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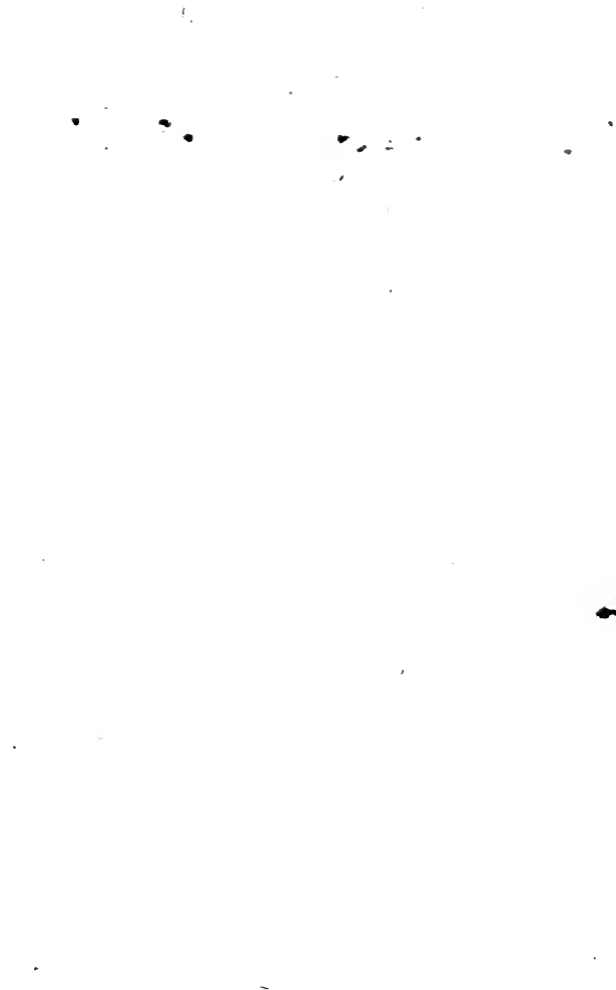
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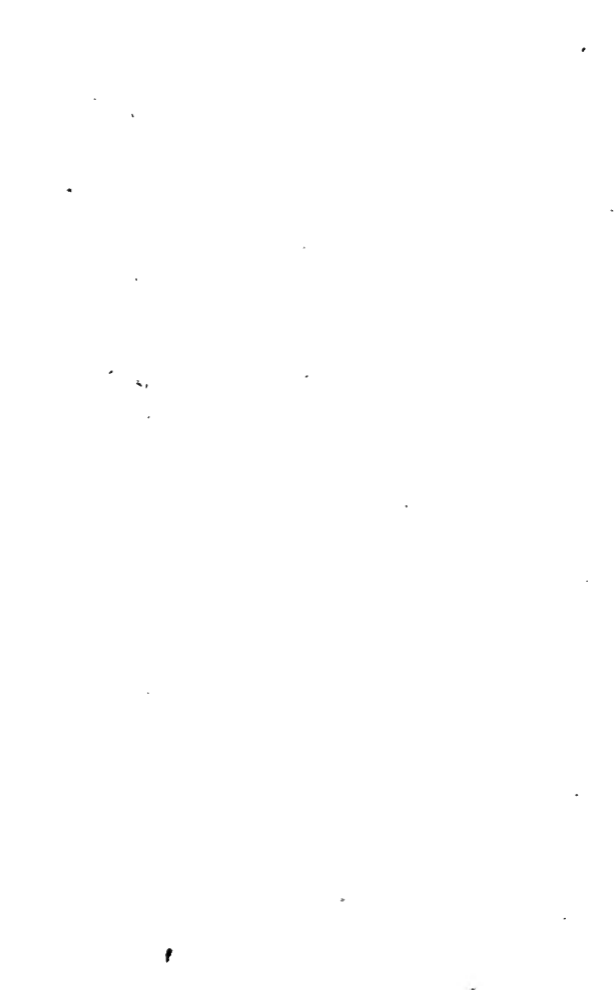
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UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

SEVENTH EDITION.

CIRCLEVILLE, O.

PRINTED AT THE CONFERENCE OFFICE-

1845.



ORIGIN
OF THE
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

IN the eighteenth century, it pleased the LORD our GOD to awaken persons in different parts of the world, who should raise up the Christian religion from its fallen state, and preach the Gospel of Christ crucified in its purity.

ABOUT the middle of the said century the Lord, in mercy, remembered the Germans of America, who, living scattered in this extensive country, had but seldom an opportunity to hear the gospel of a crucified Saviour preached to them, in their native language.

Amongst others, he raised up William Otterbein and Martin Boehm, in the State of Pennsylvania, and George A. Geeting in the State of Maryland,—armed them with spirit, grace and strength, to labor

in His neglected vineyard, and to call, among the Germans in America, sinners to repentance. These men obeyed the call of their Lord and Master; their labors were blessed; they established, in many places, excellent societies, and led many precious souls to Jesus Christ. Their sphere of action spread more and more, so that they found it necessary to look about for more fellow-laborers, to engage in the vineyard of the Lord, for the harvest was great, and the laborers but few. The Lord called others, who were willing to devote their strength to his service; such, then, were accepted by one or the other of the preachers, as fellow-laborers.

The number of members in the society, in different parts of the country, continued to increase from time to time; and the gracious work of reformation spread through the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Several great meetings were appointed, and held annually; when, on such occasions, Otterbein would

hold particular conversations with the preachers then present, represent to them the importance of the ministry, and the necessity of their utmost endeavors to save souls. At one of these meetings, it was resolved to hold a conference with all the preachers, in order to take into consideration, how, and in what manner they might be most useful.

The first Conference was held in the city of Baltimore, Md., in the year of our Lord, 1789. The following preachers were present, viz:

WM. OTTERBEIN,	ADAM LEHMAN,
MARTIN BOEHM,	JOHN ERNST,
GEO. A. GEETING,	HENRY WEIDNER,
CH'N. NEWCOMER.	

