260; 4500–4630.

(3) For local property in established districts see 510:4; 518:4; 528:5; 655:13–14; 725:24–25; 782:27–31; 850–859; 1038:3; 1180:21–22; 1233:14–15; 1310:13; 1345; 1360–1365; 4000–4070; 4100–4150; 4500–4630; 4660–4780; cf. 4250–4260; 4830–4880.

(4) For district property in established districts see 1038:3; 1180:21–22; 1233:14–15; 1310:13; 1345; 1360–1365; 4100–4150; 4250–4260; 4500–4630; 4830–4880.

(5) For General Church property see 4200–4270; 4500–4630; 4900–4940; cf. 475.

(6) For property of a general educational institution see 4500–4630; cf. 2362; 4250–4260.

(7) For property of a subsidiary corporation, board or institution, other than a general educational institution see 4300–4370; 4500–4630; cf. 4250–4260.

4610. Trust Clause. All titles, deeds, and other written instruments for the conveyance of property to or for The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 4590 shall contain the following trust clause:

In trust for the use and benefit of the ministry and members of The Wesleyan Church, incorporated under the laws of the state of Indiana as The Wesleyan Church Corporation, subject to *The Discipline*, regulations, and appointments of said Church as from time to time legislated and declared.

4620. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing the foregoing trust clause in 4610 may be sold in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline*, and when such provisions have been complied with, the real property so sold or conveyed shall be released from the foregoing trust clause, and the trustees enabled to give a good and sufficient deed (cf. 4690:1).

4630. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing the foregoing trust clause in 4610 may be mortgaged or otherwise encumbered in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline*, and when such provisions have been complied with, the foregoing trust clause shall be subordinated to the mortgage lien (cf. 4690:2).

Chapter 2

LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY

A. Developing Church Property

4650. Developing District and Provisional District. Developing churches within the bounds of a developing district or provisional district shall be under the jurisdiction of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division as set forth in 4800 and 4810–4820.

4660. District. The regulations concerning property for a developing church within the bounds of an established district are:

(1) The district board of administration shall be vested with power and authority to purchase, manage, sell, encumber, transfer, and dispose of any and all property of a developing church, whether real, personal or mixed (510:4; 1233:13–14), and shall direct the pastor and the local advisory council concerning the same in keeping with *The Discipline* (1233:1, 31).

(2) The pastor and local advisory council of a developing church shall be responsible to supervise, control, and maintain the property under their care as directed by the district superintendent and the district board of administration (510:3–4; 1233:1, 31).

(3) All property of a developing church shall be held by the district in trust for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church as required in 323:8 and shall contain the trust clause as given in 4610 (cf. 4140; 4590–4630; 4830).

(4) Whenever a developing church has been organized as an established church (518–520), the district board of trustees may transfer the property to the local board of trustees as set forth in 4680, provided that the property is free of debt.

4670. Reclassification. Whenever an established church is reclassified as a developing church as set forth in 518:5; 1180:24; and 1233:30, the office of the members of the local board of administration and the local board of trustees shall thereupon cease (859:5) and the district board of administration shall be responsible for the property as set forth in 4660:1–4 (cf. 510:4). Whenever the property of such a church has been held by the local trustees, it shall be conveyed or transferred to the district to be held as set forth in 4830 (cf. 859:5).

B. Church Property

1. Ownership

4680. Local property within an established district may be held by the local church or by the district, as decided upon by the district conference (cf. 1180:21–22). In those districts where the local churches are to hold their own property, all grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments now owned or hereafter acquired of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for any unincorporated local church or any organization, board or similar body connected thereto, shall be held by and/or conveyed to its duly elected board of trustees, and to their successors in office and their assigns, as the board of trustees of such local church, in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, subject to its *Discipline*, regulations and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 4610 (cf. 4590; 4620). An omission of the name of any or all of the trustees shall not render any instrument invalid. (The regulations for an incorporated local church are set forth in 4000–4070.) In those districts where the district is to hold local property (cf. 323:8), such local property shall be held as set forth in 4140 or 4830.

2. Trust Clause and Release Therefrom

4690. All written instruments of conveyance by which property is held or hereafter acquired by any local church, whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall contain the trust clause in 4610, and release therefrom shall be as follows:

(1) Whenever the real property of a local church acquired by a conveyance containing the trust clause as set forth in 4610 is sold in conformity with the provisions of *The Discipline* (4700–4720), the written approval of the district board of administration (4700:3) shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from the trust clause (cf. 4620).

(2) Whenever the real property of a local church, acquired by a conveyance containing the trust clause in 4610, is mortgaged or encumbered as provided for in *The Discipline* (4700–4720), the written approval of the district board of administration for such mortgage or encumbrance (4700:3) shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the trust clause thereto (cf. 4630).

3. Acquisition, Sale, Mortgage and Transfer of Property

4700. An unincorporated local church within an established district may acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer or otherwise dispose of real property in accord with the following authorization and conditions:

(1) A resolution authorizing such action shall be recommended by the local board of administration (782:32), and passed by the local church conference (655:13) by a majority of those present and voting, at any regular or special session duly called for such purpose, provided that notice of the intended action shall be given to the local church members by announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be not less than one week before the date of the session of the local church conference at which the proposal shall be considered, and that notice shall also be given at least one week in advance in the church bulletin, when such is available, and that such other notice shall be given as may be required by local laws (cf. 633:1).

(2) The proposal shall be studied by the district building committee whenever it involves the purchase of property, the construction or remodeling of buildings or other work as set forth in 1345, and the written recommendation of the district building committee shall be forwarded to the district board of administration and the local church.

(3) The district board of administration, after receiving the recommendation of the district building committee, shall approve the proposal of the local church in writing and such approval shall be affixed to the written instrument involved (1233:33).

(4) The resolution authorizing such action shall direct that any contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage or other necessary written instrument be executed by and on behalf of the local church by the proper officers of the local board of trustees, who thereupon shall be duly authorized to carry out the directions of the local church conference and the local board of administration in keeping with the requirements of *The Discipline* (cf. 850–859; 4500–4630; 4720); and any written instrument so executed shall be binding and effective as the action of the local church.

(5) The chair of the local board of trustees, or other designated trustee, shall submit all written instruments of conveyance and title for the acquisition of property to the district superintendent for approval as to their conformity with *The Discipline* as stated in 1310:13 and shall see that permanent legal and property records are properly stored as set forth in 4760.

(6) When real property is donated to a Wesleyan church for ministries or in a capital or fund raising campaign, and the donor's intent is that the property be sold and the proceeds invested accordingly, the local board of administration shall have full power to authorize the reception and disposal of the property, subject to the express written approval of each transaction by the district superintendent.

4720. The proceeds from the sale of any real property of a local church whether incorporated or unincorporated, other than as provided for in 4700:6, shall be used for the purchase or improvement of property for that local church, unless otherwise authorized by the district board of administration (1233:33). In the event of a situation where two or more local churches have merged, proceeds from the sale of such property shall be used by the merged church unless otherwise authorized by the district board of administration. Whenever a local church does not wish to invest the money received as stated herewith, the money shall be forwarded to the district treasurer, and provided that all debts against such property being sold shall first be paid, it shall be used as ordered by the district conference or the district board of administration for the construction of churches or parsonages within the bounds of the district, for district property, or for purchase of property or construction of buildings involved in the planting of new churches. Such moneys may be used for other expenses involved in the planting of new churches only with the approval of the General Superintendent.

4725. From the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties that occur within its fiscal year, a district may choose to invest or contribute up to 5 percent from the net proceeds to assist in the development of a Wesleyan presence in another country where that district has a Global Partnership relationship. Or, a district may elect to contribute up to 5 percent from the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties to assist domestic Wesleyan compassionate ministries. The aggregate total of the district's investment and/or contribution, whether internationally or domestically, cannot exceed 5 percent from the net proceeds of its transactions. The district board of administration must approve each investment and/or contribution with a two-thirds vote. Furthermore, each investment and/or contribution must have the written approval of the General Superintendent.

4728. Any district that chooses to exercise the provision of *Discipline* 4725 may make a lump sum investment and/or contribution under the conditions mentioned therein or it may make a series of smaller investments and/or contributions, so long as the aggregate total does not exceed 5 percent of the total proceeds from transactions as noted in *Discipline* 4725.

4. Abandoned Church Property

4730. When the property of a local church is no longer used, a local church may be declared by the district board of administration as discontinued or abandoned (1233:30) and the title shall thereupon vest in the district corporation (4100), or in the district board of trustees in the case of an unincorporated district (4855). The district board of administration shall have the authority to order the sale of said property and to appropriate the proceeds for the purchase of property for a local church, for the construction of churches or parsonages within the bounds of the district, for district property, or for the purchase of property or construction of buildings involved in the planting of new churches. Such moneys may be used for other expense involved in the planting of new churches only with the approval of the General Superintendent. The actions of the district board of administration shall be reported to the next session of the district conference. Any bequests, devises, gift annuities or other benefits to a local church that accrue or become available after said church has been discontinued shall become the property of the district corporation (4100), or, in the case of an unincorporated district, shall become the property of the district board of trustees (4855).

4735. From the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties that occur within its fiscal year, a district may choose to invest or contribute up to 5 percent from the net proceeds to assist in the development of a Wesleyan presence in another country where that district has a Global Partnership relationship. Or, a district may elect to contribute up to 5 percent from the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties to assist domestic Wesleyan compassionate ministries. The aggregate total of the district's investment and/or contribution, whether internationally or domestically, cannot exceed 5 percent from the net proceeds of its transactions. The district board of administration must approve each investment and/or contribution with a two-thirds vote. Furthermore, each investment and/or contribution must have the written approval of the General Superintendent.

4738. Any district that chooses to exercise the provision of *Discipline* 4735 may make a lump sum investment and/or contribution under the conditions mentioned therein or it may make a series of smaller investments and/or contributions, so long as the aggregate total does not exceed 5 percent of the total proceeds from transactions as noted in *Discipline* 4735.

C. Circuit Property

4740. The organization and government for a circuit within an established district are set forth in 525–535. The regulations concerning the acquisition, purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposition of circuit property within an established district shall be the same as for local church property within the district as set forth in 4680 and 4700:1–5. The proceeds from the sale of circuit property shall also be disposed of in the same manner as the proceeds from the sale of local church property as set forth in 4720–4730. The circuit board of trustees shall carry such duties concerning circuit property as are required of a local church board of trustees (cf. 850–859) and shall be subject to the general regulations as set forth in 4500–4630.

4750. Whenever the discontinuance of a circuit shall be ordered by the district conference, or whenever a local church is separated from a circuit and established as a separate pastoral charge (1180:25), the district conference shall also order the sale or disposition of circuit property, for which a recommendation shall be received from the district board of administration (cf. 1233:10c). Each local church shall be entitled to receive its just share of the property in which it has invested funds; and the amount of such value and just share shall be determined by the district board of administration or a special committee appointed for that purpose.

D. Property Records

4760. All deeds, titles, and other legal or property records of each developing church, church or circuit within the bounds of the district shall be placed in the custody of the district superintendent (1310:13) who shall be responsible for their preservation and permanent filing as directed by the district board of administration (1233:16). The district superintendent may authorize a local church to retain such records when deemed necessary, in which case a certified or true copy shall be kept in the district files which are in the district superintendent's custody.

E. Rights to Property

4770. The district board of administration, in the name of the district corporation (4100; cf. 4855), shall have the right to intervene or to institute any legal or equitable actions as may be deemed necessary against a local church or circuit within the bounds of the district to preserve the rights and

interests of the district and The Wesleyan Church, in all matters relating to property and the rights to property within the bounds of the district, as set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5305–5320), and as otherwise provided for in *The Discipline*. The General Board, in the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation, shall also have the right to intervene and protect the rights and interests of The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 4250–4260.

4780. No local church may vote to withdraw as a body from The Wesleyan Church, or in any way sever its relation thereto, and no local church conference and/or local board of administration and/or local board of trustees can divert property from The Wesleyan Church (859:4; 4550). If any local church violates or in any way attempts to circumvent these provisions, then all rights, title, and interest in and to all real property of such local church shall thereupon immediately vest in the district corporation (4100) or in the district board of trustees in the case of an unincorporated district (4855); and all such property shall be vacated immediately by the offending party or parties. The district conference or, in the interim, the district board of administration shall have authority to deny the use of any such property to the offending party or parties and to order the immediate eviction of any such party or parties who do not comply therewith.

4790. An existing local church that joins The Wesleyan Church with church facilities and/or other properties deeded in the name of their church will have up to ten years to transfer all properties into the name of The Wesleyan Church. At the time of the transfer, all written instruments of conveyance by which property is held shall contain the trust clause in 4610. If, during this ten-year period of time, the church acquires property or borrows funds needing a loan guarantee from their district, the church will at that time transfer all properties into the name of The Wesleyan Church, and all written instruments of conveyance by which property is held shall contain the trust clause. If the church fails to transfer all properties (containing the trust clause) into The Wesleyan Church within the ten-year period of time, the church's relationship with The Wesleyan Church would be subject to review.

Chapter 3

DISTRICT PROPERTY

A. Developing District Property

4800. The regulations concerning property within the bounds of a developing district shall be set forth in the *Policy of the General Board for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division* in accord with the following:

(1) The authority for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposal of real property within a developing district shall be vested in the General Board (cf. 1655:35; 4810).

(2) All property shall be held by and/or conveyed to The Wesleyan Church Corporation and shall be General Church property (4920), except when otherwise required by local laws or otherwise directed by the General Board (cf. 1655:39), in which case it shall be held in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 4610 (cf. 4590–4630).

(3) The superintendent and any other workers of the developing district shall supervise, control, and maintain the property under their care in accord with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*, and other directives, and as supervised by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

(4) All legal and property records shall be in the custody of the Executive Director of Communication and Administration unless otherwise directed by the General Board, in which case certified or true copies shall be filed in the custody of the Executive Director of Communication and Administration.

B. Provisional District Property

4810. The regulations concerning property within the bounds of a provisional district shall be the same as for an established district, with the exception that the official actions of a provisional district are subject to the approval of the General Board (cf. 1020–1030), and that no property within a provisional district may be received, transferred, bought, leased or sold without the written permission of the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, and with the further exception

that the General Board may give special directions as deemed necessary (cf. 1655:35).

4820. A provisional district may be incorporated when so recommended by the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and authorized by the General Board (1655:35) as set forth in 4100–4150.

C. District Property

1. Ownership

4830. Unincorporated District. Except when local laws shall otherwise require, all grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments, now owned or hereafter made, of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for any unincorporated district or any organization, board or similar body connected thereto and for any local property held by such a district (4660; 4680), shall be held by and/or conveyed to its duly elected board of trustees (cf. 1360–1365; 4855), and to their successors in office and to their assigns, as the board of trustees, of said district, in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church and subject to its *Discipline*, regulations and appointments, as from time to time legislated and declared and shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 4610 (cf. 4590–4630). (The regulations for an incorporated district are set forth in 4100–4150.)

2. Management and Control

4840. The district board of administration shall have the following duties and powers concerning the district property and such local property as may be held by the district (4660; 4680):

(1) To carry out the directions of the district conference (1180:22; 1233:15), and, in the interim of its sessions, to have power to act on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal or mixed, as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the purpose of the district and so to order the district board of trustees (1360–1365; 4855), provided that in transactions concerning real property used for district purposes such as a district parsonage, headquarters or campground, the district board of administration shall consult with the General Superintendent (1935:36), and further provided that said district board of administration shall be subject to the general regulations concerning property as set forth in 4500–4630.

(2) To carry out the directions of the district conference (1180:22; 1233:15), and in the interim of its sessions, to direct the district board of trustees (1360–1365; 4855) concerning any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed or conveyed to the district, or to the district board of trustees as such, for any benevolent, charitable or religious purpose, and to direct the board of trustees in the administration of such in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor or testator, and in the interest of the church, institution, organization or agency contemplated by such donor, trustor or testator.

(3) To supervise, control and maintain all district property.

(4) To receive a report from the district building committee as set forth in 1345 and to approve in writing the proposal of a local church to acquire, purchase, encumber, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real property as set forth in 4040–4070 and 4700–4720.

(5) To act in regard to the disposition of the proceeds from the sale of local church or circuit property as set forth in 4720, and the discontinuance or disposal of abandoned property as set forth in 4730.

(6) When district property is sold, the district board of administration may approve the use of the proceeds from the sale of the property to fund ongoing ministries that previously took place on the property that was sold with written approval of the General Superintendent.

(7) To intervene and institute all necessary legal and equitable actions to safeguard and protect the rights and interests of the district and of The Wesleyan Church, including all matters relating to the property and rights to property, including any property held by a local church, circuit or other organization within the district, whether arising by gift, devise or otherwise, or where held in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of the district and The Wesleyan Church (4770–4780).

(8) To direct the district superintendent in the care and preservation of all legal and property records for the local churches and the district (4760).

3. District Board of Trustees

4855. The district conference of each established district shall be incorporated or shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as set forth in 4100–4150. In places where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the local laws require property to be held by trustees, the district conference shall elect from among the members of the district board of administration

the members of the district board of trustees in such number as desired (1180:22; cf. 1360–1365). The district trustees shall hold office as trustees until their term of office expires as members of the district board of administration and until their successors are qualified and elected. The district board of trustees shall be amenable to the district board of administration and shall hold all district property, and such local property as may be held by the district (cf. 4660; 4680), in trust for The Wesleyan Church as set forth in 4590–4610, shall attend to all legal matters pertaining to the district property and other business as directed, and shall carry out such transactions for the purchase, acquisition, sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposal of district property as ordered by the district board of administration (4840). Whenever a trustee shall refuse to carry out the directions of the district board of administration, the trustee may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the district board of administration, who shall also fill the vacancy for the unexpired term (cf. 1233:28a; 1360).

