

NA

Alaska

Soc. of the United Brethren for
propagating the Gospel among
the heathen

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Moravian Mission in Alaska



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Adopted by the General Mission Conference held
at The Orphanage and School, Nunapitsinghak,
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RULES AND REGULATIONS

of the

Moravian Mission in Alaska

In connection with Chapter 10 of the Results of the General Synod of the Brethren's Unity, 1899, and the "Handbook" of 1910.

I.—THE WORK

THE DIRECTION OF THE MISSION

1. The Mission in Alaska is an integral part of the Missions prosecuted by the *Unitas Fratrum* as a whole—known in America as the Moravian Church. It is carried on under the direction of the responsible Board of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in the United States, in accordance with the terms of the *Pro Memoria* adopted by the General Synod of 1899. All the missionaries in the field are therefore subordinate to the Provincial Elders' Conference, who are responsible for the support of the work.

ITS OBJECT

2. The first and main object is to preach the Gospel to the people and lead them to Christ as the only Saviour (Acts 4:12).

PREACHING

3. The preaching shall be done in the simplest way possible, and every Brother shall endeavor to acquire the native language as soon and as thoroughly as possible for this purpose.

SERVICES

4. Two services shall be held at each station every Sunday. Their character is to be decided by the Station Conference in accordance with the development of the work and its needs. If a Brother can and is willing to keep Sunday-school, he shall be encouraged so to do; or the evening service may be held as Sunday-school.

During the week in winter, when the people are at home, services shall be held as often as possible; in summer, whenever their number may warrant.

TOURS

5 Evangelistic (missionary) tours are to be made especially in winter, in order to bring the Gospel to the scattered people in their homes. It is advisable to spend as long a time as is practicable in each place, in order to impart thorough instruction, since the visits can be made only at long intervals. The people are to be encouraged to build chapels or a place where the missionary can lodge when he visits them on his evangelistic tours.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

6. When people have been awakened and are desirous to come to Christ, they should be spoken with as frequently as possible, and in due time received as candidates for baptism. It will be impressed on them, that as such they must lead a good life. The instruction preparatory to baptism must be as thorough as circumstances permit, imparting to the candidate the fundamentals of Christian doctrine, and being based on the Catechism in use in the American Province. The Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed should be committed to memory by the candidates.

Nevertheless the instruction must not be unduly protracted, especially as long as oral instruction is the only method possible. Since winter is the best time for this work, the occasions for instruction should be arranged in frequent succession throughout a brief period.

BAPTISM

7. Baptism shall be administered in a public service, except in cases of severe illness, the candidates answering the questions found on page 17 of the Hymn Book of the American Moravian Church (Edition of 1900).

8. Polygamists may be baptized only with the sanction of the Provincial Elders' Conference in America, after all the circumstances have been communicated.

9. Polyandrists are not baptized by us.

10. Baptized adults are counted as communicants; but wherever possible before partaking of the Holy Communion, they shall receive some additional instruction, impressing the peculiar sacredness of this sacrament.

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

11. Up to five years of age children may be baptized as children. After they have attained this age, they may be baptized only in case of sickness that threatens to become fatal—provided also that they personally desire baptism. Otherwise the administration of this sacrament must be deferred until they are twelve years of age and have received the instruction given to adult candidates, except in cases where whole families are baptized.

12. In the case of children, baptism is administered only to the children of Christian parents or where at least one parent is a Christian. The

parent or parents must promise to bring up the child in the fear of the Lord, answering the question in the Baptismal Service (p. 16 of the Hymn Book).

13. The children of parents who have been excluded may be baptized only when some approved member of the congregation as sponsor gives assurance that the spiritual welfare of the child will be cared for.

ADMISSION FROM ANOTHER CHURCH

14. Whilst we recognize as valid baptism administered in another Church, great care must be exercised in reference to claims that baptism has been received—especially in the Greek Church. All doubtful cases must be decided by the Station Conference. (See Missionary Results of 1899, section 106.)

15. When a member of another Church applies for admission to membership in one of our congregations, the missionary shall specifically inquire into his motives and shall assure himself of their propriety. He shall then make the applicant fully acquainted with our rules, and express a willingness to receive him only if he is willing to abide by them. In a public service the missionary shall require him to answer the last two questions addressed to candidates for confirmation, and then after he publicly testifies to his readiness to be governed by the rules of our congregations, shall receive him by the right hand of fellowship.