The second Conference was held in Paradise township, York Co., Pa, at the house of Bro. Spangler, in the year of our Lord, 1791. The following preachers were present, viz:

WM. OTTERBEIN,	JOHN ERNST,
MARTIN BOEHM,	J. G. PFREMMER,

GEO. A. GEETING, JOHN NEIDIG,
 CH'N. NEWCOMER, BENEDICT SANDER,
 ADAM LEHMAN.

After mature deliberation, how they might labor most usefully in the vineyard of the Lord, they again appointed such, as fellow-laborers, of whom they had cause to believe, had experienced true religion in their own souls.

In the mean time, the number of members continued to increase, and the preachers were obliged to appoint an Annual Conference, in order to unite themselves more closely, and to labor more successfully in the vineyard of the Lord; for, some had been Presbyterians or German Reformed, some Lutherans, and others Menonists. They accordingly appointed a Conference, to be held on the 25th of September, 1800, in Frederick Co., Md., at the house of Bro. Frederick Kemp. The following preachers were present, viz:

WM. OTTERBEIN, CHRISTIAN KRUM,
 MARTIN BOFUM, HENRY KRUM.

GEO. A. GEETING, JOHN HERSHEY,
CH'N. NEWCOMER, JACOB GEISINGER,
ADAM LEHMAN, HENRY BOEHM,
ABRA'M DRACKSEL, DIET'K AURAUFG,
J. G. PFREMMER.

There they united themselves into a Society which bears the name, "UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST," and elected *William Otterbein* and *Martin Boehm*, as superintendents or bishops, and agreed that each of them should be at liberty, as to the mode and manner of baptism, to perform it according to their own convictions.

From this time, the society increasing still, more and more, preachers were appointed to travel regularly, inasmuch as the number of preaching places could not otherwise be attended to; and the work spread itself into the States of Ohio and Kentucky. It then became necessary to appoint a Conference in the State of Ohio, because it was conceived too laborious for the preachers who labored in those States, to travel, annual-

ly, such a great distance to the Conference.

In the mean time, Brothers *Boehm* and *Geeting* died, and Brother *Otterbein* desired that another Bishop should be elected, (because infirmity and old age would not permit him to superintend any longer,) who should take charge of the Society, and preserve discipline and order. It was resolved at a former Conference, that, whenever one of the bishops died, another should be elected in his place: accordingly, Brother *Christian Newcomer* was elected bishop, to take charge of and superintend the concerns of the Society.

The want of a Discipline in the Society had long been deeply felt, and partial attempts having been made at different times, it was resolved at the Conference held in the State of Ohio, that a General Conference should be held in order to accomplish the same, in a manner not derogatory to the word of God. The members of this Conference were to be elect-

ed from among the preachers, in the different parts of the country, by a vote of the Society in general. The following Brethren were duly elected, viz:

CH'N. NEWCOMER,	DANIEL TREVER,
ABR'M. HIESTAND,	GEO. BENEDUM,
ANDREW ZELLER,	ABR'M. TRACKSEL,
CHRISTIAN BERGER,	HENRY G. SPAYTH,
ABRAHAM MEYER,	I. NIGHSWANGER,
JOHN SCHNEIDER,	CHRISTIAN KRUM,
HENRY KUMLER,	JACOB BOWLUS.

The Conference convened on the 6th day of June, 1815, near Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland Co., Pa. After a mature deliberation, they presented to their brethren a discipline, containing the doctrine and rules of the church, desiring that they, together with the word of God, should be strictly observed.

God is a God of order, but where there is no order, nor Church Discipline, the spirit of love and charity will be lost.

Therefore, brethren, we beseech you to follow the example of our Lord: as it is written: "Be kindly affectionate one

to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. Let the mind be in you which was in Christ, who took upon Himself the form of a servant, humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," that by his grace we may submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. He who will not submit is in want of humble love. Jesus said: "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another; and whoso loveth not his brother abideth in death." Let us walk in newness of life, that the prayer of our Lord may be answered in us: that we may be one in him: and that he may give us the glory which he gave to his disciples, that we may be one even as He and the Father are one. Therefore, beloved brethren, let us strive to be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let no one speak or think evil of his brother, but

pray God, that He may grant us His Spirit, and an earnest desire to lead a truly devoted life, to the honor and glory of His holy name: Amen.

SECTION I.

Confession of Faith.

In the name of God we declare and confess before all men, that, We believe in the only true God, the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost: That these Three are One, the Father in the Son, the Son in the Father, and the Holy Ghost equal in essence or being with both: That this Triune God created the heavens and the earth, and all that in them is, visible as well as invisible, and furthermore, sustains, governs, protects, and supports the same.

We believe in Jesus Christ: That He is very God and man: That He became incarnate by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the virgin Mary, and was born of her: That He is the Saviour and Mediator of the whole human race, if they with full faith in him, accept the grace proffered in Jesus: That this Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for us, was buried, arose again on the third day, ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the

right hand of God, to intercede for us: and that he shall come again at the last day, to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Ghost: that He is equal in being with the Father and the Son: and that he comforts the faithful, and guides them into all truth.

We believe in a holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

We believe that the Holy Bible, old and new testaments, is the word of God: That it contains the only true way to our salvation: That every true christian is bound to acknowledge and receive it with the influence of the Spirit of God, as the only rule and guide: and that without faith in Jesus Christ true repentance, forgiveness of sins, and following after Christ, no one can be a true christian.

We also believe, that what is contained in the Holy Scriptures, to wit: The fall in Adam, and redemption through

Jesus Christ, shall be preached throughout the world.

We believe that the ordinances, namely, baptism, and the remembrance of the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, are to be in use, and practised by all christian societies: And that it is incumbent on all the children of God, particularly, to practise them: but the manner in which, ought always to be left to the judgment and understanding of every individual: Also, the example of washing feet, is left to the judgment of every one, to practise or not; but it is not becoming for any of our preachers or members to traduce any of their brethren whose judgment and understanding, in this respect, are different from their own, either in public or private. Whosoever shall make himself guilty in this respect, shall be considered a traducer of his brethren, and shall be answerable for the same.

SECTION II.

Constitution.

We, the members of the Church of the UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST, in the name of God, do, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, as well as to produce and secure a uniform mode of action, in faith and practice, as also to define the powers and the business of Quarterly, Annual, and General Conferences, as recognized by this Church, ordain the following articles of CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1.