D. Rights to Property

4870. A district, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that has been placed under discipline in accord with the procedures set forth in the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline* (5355–5370), and each local church within that district, shall be suspended from the right to acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer or otherwise dispose of any real property without the approval of the General Superintendent or general official appointed to have charge of the district (5365). Whenever a district is reorganized as set forth in 5375, the members and ministers affirming loyalty to The Wesleyan Church shall be and constitute the district and shall have the right to control and manage all district property as set forth in *The Discipline*.

4880. No district conference may vote to withdraw as a body from The Wesleyan Church, or in any way sever its relation thereto, and no district board and/or committee and/or board of trustees can divert property from The Wesleyan Church (4540–4550). Provided, however, that no sale, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, lease, conveyance or other alienation of property, in whole or in part, whether such property is real, personal or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the district, and when undertaken in accordance with the provisions and requirements of *The Discipline*, shall constitute a “diversion” of such property from The Wesleyan Church. If a district conference violates or in any way attempts to circumvent these provisions, then all right, title, and interest in

and to all district real property shall thereupon immediately vest in The Wesleyan Church Corporation (4200–4270). The General Conference or, in the interim, the General Board shall have the authority to deny the use of any such property to the offending party or parties and to order the immediate eviction of any such party or parties who do not comply therewith from such property.

E. Loan Guarantees

4890. The district board of administration of an unincorporated district may authorize and direct the district trustees to guarantee in writing any note, mortgage, contract or any other evidence of indebtedness, of any local church of said district.

Chapter 4

GENERAL CHURCH PROPERTY

A. Incorporation

4900. The General Conference shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained under the name of The Wesleyan Church Corporation, through which it shall acquire, sell, manage, encumber, transfer, and otherwise dispose of General Church property (4200–4260; cf. 1590:5).

B. Ownership

4920. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments now owned or hereafter made of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for The Wesleyan Church, or any general office, department, institution, agency or organization connected thereto, with the exception of those that are separately incorporated (cf. 1590:6; 4300), shall be held by and/or conveyed to The Wesleyan Church Corporation in its corporate name, for the use and benefit of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church, subject to its *Discipline*, regulations and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared (cf. 4570).

C. Suggested Forms for Bequests and Devises

4940. The General Superintendent's office is available for special advice and instruction for those who desire to make wills, donations or bequests to The Wesleyan Church or any of its various ministries (cf. 475).

(1) **Form for Bequests of Money or Personal Property.** I give, devise and bequeath to The Wesleyan Church Corporation, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Indiana, the sum of _____ dollars, (or if personal property, notes, bonds, etc., describe the same); to be used and appropriated by that body to religious, benevolent, missionary or educational purposes (or, if desired, state the specific purpose); and the receipt of the treasurer of the said corporation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of my executor for the same.

(2) **Form for a Devise of Land.** I give, devise and bequeath to The Wesleyan Church Corporation, a corporation created and existing under and by

virtue of the laws of the state of Indiana, the following described lands and premises, viz: (full description of land); to have and to hold the same with the privilege or appurtenances unto said corporation (state a specific purpose if desired), its successors and assigns forever; and the receipt of the treasurer of said corporation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of my executor for the same.

(3) **Form for a Devise of Residuary Estate or Any Part Thereof.** I give, devise and bequeath to The Wesleyan Church Corporation, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Indiana, all (or some specific part of) the rest, residue or remainder of my estate, real or personal to said corporation (state specific purpose if desired), its successors and assigns forever; and the receipt of the treasurer of said corporation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of my executor for the same.

(4) Suggested forms for other types of donations and delayed gift giving are available from the General Superintendent's office.

PART 9

JUDICIARY

Chapter 1

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. Meaning and Purpose of Church Discipline

5000. The Church has the responsibility to provide a holy and harmonious environment that fosters Christlike conduct and relationships. The purpose of church discipline is the vindication of the truth, the preservation of the integrity of the body, the restoration and salvation of the guilty, and the warning of the careless.

B. The Administration of Church Discipline

5002. In order that the purposes of the church may be realized, discipline in The Wesleyan Church shall be administered in accord with the following principles:

(1) A prayerful and Christlike spirit shall be maintained at all times by all parties.¹

(2) Every effort shall be made to bring back to the Lord any who have wandered from Him (cf. 268).²

(3) A sincere and reasonable effort shall be made to resolve an accusation or to deal with an offending person in keeping with scriptural admonitions.³

(4) Each accusation and all proceedings shall receive prompt and careful attention by the proper authorities.

(5) Any offending person shall be dealt with kindly, yet faithfully, according to the seriousness of the offense and as provided for in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* and *The General Board Policy for Church Discipline and Ministerial Restoration*.

¹ 1 Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:2

² See 1 Thess. 5:14; Jude 22–23.

³ Matt. 18:15–18; Gal. 6:1–2; James 5:16, 19–20.

C. Conflict Resolution

5004. Conflict Resolution. The person having the grievance shall be first required to follow the Lord's directions in Matthew 18:15–17

(1) The person having the grievance should go to the accused and point out the issue, just between the two of them.

(2) If unresolved, the person having the grievance shall seek counsel from the official having jurisdiction (pastor, district superintendent, general officer) relative to the steps to be taken.⁴

(3) If the personal grievance remains unresolved or affects the body of believers, the official having jurisdiction or a designated representative shall privately inquire, and, if necessary, instruct and admonish an offending person. If there is an acknowledgment of the fault and correction is made, the matter shall be dropped.

(4) If the grievance continues, the official in charge shall provide intervention. If the conflict remains unresolved, and if the matter rises to the level of a fair and impartial hearing of charges pending, procedures shall be followed according to *The General Board Policy for Church Discipline and Ministerial Restoration*.

5006. Left intentionally blank.

5008. Left intentionally blank.

Paragraphs 5010–5450 were relocated by the 2016 General Conference to the *General Board Policy on Church Discipline*. A copy of the publication may be obtained from the Wesleyan Publishing House.

⁴See 2 Cor. 6:1–8.

PART 10
THE RITUAL

Chapter 1

BAPTISM

A. Dedication of Infants

5500. (*When the parents, guardians or other sponsors have presented themselves with their children before the minister, the minister shall say:*)

Dear friends, you have brought *these children** whom God has given you to be dedicated to God and to His service. By this act you testify to your faith in the Christian religion, and also your desire that your *children* shall receive the benefits of consecration to God, and of the prayers of the church, and may early learn to know and follow the will of God; and therefore may live a Christian life.

In order for this to happen, it will be your duty as parents to teach your *children* early the fear of the Lord; to watch over *their* education, that they may not be led astray by false teachings or doctrines, to direct *their minds* to the Holy Scriptures as expressing the will and authority of God for all people, and to direct *their* feet to the sanctuary, to restrain *them* from evil associates and habits; and, as much as you are able, to bring *them* up in the Lord's discipline and instruction. Will you endeavor to do so, by the help of the Lord?

(Then the parents or guardians shall answer:)

We will.

(Then the minister shall read the following Scripture lesson:)

"People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them" (Mark 10:13–16).

*Throughout the ritual, whenever instructions are given to the officiating minister, or a word may change form due to the gender or number of persons involved in the ritual on a given occasion, that word(s) is printed in italics to alert the minister who reads. "These children" may become "this child," "he" may become "she" or "they," etc."

(Then the minister shall ask the parents or guardians the name of each child to be dedicated, take each child in arms, lay a hand upon the child's head, and say:)

_____, in behalf of your parents and of this congregation, I dedicate you unto the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the minister may pray.)

B. Baptism of Infants

5510. (When the parents, guardians or other sponsors have presented themselves with their children before the minister, the minister shall say:)

Dear friends, you have brought these children whom God has given you to be baptized, thereby testifying to your own commitment of faith in Christ and the assurance you hold that the grace of God is even now at work in their lives. Forasmuch as these children are now presented by you, it will be your duty as parents to teach them as soon as they are able to learn, the nature and meaning of this sacrament. In order to testify to your faith and to your desire to nurture your children within this faith, please respond to these questions.

Do you present your children for baptism as a sign of the grace of God which is extended even now to your children through the atoning work of Christ and declares them to be a part of the family of God? And,

Do you promise with the help of God to bring your children up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord, to pray with them and for them, and to make every effort to so order your own life that you will not cause these little ones to stumble? And,

Do you intend to encourage your children as soon as they are able to comprehend its significance to acknowledge personally their own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to serve God faithfully in the fellowship of His Church?

(Then the parents will respond:)

We do, God being our helper.

(Then the minister shall ask the parents or guardians the name of each child, take it in arms, and baptize each child saying:)

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the minister may pray.)

C. Baptism of Believers

5515. *(When the candidates for baptism have presented themselves before the minister, the minister shall say:)*

Dear *friends*, in keeping with the example of Jesus, you have presented *yourselves* this day that you might receive the sacrament of baptism. Baptism is not itself the door to salvation, but rather is an outward sign of the new birth which God has wrought in your heart. It proclaims to all the world that you have taken Christ Jesus as the Lord of your *lives*, and that it is your purpose always to obey Him. In order that we may hear your testimony of what God has done for you, and that we may know that you understand the significance of the step you are taking, we want to ask you these questions:

Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? That Jesus Christ the Son suffered in your place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all people at the last day? And do you believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God? That by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith?

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Do you intend by this act to testify to all the world that you are a Christian and that you will be a loyal follower of Christ?

Answer: I do.

(Then the minister shall ask the name of each candidate and shall immerse the candidate in water, or if desired, sprinkle or pour water, saying:)

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the minister shall pray.)

D. Affirmation of Parental Vows

5530. *(Persons who were baptized as infants, upon coming to maturity and being converted, and desiring to make personal the vows earlier taken in their behalf by their parents, may do so by publicly answering the questions in the ritual of baptism as given in 5515 and as directed by the pastor.)*

Dear *friends*, _____ were presented by *their parents* for baptism as children. *They* now desire to make personal the vows made in their behalf by publicly declaring *their* commitment to the faith in which *they* were baptized.

(Then the minister shall address the candidate:)

Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? That Jesus Christ the Son suffered in your place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all people at the last day? And do you believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God? That by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith?

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Do you affirm the act of your parents as they presented you for baptism and do you hereby testify to all the world that you are a Christian and that you will be a loyal follower of Christ?

Answer: I do.

(Then the minister shall pray.)

Chapter 2

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

5550. When candidates for membership have been approved for reception as given in 550–565, the pastor shall appoint a time during a regular worship service for their public reception, and shall preside over the service of reception, or appoint a representative to preside. In those churches in which the local churches must vote on the reception of members, such vote should be taken at a meeting prior to the service of reception. Paragraphs 5565–5567, “Reception of Members,” “Covenant Questions” and “Declaration of Purpose” have the authority of statutory law. The paragraphs must be followed as prescribed, except that paragraph 5566 may be addressed during membership preparation classes and omitted during the service of reception if a shortened service is desired.

5555. *The service of reception may begin with a hymn and scripture reading such as one of those listed below, and with the administration of the sacrament of baptism to any who have not previously received it.*

Hymn. “The Church’s One Foundation,” “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord,” “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken,” “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

Scripture Lesson. *Romans 12:1–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–27; Ephesians 4:1–7, 11–16; 5:25b–27.*

5560. Introductory Remarks.

Minister: Dear *friends*, the privileges and blessings which we have within the fellowship of the church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. Christ so loved the church that He gave Himself for it, sanctifying Himself that the church might be sanctified. He chose to speak of Himself as the Head of the church and of the church as His body; and again He spoke of Himself as the husband and of the church as His bride. Christ gave Himself unselfishly, and He asked the church to share its glorious relationship with all humankind, sending it into the world to preach the Scriptures, to save the lost, to administer the sacraments, to maintain Christian fellowship and discipline, and to build up the believer until He comes again. All of us, whatever our age or position, stand in need of Christ’s church and of those means of grace which it alone makes available.

It is in keeping with Christ’s commission to the church, that we meet together now. There *are some* among us who *testify* to having been received already into the spiritual fellowship of the universal church, and who *desire* to

be received into the official and visible fellowship of this local unit of the body of Christ.

5565. Reception of Members.

(The minister shall call before the congregation those who are being received as members. If the covenant questions have not been addressed previously, or if a public response to the questions is desired, the questions in paragraph 5566 shall be asked as prescribed).

These persons standing before you come to enter into covenant as members of The Wesleyan Church, with all of the accompanying rights, privileges, and responsibilities. They testify to having been born again. They have received the sacrament of baptism, have been instructed in and have accepted the doctrines and polity of The Wesleyan Church, and have been approved by vote as manifesting in spirit and practice God's work of grace within their hearts.

(If a shortened service is desired, and the candidates have been asked the membership covenant questions and have responded appropriately, the presiding minister may add the statement "They have each responded appropriately to the membership covenant questions as required by The Discipline" (cf. 5550), omit the questions, and move to paragraph 5567).

5566. Covenant Questions.

Minister: We now propose, in the fear of God, to question *these persons* as to *their* experience, faith, and purpose, that you may know that *they* are proper *persons* to be admitted into this Church.

Dear *friends*, you have come seeking union with the church of Jesus Christ. We rejoice that you have chosen to undertake the privileges and the responsibilities of membership in The Wesleyan Church. Before you are fully admitted thereto, you should here publicly and individually make your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose, by answering the following questions:

Minister: Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? That Jesus Christ the Son suffered in your place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all people at the last day? And do you believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God? That by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith? And do you believe that God not only counts believers as righteous, but that He makes them righteous, perfecting them in love at entire sanctification, and providing for their growth in grace

at every stage of their spiritual life, enabling them through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life?

Candidate: This I believe.

Minister: Do you have the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God?

Candidate: I do.

Minister: Is it your commitment to pursue holiness in all things?

Candidate: It is.

Minister: Do you cordially accept and agree to abide by our Articles of Religion and Elementary Principles as biblical guidelines for your conduct, and do you accept the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government?

Candidate: I do.

Minister: Do you commit to live out the mission and vision of The Wesleyan Church through a discipling relationship within the local church?

Candidate: I do.

5567. Declaration of Purpose.

Minister: By coming before us today you indicate your purpose to publicly confess the Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to be your God and the object of your highest love. You accept the Lord Jesus to be your Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit to be your Sanctifier, Comforter, and Guide. You joyfully dedicate *yourselves* to God that within the everlasting covenant of His grace you might be used in His service to glorify and honor Him. And you promise to hold to Him as the highest good of your *lives*; that you will give diligent attention to the commandments and principles of His Word; that you will seek the honor and advancement of His kingdom; and that forsaking all ungodliness and worldly desires, you will live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

You do also purpose to join *yourselves* to this church, submitting *yourselves* to its principles of government; and by walking in love and fellowship with all its members, seek its peace, purity, and growth in grace.

Do you freely and sincerely devote *yourselves* to be the Lord's within the fellowship of this church?

Candidate: I do.

5570. Reception of Transfers from Other Denominations.

Minister: There are *those* who *have* found Christ in some other branch of His Church, but who now *desire* to transfer *their* membership to The Wesleyan Church, and who present *themselves* for reception as *members* by transfer. To *them* we address this question:

Minister: Dear *friends*, in transferring your covenant relation to this branch of Christ's church, you again renew your vows of church fellowship. Relying upon the grace of God, you promise to walk in all His commandments and ordinances, and to seek His service as your highest joy. You promise to submit to the rules and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*; to strive earnestly for its peace, purity, and growth in grace, and to walk with all its members in love and Christian faithfulness. Do you sincerely devote *yourselves* to be the Lord's and do you hereby renew your covenant with the church of Jesus Christ by joining *yourselves* to this fellowship of believers?

Transferee: I do.

(If no student members are being received the minister shall skip and go directly to 5580)

5577. Reception of Student Members.

Minister: The Church desires to embrace within its care and nurture those who are converted to Christ early in life and who desire to know more about Jesus and His will for themselves. These have come for reception as student members so they may be disciplined by the Church and may, at the proper time, assume a greater place of responsibility and leadership in the Church. To these we address these questions.

Minister: Does the Lord now forgive your sins?

Candidate: Yes, He does.

Minister: Is it your purpose that you will grow in your knowledge of Jesus Christ and His will for you, to study daily in private devotions and regularly at the church, so you will mature in your faith and be prepared to serve as the Lord may direct you?

Candidate: Yes, it is.

5580. Response of the Church.

Minister: May the members of the church now join me in welcoming *these* new *ones* to our fellowship, assuring *them* of our love, of our prayers, and of our care over *them* in days to come. Do you, the members of this church, receive *these* to our communion and fellowship as beloved *brothers and sisters*, and promise to walk with *them* in love, to instruct, counsel, admonish, and cherish *them*, and to watch over *them* with all long-suffering, gentleness, and love?

Congregation: We do.