PLEDGE OF OBEDIENCE TO THE RULES

16. Similarly every baptized adult and every confirmand shall give a public pledge of his loyalty to our rules, which shall have been read to him.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

"Speakings"

17. Prior to each celebration of the Lord's Supper, which shall take place at least twice a year, each intending communicant shall have close personal conversation with the missionary. The object of this interview or "Speaking" shall be to promote growth in grace in each member (Ephes. 4:13). Married couples shall attend "Speaking" in company with each other, the unmarried singly. All the people shall attend the "Speaking" at least once a year.

MARRIAGES

18. As a rule marriages are to take place in connection with, or be solemnized as, a public service, the ritual prescribed in the Hymn Book being employed in conjunction with an address based on the Word of God.

19. As a rule no marriage ceremony shall take place at Christmas, nor during the Passion Week nor on Easter Sunday.

20. The marriage rite shall not be performed for heathen prior to their baptism.

21. In particular every missionary must use his influence to break up the heathen custom of entering into temporary and experimental married relationships.

22. When white persons desire a missionary to perform the marriage ceremony, the service shall be conducted in the same manner as in the case of our members.

23. In reference to the remarriage of divorced persons the missionary must be careful to proceed in accordance with the requirements of the Book

of Order, Section IX, p. 141, and the laws of the land. Each specific case must be decided by the Station Conference.

24. Our missionaries are expected to use their influence against the marriage of minors.

25. Persons who have not been lawfully married, but are living together as man and wife, can not be admitted to the Lord's Supper.

FUNERALS

26. The remains of members of our Church may be taken into the house of worship before burial, whether adults or children. The ritual prescribed in the Hymn Book shall be employed. In the case of heathen, the remains may not be brought into the church; but a public service may be held, the ritual being modified as may be required by circumstances.

27. All heathen and superstitious customs and practices connected with death and burial must be steadfastly and persistently discountenanced. Where the land is Mission property, they must be wholly prohibited.

28. Persons who die under the care of sorcerers or who die as wilful opponents of the Gospel can not be given Christian burial by us.

THE BURIAL GROUND

29. Our people must be instructed and expected to keep the burial ground in neat and good order as a voluntary labor on their part.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

30. Members of our Church who commit a fault or lead a sinful life render themselves amenable to discipline, and it is the missionary's duty to be

faithful in the administration of discipline. Three grades are recognized.

a. Brotherly advice or reproof.

b. Temporary suspension from the Lord's Supper. This degree must be put in force, when a member lives in sin and in disobedience to God's Word—not only in the case of sins of the flesh, but also in the case of open and wilful transgressions of the sort mentioned in 1 Cor. 6:9, 10 and Gal. 5:19-21, for we can have no part with the works of darkness.

c. Exclusion from membership. This must be resorted to, when the former degrees fail to accomplish the desired result, or when offense against the Word of God and all rules is purposely manifested. This degree of discipline deprives of all rights in our Church. (Matt. 18:17.) It is well to enforce the discipline with the knowledge and co-operation of the Helpers. The third degree of discipline should be administered in accordance with the vote of the Station Conference.

31. Even after exclusion from membership the missionary shall not lose sight of or cease to be interested in the erring one, but should pray for him and use every means to bring him back to Christ.

READMISSION

32. Readmission to membership must be decided by the Station Conference, and must be conditioned by penitent confession of sin and evidence of a desire to amend erring ways.

DRUNKENNESS AND GAMBLING

33. Drunkards, who after due warning will not change their lives must be expelled from Mission

land. All gambling is condemned and must be shunned by members.

AMUSEMENTS

34. It is the duty of the missionary to testify against and seek to root out the native plays and dances as demoralizing. The play "Illere," in which masks are used, is utterly bad. Every Christian who takes part in it must be excluded.

35 At the same time the missionary shall endeavor to introduce, especially on holidays, forms of recreation which a Christian may safely enjoy. Music may be encouraged, and social gatherings where pictures are explained, etc. Card-playing must be denounced, and Helpers must wholly abstain from it.

THE CARE OF THE POOR

36. When poverty is the result of sickness or accident and application for help is made to the Mission, the missionaries shall consider the merits of the case and act accordingly. But help shall not be so given as to encourage shiftlessness or indolence (2 Thess. 3:10). Moreover most conscientious care in the stewardship of Mission property must be exercised in this respect. In each congregation the members are to be encouraged and taught to gather a "poor fund," if not consisting of actual money, then of furs and supplies of various kinds.

THE CIVILIZATION OF THE PEOPLE

37. Primarily the object of the Mission is to promote the Kingdom of God—not to spread civilization. Yet this it also does incidentally and as a secondary result. Therefore the missionary shall

encourage cleanliness and thrift and everything that elevates the mental and moral and physical condition of the people, whilst laying special stress on the truth that life comes first of all from above.