Section 1.—All ecclesiastical power herein granted, to make or repeal any rule of discipline, is vested in a General Conference, which shall consist of Elders elected by the members in every Con. District throughout the Society: Provided, however, such Elders shall have stood in that capacity three years, in the conference district to which they belong.

Sec. 2.—General Conference is to be held every four years: the Bishops to be considered members and presiding officers.

Sec. 3.—Each Annual Conference shall place before the Society the names of all the Elders eligible to membership in the General Conference.

ARTICLE II.

Section 1.—The General Conference shall define the boundaries of the Annual Conferences.

Sec. 2.—The General Conference shall, at every session, elect Bishops from among the Elders, throughout the church, who have stood six years in that capacity.

Sec. 3.—The business of each Annual Conference shall be done strictly, according to discipline; and any Annual Conference acting contrary thereunto, shall, by impeachment, be tried by the General Conference.

Sec. 4.—No rule or ordinance shall at any time be passed, to change or do

away the Confession of Faith as it now stands, nor to destroy the itinerant plan.

Sec. 5.—There shall no rule be adopted that will infringe upon the rights of any as it relates to the mode of Baptism, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or the washing of feet.

Sec. 6.—There shall be no rule made that will deprive local preachers of their votes in the Annual Conferences to which they severally belong.

Sec. 7.—There shall be no connection with secret combinations, nor shall involuntary servitude be tolerated in any way.

Sec. 8.—The right of appeal shall be inviolate.

ARTICLE III.

The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground, meeting houses, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use, benefit, and behoof of the Church of the United

Brethren in Christ, is hereby fully recognized and held to be property of the Church aforesaid.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be no alteration of the foregoing constitution, unless by request of two-thirds of the whole Society.

May 19, 1841.

SECTION III.

General Conference.

Question 1st.—Who are the members of the General Conference?

☞ *See Constitution.*

Ques. 2.—How are they to be elected?

Ans. 1.—It shall be the duty of each annual Conference to *appoint* a committee of three, in their several conference districts, to receive and count the votes, and immediately apprise those who may have been elected: also, to *furnish* the Presiding Elders with a list of all the elders eligible.

2.—The Presiding Elders shall furnish each preacher in charge, whose duty it

shall be to furnish each class leader or steward, throughout the circuits, with a copy of the same, at least ten months before the sitting of General Conference, and the election to be held invariably on the first Saturday of November next, preceding the Gen. Conference throughout the Church.

3.—It shall be the duty of each class leader or steward, to appoint a meeting of the members of each class, for the purpose of electing, by ballot or otherwise, their delegates to represent them in General Conference.

4.—It shall be the duty of each class leader, or steward, to sign, enclose, and seal each bill of election, and keep a correct copy of the same, stating what class and circuit, hand it over to the preacher in charge, who shall deliver it to the Presiding Elder, whose duty it shall be to transmit it to the committee appointed by the Annual Conference.

5.—Said committee shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the

number of votes for each. And should any two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, the committee shall determine, by lot, who, or which of them are elected. They shall also forward the names of those elected to the Conference Printing Establishment for publication, and if one or more of the brethren highest on the bill of election should be prevented by death, sickness, or otherwise, from attending, it shall be the duty of the tellers to notify the next highest on the bill, to take his place.

Ques. 3.—What shall be the number of delegates to General Conference?

Ans—Three from each Annual Conference District.

Ques. 4.—How shall the expenses of the delegates to the General Conference be defrayed?

Ans.—When the classleader or steward takes the vote for delegates to General Conference, he shall lift a collection for that purpose, which he shall remit

to the committee, who are to count the votes, and the committee shall pay it over to the delegates elected.

SECTION IV.

Annual Conference.

Ques. 1.—Who are the members of this Conference?

Ans.—All the elders and licentiate preachers, who have been duly received by the Conference, but, when such licentiate preachers are proposed for ordination, the Elders only shall determine the same by vote.

Ques. 2.—In what manner are the transactions of a Conference to be conducted?

Ans. 1.—A portion of Scripture shall be read: also singing and prayer each day, at the opening and at the closing of Conference.

2.—The Conference shall elect two Secretaries, one German, and one English, wherever it may be necessary. And when but one Bishop is present, the Con-

ference shall elect a chairman by ballot to act in conjunction with the Bishop.

3.—The preachers shall be examined respecting their deportment towards their fellow-beings, whether their conduct in life be blameless, and whether they employ as much time as possible to promote the kingdom of God; according to Titus 1st ep. 7th to 9th v. and 2d Tim. 2d ep. 15 v., and shall be admonished or advised as the case may be.

The following questions shall then be asked:

1.—Have any of the preachers died during the last year?

2.—Who are the candidates for the ministry?

3.—Are any to be ordained to the office of Elder?

4.—What has been collected for contingent expenses and the salary of travelling preachers?

5.—Has reckoning been made with the travelling preachers?

6.—Have they received their dues?

7.—Who are willing to travel the ensuing year, without reserve?

8.—Who are the Presiding Elders?

9.—Where are the preachers stationed this year?

10.—No preacher shall arbitrarily form a mission, or circuit, within the embrace of any circuit, or Presiding Elders district.

11.—Where shall our next Conference be held?

12.—Is there any thing else to be done?

13.—Is all that has been done entered upon record?

SECTION V.

Reception of Preachers.

Ques. 1.—How are the preachers received?

Ans.—Every person proposed as a preacher, shall be examined by the Conference, or a select committee; and the following questions shall be put to him, viz:

Have you known God in Christ Jesus to be a sin pardoning God.

Have you now peace with God, and is the love of God shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit?

Do you follow after holiness?

Do you believe the Bible to be the word of God; and that therein is contained the true way to our salvation?

What foundation have you for that belief?

What is your motive for desiring permission to preach the gospel?

What is your knowledge of faith, of depravity, of repentance, justification, sanctification, and redemption?

Does your own salvation, and the salvation of your fellow mortals, lie nearer to your heart than all other things in the world?

Can you subject yourself to the counsel of your brethren?

Are you satisfied with our church government?