5585. Prayer.

Minister: O God of the Church, we thank You for the blessing of Christian fellowship, for joining together in one body all those who truly believe in Jesus Christ, Your Son. We thank You for *these* who this day *are* becoming a part of

this local church, this branch of Christ's body. Grant to *them* the grace and strength *they* shall need to fulfill *their* vows, and bind our hearts together in Your holy love, that we may aid each other and that together we may share Your gospel with the world for which Christ died. In His name we pray. Amen.

5590. Right Hand of Fellowship.

Minister: And now, in behalf of The Wesleyan Church and of this local congregation, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship, welcoming you as *members* with us of the body of Christ.

5595. *The service of reception may close with a hymn and a benediction such as the following:*

Hymn. "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," "Onward, Christian Soldiers," "Lead On, O King Eternal," "Soldiers of Christ, Arise."

Benediction. Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Chapter 3

THE LORD'S SUPPER

A. General Directions

5600. Each local church is encouraged to provide for the observance of the Lord's Supper at least once each month but is required to do so at least once every three months (cf. 293; 725:6).

5605. It is expected that Wesleyan ministers shall carefully admonish the people that only those who are in right relations with God and with their neighbors should come to the Lord's table, and that others should come only if in so doing they are expressing repentance and seeking forgiveness.

5610. Only unfermented grape juice shall be used in observing the Lord's Supper.

5611. The officiating minister may enlist the assistance of other ministers, persons preparing for the ministry or laypersons for the distribution of the elements.

B. Order of the Lord's Supper—as Part of a Service

5615. *(The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26–29; Luke 22:14–20; Rom. 5:1–2, 6–12, 18–21; 1 Cor. 10:16–17; 11:23–29; Eph. 1:3–12; 2:1–10, 12–22; Heb. 9:11–17, 22–28; 1 Peter 1:18–23; 2:21–25.)*

(Then the congregation shall sing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed," "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Arise, My Soul, Arise," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," "Rock of Ages," "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood.")

(Then the minister may preach a sermon on some phase of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards the congregation may sing another hymn such as one of those listed above. Then the minister shall direct the people as to the plan for distribution of the elements of the Supper, either directing them to come and kneel at the altar or to be served while seated, in either instance using this invitation:)

You who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and harmony with your neighbors; and you who do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and

intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from this time in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and meekly make your humble confession to Almighty God.

(Then the minister shall remove the cloth, folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the minister shall pray the prayer of consecration:)

O God of grace and mercy, we thank You that You ever loved us and provided for our redemption. We thank You for Your Son who died to save us, and for Your Spirit who invites us to draw near. Guide us now as we commemorate the suffering of our Lord. Help us to remember the cost of our salvation. Help us to commune with You and with each other. And so consecrate the bread and the cup which are here prepared, that as we partake of them we may receive the spiritual benefits of Christ's broken body and shed blood. In His name we pray. Amen.

(Then the minister shall first partake of the bread, and then distribute it to the people, saying:)

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

(Then the minister shall partake of the cup, and then distribute it to the people, saying:)

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this remembering that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

(After all have partaken, let that which remains of the consecrated elements be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then let the minister pronounce the benediction:)

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

C. Order of the Lord's Supper—as an Entire Service

5635. *(The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The minister shall address the congregation saying:)*

Call to Worship

The Lord Jesus himself instituted the holy sacrament we call the Lord's Supper, giving it to the disciples as a means of remembering Him until He comes again, and as a seal of the new covenant between God and man. This service is therefore a time of special sacredness and we can only be properly prepared by giving our hearts and minds to reverent worship, and by being freed of all things contrary to the divine nature and purpose. Therefore let us bow in a period of silent prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and to bring us into conformity with the holiness of the God we serve.

(The minister shall allow sufficient time for each person to prepare for the service, and then shall pray:)

Invocation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are opened, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns

(Then the congregation shall sing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed," "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Arise, My Soul, Arise," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," "Rock of Ages," "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood.")

Scripture Readings

(Then the minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26–29; Luke 22:14–20; Rom. 5:1–2, 6–12, 18–21; 1 Cor. 10:16–17; 11:23–29; Eph. 1:3–12; 2:1–10, 12–22; Heb. 9:11–17, 22–28; 1 Peter 1:18–23; 2:21–25.)

Prayer

(Then the minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer or use the following:)
Almighty God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things,

judge of all persons, we acknowledge that in Your sight all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. Outside of Christ we are sinners, and it is only through His atonement that we are forgiven and cleansed. Whatever there is of purity and virtue in our hearts or in our lives is the product of Your grace. We come today to remember once again how Christ obtained our salvation. And as we do, we ask that the Holy Spirit shall search our hearts. If we have committed any act which is displeasing to You, or neglected any duty which would have honored You, reveal it and forgive, we pray. Or if there is any tendency to disobedience, to the love of the world, or to the exaltation of self, reveal it and purge it from our hearts, we pray. You have told us that if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Our hope, our trust, our righteousness are in Him alone. Have mercy upon us for His sake, and grant that we may serve and please You in newness of life and purity of heart, world without end, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon, Hymn, Instructions

(Then the minister may preach a sermon on some phase of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards the congregation may sing another hymn such as one of those listed above. Then the minister shall direct the people as to the plan for distribution of the elements of the Supper, either directing them to come and kneel at the altar or to be served while seated, in either instance using this invitation:)

Invitation

You who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and harmony with your neighbors; and you who do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from this time in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and meekly (kneeling) make your humble confession to Almighty God.

(When all are in place, the minister shall remove the cloth, folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the minister shall pray the prayer of consecration:)

Consecration of Bread and Cup

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in mercy gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption: accept our

praise, we beseech You. We thank You for Your love, for the gift of Your Son, for the sacrifice He made in our behalf, for the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing of our hearts, for the present witness of Your Holy Spirit to our hearts that we are Your children. Grant that, as we receive this bread and wine, in memory of Christ's death and suffering, in communion with You and with Your children, we may be made partakers of His body and blood; who, on the night He was betrayed, took bread,

(Here the minister may take the plate of bread in hand.)

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in memory of me. In the same way, after supper He took the cup,

(Here the minister may take in hand the vessel from which the cup is to be poured, or the tray of individual cups.)

and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins; do this, whenever you drink it, in memory of me. Amen.

Distribution of Bread and Cup

(Then the minister shall direct the distribution of the elements, either first kneeling at the table and partaking, then serving others who may be assisting, and then serving the people; or directing first the distribution of the bread with all holding their portion until the time for simultaneous participation, and then the distribution of the cup in the same manner.)

(In either instance, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the bread, the following shall be read:)

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

(And in like manner, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the cup, the following shall be read:)

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this remembering that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

(After all have partaken, let that which remains of the consecrated elements be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then let the minister and congregation join in praying:)

Lord's Prayer

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

Benediction

(Then the minister shall conclude the service with the benediction:)

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

Chapter 4

MARRIAGE

A. Marriage Ceremony—Longer Form

5650. *(At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:)*

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and His church. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

(Speaking to the persons to be married, the minister shall say:)

I charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows are faithfully kept, as God's Word demands, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, God will bless your marriage, will grant you fulfillment in it, and will establish your home in peace.

(Then shall the minister address the man by name, and ask:)

Will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

(The man shall answer:)

I will.

(Then shall the minister address the woman by name, and ask:)

Will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

(The woman shall answer:)

I will.

(Then shall the minister ask:)

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(The father of the woman, or whoever gives her in marriage, shall answer:)

I do (or Her mother and I).

(Then the minister shall cause the man and woman to join right hands and shall cause the man, using their given names, to say after him:)

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

(Then shall the minister cause the woman, using their given names, to say after him:)

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

(If an exchange of rings is desired, the minister shall ask for the rings, deliver the ring to the man and say:)

_____, place this ring on the finger of your bride and repeat after me: This ring I give you, in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

(The minister shall then deliver the ring to the woman and say:)

_____, place this ring on the finger of your groom and repeat after me: This ring I give you, in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

(Here may be offered the following prayer, or an extemporaneous prayer closing with the Lord's Prayer.)

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of life everlasting, let Your blessing descend and rest upon these Your children, whom we bless in Your name. Bless this marriage and make it to them the source of abundant and enduring good. Look graciously upon them that they may love, honor, and cherish each other. May their mutual affection never know change, doubt, nor decay. Direct and strengthen them in the discharge of all their duties. Bless the home which they establish. Teach them to order their household wisely and well, and to regard all their possessions as Your gifts to be employed in Your service. May they so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Then shall the minister cause the man and woman to join right hands and placing a hand on top of theirs shall say:)

Forasmuch, as _____ and _____ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands [and by giving and receiving rings]; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let not man put asunder. Amen.

(Then the minister shall give this blessing,)

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

B. Marriage Ceremony—Shorter Form

5680. *(At the day and time appointed for the solemnizing of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the minister shall say:)*

My friends, the ordinance of marriage was instituted by God himself in the garden of Eden, and is one of the most solemn and binding of obligations, because it involves the sacred relations of the home and the family. Your happiness for the future will largely depend upon the faithfulness with which the marriage vows are cherished and kept. There must be mutual affection the one for the other, and the marriage covenant must be kept in purity of spirit, as well as in actual word and deed, if you would reap the full fruition of happiness in your marriage.

If, with full and free consent, and thoughtful determination to keep the marriage covenant, you desire to enter the holy estate of marriage, you will acknowledge the same by taking the other by the right hand.

(With their hands joined, the minister shall address the man by name, and ask:)

Will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

(The man shall answer:)

I will.

(Then the minister shall address the woman by name, and ask:)

Will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

(The woman shall answer:)

I will.

(Then the minister shall place a right hand upon their joined hands and say:)

Since they have taken the marriage covenant before God, and in the presence of these witnesses, by the authority committed unto me as a minister of the church of Jesus Christ, I declare that _____ and _____ are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God and the law of the state, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let not man put asunder. Amen.

(Then the minister shall offer an appropriate prayer.)

Chapter 5

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

5700. At the House, Church or Funeral Chapel.

Opening Sentences

(The minister shall open the service with an opening sentence, such as one of the following:)

“I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another” (Job 19:25–27).

“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging” (Ps. 46:1–3).

“I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live” (John 5:25).

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die’” (John 11:25–26).

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Cor. 1:3–4).

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:17–18, NKJV).

“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:6–8).

Hymn

(Then a hymn shall be sung, or played. Then the minister shall read a scripture lesson, such as one of the following:)

Scripture Readings

“Show me, O Lord, my life’s end
 and the number of my days;
 let me know how fleeting is my life.
 You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
 the span of my years is as nothing before you.
 Each man’s life is but a breath.
 Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro:
 He bustles about, but only in vain;
 he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it.
 But now, Lord, what do I look for?
 My hope is in you” (Ps. 39:4–7).

“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
 Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
 Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

For a thousand years in Your sight
 Are like yesterday when it is past,
 And like a watch in the night.

We finish our years like a sigh.
The days of our lives are seventy years;
And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,
Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;
For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:1–2, 4, 9b–10, 12, NKJV).

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

‘Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?’

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:20–26, 51–52, 54–58).

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.’

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying:

‘Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!’

Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?’ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

‘they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.
Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat upon them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;
he will lead them to springs of living water.
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’” (Rev. 7:9–17).

Prayer

(Then the minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer or use the following prayer:)

O God of life, as we have learned to do in all our experiences, we come to You in the hour of death. We know that You love us, and that You can turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us now to wait before You with reverent and submissive hearts. Make this a time of opening our eyes and our understanding, and a time of admonition to our hearts and souls. Bless those who feel this sorrow most keenly, and cause the bonds of Christian love to bind us closer together, so that we may share with them that

spiritual strength and that faith in God which is ours through the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Message and Prayer

(Then the minister shall preach a funeral message. The service may be closed with an extemporaneous prayer, and the following benediction:)

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit abide with us now and evermore. Amen.

5725. At the Graveside.

Scripture Readings

(The minister shall read a brief scripture lesson, such as one of the following:)

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—
 where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
 the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip—
 he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord watches over you—
 the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
 nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all harm—
 he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
 both now and forevermore” (Ps. 121).

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where

I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John 14:1–6).

Committals

(Then the minister shall read one of the following committals:)

And now, we commit this body to its resting place; and we commit the spirit, O our Father, together with every sacred interest of our hearts, into Your keeping; praying that You will deal graciously and mercifully with each of us, until we too shall come to You in glory, through the riches of grace in Jesus our Lord.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son’” (Rev. 21:1–7).

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 22:1–5).

Prayer and Benediction

(Then the minister may offer a brief extemporaneous prayer, and conclude with the following benediction:)

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Chapter 6

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

A. Regulations

5750. That portion of the ritual of ordination entitled, “Examination of Candidates” (5772) has the authority of statutory law, and must be followed as prescribed.

5752. The ordination service shall be planned by the Council of Ordination (1405; 3070:6) and shall be presided over by the General Superintendent (1935:34), or by a representative appointed by the General Superintendent (3091), or if neither of the above is present, by the district superintendent (1310:26). They shall be assisted in the various parts of the service and in the act of ordination by the Council of Ordination (1405; 3070:6).

B. The Order of the Ordination of Ministers

Call to Worship

5755. *(The appointed minister shall commence the service with a Call to Worship, such as Isa. 52:7; 1 Cor. 1:21–24; 2 Cor. 4:5–6).*

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak,” “A Charge to Keep I Have,” “Lead on, O King Eternal,” “Soldiers of Christ, Arise,” “Conquering Now and Still to Conquer.”)

Invocation

(Then the minister appointed shall give the invocation:)

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit has appointed ordained ministers in the church, grant us Your assistance in this service given to the ordination of such ministers, and mercifully behold *these* Your *servants*, now called to this office, and replenish *them* so with the truth of Your doctrine, and adorn *them* with innocence of life, that both by word and good example *they* may faithfully serve You in this office to the glory of

Your name and the edification of Your church, through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

Sermon

(Then the General Superintendent or the minister appointed (3091) shall preach the ordination sermon, cf. 1935:34.)

Presentation of Candidates

5758. *(Then the district superintendent or the appointed representative shall have those to be ordained to stand and shall present them to the General Superintendent, saying:)*

I present *(read names aloud)* to be ordained as *(a) minister(s)* in The Wesleyan Church and in the church universal.

Acceptance of Candidates

(Then the presiding minister (5752) shall say to the people:)

Dear friends, *these* are *they* whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain *ministers*. For, after due examination, we find that *they* are truly called to this function and ministry, and that *they are* qualified for the same.

(The ordinands shall be seated, after which the appointed ministers shall read the Epistle and the Gospel, respectively:)

The Epistle

5762. “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things” (Eph. 3:7–9).

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:11–13).

The Gospel

5765. “Therefore Jesus said again, ‘I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep . . . I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd’” (John 10:7, 9–16).

The Charge

5768. (*Then the presiding minister (3091;5752) shall ask the candidates to stand for the Charge and the Examination and shall address the candidates, giving the Charge:*)

Dear *Servant(s)* of God:

You have heard, both in your private examination by the district board of ministerial development and in the message which has just been delivered, something of the importance of the ministry to which you are called. You are *undershepherd(s)* of the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, called to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord’s family, to bring the lost into the fold, to bring each person unto the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Remember always the greatness of this responsibility and give *yourselves* without reservation unto the ministry to which God has called you. We charge you to pray daily for divine guidance and strengthening so that by your study of the Scriptures and your own personal growth and development you may both model the ideal of Christ and lead your people to live in keeping with His example and instructions.

Examination of Candidates

5772. *(Then while the candidates remain standing, the presiding minister (3091; 5752) shall administer the Examination to the candidates:)*

This assembled congregation represents the church of Jesus Christ everywhere as they witness your responses to the inquiries we shall make of you. In this way we shall understand your mind and will in these things, and you may also be moved to greater faithfulness in doing your duties.

Question: Is it your sincere conviction that you have been called of God to the office and work of a minister, and are you persuaded that you ought to fulfill that call by serving as an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church and among God's people everywhere?

Answer: That is my sincere conviction.

Question: Do you believe the Holy Scriptures are the fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, containing sufficiently all doctrine necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Christ Jesus? Are you determined to instruct people from the Scriptures in order that they may be born again in Christ, become committed to holy living, and be prepared to serve for the upbuilding of the Christian community in this present age?

Answer: All of this I believe, and accept as my duty.

Question: Do you cordially accept our Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments, and agree to declare and defend them? And do you recognize your responsibility and cheerfully accept your obligation to promote and support The Wesleyan Church and all institutions and ministries approved by The Wesleyan Church?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Question: Will you with diligence minister the doctrines, sacraments, and disciplines of Christ, being always ready to challenge strange doctrine which is contrary to God's Word wherever it may arise?

Answer: I will, as God enables me.

Question: Do you intend to make reading of the Word and effectual prayer your earnest pursuit, and will you seek to make your lifestyle and family government exemplary so far as is possible for you?

Answer: Yes, the Lord being my helper.

Question: Believing that accountability and acceptance of authority is God's design for His church, will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may place over you in the doing of your work?

Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

Covenant with Candidates' Spouses

5775. *(Then, if it is so desired, the presiding minister (3091; 5752) may call the spouses of the candidates to come and stand beside them, and shall address them saying:)*

It is the teaching of Scripture that a spouse shall be a loving companion in the ministry of a mate. You have witnessed the examination of your marriage partner in which commitment to the work and responsibilities of ministry has been stated. Your participation in God's purposes for ministry through your marriage partner is important also. You will be needed to share in prayer, to extend love and compassion to all, to carry forward the example of marriage harmony and family wholesomeness. As the companion of your loved one who is now entering the ranks of ordained ministers in the Church, will you dedicate yourself to complement and embrace that ministry as God enables you?