MEDICAL HELP

38. Whilst medicine, etc., is furnished to the people as a branch of Mission work, they are not to be pauperized by being taught to expect it as a gift, but our members shall be encouraged to pay, when possible.

II.—THE MISSIONARIES

THE SUPERINTENDENT AND HIS RELATION TO THE WORK AND THE WORKERS

39. The general oversight of the work and of the workers is committed to one of the missionaries, appointed as Superintendent by the Provincial Elders' Conference in Bethlehem. He is accountable for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office.

40. The Mission in Alaska being under the immediate oversight and direction of the Provincial Elders' Conference of the American Province, North, the Superintendent shall make all official reports to this Board, to be transmitted by its President to Mission Board.

41. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to exercise a careful supervision of the work at all the stations and to make such arrangements as will best serve to advance both the spiritual and temporal interests of the cause.

42. He shall maintain as close communication as possible with the different stations and also visit them as frequently as practicable, and advise with

the missionaries as to their methods of work and give such directions as he may judge necessary, which directions the missionaries are under obligation to follow. His decisions with regard to questions referred to him by the Station Conference, or in reference to matters in dispute between missionaries and Helpers, or in the interpretation of mission regulations, shall be of binding force in every instance, but like his personal directions, subject to appeal to the Provincial Elders' Conference.

STATION SUPERINTENDENTS

43. He is authorized to appoint "Station Superintendents" from among the number of the missionaries, to whom he may entrust the management of financial affairs, or the oversight of a portion of the work under his particular instructions, these appointments being subject to approval by the Provincial Elders' Conference.

GENERAL MISSION CONFERENCES

44. Every third year he shall convene a General Conference of all the missionaries. At all such conferences he shall be the chairman, ex officio, and shall also have a vote. Should he vote with the majority, a mere majority vote decides; should there be a tie he casts the deciding vote. In the absence of the Superintendent, a chairman shall be elected. Resolutions of any of these conferences, in order to become valid, in case they involve radical changes in the conduct of the work, require the sanction of the Provincial Elders' Conference.

45. The Superintendent shall forward to the Provincial Elders' Conference, as soon as possible, and with such comments as he may deem necessary, a copy of the minutes of each conference, for transmission to Mission Board.

APPOINTMENT OF MISSIONARIES TO STATIONS

46. Unless missionaries coming to Alaska have received a definite appointment to some particular station or office, they shall be at the disposal of the Superintendent.

STATISTICS AND REPORTS

47. The annual statistical and financial reports of the Province and of the various stations and schools shall be forwarded to the Provincial Elders' Conference by the Superintendent. The station superintendents shall also send duplicates of their reports to the Provincial Elders' Conference in Bethlehem.

FURLOUGHS

48. Requests for furlough or for permission to retire permanently must be endorsed by the Superintendent, or in case of emergency by the Station Superintendent, before being transmitted to the Provincial Elders' Conference.

NATIVE CANDIDATES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

49. No native boy or girl may be sent to the States for education at Mission expense without the prior endorsement of the Superintendent and the sanction of the home board.

REVERSAL OF THE DECISIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

50. The acts and decision of the Superintendent as executive of the Mission in the period between the convocations of the General Mission Conference are subject to review by the General Mission Conference (See section 133 of the Missionary Results

of 1899). This body, through its Secretary, may forward to the Provincial Elders' Conference any minute adopted or petition framed; but until modified or annulled by the Provincial Elders' Conference all decisions of the Superintendent, as the representative of the Provincial Elders' Conference, remain in force and must be observed.

UNITY OF THE WORK

51. Every missionary is under obligation to seek to promote the interests of the entire field and to have regard for the welfare of all his fellow-workers.

STATION SUPERINTENDENT AND STATION CONFERENCE

52. When more than one Brother is stationed at one place, one is appointed "Station Superintendent." All the missionaries at a station constitute a "Station Conference," empowered to consider and determine local questions relating to the work. A majority vote decides. The Station Superintendent presides *ex officio*. If only two Brethren are present and differ in regard to a matter, it shall be referred to the Superintendent, or, in case of necessity, the Station Superintendent shall decide.

53. Sessions of the Station Conference are two-fold in character—1, concerning spiritual affairs and activity, which shall be statedly held four times a year; 2, concerning the temporal work to be done at a station (building, repairs, gardening, boating, fishing, etc.) to be held monthly from Easter to September, and at other times as necessity arises. At these conferences the duties of an external character shall be apportioned among the missionaries.