Will you be obedient and ready to speak or hold your peace, as your brethren may think expedient?

Are you willing, as much as is in your power, to assist in upholding the itinerant plan, and supporting the same as much as possible?

¶ None can be admitted without having a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference, and then only to be received on probation for the term of three years, but if Conference should on examination, find that his abilities are insufficient to preach the gospel, it may refer him back to the Quarterly Conference for further instruction, or reject him, as the case may be.

SECTION VI.

Course of Reading.

Holding that at least a measureable knowledge of the Holy Bible is requisite for any one, to fit him for the Christian Ministry, therefore, the following arrangement of the great features of the

Holy Scriptures, in regular order, is considered by us advisable, and also, an assistant to a proposed Minister in the study thereof, therefore, none shall be admitted to membership into an Annual Conference, who does not apply himself diligently to the study of the following particulars, viz: *The Doctrine--Biography--Geography--History and Chronology of the Bible.*

SECTION VII.

Itinerant Plan.

At every Annual Conference after the present General Conference, the Bishop shall ask the following questions.

Ques.—Who are willing to travel without reserve?

1. Those who answer the question in the affirmative, and are placed on a circuit, station or mission, by the stationing Committee, shall be considered Itinerant preachers from year to year. *Provided*, however, that if the Stationing Committee see proper at a future time to leave

any of the Itinerant brethren without an appointment, he shall not be debarred from his interest in funds belonging to said Conference.

2.—If any who are received as above stated, shall cease to travel without giving satisfaction to the Conference of which he is a member, he shall not be entitled to any support from the funds belonging to said Conference. And, furthermore, he shall not re-enter the Itinerancy without the consent of at least two-thirds of the Conference.

3.—All who from time to time, propose joining the Itinerancy, must come in according to the above named plan.

Ques.—What shall be done for the support of the Itinerancy?

Ans.—See *Discipline, Section xix.*

Ques.—What shall be done for the support of the P. Elder's?

Ans.—It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to make such regulations for the support of the Presiding Elders, as they in their wisdom may think

best calculated to accomplish the desired end.

Ques.—What shall be done to regulate the Annual Conference in the division of Circuits?

Ans.—The Annual Conference shall appoint a committee, whose duty it shall be to divide a Circuit when necessary. A Circuit for a married man shall consist of at least two hundred members; for a married and single man, three hundred members, and so on in proportion. This is not, however, to be so construed as to interfere with missions, or stations.

2.—If a Station is desired by any class, it shall be made known to the preacher in charge, whose duty it shall be to call a meeting of the *male* members, and state the matter to them fairly, and if two-thirds of them are then in favor of it, and think that they can support a station, they shall then be advised to petition the Annual Conference to have it granted. The Conference, however, shall not grant a Station, if by so doing, they

shall ascertain that it will so weaken the circuit, that it will not be able to support a preacher.

3.—It shall be the duty of all Stationed preachers to visit every family under their charge, at least once every quarter, and pay strict attention to the young members of their charge.

4.—It shall be the duty of Circuit preachers to visit as much as possible.

MAY 19, 1845.

SECTION VIII.

Quarterly Conference.

Ques. 1.—Who are the members of the Quarterly Conference?

Ans.—All the properly recognized preachers, exhorters, leaders, stewards, and Trustees of Meeting Houses; who reside within the bounds of the circuit or station.

Ques. 2.—What is the business of the Quarterly Conference?

Ans. 1.—To elect a secretary whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all their proceedings, in a book pro-

vided for that purpose, in which the names of all the members, composing the said Conference, shall be entered.

2.—To make a general, or, if necessary, a particular enquiry into the moral deportment of all its members.

3.—To receive and try all appeals, references, and complaints, that may come regularly before them, but no member of Quarterly Conference can be suspended, or expelled, prior to a committee trial.

4.—To grant license to exhort, or preach, to such as may have been recommended by, at least, two-thirds of the class of which he or they are members: provided, however, that none shall receive license who cannot give satisfactory evidence of his or their call, experience, soundness in doctrine, and attachment to our church and government.

5.—To make settlement with the stewards and travelling preachers.

6.—That the license of exhorters, and

Quarterly Conference licenced preachers, be subject to a renewal annually.

7.--And that after such licentiate preachers have stood in that capacity one, or more years, the Quarterly Conference may recommend them to the Annual Conference.

8.--All preachers recommended to the Annual Conference, and not received, may sustain their former relation.

Ques. 3.--How are preachers from other societies received?

Ans.--If they come to us with certificates of good standing in the society in which they have had membership, and give satisfaction to the Quarterly Conference, of their willingness to conform to our church government and usages, then the Quarterly Conference may license them till the next Annual Conference ensuing; after which, if their conduct is in accordance with the Gospel of Christ, they may be considered as preachers or elders, who stand under a similar license among us.

Ques. 4.—What directions are necessary in case of appeals?

Ans.—Any exhorter, or preacher, dissatisfied with the decision of a Quarterly Conference, shall, within thirty days after the Quarterly Conference, notify the secretary, in writing, of his intention to appeal, together with his reasons for so doing; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to take or send a certified copy of the proceedings, the notifications and reasons assigned, to the Annual Conference.

Ques. 5.—Where shall our next Quarterly Conference be held?

It shall also be the duty of the Quarterly Conference to open and close by singing and prayer.

SECTION IX.

Members in General.

Ques.—How shall members be taken into our society?

Ans.—When, at any meeting, a person makes known a design to become a

member of our society, then the preacher present shall put the following question:—

“Have you experienced the pardon of your sins, and are you determined, by the grace of God, to save your soul?”

If the person answers the question in the affirmative, and no objection be made by any member, on account of his or her immoral conduct, then the preacher will give his right hand to such, as a member of our society, and record his or her name on the class book; but so long as any person cannot answer the above question in the affirmative, such person shall not be considered in full membership, and shall have no vote in the society.

Every member of this society shall acknowledge and confess that he believes the Bible to be, and contain, the holy word of God: that he will henceforth strive, with all his heart, to seek his eternal welfare in Christ Jesus, and work out his salvation with fear and trembling, to the end that he may be enabled to *flee from the wrath to come!*

Every member shall endeavor to lead

a good life, be diligent in prayer, particularly in private, and, for his own edification, to be present at, and attend to, when practicable, all meetings for worship.