Answer: I will, by God's grace.

Act of Ordination

5782. *(Then the candidates for ordination shall kneel, and, if so desired, their spouses may kneel at their sides, and the presiding minister (3091; 5752) and the Council of Ordination shall lay their hands severally upon the head of each one, and the presiding minister (3091; 5752) shall say:)*

_____(Name)_____, as we lay our hands upon you we ask the Lord to give the unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit needed for your service as an ordained minister in the Church. May God's anointing enable you to be a faithful exponent of His Word, and an instrument for His holy sacraments, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

_____(Name)_____, take authority to preach the Word of God, to administer the holy sacraments, and to perform the duties of an ordained minister in the Church.

Prayer for Enduement

5785. *(Then the presiding minister (3091; 5752) or other appointed minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer of enduement or use the following:)*

Our Father, we beseech You to send upon *these* Your *servants* Your heavenly blessings: that *they* may be clothed with righteousness and with the

power of the Holy Spirit, that Your Word spoken in *their mouths* may have success and that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and to receive what *they* shall deliver out of Your holy Word, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds we may seek Your glory, and the increase of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Your most gracious favor, and further us with Your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in You, we may glorify Your holy name, and finally by Your mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Right Hand of Fellowship

5788. *(The newly ordained ministers shall then arise, and the presiding minister (3091; 5752) and the members of the Council of Ordination shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming the newly ordained ministers to the work and labors of the ministry. Then the presiding minister may direct the congregation to file by and greet the newly ordained ministers, or the service may be closed with the following benediction:)*

Benediction

5792. “May the God of peace, who through the everlasting covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Heb. 13:20–21).

Chapter 7

COMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS

A. Regulations

5800. That portion of the ritual of commissioning ministers entitled “Examination of Candidates” (5825), has the authority of statutory law, and must be followed as prescribed.

5805. The commissioning service shall be planned by the Council of Ordination (1405) and shall be presided over by the General Superintendent (1935:34), or a representative appointed by the General Superintendent (3091), or if absent by the district superintendent (1310:26). They shall be assisted in the various parts of the service and in the act of commissioning by the Council of Ordination (1405; 3059:1f).

B. The Order of the Commissioning of Ministers

Invocation

5810. *(The minister appointed shall give an extemporaneous invocation.)*

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak,” “A Charge to Keep I Have,” “Take My Life and Let It Be.”)

Scripture Reading

(Then the minister appointed shall read a Scripture lesson, such as 1 Tim. 6:3–16; 2 Tim. 1:6–14; 2:1–16, 22–26; 4:1–8; Titus 2:11–15; 3:3–9.)

Sermon

(Then a sermon or address may be given. Cf. 1935:34; 3091.)

Presentation of Candidates

5815. *(Then the appointed minister shall bring the candidates and present them to the General Superintendent, saying:)*

I present *(read names)* to be commissioned as *ministers* in The Wesleyan Church.

(Then the presiding minister (3091; 5805) shall say unto the people:)

Dear friends, *these are they* whom we purpose, God willing, this day to commission as *ministers*. For, after due examination, we find that *they are* truly called to this function and ministry, and that *they are* qualified for the same.

The Charge

5820. *(Then the presiding minister (3091; 5805) shall address the candidates, giving the charge:)*

Dear *Servants of God*:

You have heard, both in your private examination by the district board of ministerial development and in the message which has just been delivered, something of the importance of the ministry to which you are called. You are *undershepherds* of the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, called to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to bring the lost into the fold, to bring each person unto the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Remember always the greatness of this responsibility and give *yourselves* without reservation unto the ministry to which God has called you. We charge you to pray daily for divine guidance and strengthening so that by your study of the Scriptures and your own personal growth and development you may both model the ideal of Christ and lead your people to live in keeping with His example and instructions.

Examination of Candidates

5825. *(Then the presiding minister (3091; 5805) shall administer the examination to the candidates:)*

Is it your sincere conviction that you have been called of God to serve as a commissioned minister in The Wesleyan Church?

Answer: That is my sincere conviction.

Question: Do you believe the Holy Scriptures are the fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, containing sufficiently all doctrine necessary

for eternal salvation through faith in Christ Jesus? Are you determined to instruct people from the Scriptures in order that they may be born again in Christ, become committed to holy living and be prepared to serve for the upbuilding of the Christian community in this present age?

Answer: All of this I believe, and accept as my duty.

Question: Do you cordially accept our Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments, and agree to declare and defend them? And do you recognize your responsibility and cheerfully accept your obligation to promote and support The Wesleyan Church and all institutions and ministries approved by The Wesleyan Church?

Answer: Yes, I do.

Question: Will you with diligence minister the doctrines, sacraments, and disciplines of Christ, being always ready to challenge strange doctrine which is contrary to God's Word wherever it may arise?

Answer: I will, as God enables me.

Question: Do you intend to make reading of the Word and effectual prayer your earnest pursuit, and will you seek to make your lifestyle and family government exemplary so far as is possible for you?

Answer: Yes, the Lord being my helper.

Question: Believing that accountability and acceptance of authority is God's design for His Church, will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the church may place over you in the doing of your work?

Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

Covenant with Candidates' Spouses

5835. *(Then if it is so desired, the presiding minister (3091; 5805) may call the spouses of the candidates to come and stand beside them, and shall address them saying:)*

It is the teaching of Scripture that a spouse shall be a loving companion in the ministry of a mate. You have witnessed the examination of your marriage partner in which commitment to the work and responsibilities of ministry has been stated. Your participation in God's purposes for ministry through your marriage partner is important also. You will be needed to share in prayer, to extend love and compassion to all, to carry forward the example of marriage harmony and family wholesomeness. As the companion of your loved one who is now entering the ranks of commissioned ministers in the Church, will you dedicate yourself to complement and embrace that ministry as God enables you?

Answer: I will, by God's grace.

Act of Commissioning

5840. *(Then the candidates for commissioning shall kneel, and if so desired, their spouses may kneel at their sides, and the presiding minister (3091; 5805) and the Council of Ordination shall lay their hands severally upon the head of each one, and the presiding minister shall say:)*

_____(Name), as we lay our hands upon you we ask the Lord to give the unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit needed for your service as a commissioned minister in the Church. May God's anointing enable you to be a faithful exponent of His Word, and an instrument for His holy sacraments, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

_____(Name), take authority to preach the Word of God, to administer the sacraments, and to perform the duties of a commissioned minister in the Church.

Prayer for Empowerment

5845. *(Then the appointed minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit upon each candidate.)*

Right Hand of Fellowship

(The newly commissioned ministers shall then arise, and the presiding minister (3091; 5805) and the members of the Council of Ordination shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming them to the work and labors of the ministry. Then the presiding minister may direct the congregation to file by and greet the newly commissioned ministers, or the service shall be closed with the following benediction:)

Benediction

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:20–21).

Chapter 8

COMMISSIONING OF LAY WORKERS

5850. The commissioning service shall be planned by the Council of Ordination (1405) and shall be presided over by the General Superintendent when present (1935:34), or if absent by a representative appointed by the General Superintendent (3091), or, if not, by the district superintendent (1310:34).

5855. Order of Commissioning of Lay Workers.

(This ritual is adaptable for use in commissioning any type of lay worker, including special workers, such as director of music, director of spiritual formation, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry; including lay missionaries, such as doctors, nurses, teachers, spouses of ordained missionaries, office workers; and including any other lay worker commissioned by a district conference. In each case, the presiding minister (3091; 5850) and others helping in the commissioning service [cf. 1405; 1935:34; 3470; 3490] shall insert the title of the commission being granted in the blanks, and make such other adaptations or modifications as are needed.)

Invocation

5860. *(The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give an extemporaneous invocation.)*

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: "Take My Life, and Let It Be," "Hear Ye the Master's Call," "Give of Your Best to the Master," "Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling.")

Scripture Reading

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall read a scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Acts 2:41–44 and 6:1–8; Rom. 12:4–15; 1 Cor. 12:4–12.)

Sermon

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister may give a sermon or address declaring the need and function of lay workers.)

Presentation of Candidates

5865. *(Then the district superintendent shall present the candidates individually to the General Superintendent, saying:)*

I present _____ unto you to be commissioned as _____.

(Then the presiding minister (3091; 5850) shall address the congregation, saying:)

Dear Friends, *these are they* whom we purpose this day to commission as _____ in The Wesleyan Church. After inquiry and examination, we discover that *they have* met the stated requirements of the Church, and we believe *them* to be worthy and proper *persons* for this service.

Address to Candidates

5870. *(Then the presiding minister (3091; 5850) shall address the candidates, saying:)*

Dear Friends, we rejoice that in the providence of God a door of usefulness has been opened to you in the service of the Church. It is with infinite wisdom that God has provided diversities of gifts for His workers, distributing and administering them according to His good pleasure through the Holy Spirit. It is with joy that we have watched God's will revealed in your *lives*, and your own resolve grow firm to use your *gifts* for His glory. Turning aside from worldly interests and pursuits, you are devoting *yourselves* to the Lord's work, and to being *helpers* of the ministry. You will be pouring out of your talent, your time, your possessions, your strength, your very *selves* in a living sacrifice to Christ. You have not entered upon this solemn responsibility lightly, and doubtless already in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have consecrated *yourselves* to this service. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the Church.

Questioning of Candidates

5875. (*Then the presiding minister (3091; 5850) shall question the candidates:*)

Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providences of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this service?

Answer: I do.

Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of _____ in The Wesleyan Church?

Answer: I do.

Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light unto your path?

Answer: I accept it, and will walk in its light.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and in such other devotions as will help you to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Answer: I will.

Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may place over you in the doing of your work?

Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

Consecration of Candidates

5880. (*Then the candidates shall kneel for a brief season of silent prayer, after which the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pray extemporaneously or use the following:*)

Our Father, who called Stephen, Philip, and other lay members into the service of Your church, look upon *these* Your servants who *are* to be set apart to service as _____. Give, we pray, such understanding of Your holy gospel, such firmness of Christian purpose, such diligence in service, and such beauty of life in Christ, that they may be to all whom *they teach* or *serve* a worthy revelation of the meaning and power of the Christian life. May *they* so order *their* time and nourish *their minds* and *hearts* that *they* may constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and steadily increase in the ability to lead others unto Him. Grant that *they* may have strength of body, mind, and soul for the fulfillment of Your will in the holy task to which You have called *them*; and grant *them* Your Holy Spirit, that they may worthily discharge the work committed to *them*, to the blessing of all people and to the praise of Christ our Savior. Amen.

(Then the presiding minister shall address the candidates, saying:)

May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you always. May His holy anointing impart to you the grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

Act of Commissioning

5885. *(Then the candidates shall rise, and the presiding minister shall take each by the hand and say:)*

I commission you to service as _____ in The Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee," "O Jesus, I Have Promised," "Work, for the Night Is Coming," "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go.")

Benediction

(Then the presiding minister or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction:)

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

Chapter 9

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

A. General Regulations

5900. The installation ceremonies provided herewith shall normally be used as a part of some general service of worship, and in most instances the other parts of the service, such as hymns, scripture readings, and prayers, will need to be supplied, being chosen in such a manner as to give the entire service unity and dignity.

B. Installation of a Pastor

5905. Order of Installation of a Pastor.

(The district superintendent or representative shall preside over the installation of a pastor [1310:26]. The presiding minister or other appointed minister shall give the invocation:)

O Lord, You have made known your will to us that we should pray for You to send forth laborers into Your harvest. We earnestly ask you to send forth into the world true teachers and ministers of Your Word, and to enlighten their minds with the knowledge of Your truth, that they may faithfully make known the whole counsel of God unto salvation, to the glory of Your name and the saving of souls; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(The presiding minister or other appointed minister may read a scripture lesson such as John 15:1-8 and may deliver an appropriate message. At the proper time, the presiding minister shall address the congregation, saying:)

Dear friends, we are assembled before God to install the Reverend _____, who has answered your call to become the pastor of this church, and whose installation has been duly authorized by the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church.

(The pastor shall come and stand before the presiding minister, who shall address the pastor, saying:)

Dear fellow minister, the duties of your holy office are clearly set forth in the Word of God. As an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are first of all to preach both Law and Gospel, as they are comprehended in the Holy Scriptures and defined in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*. This you

are to do without the addition of private opinion, as the apostle admonishes, “If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God” (1 Peter 4:11).

Whatever is contrary to sound doctrine shall be refuted with all restraint as the Scripture warns, “The Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct” (2 Tim. 2:24–25a).

Those who are committed to your pastoral care are to be diligently admonished to walk in the commandments of the Lord blamelessly. The erring are to be warned with the fidelity which the Word of the Lord demands of faithful pastors, as the Prophet Ezekiel was instructed, “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel” (Ezek. 3:17).

You are also to be the steward of the holy sacraments which you are to administer to the comfort of troubled souls.

In view of the Savior’s gracious words, “Let the little children come to me” (Mark 10:14), the children and youth of the church must in a special sense be the object of your pastoral instruction and care.

The measure of faithfulness with which you are to seek the erring is set forth in the Holy Scriptures in the words of the Apostle Paul who said, “I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31).

The example of holy men and women of God will impel you to pray diligently for your people and to be a pattern unto them in faith and good works.

Do you therefore earnestly purpose to diligently fulfill these duties, and thus be able in this life to answer before The Wesleyan Church and the Church universal, and in the life to come to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ?

Answer: Yes, I do so purpose, by the help of God.

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction . . . keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry” (2 Tim. 4:1–2, 5).

(The congregation shall rise, and the presiding minister shall address them, saying:)

And now, dear friends, I admonish you to receive as your pastor, the Reverend _____, whom God has given you. Accept the Word of God as preached by His messenger to you, whether it be for your comfort,

your admonition or your instruction, even as Christ has said, “Consider carefully how you listen” (Luke 8:18).

Use all diligence that your children receive instruction in the Christian faith and are present with you in the services at God’s house, in accordance with the counsel of the Apostle Paul to Christian parents to bring children “up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

Pray for your pastor that the ministry offered in this place may tend to the salvation of many souls, and that through sacrificial labors, you, together with your pastor, may be saved.

Honor and esteem the one who is to minister to your souls. As the Apostle Paul exhorts, “Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other” (1 Thess. 5:12–13).

Do you now, as becomes a Christian church, accept these obligations?

Answer: Yes, by the help of God.

(Then the presiding minister shall address the pastor, saying:)

Upon these, your solemn mutual promises, I now install you, the Reverend _____, as pastor of the _____ Wesleyan Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the presiding minister shall lead in prayer, concluding by leading the congregation in the Lord’s Prayer. Then the presiding minister shall address the congregation and the pastor, saying:)

The Lord bless you that you may bring forth much fruit and that your fruit may remain.

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn such as, “A Charge to Keep I Have.” Then the congregation may come forward to greet the pastor and family at the altar. The pastor shall pronounce the benediction.)

C. Installation of Local Church Officers

5915. Order of Installation of Local Church Officers.

(This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just prior to the time when the newly elected officers shall assume their duties. The congregation may join in singing a hymn, such as: “A Charge to Keep I Have,” or “I’ll Live for Him Who Died for Me.” The pastor may read a scripture lesson such as Acts 2:41–44 and 6:1–8. Depending upon the number of officers involved, the pastor may wish to read something concerning their duties from The Discipline. At the proper time, the pastor

shall call the newly elected officers before the congregation, and shall address them, saying:)

Dear friends, it is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles that when the early church was growing and the number of disciples was multiplying, and the duties of the church so increased, and so became diversified, that the church called its members together and chose those of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to assist in administering the affairs of the church; and that the officers thus chosen by the church were set before the apostles, who laid hands on them and prayed, thus setting them apart in the presence of the church to the duties of their honorable office.

In like manner this church, having first sought the guidance of the divine Spirit, has chosen you to similar offices to be associated with those already in office and with the pastor before whom you have now come for public consecration.

Therefore, we, the pastor and the people of this church, call upon you to hear and join in this pledge of trust to Christ and His Church.

The Officers' Pledge

5920. Trusting in Jesus Christ, the great Head of the church, I humbly promise Him and His church that I will be faithful to the extent of my ability to all known duties and responsibilities assigned to me as an officer of this church. I will endeavor to be regular in my attendance, cheerful in my service, wholehearted in my giving, open-minded in my planning, patient in the face of trials, persistent in the face of difficulty, and Christlike in my faithfulness to His service. I will seek by example and precept the promotion of Christian fellowship among all our members and the spreading of the message of full salvation at home and abroad. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer: I do.

(Then the pastor shall address the congregation, asking them to stand, and saying:)

We, the pastor and officers of this church, call upon the members and friends of this church to hear and join in this pledge of loyalty to those called of God and elected by the church as its leaders.

The Church's Pledge

5925. Having chosen these officers to guide us in the administration of the church, we, its members and friends, do now pledge our loyalty to its work and promise our consideration of the plans and our friendly cooperation in the

service suggested to us. We acknowledge our duty and declare our determination to pray for all our leaders and to share with them in the glorious responsibility of spreading the good news, thus hastening the coming of Christ. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer: We do.

(The officers shall then kneel at the altar while the pastor and people offer prayer in their behalf.)