54. The Station Superintendent is charged with the management of financial affairs and with the general supervision of the work at his station and with a brotherly oversight over his co-workers. It is his duty to see to it that resolutions of the Station Conference are carried out. For his work's sake he has the right to expect and claim the brotherly regard and respect of his co-workers.

REPRESENTATION AT THE GENERAL MISSION CONFERENCE

55. When it is impossible for a missionary to attend a convocation of the General Mission Conference through the exigencies of the work or other cause beyond his control, he has the right to send in writing his views on subjects that are likely to be discussed. In case only one Brother from a station can attend the General Mission Conference, he is to be elected by the Station Conference, and it is his duty to present and explain the views and wishes of his co-workers as well as his own.

BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

56. No missionary, whilst in the service, is permitted to engage in business for his own benefit. Business undertakings must first have the approval of the Station Conference and of the Superintendent, and must then be engaged in for the sole benefit of the Mission. Land may be taken and claims acquired only with the knowledge and approval of the Home Board. The disinterestedness of the missionaries must be above suspicion.

SALARY

57. Each missionary's salary is graded according to the number of years he has been in service.

(See Handbook of the General Regulations, 1910, p. 13-16. On p. 15, 33, insert \$50 as the allowance for each child living with its parents up to the end of the 10th year. After that \$150 per year till the time of entering school in the States, and \$300 per year from the time of entering school in the States to the completion of its 18th year.) With this salary the missionary must supply all his personal needs, including board, clothing, washing, fuel, light, servants' wages, private gardening, postage and writing materials for private use, the payment of guides for trips not necessary in behalf of the Mission.

FURNITURE

59. Furniture and utensils necessary for house-keeping, including a sewing machine, are supplied at Mission expense, and must be regarded as Mission property, and left at the station in case of transfer or removal. Musical instruments are not included.

THE STORE ROOM

59. The Station Superintendent shall have sole charge of the store room at each station, and in it the articles of trade, etc., belonging to the Mission shall be kept. He only is authorized to give things out which are kept here, and must keep a strict account. When transfers or removals of missionaries are made, it is his duty to verify the inventory of the furniture and utensils. A complete inventory shall be kept of all Mission property, including houses at out-stations, boats, tools, paints, machinery, stock, etc. All official books, papers, documents, letters, bills, etc., shall be carefully preserved in the archives at each station

THE HELPERS

SELECTION, QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING OF HELPERS

60. The training of native Helpers is to be regarded as of high importance and is to be zealously promoted. But the utmost care must be exercised in selecting for this office such who are sincere, courageous Christians, possessed of intelligence and enjoying good standing among the people. Above all the Helper must be a man who has confidence in the missionary, and be willing to faithfully second the efforts and carry out the views of the missionary, even though not fully understanding all that is involved.

THE WORK OF THE HELPER

61. The Helper, at stations, shall be a link between the missionary and the people. At outposts, he is empowered to conduct services, and it is his duty to promote practical godliness in every way, serving in particular as a mediator and arbitrator among the people. At the stated visits of the missionary, or when he himself visits the station, the Helper is to convey to the missionary information of every sort that may promote the cause. Stated instruction shall be imparted by the missionary to the Helpers as frequently as possible, to ground them in the Word of God and acquaint them with their duties.

REMUNERATION OF THE HELPERS

62. The conditions under which the Helpers receive remuneration for their work, and the amount of the same, are to be decided as a rule by the General Mission Conference; when this is not practicable, by the Superintendent together with

the missionaries concerned. The Home Board, however, reserves the right of revision. In general the privilege and honor of work for Christ must be impressed upon them, and compensation should be given only when their work involves interference with their ordinary opportunities for gaining a livelihood.

CHRISTIAN BENEFICENCE

63. Whenever it is at all possible, the people are to be trained to give voluntarily their time and labor to the Lord, where it is impossible for them otherwise to learn the blessedness of liberality. Whenever, and in so far as it is at all practicable, stated contributions in support of the work are to be required of the members.

IV.—THE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG

64. Special attention is to be paid to the training of the young, to make them acquainted with the Word of God, and to elevate their standard of living.

When living in the school they are not to be pauperized, but must be taught the obligation of returning in work as complete an equivalent as possible for what they receive.

In the years immediately after completing their education they are to be special objects of the missionaries' watchful care, in order to prevent them from lapsing into sin and barbarism.

SCHOOL REPORTS

65. Where schools receive government aid, special care is to be taken to maintain the standard required, and to promptly send in all reports accurately filled out.