Heads of families should never omit to pray with their families, morning and evening, and to set them a good example in all the christian virtues.

Every one should strive to walk as in the presence of God; also, to accustom himself to a close communion with God, in all his employments, and never to speak evil of his fellow beings, but to practise love towards friend and foe; to do good to the poor, and to endeavor to be a follower of Jesus Christ, *indeed*.

Every one shall keep the Sabbath day holy, as required in the word of God:—neither buy nor sell, but spend the same in exercises of devotion, in reading and hearing the word of God, and with singing spiritual hymns to the honor and glory of God.

It is the duty of every member to lead a quiet, peaceable, and godly life among

men, as it becomes a christian to live in peace, and to be subject to the higher or ruling powers, as the word of God requires.

Every member of our society should willingly and freely contribute something quarterly, "as the Lord has prospered him;" I Cor., xvi, 2, towards the support of the itinerant preachers.

When it is known by any of our class leaders, that there are poor members among them, who by sickness, accident, or by other unavoidable circumstances, have been brought to want, it shall then be the duty of the leader in charge, to go, or appoint one to wait upon the class, to ask alms, money, clothing, or produce, as the circumstances may require, and should any one class be too poor to alleviate their poor, it shall then be made known to the preacher in charge, whose duty it shall be to inform the different classes on his circuit, and if it should so happen that any one circuit should be insufficient to meet the wants of their poor, it shall then be the duty of the Presiding

Elder, to present the matter on the different circuits at their Quarterly Conferences, so that the unavoidable poor of our church may be considered, and provided for. I John iii. ch. 17 v.—XLI. Psa. 1-2 vrs.

The foregoing rules are drawn up for the better regulation of our society; and we believe they are founded in the word of God, and incumbent on all who are members of our Church to observe. Should any habitually neglect them, they shall be admonished, and if they do not reform they cannot continue among us.

SECTION X.

Forming and Meeting Classes.

Whereas, it is made the duty of Elders and preachers to form and hold class meetings, which should always be done in great moderation and meekness. No member will be allowed to use any means to prevent an Elder or preacher in the discharge of his duty. A member doing so, shall be accountable to the next Quarterly Conference.

SECTION XI.

Classes.

I.—A class shall consist of three or more members, who shall annually elect one member from their own or some other class, who shall be called their leader.

Question.—What is the duty of a leader?

Ans.—It shall be his duty to meet his class in prayer meeting or class meeting, at least once a week; to speak to them concerning the spiritual welfare of their souls, and to exhort them to unity and love. And he shall extend the freedom of our prayer and class meetings to all sincere and well disposed persons who may desire to attend them.

II.—Every class shall annually elect one who shall be called class steward.

Ques.—What is the duty of a steward?

Ans. 1.—He shall collect quarterly contributions for the support of the traveling preachers; keep an accurate account thereof, and return the same to each Quarterly Conference.

2.—He shall be accountable to the Quarterly Conference for the faithful discharge of his duties as steward of his class.

3.—And also, it shall be his duty to provide the elements for Sacrament.

Ques.—What shall be done in case of immoral conduct?

Ans.—The member or members complained of, or charged with immorality, shall be tried by the class to which they belong, or a select number thereof chosen by the parties concerned, with the preacher in charge of the circuit or station, who shall be chairman; and, if found guilty, the accused shall be expelled, unless satisfaction be given by an expression of repentance or otherwise. But, should any member be dissatisfied with the decision, an appeal may be had to the Quarterly Conference, by giving notice thereof to the preacher in charge. In such case, however, the same persons shall not sit in judgment on the same case.

Ques.—What shall be done when members trespass against each other?

Ans.—“If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother; but, if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more; and if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.”

Ques.—What shall be done in cases of disputes between members or preachers?

Ans.—The preacher to whom it shall be known, shall inquire into the circumstances of the case, and shall recommend to the contending parties a reference consisting of one arbiter chosen by the plaintiff and another by the defendant, and a third by these two; then these three are to decide.

But, if either be dissatisfied with the decision, such may have a right to an appeal to the next quarterly conference, for a second arbitration, where each par-

ty shall choose two arbiters, and the four shall choose a fifth; a decision of a majority of whom shall be final. Any person refusing to abide by this decision,—and every member refusing, in cases of debt or other disputes, to refer the matter to arbitration when recommended to him by a preacher or leader; or who shall enter into a lawsuit with another member before these measures are taken, shall be expelled: except when the case is of such a nature as to require and justify a process at law, as executors or administrators, or when a member is in danger of suffering an unexpected loss of property.

Every class leader shall keep a record of the proceedings of church trials, deaths, expulsions, and removals, in a book provided for that purpose; and it shall be his duty, in case of an appeal, to send said record to the Quarterly Conference.

Any person wishing to obtain license to exhort or preach, must obtain from the class of which he is a member, by a

vote of two-thirds of the members, a commendation in writing, signed by the leader, to the quarterly Conference of his circuit or station.

SECTION XII.

Preachers' Duties.

Ques.--What are the duties of preachers?

Ans.--To preach Christ crucified whenever they can get hearers; to form classes; to converse with the members on the spiritual condition of their souls; to administer relief; to strengthen and direct those that are afflicted and labor under temptations; to animate the indolent; to endeavor as much as possible to edify and instruct all in faith, in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ; to visit the sick on all occasions; to strive to enforce and confirm the doctrines they deliver by a well ordered and exemplary life.

Ques.--What are the directions given to our preachers?

Ans.--Be diligent. Never trifle away

your time unnecessarily; always be serious. Let your motto be, "HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD!" Avoid all lightness and jesting; converse sparingly; conduct yourself prudently with women; and demean yourself in all respects as a true christian.

Be at all times averse to crediting evil reports; believe evil of no one, without good evidence. Put the best construction on every thing.

2.—Speak evil of no one. Whatever may be your own thoughts, keep them within your own breast, till you can tell the person concerned what you think wrong in his conduct.