D. Installation of District Superintendent

5930. Order of Installation of a District Superintendent.

(The General Superintendent or representative shall be in charge of installing the district superintendent before the adjournment of the district conference in which election to the office has occurred (1935:31). The newly elected district superintendent, and such other district officers as are desired, shall be called before the General Superintendent, who shall first address the district superintendent, saying:)

District superintendent _____, today you stand before us along with the other duly elected officers of the district. You have been prayerfully selected by this district conference to serve as leader of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church. It is in you that the ministers and members of the various churches within the bounds of this district are investing their confidence and trust. Yours is indeed a position of significant honor and responsibility, and it is only as God is with you that you will be enabled to fill it.

In counseling, may He grant needed grace; in decisions, may He impart of His wisdom; in labors, may your secret be His all-sufficient strength; in administration's numerous phases, may He be your "very present help." The support and cooperation of this body are assured you in the days that lie ahead. Together may you build a district that knows its best days spiritually, numerically, and materially as well.

And now, that we may hear publicly your intentions to accept this charge with proper regard for all that is therewith involved, we ask you in the presence of God and of these witnesses, do you accept the office of superintendent of the district, and do you hereby solemnly covenant to discharge your duties to God, to The Wesleyan Church, and to all the members of the _____ District, according to *The Discipline* and in the fear of God?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

(The General Superintendent shall address the other district officers, saying:)

Do you, as officers representing the _____ District, covenant to support the district superintendent and to discharge your several duties to God, to The Wesleyan Church, and to all the members of this district, according to *The Discipline* and in the fear of God?

Answer: We do, God being our helper.

(Then the General Superintendent shall address the district superintendent, saying:)

As representative of The Wesleyan Church, I charge you with this responsibility and declare you to be formally installed as superintendent of the _____ District, entitled to the rights and privileges thereunto pertaining.

(Then the General Superintendent shall lead in prayer.)

E. Installation of General Officials

5935. Order of Installation of General Officials.

(In the parts of the service prior to the actual installation, a scripture lesson such as 1 Corinthians 12:14–28 shall be read. The person appointed to preside over the service shall be responsible for giving the various charges, and shall address the congregation, saying:)

According to Acts, chapter 6, the Holy Spirit led the first-century church to select persons for positions of service according to gifts bestowed upon them. So the Holy Spirit has led The Wesleyan Church to choose persons believed to be blameless in heart as well as in life, possessing in measure the qualifications for the offices to which they are called. These persons we now come to set apart as General Officials.

(Then the chair shall address the elected General Superintendent, saying:)

Will the General Superintendent-elect please stand. _____, *Name of elected*, the Church has called you to its most honored and responsible place of leadership, to the office of General Superintendent. This high office is one of great importance and dignity, imposing weighty responsibilities and demanding earnest, arduous, and self-sacrificing labor. In assuming your duties, you become stewards over the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church worldwide.

You have been chosen for the office of General Superintendent because the Church recognizes in you the leadership abilities to carry spiritual and

administrative authority in humility that is born of love. Further, you exemplify the high standard for Christian leadership set forth in the Word of God by Paul in the first chapter of his epistle to Titus, when he said, “Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it” (Titus 1:7–9).

Do you accept the office of General Superintendent, and promise that you will faithfully endeavor to discharge your duties as set forth in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*?

Answer: I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to this high office, and you have declared your willingness to accept it and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your duties as a General Superintendent, you are hereby set apart to this service in the Church.

May faith, courage, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity be in you and abound, so that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in your leadership of the Church. Amen.

(Then the General Superintendent shall be seated, and the chair shall address those others elected as General Officials, saying:)

The Church is served by General Officials, some elected by this General Conference, and some elected by the General Board.

Will _____, elected as Executive Director of the Communication and Administration Division; _____, elected as Executive Director of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division; _____, elected as Executive Director of the Education and Clergy Development Division; _____, elected as Executive Director of the Global Partners Division; and _____, elected as General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer please stand.

The Wesleyan Church has honored you by electing you to stand with the General Superintendent as the general officials of the Church. These are highly esteemed places of leadership. In assuming these offices, you become the recipients of respect and deference from faithful Wesleyans around the world.

In connection with your respective offices, *The Discipline* charges you under the direction of the General Board with the responsibility of the secretarial and corporate affairs of the Church, the development and promotion of the work of spiritual formation, the promotion and administration of the

outreach of the Church into new areas of the homeland, the promotion and correlation of the Church's educational institutions, the administration of a program of worldwide missions, the editorship of the official Church publication, the administration of the financial affairs of the Church, the publication and distribution of materials as resources for the growth of the Church, the communication of the gospel through the written and spoken word, and the promotion of the current and ongoing stewardship of those who make up our fellowship. Your service in these offices will impose duties which cannot be faithfully performed without self-denial and self-sacrifice. You must spend and be spent for the Church in the spirit of joyful service. Your election to these offices is evidence of the confidence the Church has in you as Christian leaders. May your leadership always inspire such confidence, to the glory of God.

Do you accept the office to which the Church has elected you, and do you promise to discharge your duties as God may help you?

Answer: I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to these high offices, and you have declared your willingness to accept them and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your several duties, you are now set apart to this service in the Church.

May you be strong to do God's will and have great joy in your labors. Amen.

(Then the other general officials shall be seated, and the chair shall address the area representatives of the General Board, saying:)

Will the area representatives of the General Board please stand.

Having carefully considered the responsibilities and obligations of service as members of the General Board as set forth in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*, will you, with just appreciation of these responsibilities and obligations, accept this service to which you are called?

Answer: I will.

Will you promise that, always seeking divine help, you will faithfully serve as a member of the General Board of The Wesleyan Church, assisting to govern and direct its affairs in a manner which will make for peace, purity, and spiritual growth throughout the denomination?

Answer: I will.

(The General Superintendent and other general officials shall stand once again, and the chair shall address them and the area representatives of the General Board collectively, saying:)

Forasmuch as you have been chosen and have declared your willingness to accept the service to which you have been elected, you are hereby formally

recognized as the general officials and General Board of The Wesleyan Church. May you always be worthy of the honor conferred upon you and the trust reposed in you by the Church. And may God, by whose providence you have been set apart to this service, grant that “the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Amen.

(Then the chair shall address the congregation, saying:)

Have you, members and representatives of The Wesleyan Church, worldwide, seeking the guidance of divine wisdom, chosen the persons who now stand before you to take charge of your denominational activities and interests as general officials and members of the General Board?

Answer: We have.

Will you pledge to honor, encourage, and cooperate with them in all things consistent with the will of God, and will you zealously aid them in the discharge of their official duties?

Answer: We will.

(Then the chair shall address the General Superintendent, other general officials and area representatives of the General Board, saying:)

Take to yourselves the office to which you have been called, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Then the chair shall pray:)

O Lord, we ask that you set apart these Your servants unto the work to which You have called them by the voice of the Church.

Endue them with heavenly vision. Grant to them Your grace that they may serve You well, being full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, administering the work of their office in the fear of the Lord.

Give these Your servants favor and influence throughout Your Church. May Your work increase and advance because of Your blessings and their diligence.

Equip these officers for their respective duties and enable them to be faithful in all things, so that when the Great Shepherd shall appear, each may receive a crown of glory that does not fade away.

Through Christ we bring this petition. Amen.

F. Installation of a College or University President

5945. Order of Installation of a College or University President.

(The General Superintendent, chair of the board of trustees or other appointed official shall formally and officially install a college/university

president at the proper time during the convocation of inauguration. The chair shall address the president, saying:)

President _____, you have been chosen as the leader of _____ College/University. The Wesleyan Church is placing under your guidance and leadership not only the physical plant which is about us, the loyal faculty which serves here, but also the sons and daughters from our homes who are to be nurtured in the Christian tradition. They are the foundation both for tomorrow's Church and for your future constituency.

As president of _____ College/University, yours is both a priceless heritage and a grave responsibility. You are to be the one to whom all institutional personnel are responsible. It will be your task to interpret the college/university program to the faculty, the student body, the board of trustees, the constituency, and the general public. Yours is one of many educational institutions which through an unending stream of trained youth constantly condition the thought life of our age. The heritage, the doctrines, and the ideals of The Wesleyan Church will be projected to succeeding generations only as you dedicate yourself to their preservation in the present. And if free institutions are to endure in the society of which we are a part, you must carry a flaming torch of democratic idealism.

You have been called to this important task because we have confidence in your leadership, in your ability, in your Christian integrity, and in your consecration to the sacred task before you. We pledge to you our cooperation, our financial support, and our prayers for the days which are ahead.

By the authority vested in me as chair of the board of trustees of _____ College/University, I hereby place in your hands the official seal of the institution as the insignia of your authority and declare you formally installed as president of _____ College/University.

Chapter 10

DEDICATION SERVICES

A. Dedication of a Church Building

5950. Order of Dedication of a Church Building.

Call to Worship

(The pastor or other appointed minister shall give the call to worship:)

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” (Ps. 100:2–4).

Invocation

(Then the pastor or other appointed minister may pray an extemporaneous invocation or use the following:)

O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delights in the assembling of your people in the sanctuary; receive us graciously as we come into your house, and grant that peace and prosperity may be found within its walls, that the glory of God may be the light thereof, and that we may be satisfied with the goodness of your house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as one of the following: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” “O Worship the King,” “The Church’s One Foundation,” “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord.”)

Scripture Reading

(Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall read a scripture lesson, such as one of the following: 2 Chron. 6:1–2, 18–21, 40–42; 7:1–4; Ps. 24; Ps. 84; Heb. 10:19–25.)

Sermon

(The General Superintendent, the district superintendent or other appointed minister may be asked to deliver a message on the nature and task of the church.)

Offering

(It is much to be desired that all money required for the erection and completion of a house in which to worship God shall be fully provided before the day of dedication; but where this is not done, appeals may be made either just before or following the sermon. No building shall be dedicated to God until approved as financially secure and properly deeded as specified in The Discipline.)

Presentation of Building for Dedication

(Then the district superintendent or representative shall stand at the pulpit facing the trustees of the church. The chair of the trustees shall address the district superintendent, saying:)

On behalf of the trustees, the members, and this congregation, I present you this building to be dedicated to God as a place of worship and of service in His kingdom.

Acceptance of Building for Dedication

(Then the district superintendent shall respond, saying:)

Dear friends, for countless centuries people have erected buildings for the public worship of God, and have separated these buildings from all unhallowed uses in order to increase their reverence for God and for those places in which they commune with Him. We rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of His people to build this house in this place to the glory of His name. I now accept this building, to be known as the _____ Wesleyan Church, to dedicate it and to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all people. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

Litany of Dedication

(Then the district superintendent shall cause the congregation to stand and to join in the responsive litany of dedication:)

Leader: To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by His grace; to the honor of His Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the worship of God in prayer and praise;

Congregation: For the preaching of the everlasting gospel;

Leader: For the celebration of the holy sacraments;

All: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the comfort of all who mourn;

Congregation: For strength to those who are tempted;

Leader: For light to those who seek the way;

All: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the hallowing of family life;

Congregation: For teaching and guiding the young;

Leader: For the perfecting of the saints;

All: We dedicate this house.

Leader: For the conversion of sinners;

Congregation: For the sanctification of believers;

Leader: For the promotion of righteousness; for the extension of the kingdom of God;

All: We dedicate this house.

Leader: In the unity of the faith; in the bond of Christian brotherhood; in charity and goodwill to all;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Leader: In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church; in loving remembrance of those who have finished their course; in the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

All in Unison: We now, the people of this church and congregation, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, aware of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

(Then the district superintendent shall give an extemporaneous prayer of dedication, or use the following:)

Almighty God, we are not worthy to offer unto You anything belonging unto us. We humbly acknowledge that “except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” Yet we ask that in Your great goodness you would accept the dedication of this place to Your service. Prosper this our undertaking. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all your servants who shall call upon You in this house. Give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve You with reverence and godly fear. Affect them with a solemn apprehension of Your divine majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness. May they always approach Your sanctuary with lowliness and devotion. May they always come before You with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled and minds sanctified. May they always perform a service acceptable to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

(Then the congregation shall join in singing a hymn, such as: “Lead On, O King Eternal.”)

Benediction

(Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction:)

May You, O Lord our God, make this house Your abiding place from this day forth, and let Your ministers be clothed with salvation, let Your saints rejoice in goodness all their days, as the blessings of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest and abide upon them. Amen.

B. Dedication of Parsonage

5975. Order of Dedication of a Parsonage.

(At the time appointed for the dedication service, an appropriate hymn may be sung by the congregation or by a soloist or choir. Suitable numbers include: “Happy the Home When God Is There,” and “Bless This House.” Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give an extemporaneous prayer. Then the pastor or other appointed minister shall give a scripture reading,

such as 1 Cor. 9:7–10, 13–14. Then the district superintendent (cf. 1310:11) or representative shall address the congregation, saying:)

The Scriptures clearly teach that as Aaron was divinely appointed to the priesthood, even so today persons are called to the ministry for the purpose of preaching the Word and otherwise giving aid and comfort to the spiritually needy. In the same divine program it is also “commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). Providing a house for the pastor is a recognition of the minister’s high office and great value to the church. It is a wise provision contributing to proper temporal support. This house about to be dedicated as a pastor’s home has been made possible by the generous gifts of those who are interested in the ministry and the church such ministry represents.

(Then the trustees of the church shall come and stand before the district superintendent, and the chair of the trustees shall address the district superintendent, saying:)

On behalf of the trustees, the members, and this congregation, I present this house to be dedicated to God as the home for the person whom He has appointed to pastor this people.

(Then the district superintendent may give an appropriate discourse, gratefully commending the people for providing this house and charging the pastor to live here in the fear of God and as a faithful servant of the people. Then the district superintendent shall offer a prayer of dedication, such as the following:)

O most gracious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto You anything belonging to us. Yet we ask that You accept the dedication of this home to Your service, and that You will prosper this our undertaking.

Grant that whoever shall dwell in this house shall be so yielded and dedicated to Your service as “vessels sanctified and meet for the Master’s use, prepared unto every good work,” that their ministry shall be a heavenly benediction to all they meet.

Grant, O Lord, that whoever shall enter this the home of Your ministering servants shall be made to sense Your presence, and as they depart shall be strengthened to walk in Your holy commandments, and that all who minister to the material comforts of Your servants in this home shall be richly rewarded by You.

Grant, O Lord, that all who come to this home for spiritual counsel and comfort, shall be made both to perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whoever shall be joined together in the holy estate of matrimony in this home may faithfully perform and keep the vow and

covenant made between them, and may remain in perfect love together all of their lives.

Grant, O Lord, that at the family altar of this home, when prayer with thanksgiving and supplication shall be offered, that they may receive from Your hand such things as are necessary. Also, that as Your servants study and search Your Word, that divine illumination for life and duty may be given as in Your infinite wisdom You shall see to be most expedient for them.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Savior. Amen.

(Then the district superintendent shall address the congregation, saying:)

I now declare this house duly set apart as the residence of the pastor of the _____ Wesleyan Church.

(Then the district superintendent or other appointed minister shall pronounce the benediction:)

The Lord bless you, and keep you: the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

PART 11

FORMS

Chapter 1

CHURCH LETTERS

A. Letter of Membership Transfer

6000. Letter Sent by Church Granting Transfer to Another Wesleyan Church (cf. 575–580).

To the pastor and secretary of the _____ Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that _____ is a member in good standing in the _____ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of transferring membership to your church, is hereby transferred and commended to your care and fellowship.

By authority and in behalf of the _____ Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

(The member's relationship at the church granting the letter continues until the member is duly received by the church to which the member is being transferred.)

6010. Acknowledgment Sent by Receiving Church (cf. 575).

To the pastor and secretary of the _____ Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that _____, for whom you issued a letter of transfer dated the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____, has been duly received by the _____ Wesleyan Church on the _____

day of _____, A.D. _____, and we send you this acknowledgment in order that you may complete your record of this transfer.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

6020. Notice Sent to Member Being Transferred.

We have on this date, the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____, issued a letter of transfer of your membership to the _____ Wesleyan Church, commending you to its care and fellowship. May the Lord bless you in your new relationship.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

B. Letter of Recommendation for a Member

6030. Letter Given to Person Desiring to Transfer to Another Denomination (cf. 590).

This certifies that _____, the bearer, has been up to this date an acceptable member of the _____ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of removing from said church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

By authority and in behalf of the _____ Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

(It is understood that this letter of recommendation terminates the bearer's membership in The Wesleyan Church immediately.)

C. Letter of Membership Withdrawal

6040. Letter Given to Person Desiring to Withdraw from the Church (cf. 592; 5048).

This certifies that _____, the bearer, has been up to this date a member of the _____ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of withdrawing from said Church, is hereby declared to be withdrawn.

By authority and in behalf of the _____ Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

(It is understood that this letter of withdrawal terminates the bearer's membership in The Wesleyan Church immediately.)

D. Member Certificates

6050. Membership Covenant (cf. 553)

In becoming a member of The Wesleyan Church, I affirm the following:

- That I have been born again, having repented of my sins and found personal assurance of salvation through trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior.
- That I have received the sacrament of baptism since becoming a Christian or have personally affirmed the act of others on my behalf when I was baptized as an infant.
- That I will commit to pursue holiness in all things.
- That I accept and agree to abide by the Articles of Religion and the Elementary Principles as my standards of biblical doctrine and personal conduct, and I accept the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government.
- That I commit to live out the mission and vision of The Wesleyan Church through a discipling relationship within the local church.
- That I commit myself to support the Church, to live in fellowship with its members, and to seek God's glory in all things.

Signature

Date

Local Church Name**6052. Certificate of Membership** (cf. 553.4)

This is to certify that _____ has publicly confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and has been received as a member of The Wesleyan Church and locally of the _____ in _____ on this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary**E. Student Membership Certificate****6070. Certificate of Student Membership** (cf. 564–565)

This is to certify that _____ has publicly confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and has been received as a student member of The Wesleyan Church and locally of the _____ in _____ on this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

Chapter 2

SERVICE CREDENTIALS

A. Ministerial Credentials

6200. Lay Minister's License (cf. 3410).

This certifies that _____, having been duly examined concerning _____ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby licensed according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church as a lay minister, for one year, provided that _____ spirit, practice, and teachings are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of _____ Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

(This license may be renewed annually, and when so renewed, notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the pastor and the local church secretary.)

6220. Lay Minister's Letter of Standing (cf. 3440:3).

This certifies that _____ has been up to this date a lay minister in good standing in the _____ Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of transferring _____ membership from this church, is granted this letter of standing to recommend _____ to whomever it may concern as a person worthy of consideration for license as a lay minister.

By the authority and in behalf of the _____ Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

6240. Certificate of Authorization as a Supply Pastor (cf. 3260).

This certifies that _____ has been appointed on a temporary basis as a supply pastor of the _____ Wesleyan Church, and is hereby authorized to fill its pulpit, to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation, and to perform such other duties as shall be authorized by the district superintendent.

By the authority and in behalf of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

6250. Certificate of Authorization as an Interim Pastor (cf. 3261).

This certifies that _____ has been appointed on a temporary basis as an interim pastor of the _____ Wesleyan Church, and is hereby authorized to fill its pulpit, to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation, and to perform such other duties as shall be authorized by the district superintendent.

By the authority and in behalf of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

6260. District License (cf. 3015:1, 5b; 3033:9).

This certifies that _____, having been duly examined concerning _____ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made a _____* according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, for one year, provided that _____ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

By order and on behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

 District Superintendent

 District Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, namely licensed minister or ministerial student. This license may be renewed annually; and when so renewed notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the district superintendent and the district secretary.)

6280. Commission Certificate for a Minister (cf. 3059:1).

This certifies that _____, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the _____ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of hands and prayer, to service as a commissioned minister in The Wesleyan Church so long as _____ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*, and _____ is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to solemnize matrimony, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God's heritage, but as being an example to the same.

By the order and in behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

 General Superintendent

 District Superintendent

 District Secretary

(The following may be placed on front or back of certificate.)

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a currently dated pocket certificate of standing.

6300. Certificate of Ordination (cf. 3070).

This certifies that _____, having been judged worthy and well

qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the _____ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of hands and prayer, to the office and work of an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church so long as _____ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*, and is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to solemnize matrimony, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God's heritage, but as being an example to the same.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

General Superintendent

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(The following may be placed on front or back of certificate.)

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a currently dated pocket certificate of standing.

6320. Certificate of Validation for Minister Transferring from Another Denomination (cf. 3104).

This certifies that the _____ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church, having examined the credentials of _____, a(n) _____* of the _____ Church, and having received other testimonials of _____ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being satisfied that _____ is a person worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, has this day accepted and recognized _____ in due form as a(n) _____* in The Wesleyan Church, entitled to exercise under its authority all the functions pertaining to a(n) _____* so long as _____ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

 General Superintendent

 District Superintendent

 District Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, namely ordained minister, commissioned minister or licensed minister.)

6340. General Evangelist's Certificate (cf. 3285).

This certifies that _____, a(n) _____* of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, having been appointed by the district to the work of evangelism and being recommended by that district as a person qualified for such service to the Church at large, is hereby authorized to exercise the ministry of a general evangelist for one year from the date hereto affixed and is recommended to all whom it may concern for employment as an evangelist.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

 Executive Director of
 Church Multiplication and
 Discipleship

 District Superintendent

 District Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, namely ordained minister or commissioned minister.)

(This certificate may be renewed annually; and when so renewed, notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the district superintendent and the district secretary.)

B. Special Worker's Credentials

6360. Special Worker's License (cf. 3460).

This certifies that _____, having been duly examined concerning _____ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified

for such service, is hereby made a licensed special worker according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church, and is authorized to serve as a _____* for one year, provided that _____ spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, such as director of music, director of spiritual formation, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist or social worker.)

(This license may be renewed annually; and when so renewed, notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the district superintendent and the district secretary.)

6380. Special Worker's Commission (cf. 3470).

This certifies that _____ has this day been consecrated according to the usages of The Wesleyan Church to service as a commissioned special worker, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such service, and this commission shall recommend _____ to all whom it may concern as a proper person to do the work of a _____* so long as _____ spirit, practice, and service are in keeping with the Scriptures and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*, and _____ continues to be actively engaged in such work.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

General Superintendent

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, such as director of music, director of spiritual formation, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist or social worker.)

6400. Lay Missionary's Commission (cf. 3490).

This certifies that _____ has been appointed by the General Board of The Wesleyan Church to service as a lay missionary under the direction of the _____ Division,* that _____ has been consecrated to such service by the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, and that this commission shall remain in effect throughout _____ period of service under such appointment and direction as listed on the reverse side of this commission.

By order and in behalf of the district conference of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

General Superintendent

District Superintendent

District Secretary

(*Global Partners or Church Multiplication and Discipleship.)

(This certificate may be renewed annually; and when so renewed, notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the district superintendent and the district secretary.)

C. General Credentials

6410. Course of Study Certificate (cf. 3033:3; 3040:2; 3070:3; 3170; 3200; 3470).

This certifies that _____, has completed the Course of Study for _____* authorized in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* and provided by the General Board, or the equivalent of said Course, having satisfactorily passed examination in each subject.

In testimony whereof, we have herewith set our hand, the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Director of Ministerial Study Course Agency

(*Insert the name of the particular Course of Study, namely that of lay minister, pre-ordination, ministers of music, ministers of spiritual formation, special workers, directors of music, directors of Christian education, evangelistic singers, children's workers, spouses in ministry, lay evangelists or social workers.)

6420. Recommendation for District License (cf. 3015:1; 3033:4; 3410; 3460).

This certifies that _____, a member with leadership qualifications in good standing of the _____ Wesleyan Church, is hereby recommended by _____ local church conference to the _____ District Conference of The Wesleyan Church as having the gifts, graces, usefulness, and other qualifications necessary for district authorization to serve as a _____*.

By order and in behalf of the local church conference of the _____ Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

Pastor

Local Church Secretary

(*Insert the proper term, namely ministerial student, licensed minister or licensed special worker. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker—director of music, director of spiritual formation, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist or social worker.)

6430. Pocket Certificate of Standing (cf. 3015:5b; 3055:2; 3059:4b; 3089:2).

This certifies that _____ was, on this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____, a(n) _____* in good standing of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church.

District Secretary

Valid only for one year, and only when signed by the secretary.

(*Insert the proper term such as ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, ministerial student, commissioned special worker or licensed special worker.)

6440. District Letter of Transfer (cf. 3100:1; 3480).

To the superintendent of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that _____ is a(n) _____* in good standing in the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, and,

having requested a transfer, is hereby transferred and recommended to your district, subject to the action of said district.

By the authority and in behalf of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

District Superintendent

The person for whom the letter is granted shall continue as a member of the district granting the letter until the district receiving the letter replies on form 6450.

(*Insert the proper term, namely appointed ordained minister, ordained minister on reserve, ordained minister on educational leave, retired ordained minister, ordained minister without appointment, commissioned minister, licensed minister, ministerial student, commissioned special worker or licensed special worker. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker—director of music, director of spiritual formation, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist or social worker. If the person being transferred is a licensed minister or licensed special worker, the transfer is not valid unless accompanied by a properly attested statement of standing in the course of study and of the person's service record in the district.)

6450. Acknowledgment of District Letter of Transfer (cf. 3100:1; 3480).

To the superintendent of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church.

This certifies that _____, for whom you issued a letter of transfer as a(n) _____* dated the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____, has been duly enrolled by the District as a(n) _____*, the transfer having been completed on the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____, and we send you this acknowledgment in order that you may complete your record of the transfer.

By the authority and in behalf of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

District Superintendent

(*Insert the proper term, namely appointed ordained minister, ordained minister on reserve, ordained minister on educational leave, retired ordained minister, ordained minister without appointment, commissioned minister, licensed minister, ministerial student, commissioned special worker or licensed special worker. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker—director of music, director of spiritual formation, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist or social worker.)

6460. District Letter of Standing (cf. 3100:3; 3480).

This certifies that _____ has been up to this date a(n) _____* in good standing in the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, and being desirous of removing from The Wesleyan Church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this letter may be presented.

By the authority and in behalf of _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, this _____ day of _____, A.D. _____.

District Superintendent

It is understood that this letter terminates immediately any relationship the bearer may have had to The Wesleyan Church as a minister or special worker.

(*Insert the proper term, namely ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, ministerial student, commissioned special worker or licensed special worker. If licensed special worker, add the particular type of service, such as licensed special worker—director of music, director of spiritual formation, youth director, song evangelist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist or social worker.)

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

CHARTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Revised and Adopted by the International Conference
of The Wesleyan Church, January 28, 2012.*

6500. Preamble. There shall be an International Conference of The Wesleyan Church for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church, coordinating the activities of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, addressing global concerns, promoting closer fellowship and mutual understanding, and providing a means for joint planning and cooperative action among all units and general conferences of The Wesleyan Church. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall consist of those bodies which have originated in or which have joined with The Wesleyan Church and that adhere to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and other provisions of its Charter. Provision may also be made for associate members to be received which have not originated in or joined with The Wesleyan Church, but which are in harmony with The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.

6502. Organization and Governance. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall function through its quadrennial sessions composed of representatives from each General Conference, each Established National/Regional Conference and mission units functioning under a General Conference missions department. The number of representatives from each unit shall be determined according to the number of members, with due regard to the principle of lay representation. In the interim of International Conference sessions, it shall function through the International Board. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall be organized and governed in accord with its Charter.

6504. Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

6505. Article 2. Purpose. The International Conference shall give spiritual and ecclesiastical oversight to The Wesleyan Church worldwide by:

(1) Providing a forum for the development of a global vision, strategy, and coordination of Wesleyan ministries around the world.

(2) Speaking to the global issues affecting the International Church, including evangelism, education, and compassion ministries.

(3) Maintaining compliance to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.

(4) Providing time for celebration, worship, and world recognition of the advancement and challenges of the International Church.

(5) Granting approval for an Established National/Regional Conference to move to full General Conference status.

(6) Granting approval for mission units or National/Regional Church Conferences to advance to Established National/ Regional Conference status.

6510. Article 3. Membership.

Membership Categories

(1) The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall make provision for full members and associate members.

(2) **Full Members.** Full members shall be as follows:

(a) They shall consist of those bodies which have originated in or which have joined The Wesleyan Church which adhere to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and subscribe to the Charter and other provisions of The International Conference.

(b) A church body which has not originated in but wishes to join The Wesleyan Church, if it is deemed by The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church to qualify for full standing as a General Conference and if it agrees to adhere to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, may be received by majority vote of The International Conference.

(c) A church body which has not originated in but wishes to join The Wesleyan Church, if it is deemed by The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church not to qualify for General Conference status, may be directed by The International Conference or the International Board to join a member General Conference.

(3) **Associate Members.** Associate members shall consist of church bodies of comparable General Conference status which have not originated in or joined The Wesleyan Church. An associate member shall be in harmony with The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, shall subscribe to other provisions of The International Conference and shall be received by majority vote of The International Conference. Associate members shall have a voice but no vote at the International Conference.

(4) Full and associate members shall meet the financial obligations of membership as determined by The International Conference. Failure to pay

membership assessment will put membership status on probation. Members who are on probation will receive no assistance on expenses for The International Conference but will have a voice and no vote.

Membership Status

6515. There shall be three ranks of membership: General Conferences, Established National/Regional Conferences, and mission units.

(1) A General Conference is a body that has full authority over the Church in its assigned territory, in keeping with the provisions of The International Conference. A General Conference has the right to manage its own internal governance, including revising its Discipline, as long as it does not violate The Essentials.

(2) An Established National/Regional Conference is a body which has originated in or joined one of the General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church and which has been authorized by its General Conference and approved by The International Conference to have a defined autonomy on the grounds that the following requirements have been satisfied:

(a) An effective church organization on the local, district, and/or national/regional levels.

(b) Effective programs for the nurture and training of members, new converts, children, young people, and lay workers.

(c) An effective program for ministerial training.

(d) Evidence of responsible stewardship of life and possessions, including the proper management of funds and the provision for the support of its own pastors, workers, and officers.

(e) A defined and operational program of evangelism, church planting, and cross-cultural mission outreach.

(f) The existence of a functioning property-holding body, or more than one such body if required by local laws.

(g) Agreement to adhere to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.

(h) A Discipline as approved by the founding General Conference.

(i) An Established National/Regional Conference has “defined autonomy,” the right to manage its own internal governance which includes revising its Discipline, with the exception of Membership Requirements, as long as it does not violate The Essentials. An Established National/Regional Conference remains in relationship with the General Conference that founded it, the General Superintendent of the founding conference has a continuing role as mentor/coach and

participation in the National/Regional Conference. Proposed changes in the Membership Requirements of an Established National/Regional Conference must be approved by the International Board. An Established National/Regional Conference may be advanced to the status of a General Conference by The International Conference, upon authorization from the originating/initiating General Conference.

(3) Mission units shall be bodies such as national or regional multi-district conferences, established districts, provisional districts, or pioneer districts functioning under a missions department of a General Conference. Church governance and policy is administered through the Discipline provisions of said General Conference.

6516. Criteria for Advancement to Established National/Regional Conference Status. In addition to the recommendation of the supervising General Conference to the International Board, the following is a checklist of documentation that must accompany any application for advancement of a mission unit or other body to Established National/Regional Conference status. It is to be understood that these criteria will be used for a comprehensive review and composite evaluation of each application. Therefore, it is the overall strength that is being assessed rather than a rigid focus on each criterion. An applicant may request an exception on a specific requirement for cause.

(1) Effective church organization on local, district and/or national/ regional levels demonstrated by:

(a) An organized district or national structure

(b) A minimum of 40 fully organized or established local churches (not counting preaching points or missions)

(c) A minimum of 2,000 full members

(d) Sufficient number of ordained ministers to support district and/or national/regional levels of administration

(e) A process for collection of local church statistical data

(2) Effective program of discipleship and membership training demonstrated by:

(a) Curricula for discipleship, lay leadership, and membership training systems that reflect commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology

(b) Active delivery systems for discipleship, lay leadership, and membership training

(3) Effective program of ministerial education demonstrated by:

(a) An approved curriculum or standards for ministerial education leading to ordination and reflecting commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology

- (b) A delivery system for ministerial education, such as a Bible school, theological institute, college, university or seminary; a program of ministerial education conducted in cooperation with another denomination or consortium; a non-residential ministerial training program; a properly supervised correspondence or Internet-based training program
- (4) Evidence of responsible stewardship demonstrated by:
- (a) A self-supporting system for financing the district and/or national/regional administration
 - (b) Properly approved annual budgets for district and/or national/regional administration
 - (c) Annually audited financial reports for district and/or national/regional conferences
- (5) Defined and operational programs of evangelism, church planting, and cross-cultural mission outreach demonstrated by:
- (a) An operational cross-cultural outreach strategy (if feasible)
 - (b) A process for annual reporting of conversions and baptisms
 - (c) An on-going strategy and track record of church planting
- (6) Functioning property-holding body(ies) per local laws demonstrated by:
- (a) Directory information providing the legal name(s) of each such body
 - (b) A copy of by-laws or official registration(s) identifying each such body
- (7) Adherence to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, demonstrated by a covenant of adherence to The Essentials signed by all the members of the highest governing board of the national/regional entity
- (8) A *Discipline* approved by the supervising General Conference

6517. Criteria for Advancement to General Conference Status. An Established National/Regional Conference may appeal to the International Conference to be advanced to General Conference status, provided the following conditions have been met and a checklist of documentation accompany any application for such advancement. It is understood that these criteria will be used for a comprehensive review and composite evaluation of each application. Therefore, it is the overall strength that is being assessed rather than a rigid focus on each criterion. An applicant may request an exception on a specific requirement for cause.

- (1) Effective church organization on local, district, and general levels demonstrated by:
- (a) An organized district and general conference structure.
 - (b) A minimum of 200 fully organized or established churches (not counting preaching points or missions).

- (c) A minimum of 15,000 full members.
- (d) Sufficient number of ordained ministers to support district and general conference levels of administration.
- (2) Effective program of discipleship, membership training, and leadership development demonstrated by:
 - (a) Curricula for discipleship, lay leadership, membership-training systems that reflect commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology.
 - (b) Active delivery systems for discipleship, lay leadership, and membership training.
- (3) Effective program of ministerial education demonstrated by:
 - (a) An accredited Bible or liberal arts college.
 - (b) An approved curriculum and standards for ministerial education leading to ordination and reflecting commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology.
- (4) Evidence of responsible stewardship demonstrated by:
 - (a) A self-supporting system for financing each of the districts and the general conference administration.
 - (b) Properly approved annual budgets for each district and the general conference administration.
 - (c) A general conference budget committee.
 - (d) Annual externally audited financial reports for the districts and for the general conference.
- (5) Defined and operational programs of evangelism, church planting, education, spiritual formation, cross-cultural mission outreach demonstrated by:
 - (a) An operational cross-cultural outreach strategy.
 - (b) A ministry in other countries beyond the nation or region defined by the general conference.
 - (c) A process for annual reporting of conversions and baptisms.
 - (d) An on-going strategy and record of accomplishment of church planting.
- (6) Functioning property holding body(ies) per local, area, and national laws, demonstrated by:
 - (a) Directory information providing the legal name(s) of each such body.
 - (b) A copy of by-laws or official registration(s) identifying each such body.
- (7) Adherence to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, demonstrated by a covenant of adherence to The Essentials signed by all the members of the governing body of the general conference.