3.—Let your business be to save as many souls as possible. To this employment give yourself up wholly. Visit those who need it; and act in all things, not according to your own wills, but as sons in the gospel. For as such it becomes your duty to employ your time in the manner prescribed, in preaching and visiting from house to house, in instruction and prayer, and in meditating on

the word of God. With these be occupied until our Lord cometh.

SECTION XIII.

Circuit Preachers' Duties.

Ques.—What are the duties of a circuit preacher?

Ans. 1.—To take the circuit assigned him, willingly.

2.—To attend the appointments on his circuit, regularly; preach to the people; and hold society meetings.

3.—The preacher in charge is to see that there are suitable persons appointed, in each class, as stewards, leader or leaders.

4.—To read the following three sections of our discipline, every six months, in each class, viz:—*The Confession of Faith—The Duty of Members—and the Duty of Leaders and Stewards.*

5.—To sit as president on the trial of members, and see that a correct account of the same is kept.

6.—To render a strict account of the condition of his circuit to the Presiding

Elder, at each quarterly conference, where he is to be held accountable for the neglect of any regular appointments on his circuit.

7.—To give charge to all local agents of the Religious Telescope, to keep an account of all its subscribers in their respective neighborhoods.

8.—To make settlement with the local agents every six months, and render an account thereof to the district agent.

9.—It shall be his duty to keep a list of all the subscribers to our church organs, at the different appointments on his circuit, and hand it over to his successor, at the Annual Conference.

10.—No preacher shall dismiss any appointment from his circuit without the consent of quarterly conference.

11.—To make out a list of all the appointments on his circuit, and present it to the Presiding Elder at each Annual Conference, for the convenience of his successor.

12.—It shall be the duty of the preachers in charge of circuits and stations

to lift a collection annually at each of their preaching places, for the support of their Bishops.

SECTION XIV.

Elders, their Election, Ordination and Duty.

Ques.—How is an Elder constituted?

Ans.—After a probation of three years, a preacher may be presented to the yearly conference, for consideration; and if on examination, by the conference, he should be chosen as an Elder, he may, by the imposition of hands be ordained by a Bishop and two Elders. Yet circumstances demanding it, a licentiate may be presented to conference for ordination, at any time prior to a probation of three years; provided, so that two-thirds of the Elders present vote for the same.

1—What is the duty of an Elder?

To preach as often as he can, to baptize, administer the Lord's Supper, solemnize Marriage, perform all parts of divine worship, endeavor to establish and

hold class meeting, and assist in the election of classleaders, and stewards.

2.—Where a local Elder or preacher, who does not suffer want himself, preaches at a place where no traveling preacher comes to, he shall make collections, take a catalogue thereof, and bring or send it to the Presiding Elder, or to the Conference for the support of needy preachers who preach among the poor people.

3.—Should a traveling preacher or elder desire to leave the district assigned him, he must first acquaint the Presiding Elder of his intention by writing; and should any one leave or neglect his station, except it be through sickness or other unavoidable circumstances, he shall be accountable to the next Annual Conference, and shall not be entitled to any salary for the time he may have traveled during the year.

4.—Where there are preachers found to be settled at a place who are poor and indigent, and yet required to preach, it is reasonable and just that the elders

should provide for their support in proportion to the time they may be employed, and by making a collection for their benefit among the societies in their district, though not to exceed the sum fixed and allotted to the traveling preachers.

SECTION XV.

Ordination of Elders.

I.—On the day appointed there shall be a suitable sermon or exhortation delivered.

II.—After their names have been read aloud, the Bishop or Elder shall read the following articles to all who may be chosen for ordination.

“An Elder must be blameless as the steward of God, not self willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre. But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convince the gainsayers.”—Titus, i, 7—9.

Ques.—Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the office of the ministry, to serve God in the church of Christ, to the honor and glory of his holy name?

Ans.—I trust I am.

Ques.—Do you believe the Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testament?

Ans.—I do believe them.

Ques.—Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your life according to the doctrines of Christ: and to make yourself, as much as in you lieth, a wholesome example of the flock of Christ?

Ans.—I will, the Lord being my helper.

Ques.—Will you obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, and follow their godly admonitions with a willing and ready mind?

Ans.—I will endeavor, through the grace of God, so to do.

Then PRAYER is to be offered.

[After prayer the Bishop and Elders shall lay their hands upon the heads of every one of them, and say:]

“Take thou authority to execute the office of an Elder in the church of God, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: Amen.”

[Hereupon the Bishop or Elder shall deliver to every one of them the Holy Bible, saying:]

“Take thou authority to read and preach the word of God in the Church of Christ.”

[Then the Bishop or Elder shall pray. And after prayer he shall read from Luke, xii, 35--38:] “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he shall return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh, shall find watching. Verily, I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them, And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third

watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."

[After this the following benediction is to be pronounced:]

The peace of God keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECTION XVI.

Presiding Elders--Election and Duty.

Ques.--How are the Presiding Elders to be elected?

Ans.--They shall be elected annually from among the Elders, who have sustained that relation for one, or more years.

Ques.--What are the duties of a Presiding Elder?

Ans. 1.--To travel through the district appointed him, and to preach as often as he can.

2.--He is to take charge of the preachers in his district; and to see that they conduct themselves as becometh the gospel.

3.--He shall appoint the quarterly and camp meetings, and attend them. He

shall hold Quarterly Conferences with the preachers, exhorters, leaders, stewards, trustees, and administer the ordinances, of God's house. He shall enquire and examine whether the preachers do their duty, preach every Sabbath, and to exhort them to maintain discipline and order, love and seriousness in the society.

4.—And should any district happen to be without a Presiding Elder, information shall immediately be given to a Bishop, who shall appoint an Elder to preside in said district until the ensuing Annual Conference.

5.—He can also, in conjunction with two elders, preachers, exhorters or leaders, [one from each circuit,] change the preachers in his district. Should any circuit be found without a traveling preacher, it shall be his duty to employ a preacher to travel on that circuit until the next Annual Conference.

SECTION XVII.

Bishops--Election and Duties.

Ques.—How are the Bishops to be elected?

Ans.—The General Conference shall elect them by a majority of votes; yet, the Conference may, at their option, retain the former Bishops four years longer. The newly elected, however, as well as those retained, must be capable of attending the Conferences appointed them: otherwise, they cannot be elected.