(8) A *Discipline* that has been approved by the originating General Conference with required subsequent approvals by the International Conference.

THE ESSENTIALS

6520. Article 4. *The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.*

(1) **Statement of Definition and Purpose.** The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church consist of an historic statement of faith and practice. Each general conference of The Wesleyan Church must subscribe to the Essentials. While each general conference is free to express its beliefs and practices in the terms most meaningful to its immediate mission and culture, it shall not in its constitution, articles of religion, or discipline contravene or contradict any provision of the Essentials.

(2) **Statement of Faith.**

Articles of Religion

1. Faith in the Holy Trinity

6530. We believe in the one living and true God, both holy and loving, eternal, unlimited in power, wisdom, and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things. Within this unity there are three persons of one essential nature, power and eternity — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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

2. The Father

6540. We believe the Father is the Source of all that exists, whether of matter or spirit. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, He made man, male and female, in His image. By intention He relates to people as Father, thereby forever declaring His goodwill toward them. In love, He both seeks and receives penitent sinners.

Ps. 68:5; Isa. 64:8; Matt. 7:11; John 3:17; Rom. 8:15; 1 Peter 1:17.

3. *The Son of God*

6550. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. He died on the cross and was buried, to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for all human transgressions, and to reconcile us to God. Christ rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and there intercedes for us at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all humanity at the last day.

Ps. 16:8–10; Matt. 1:21, 23; 11:27; 16:28; 27:62–66; 28:5–9, 16–17; Mark 10:45; 15; 16:6–7; Luke 1:27, 31, 35; 24:4–8, 23; John 1:1, 14, 18; 3:16–17; 20:26–29; 21; Acts 1:2–3; 2:24–31; 4:12; 10:40; Rom. 5:10, 18; 8:34; 14:9; 1 Cor. 15:3–8, 14; 2 Cor. 5:18–19; Gal. 1:4; 2:20; 4:4–5; Eph. 5:2; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb 2:17; 7:27; 9:14, 28; 10:12; 13:20; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2; 4:14.

4. *The Holy Spirit*

6560. We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is of the same essential nature, majesty, and glory, as the Father and the Son, truly and eternally God. He is the Administrator of grace to all, and is particularly the effective Agent in conviction for sin, in regeneration, in sanctification, and in glorification. He is ever present, assuring, preserving, guiding, and enabling the believer.

Job 33:4; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; 14:16–17; 15:26; 16:13–15; Acts 5:3–4; Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 4:6.

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

6570. We believe that the books of the Old and New Testaments constitute the Holy Scriptures. They are the inspired and infallibly written Word of God, fully inerrant in their original manuscripts and superior to all human authority, and have been transmitted to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine. We believe that they contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved

thereby, is not to be required of any man or woman that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. Both in the Old and New Testaments life is offered ultimately through Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and humanity. The New Testament teaches Christians how to fulfill the moral principles of the Old Testament, calling for loving obedience to God made possible by the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit.

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

The canonical books of the New Testament are:

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude and Revelation.

Ps. 19:7; Matt. 5:17–19; 22:37–40; Luke 24:27, 44; John 1:45; 5:46; 17:17; Acts 17:2, 11; Rom. 1:2; 15:4, 8; 16:26; 2 Cor. 1:20; Gal. 1:8; Eph. 2:15–16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 2 Tim. 3:15–17; Heb. 4:12; 10:1; 11:39; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 1 John 2:3–7; Rev. 22:18–19.

6. God's Purpose for Humanity

6580. We believe that the two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbors as ourselves, summarize the divine law as it is revealed in the Scriptures. They are the perfect measure and norm of human duty, both for the ordering and directing of families and nations, and all other social bodies, and for individual acts, by which we are required to acknowledge God as our only Supreme Ruler, and all persons as created by Him, equal in all natural rights. Therefore all persons should so order all their individual, social, and political acts as to give to God entire and absolute obedience, and to assure to all the enjoyment of every natural right, as well as to promote the fulfillment of each in the possession and exercise of such rights.

Lev. 19:18, 34; Deut. 1:16–17; Job 31:13–14; Jer. 21:12; 22:3; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:44–48; 7:12; Mark 12:28–31; Luke 6:27–29, 35; John 13:34–35; Acts 10:34–35; 17:26; Rom. 12:9; 13:1, 7–8, 10; Gal. 5:14; 6:10; Titus 3:1; James 2:8; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 2:5; 4:12–13; 2 John 6.

7. Marriage and the Family

6590. We believe that every person is created in the image of God, that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, fellowship, subordination of the self to the larger whole, and fulfillment. God's Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing the truth that that relationship is of one God with one people. Therefore God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship.

Gen. 1:27–28; 2:18, 20, 23–24; Isa. 54:4–8; 62:5b; Jer. 3:14; Ezek. 16:3ff.; Hosea 2; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 19:4–6; Mark 10:9; John 2:1–2, 11; 1 Cor. 9:5; Eph. 5:23–32; 1 Tim. 5:14; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 19:7–8.

8. Personal Choice

6600. We believe that humanity's creation in the image of God included ability to choose between right and wrong. Thus individuals were made morally responsible for their choices. But since the fall of Adam, people are unable in their own strength to do the right. This is due to original sin, which is not simply the following of Adam's example, but rather the corruption of the nature of each mortal, and is reproduced naturally in Adam's descendants. Because of it, humans are very far gone from original righteousness, and by nature are continually inclined to evil. They cannot of themselves even call upon God or exercise faith for salvation. But through Jesus Christ the prevenient grace of God makes possible what humans in self effort cannot do. It is bestowed freely upon all, enabling all who will to turn and be saved.

Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 20:40; Ps. 51:5; Isa. 64:6; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21–23; Luke 16:15; John 7:17; Rom. 3:10–12; 5:12–21; 1 Cor. 15:22; Eph. 2:1–3; 1 Tim. 2:5; Titus 3:5; Heb. 11:6; Rev. 22:17.

9. The Atonement

6610. We believe that Christ's offering of himself, once and for all, through His sufferings and meritorious death on the cross, provides the perfect redemption and atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual. There is no other ground of salvation from sin but that alone. This atonement is sufficient for every individual of Adam's race. It is unconditionally effective in the salvation of those mentally incompetent from birth, of those converted persons who have become mentally incompetent, and of children under the age of accountability. But it is effective for the salvation of those who reach the age of accountability only when they repent and exercise faith in Christ.

Isa. 52:13—53:12; Luke 24:46–47; John 3:16; Acts 3:18; 4:12; Rom. 3:20, 24–26; 5:8–11, 13, 18–20; 7:7; 8:34; 1 Cor. 6:11; 15:22; Gal. 2:16; 3:2–3; Eph. 1:7; 2:13, 16; 1 Tim. 2:5–6; Heb. 7:23–27; 9:11–15, 24–28; 10:14; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.

10. Repentance and Faith

6620. We believe that for men and women to appropriate what God's prevent grace has made possible, they must voluntarily respond in repentance and faith. The ability comes from God, but the act is the individual's.

Repentance is prompted by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. It involves a willful change of mind that renounces sin and longs for righteousness, a godly sorrow for and a confession of past sins, proper restitution for wrongdoings, and a resolution to reform the life. Repentance is the precondition for saving faith, and without it saving faith is impossible. Faith, in turn, is the only condition of salvation. It begins in the agreement of the mind and the consent of the will to the truth of the gospel, but issues in a complete reliance by the whole person in the saving ability of Jesus Christ and a complete trusting of oneself to Him as Savior and Lord. Saving faith is expressed in a public acknowledgment of His Lordship and an identification with His church.

Mark 1:15; Luke 5:32; 13:3; 24:47; John 3:16; 17:20; 20:31; Acts 5:31; 10:43; 11:18; 16:31; 20:21; 26:20; Rom. 1:16; 2:4; 10:8–10, 17; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:8; 4:4–6; Phil. 3:9; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:25; Heb. 11:6; 12:2; 1 Peter 1:9; 2 Peter 3:9.

11. Justification, Regeneration and Adoption

6630. We believe that when one repents of personal sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, that at the same moment that person is justified, regenerated, adopted into the family of God, and assured of personal salvation through the witness of the Spirit.

We believe that we are accounted righteous before God only on the basis of the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, being justified by faith alone, and not on the basis of our own works.

We believe that regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the pardoned sinner becomes a child of God. This new life is received through faith in Jesus Christ, and by it the regenerate are delivered from the power of sin which reigns over all the unregenerate, so that they love God and through grace serve Him with the will and affections of the heart, receiving the Spirit of Adoption.

Justification: Hab. 2:4; Acts 13:38–39; 15:11; 16:31; Rom. 1:17; 3:28; 4:2–5; 5:1–2; Gal. 3:6–14; Eph. 2:8–9; Phil 3:9; Heb. 10:38.

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

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

Witness of the Spirit: Rom. 8:16–17; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 2:3; 3:14, 18–19.

12. Good Works

6640. We believe that although good works cannot save us from our sins or from God's judgment, they are the fruit of faith and follow after regeneration. Therefore they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and by them a living faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

Matt. 5:16; 7:16–20; John 15:8; Rom 3:20; 4:2, 4, 6; Gal. 2:16; 5:6; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 1:3; Titus 2:14; 3:5; James 2:18, 22; 1 Peter 2:9, 12.

13. Sin After Regeneration

6650. We believe that after we have experienced regeneration, it is possible to fall into sin, for in this life there is no such height or strength of holiness from which it is impossible to fall. But by the grace of God one who has fallen into sin may by true repentance and faith find forgiveness and restoration.

Mal. 3:7; Matt. 18:21–22; John 15:4–6; 1 Tim. 4:1, 16; Heb. 10:35–39; 1 John 1:9; 2:1, 24–25.

14. Sanctification: Initial, Progressive, Entire

6655. We believe that sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is separated from sin unto God and is enabled to love God with all the heart and to walk in all His holy commandments blameless. Sanctification is initiated at the moment of justification and regeneration. From that moment there is a gradual or progressive sanctification as the believer walks with God and daily grows in grace and in a more perfect obedience to God. This prepares for the crisis of entire sanctification which is wrought instantaneously when believers present themselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, through faith in Jesus Christ, being effected by the baptism with the Holy Spirit who cleanses the heart from all inbred sin. The crisis of entire sanctification perfects the believer in love and empowers that person for effective service. It is followed by lifelong growth in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The life of holiness continues through faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ and evidences itself by loving obedience to God's revealed will.

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

15. The Gifts of the Spirit

6670. We believe that the Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit himself, and He is to be desired more than the gifts of the Spirit which He in His wise

counsel bestows upon individual members of the Church to enable them properly to fulfill their function as members of the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit, although not always identifiable with natural abilities, function through them for the edification of the whole church. These gifts are to be exercised in love under the administration of the Lord of the church, not through human volition. The relative value of the gifts of the Spirit is to be tested by their usefulness in the church and not by the ecstasy produced in the ones receiving them.

**Luke 11:13; 24:49; Acts 1:4; 2:38–39; 8:19–20; 10:45; 11:17;
Rom. 12:4–8; 1 Cor. 12:1–14:40; Eph. 4:7–8, 11–16; Heb. 2:4;
13:20–21; 1 Peter 4:8–11.**

16. The Church

6680. We believe that the Christian church is the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ, who is the founder and only Head of the church. The church includes both those believers who have gone to be with the Lord and those who remain on the earth, having renounced the world, the flesh, and the devil, and having dedicated themselves to the work which Christ committed unto His church until He comes. The church on earth is to preach the pure Word of God, properly administer the sacraments according to Christ's instructions, and live in obedience to all that Christ commands. A local church is a body of believers formally organized on gospel principles, meeting regularly for the purposes of evangelism, nurture, fellowship, and worship. The Wesleyan Church is a denomination consisting of those members within district conferences and local churches who, as members of the body of Christ, hold the faith set forth in these Articles of Religion and acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of its governing bodies.

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

17. The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

6690. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of the church commanded by Christ and ordained as a means of grace when received through faith. They are tokens of our profession of

Christian faith and signs of God's gracious ministry toward us. By them, He works within us to quicken, strengthen, and confirm our faith.

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

**Matt. 3:13–17; 28:19; Mark 1:9–11; John 3:5, 22, 26; 4:1–2;
Acts 2:38–39, 41; 8:12–17, 36–38; 9:18; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5;
22:16; Rom 2:28–29; 4:11; 6:3–4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27–29;
Col. 2:11–12; Titus 3:5.**

6700. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death and of our hope in His victorious return, as well as a sign of the love that Christians have for each other. To such as receive it humbly, with a proper spirit and by faith, the Lord's Supper is made a means through which God communicates grace to the heart.

**Matt. 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; John
6:48–58; 1 Cor. 5:7–8; 10:3–4, 16–17; 11:23–29.**

18. The Second Coming of Christ

6705. We believe that the certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world. At His return He will fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil.

**Job 19:25–27; Isa. 11:1–12; Zech. 14:1–11; Matt. 24:1–51; 25;
26:64; Mark 13:1–37; Luke 17:22–37; 21:5–36; John 14:1–3;
Acts 1:6–11; 1 Cor. 1:7–8; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13–18;
5:1–11, 23; 2 Thess. 1:6–10; 2:1–12; Titus 2:11–14; Heb.
9:27–28; James 5:7–8; 2 Peter 3:1–14; 1 John 3:2–3; Rev.
1:7; 19:11–16; 22:6–7, 12, 20.**

19. The Resurrection of the Dead

6710. We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead of all people—of the just unto the resurrection of life, and of the unjust unto the resurrection

of damnation. The resurrection of the righteous dead will occur at Christ's Second Coming, and the resurrection of the wicked will occur at a later time. The resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of the resurrection of those who are in Christ. The raised body will be a spiritual body, but the person will be whole and identifiable.

Job 19:25–27; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 22:30–32; 28:1–20; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 14:14; 24:1–53; John 5:28–29; 11:21–27; 20:1–21:25; Acts 1:3; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:1–58; 2 Cor. 4:14; 5:1–11; 1 Thess. 4:13–17; Rev. 20:4–6, 11–13.

20. The Judgment of All Persons

6715. We believe that the Scriptures reveal God as the Judge of all and the acts of His judgment are based on His omniscience and eternal justice. His administration of judgment will culminate in the final meeting of all persons before His throne of great majesty and power, where records will be examined and final rewards and punishments will be administered.

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

21. Destiny

6720. We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach that there is a conscious personal existence after death. The final destiny of each person is determined by God's grace and that person's response, evidenced inevitably by a moral character which results from that individual's personal and volitional choices and not from any arbitrary decree of God. Heaven with its eternal glory and the blessedness of Christ's presence is the final abode of those who choose the salvation which God provides through Jesus Christ, but hell with its everlasting misery and separation from God is the final abode of those who neglect this great salvation.

Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:34–46; Mark 9:43–48; Luke 13:3; John 8:21–23; 14:2–3; 2 Cor. 5:6, 8, 10; Heb. 2:1–3; 9:27–28; 10:26–31; Rev. 20:14–15; 21:1–22:5, 14–15.

6725. (3) Statement of Practice.

(a) Identification with the church. To be identified with an organized church is the blessed privilege and sacred duty of all who are saved from their sins, and are seeking completeness in Christ Jesus. From the church's beginnings in the New Testament age, it has been understood that such identification involves the putting off of the old patterns of conduct and the putting on of the mind of Christ, and a unity of witness and worship.

(b) Biblical principles. In maintaining the Christian concept of a transformed life, The Wesleyan Church intends to relate timeless biblical principles to the conditions of contemporary society in such a way as to respect the integrity of the individual believer, yet maintain the purity of the church and the effectiveness of its witness. This is done in the conviction that there is validity in the concept of the collective Christian conscience as illuminated and guided by the Holy Spirit. While variations in culture may require variations in which the transformed life is evident or demonstrated, each general conference of The Wesleyan Church will be expected to adopt guidelines for its members providing for such evidence and demonstration in conformity with biblical principles.

(c) Worship and language. The Wesleyan Church believes in the miraculous use of languages and the interpretation of languages in its biblical and historical setting. But it is contrary to the Word of God to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or the gift of tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit or of that entire sanctification which the baptism accomplishes; therefore, only a language readily understood by the congregation is to be used in public worship. The Wesleyan Church believes that the use of an ecstatic prayer language has no clear scriptural sanction, or any pattern of established historical usage in the Church; therefore, the use of such a prayer language shall not be promoted among us.

6730. (4) Statement of Relationship. The unity of The Wesleyan Church worldwide shall be recognized and maintained in the following:

(a) The right of a member or minister to transfer from one unit (General Conference, Established National/ Regional Conference, regional/national church) to any other such unit of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, with the understanding that consideration must be given to differences in requirements for licensing and ordination of ministers as provided for in the various disciplines of units worldwide.

(b) The right of a member or minister to election to office in any unit (as defined in Article 4:4a) of The Wesleyan Church worldwide provided that the qualifications of said office are met, with the understanding that the right to hold such office shall be subject to the transfer of church membership to the unit within which the election occurs and subject to *The Discipline* governing that unit.

(c) The right of any member body which has not reached the status of a fully established general conference to participate with full or partial powers through its duly elected representatives in the respective general conference to which it relates.

(This concludes *The Essentials* of The Wesleyan Church)

6735. Article 5. International Conference. The International Conference shall be comprised of delegates from Wesleyan General Conferences and Established National/Regional Conferences on a ratio of one ministerial and one lay representative for every 7,000 covenant/full members or major portion thereof, up to a maximum of 20 delegates from any General Conference. Established National/Regional Conferences not at the above numerical levels of organization shall be represented at the International Conference by the minister holding the highest Established National/Regional Church office and one lay member provided that all membership and financial obligations have been met. Mission units under the supervision of a Wesleyan General Conference that have not yet attained Established National/Regional Conference status with more than 2,000 covenant/full members shall have one ministerial and one lay representative with votes. Mission units with less than 2,000 but more than 200 full members shall have one ministerial or lay delegate with a vote. Mission units under any General Conference which have less than 200 members may be represented at the International Conference by one national ministerial or lay representative with voice but no vote. Associate members shall have one representative at the International Conference with voice but no vote. Members of the International Board are voting members of the International Conference.

6740. Article 6. Officers.

(1) The officers of the International Conference shall be the chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer. Members of the International Board of General Superintendents shall serve as chair and vice-chair of the International Conference. The General Director of Global Partners shall serve as treasurer of the International Conference. The chair, vice-chair, and secretary shall be

electd by the International Conference from among its own members. The officers shall take office at the adjournment of the International Conference session electing them and shall continue in office until the adjournment of the next regular session or until their successors are elected.

(2) The person elected to the office of chair shall not serve successive terms.

(3) A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the International Board.

(4) An executive secretary may be authorized by the International Board, which shall outline his/her duties.

(5) The International Conference may create and fill other offices as needed.

(6) The International Board shall be responsible for overseeing the budget for the International Conference and for planning all necessary details for convening and conducting the International Conference, including meeting notices, meeting site selection, travel instructions for representatives, and other logistics of the meeting.

6743. Article 7. Meetings and Agenda. The International Conference shall meet quadrennially. If practicable, it shall be held in conjunction with a meeting of one of the General Conferences. It shall be the responsibility of the International Board of the International Conference to arrange for its meeting, considering the cost of travel, entertainment, and the general interests of the International Wesleyan Church and its associate members. The International Board shall establish the agenda for the International Conference.

6745. Article 8. Powers and Duties. With full respect for the authority of the member General Conferences and Established National/Regional Conferences, the powers and duties of the International Conference shall be:

(1) To promote evangelism ministries around the world.

(2) To stimulate the deeper spiritual life of Wesleyans worldwide.

(3) To promote Wesleyan doctrines as set forth in *The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church*.

(4) To encourage development of each member body in support, government, and propagation.

(5) To conduct a study of world trends and opportunities with a view to release position statements and securing united Wesleyan action.

(6) To further mutual understanding of cultural, economic, political, and linguistic factors affecting the progress of the gospel.

(7) To receive reports from member conferences and other bodies, to evaluate the same and to make recommendations to the appropriate bodies.

(8) To receive from member General Conferences proposed amendments to the Essentials and direct the process for General Conferences to vote on proposed changes and report the results to the member conferences (cf. 6765:1). Established National/Regional Conferences and mission units may only submit recommended amendments to The Essentials through their initiating/supervising General Conference, which must also endorse the proposal.

(9) To review member bodies to maintain compliance with The Essentials.

(10) To approve advancement to General Conference status of an Established National/Regional Conference upon authorization of its initiating/supervising General Conference or to revoke by a two-thirds vote the status of an Established National/Regional Conference that no longer meets the agreed requirements and to refer it back to its initiating/supervising General Conference as a mission unit.

(11) To approve advancement of a mission unit to an Established National/Regional Conference status upon authorization of its initiating/supervising General Conference.

(12) To consider the special needs common to member bodies, to study and develop position statements on issues of global, moral, and social concerns, and make recommendations regarding the same to the appropriate bodies through their respective General Conference officers.

(13) To receive and to process new applications for membership.

(14) To organize area fellowships where geographic situation, mutual interest, and need for spiritual counsel and encouragement make it advisable.

6746. Resolutions and Voting. All legislative proposals intended for consideration by the International Conference, including proposed amendments to the International Charter, shall be designated as “resolutions.” Resolutions may be submitted by any General Conference, the General Board (or equivalent chief governing body) of a member General Conference, an Established National/Regional Conference, the chief governing body of a mission unit entitled to voting representation at the International Conference, the International Board, the International Board of General Superintendents, or any three members of the International Conference. Unless otherwise required by the International Charter, a majority of those members present and voting at the International Conference shall be sufficient to adopt any resolution or other motion.

6750. Article 9. International Board of The Wesleyan Church.

(1) **Meetings and Agenda.** The International Board shall meet in an organizing meeting immediately following the International Conference and

then again just prior to the next International Conference. The chair of the International Conference shall be the chair of the International Board. In case of emergency, exigency or special circumstances, the chair shall have authority to call additional meetings of the International Board in consultation with the International Board of General Superintendents. The International Board may meet by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means. The chair shall establish the agenda for all meetings of the International Board.

(2) **Membership.** Membership of the International Board shall be comprised of seven persons, consisting of one general superintendent from each General Conference (one of whom shall be elected as chair and another as vice-chair of the International Board and the International Conference), a treasurer (who shall be the General Director of Global Partners), a secretary, and two members-at-large to be elected by the International Conference from among any of its members who do not reside in the North American, Philippines, or the Caribbean General Conference.

(3) **Purpose.** The purpose of the International Board shall be to fulfill the interim functions, duties, and powers of the International Conference.

(4) **Quorum and Voting.** Unless otherwise required by the International Charter, a majority vote of all eligible members of the International Board shall be sufficient to approve any motion.

(5) **Duties and Powers.** The International Board shall have full authority to act on behalf of the International Conference in the interim of its sessions. It shall fulfill special assignments and transact any and all business referred to it by the International Conference, exercising all the normal duties and powers of the International Conference, except that the International Board may not conduct any business requiring more than a majority vote of the International Conference nor amend any Standing Rules of the International Conference. The International Board shall set the agenda for the International Conference. It may meet in person or by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means. The International Board shall meet at the call of the chair and the agenda shall be set by the chair.

6755. Article 10. Finance. The General Conferences and Established National/Regional Conferences shall assume financial responsibility for sending delegates to the International Conference. Travel expenses for all General Conference, Established National/Regional Conference and mission unit representatives to the International Conference are to be paid by the individual bodies. Hotel and meal costs on-site for all International Conference

representatives are to be paid by the International Conference. The cost of travel, lodging, and meals for International Board members attending International Board meetings will be paid by the International Conference.

6760. Article 11. International Board of General Superintendents.

The International Board of General Superintendents shall be comprised of all the General Superintendents of those world units which have achieved General Conference status. The International Board of General Superintendents shall meet at least once per quadrennium, select their own chair, and have provision for additional meetings should the International Board of General Superintendents deem necessary. The International Board of General Superintendents may meet by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means. The chair of the International Board of General Superintendents shall prepare the agenda for its meetings. The purpose of the International Board of General Superintendents is for communication, fellowship, and deepening relationships between senior leaders of the International Church as it relates to the Wesleyan strategy for worldwide evangelism and discipleship.

6763. Article 12. International Board of Appeals. The International Board of General Superintendents shall serve as the International Board of Appeals. Its duties shall be:

(1) To hear and determine any appeals from actions of any fully established General Conference as to its adherence to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church. If the International Board of Appeals shall find a General Conference in violation of The Essentials, that General Conference shall be expected to rescind the violating action. If it does not, the International Board of Appeals shall report its findings and the response to the International Board which shall have authority to expel the erring General Conference. At the discretion of the International Board of General Superintendents, it may provide for the reorganization of the loyal elements of The Wesleyan Church within the area of that General Conference and for the declaration that the other ministers and members are withdrawn from The Wesleyan Church.

(2) To review the adherence of associate members to the conditions of associate membership and to recommend to the International Board the termination of their membership if violation of these conditions persist.

(3) To adjudicate any problem that may arise between General Conferences involving boundaries or other matters of comity.

(4) The International Board of Appeals shall meet on a regular basis in conjunction with meetings of the International Board of General Superintendents. A special meeting may be called by the chair. The International Board of Appeals

may meet by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means.

6765. Article 13. Amendments.

(1) Amendments to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church in Article 4 must be approved by a two-thirds aggregate vote of all General Conferences who are members of the International Conference (cf. 6745:8).

(2) The Charter of the International Conference, other than The Essentials in Article 4, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the International Conference.

(3) All amendments are subject to review by the International Board of Appeals.

(4) The International Board of Appeals shall supervise the referendum voting on amendments.

6770. Article 14. We Speak with One Voice. The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church in Article 4 constitute the central beliefs and core values of the International Conference and must be embraced, supported, and, when necessary, defended by all of its members. However, there is a colorful tapestry of cultural, historic and geographic distinctions among members of the International Conference in terms of administrative structures, behavioral expectations, and unique customs. Such diversity is a blessing to be celebrated, and confidence should be preserved in the maturity and capacity of each autonomous general conference (cf. 6515:1) and each established national/regional conference (in keeping with its “defined autonomy” as provided in 6515:2) to determine matters related to its own cultural practices, preferences, and customs. Each session of the International Conference may consider specific matters that emerge from time to time as critical issues that transcend culture, customs or preferences, and on which all members of the International Conference must stand together, so as to speak with one voice in regard to such issues. The following statements represent the collective conscience of the International Conference of The Wesleyan Church on such issues and may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all delegates present and voting at any session of the International Conference. Any member body of the International Conference is authorized to propose amendments or additions to these statements, which shall be presented to the International Conference if recommended by the International Board.

(1) **We Speak with One Voice on _____.** (*Space reserved.*)

APPENDIX B

INTERPRETATIONS OF CHURCH LAW

6800. This section contains the official interpretations of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* by the General Superintendent which have been sustained by the General Conference and are therefore in full force and effect as church law (1935:52). Each interpretation is identified by the paragraph number of *The Discipline* to which it refers.

Whenever a revision of *The Discipline* makes an interpretation unnecessary or renders it obsolete, the interpretation is to be deleted from *The Discipline* by order of the General Conference (Minutes of the 1976 General Conference, proceeding 276).

APPENDIX C

AFFILIATE CHURCHES

7000. An independent congregation of the Wesleyan tradition which seeks a less than full relationship with The Wesleyan Church may commit to Articles of Agreement and be recognized and listed as an affiliate church. The district board of administration shall be authorized on behalf of the district conference to develop and agree to the terms of the Articles of Agreement. Such relationships shall exist to encourage fellowship and to include the affiliated body in adult, youth, and children's ministries of The Wesleyan Church and to benefit the affiliated unit through acquaintance with and involvement in Wesleyan institutions of higher education, global outreach ministries, and helpful publications of the denomination. The relationship may be terminated at any time, either by vote of the district board of administration or the ruling body of the affiliate church.

7005. Membership. All persons who have met the membership requirements of the independent congregation shall be listed by the district as affiliate members. Any affiliate member who seeks to transfer membership to The Wesleyan Church shall be examined by the pastor and the local board of administration. If it is discovered that the person involved had indeed been previously converted and is fully committed to the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church, said affiliate member may be received by letter into the membership of The Wesleyan Church (cf. 570; 578). If the affiliated church elects to become a Wesleyan congregation, the procedures of organization as set forth in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*, paragraph 520 shall be followed.

7010. Pastors. The calling of pastors to an affiliated church shall be determined by said church's by-laws and shall not require approval of the Wesleyan district conference. A change of pastor or senior pastor of an affiliate church shall automatically give rise to a review of the affiliate status and shall require a renewal vote by the district board of administration to extend the relationship. In the event the affiliate church seeks to secure the leadership of a Wesleyan minister, that arrangement shall require the consent of the district superintendent and the ratifying vote of a majority of the district board of administration. An ordained minister serving on staff of an affiliate church may be appointed by the district conference as affiliate church pastor (cf. 3346).

7015. Government. The Wesleyan Church shall not regulate the governance of an affiliate church. However, the district board of administration shall review the governmental structure of the church seeking affiliate status and shall be satisfied it is founded upon biblical principles prior to authorizing affiliate status. Conversely, any affiliate church desiring to adopt *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* as a governance model for the local church may do so.

7020. Property and Support Obligations. As long as the independent unit retains the status of an affiliate church it is not subject to the trust clause and other provisions for holding property as set forth in *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

It is anticipated that the affiliate church will financially support The Wesleyan Church and its various ministries. The details of such support shall be agreed upon between the affiliate church and the district board of administration.

It is expected that the various agencies of The Wesleyan Church shall have access to the affiliate church for the presentation of their programs and for the solicitation of support in the same manner as with all Wesleyan churches.

7025. District/General Conference Representation. Each affiliate church may send the pastor and one lay representative as honorary delegates, having voice but not vote, to the annual district conference. The listed affiliate members shall not be included in the membership count which determines the number of persons a district conference is authorized to elect as General Conference delegates.

7030. Continuance of Status. The district board of administration shall be empowered to renew the status of an affiliate church for up to five years from inception of the relationship. If the affiliate church has not begun the process leading to acceptance as an established church by the fifth year, renewal of the affiliate status shall require the annual recommendation of the district board of administration and the annual approving vote of the district conference.

7035. Use of Name. The affiliate church may not adopt the name The Wesleyan Church nor utilize such benefits as coming under the denominational umbrella for IRS recognition as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit entity until said unit is received as a developing or established Wesleyan church and conforms to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* in all matters of governance. It may choose to advertise with such language as “A congregation of the Wesleyan tradition” or “affiliated with The Wesleyan Church.”

7040. *No two church “joinings” will be characterized by identical circumstances. The district board of administration may modify the following sample agreement to reflect levels of monetary support from the affiliate*

church or other mutual agreements which detail commitments to a developing unified ministry.

**THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
AFFILIATE CHURCH
ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT**

_____ **CHURCH**

AND

THE _____ DISTRICT OF

THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

PREAMBLE

The _____ Church, an independent congregation of the Wesleyan tradition (hereinafter referred to as “church”) and the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church (hereinafter referred to as “district”), upon the signing of these Articles of Agreement do establish and commit to an affiliate relationship between church and district.

OBJECTIVE

It is the objective of church and district, as co-laborers, to advance the Kingdom of Christ through the encouragement of fellowship, cooperation in varied ministries of evangelism, discipleship, and education, and a sharing of denominational benefits by making available literature, publications, and personnel.

**ARTICLE 1
STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Both the church and the district affirm the foundation for such affiliate relationship lies in the mutual embrace of and commitment to the following Statement of Faith:

We believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ the Son suffered in our place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge every person at the last day.

We believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

We believe that by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith.

We believe that God not only counts the believer as righteous, but that He makes such persons righteous, freeing them from sin's dominion at conversion, purifying their hearts by faith and perfecting them in love at entire sanctification, and providing for their growth in grace at every stage of spiritual life, enabling them through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to live victorious lives.

ARTICLE 2 GOVERNANCE

During the time period the church and district retain the affiliate church relationships, the district superintendent shall be expected to make periodic visits and provide such counsel as the church's pastor and board may welcome. The district board of administration shall annually review the on-going relationship. The church shall establish its own organizational by-laws and shall be exempt from the property trust clause established for congregations holding full relationships to the denomination. During the period of affiliate relationship, the church may choose to advertise with such language as "a congregation of the Wesleyan tradition" or "affiliated with The Wesleyan Church," but may not assume/use the name The Wesleyan Church.

The affiliate church may send the (senior) pastor and one lay delegate to the annual district conference to enjoy voice but not vote.

ARTICLE 3 ADVANCEMENT

Advancement to full relationship is possible. While no commitment to such is implied by the church or the district in affixing signatures to these Articles of Agreement, mutual approval by both entities can result in the

church coming into full relationship with the district and The Wesleyan Church with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

ARTICLE 4 CONTINUANCE

Subject to annual review by the district board of administration, the affiliate relationship may be renewed up to five years by said district board of administration. If the affiliate church has not begun a process leading to acceptance as an established church by the end of the fifth year, renewal of the affiliate status shall that year and each successive year require the recommendation of the district board of administration and an approving vote of the district conference. A change in pastoral leadership in the church shall automatically give rise to a review of the relationship and, to renew affiliate status, shall require the consent of the district superintendent and the ratifying vote of a majority of the district board of administration. The relationship may be terminated at any time by either the vote of the district board of administration or the ruling body of the church.

AGREEMENT

Sustained by the mutual belief that God in His providences has led together the people of the _____ Church and the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church, and upon the voted authority of the church's ruling body and the district board of administration, the authorized officials herewith affix their signatures to duplicate copies of these Articles of Agreement, thereby evidencing establishment of an affiliate relationship between church and district.

The _____ District The _____ Church:
of The Wesleyan Church:

District Superintendent

Pastor

Assistant District Superintendent

Board Chair/Vice-Chair

District Secretary

Secretary

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