Ques.—What are the duties of Bishops?

Ans. 1.—To preside over the Annual and General Conferences.

2.—In conjunction with the Presiding Elders, of the past and present years, they are to fix the appointments of the traveling preachers for the several circuits, stations, and missions: Provided, that they do not allow any Itinerant preacher to remain in the same station or circuit more than three consecutive years, unless particular circumstances require it; and then only with consent of the Conference,

3.—The Bishops, in conjunction with two elders appointed by Conference, shall point out the districts which are to be traveled by the Presiding Elders.

4.—They are to attend to and oversee the spiritual concerns of the church.

5.—It is incumbent on them to perform the rites of ordination.

6.—When a Bishop neglects his duty, he cannot be suffered to retain his office, unless prevented by sickness or other unavoidable circumstances.

7.—If our Church should, at any time, be destitute of a Bishop, a Chairman shall be elected from among the elders at each Annual Conference. Each chairman shall attend the next succeeding conference, in conjunction with the Chairman there elected; that a regular correspondence be maintained until the ensuing General Conference.

8.—It shall be the duty of the Bishops to see that a suitable sermon be delivered to the preachers present at each Annual Conference.

SECTION XVIII.

Immoral Conduct of Preachers.

Ques.—What shall be done when a Bishop, Presiding Elder, or Preacher, is reported of being guilty of immorality?

Ans.—When a Bishop is thus accused, it shall be the duty of a Presiding Elder and an Elder, after being duly notified, to enquire into, and examine whether it is founded in truth. But as the apostle says: “Receive not an accusation against an Elder, but before two or three witnesses,” I Tim., v, 19; they shall not arraign him on mere vague reports. But if it appears that he is justly accused, they shall arraign him; take down their proceedings in writing, and send a copy thereof to the Bishop accused, and appoint a time and place where the accusers and the accused shall meet; where the case shall be tried by two Presiding Elders and three Elders; and if he is found guilty, he shall hold his peace until the sitting of the Annual Conference next ensuing, who shall again examine and try the said case. And if again found guilty,

he shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may require.

2.—When a Presiding Elder is thus accused, it shall be the duty of the nearest Elder, and a Preacher, to enquire into and examine the same; and if the accused be found guilty, they shall take down their proceedings in writing, and send the accused a copy thereof, and appoint a time and place where the accusers and the accused shall meet; and in the absence of the Bishop another Presiding Elder, and two Elders, shall examine the charge; and if he is found guilty, he shall hold his peace until the next Annual Conference, where he shall be accountable.

3.—When an Elder or Preacher is charged with immoral conduct, the preacher, to whom it is known, shall take with him another preacher, exhorter, or leader, and examine into the charge. Should he be found guilty, notice thereof shall be given him, and a time and place appointed where the accusers and the accused shall meet. Then three Elders

or Preachers shall try his case, who are to be appointed by the parties concerned, each party appointing one, and the two a third; and if he be convicted, he shall hold his peace till the Annual Conference, where he shall be accountable. But should sufficient satisfaction be given in either of the foregoing cases, by an expression of repentance, or otherwise, they may be retained, if considered expedient. But should the accused Preacher, Elder, or Bishop, refuse to attend, after having been notified of the time and place of trial, he shall be suspended; and the committee shall notify him to appear at the next Quarterly or Annual Conference, to answer to the charges preferred against him; and if he fails to attend, [sickness or unavoidable circumstances excepted,] he shall be suspended, or expelled as Conference may think proper.

SECTION XIX.

Preachers' Salaries.

1.--The annual allowance of a traveling Bishop, or Preacher, if he has no

family, shall be one hundred dollars, and his traveling expenses; if he has a family, it shall be two hundred dollars, his traveling expenses and house rent not exceeding forty dollars.

2.—When a traveling preacher has a family of children, the Quarterly Conference of his Circuit, is, in that case, to grant him such an allowance, in addition to that above stated, as, in their judgment, will supply the wants of his family.

3.—It shall be the duty of the circuit or station, when a preacher is sent to them by Annual Conference, to move said preacher on such circuit or station, at their own expence.

Ques.—What shall be done for the needy, superannuated, or worn out traveling preachers, and for their widows and orphans.

Ans.—The dividend falling to the different conferences from the benevolent fund, shall be appropriated to their support.—Provided, it be strictly observed that the Benevolent Fund money shall not be appropriated to any other purpose.

If there are no such claimants as the above specified, it shall be retained by the Conference, from year to year, until such cases do occur. And in case the Annual Conference shall, upon evidence received, be satisfied that there are such claimants, it shall be the duty of Conference to appoint a committee, one of whom shall be a Bishop, to divide said fund. Provided, however, that a superannuated preacher shall be allowed no more, annually, than one hundred and fifty dollars, if married, and no more than seventy-five dollars, if unmarried: widows, no more, annually, than seventy five dollars: and an orphan no more than twenty, while under 12 years of age.

SECTION XX.

Marriage Ceremony.

ADDRESS.

We are gathered together in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together N. and M. as husband and wife. If any persons present know any just cause or impediment

why these persons should not be joined in marriage, let the same now speak, or forever hereafter keep silent.

[If no impediment be alleged, then shall the minister say unto the man:]

N., Wilt thou have this women to thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance? Wilt thou love, honor, and comfort her in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her so long as ye both shall live? If so then answer, "YES."

[Then shall the Minister say to the woman:]

M., Wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance? Wilt thou love, honor, and obey him, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him so long as ye both shall live. If so, then answer, "YES."

[Then the Minister shall require them to join their right hands together, and say.]

Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

Inasmuch as N. and M. have consented together in marriage, and have witnessed the same before God and these witnesses, I pronounce them husband and wife, in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen:

Ques.—Who of our ministers are permitted to solemnize marriage?

Ans.—All ordained ministers, and also those that have obtained license from an *Annual Conference*, where the law of the State makes it the privilege of every regular licenced minister to solemnize marriage, and none are permitted to solemnize marriage with *Quarterly Conference* license.

SECTION XXI.

Necessity of Union among Ourselves.

Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known,) of the evil of a division in principle, spirit, or practice, and of the dreadful consequences to ourselves and others. If we are united what can

stand before us? If we are divided, we shall injure ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

What can be done in order to a closer union with each other?

1.—Let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.

2.—Pray earnestly for, and speak truly and freely to each other.

3.—When we meet let us never part without prayer.

4.—Take great care not to despise each other's gifts.

5.—Never speak lightly of each other.

6.—Let us defend each other's characters in every thing, so far as is consistent with truth.

7.—Labor, in honor, each, to prefer another before himself.

8.—We recommend a serious examination of the causes, evils and cures of heart and church divisions.

SECTION XXII.

Visiting from House to House, and enforcing Practical Religion.

Ques.—How can we further assist those under our care?

Ans. 1.—By instructing them at their own houses, which is necessary to promote confidence and communion with God among us, to wean us from the love of the world, and to mure us to a life of heavenly mindedness; also, to encourage us to strive after and practise brotherly love, that no evil thinking or judging of one another be found among us; and, lastly, that we may learn to do as we would wish to be done unto.

2.—Every preacher should make it his duty to instruct the people on every occasion, both public and private; and exhort them to be diligent in all good works and doctrine. Until this be done, and that in sincerity, we shall, upon the whole, be of but little use, and our good shall be evil spoken of; therefore, wherever we may be we should guard against useless and idle conversation.

Undoubtedly this private application of visiting from house to house, and exhorting the people, is found or implied in these solemn words of the Apostle:

“I charge thee, therefore, before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and dead at His appearing, and His kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine.”—II Tim. iv. 1, 2.

SECTION XXIII.

Instruction of Children.

What shall be done to benefit the rising generation?

Let him who is in any way zealous for God, and the souls of men, begin the work without delay. Wherever children are found, meet them as often as possible; speak freely with them, and instruct them diligently; exhort them to be good, and pray with them, earnestly, yet simply and plainly, that they may learn to know their Creator and Redeemer in the days of their youth.

SECTION XXIV.

Doctrinal Publications.

No one of our preachers or laymen shall become the Author of any Doctrinal Book or Pamphlet, in a printed form, without the approbation of the Annual Conference, or of a committee chosen by the same. And if any preacher or layman violates this rule, he shall be accountable to the class, or to the Quarterly or Annual Conference, as the case may be.

SECTION XXV.

Oaths.

We believe that the mode of testifying to the truth, when required so to do, in a legal form, by way of affirmation, is on us solemnly, conscientiously, and fully binding before God to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

SECTION XXVI.

Ardent Spirits.

The distilling and vending of ardent spirits shall hereafter be forbidden throughout our whole society. Should any preacher, exhorter, leader, or layman, from and after the next Annual Conference in 1842, be engaged in distilling or vending ardent spirits, he shall be accountable to the class, the quarterly or annual Conference, to which he belongs, as the case may be. If the offending brother be an exhorter, leader, or layman, it shall be the duty of the preacher in charge to admonish him in meekness. If he be a preacher, it shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer of a Quarterly or Annual Conference to admonish him to desist from his unholy employment; and if all friendly admonitions fail, such offending person or persons shall no more be considered as members of our church, but be expelled from the same.—Provided, however, that this rule shall not be so construed as to prevent druggists and

others from vending for medicinal or mechanical purposes.

SECTION XXVII.

Free Masonry.

Free Masonry, in every sense of the word, shall be totally prohibited, and in no wise tolerated in our Society. And should any of our members continue to attend their lodges, or join as a member in any masonic procession, or otherwise join a masonic fraternity, he shall, for so doing, be excluded from our church.

SECTION XXVIII.

Slavery.

All slavery, in every sense of the word, is totally prohibited, and shall in no way be tolerated in our church. Should any be found in our Society, who hold slaves, they cannot continue as members unless they do personally manumit or set free such slaves.

SECTION XXIX.

**Rules and Regulations
Of our Printing Establishment in Circleville, Ohio.**

RULE I.

1.—The above Establishment shall be called “The Conference Printing Establishment of the United Brethren in Christ.”

2.—The legislative authority, herein granted, is vested in the General Conference of said Church, whose duty it is to make or amend any rules, as in their judgment may seem expedient.

3.—It shall be the duty of General Conference to appoint or elect three Trustees every four years; and, also, to employ an Editor and Publishing Agent.

4.—If a vacancy should occur in the Editorial or Agency Department, it shall be the duty of the Trustees to employ some other suitable person or persons to fill said vacancy until the sitting of the next General Conference.

5.—In case a vacancy in the Board of Trustees should occur, it shall be the duty of the remaining two to appoint a third

person to fill the vacancy until the sitting of the next General Conference.

6.—The proceeds of said establishment, over and above contingent expenses, shall be applied to the traveling and worn out preachers, and their widows and orphans, to be equally divided annually among the different Annual Conferences.

RULE II.

1.—It shall be the duty of the Trustees to make settlement with the Publishing Agent and Editor every six months; and cause the Publishing Agent to make out a report to each Annual Conference, of the Scioto District; and, also, to make a special report to each General Conference.

2.—It shall be the duty of the Scioto Annual Conference, in the interval of the sessions of the General Conference, to see that the Editor, Publishing Agent, and Trustees, discharge their official duties as required.

3.—On impeachment of any of the

above named officers it shall be the duty of the above named Annual Conference to examine into said impeachment; and, if guilty, in their opinion, to dismiss them, and supply the vacancy until the sitting of the next General Conference.

RULE III.

1.—It shall be the duty of the Editor to pay STRICT attention to all communications sent for insertion; to revise them, if necessary, and then insert them. But, if he should receive any, which, in his opinion, are repugnant to the doctrine and rules of our church, he shall present them to the Publishing Agent, or to one or more of the Trustees; and, if rejected by them, they shall be withheld; otherwise, inserted.

2.—It shall be the duty of the Editor to write editorial for each number of the paper; and to attend strictly to the reading of proof-sheet, making selections, &c.

3.—The Trustees shall have a general oversight over the Editor and Publishing

Agent, and see that they discharge their duty; and if they do not, they may be suspended until the sitting of the next Annual Conference, which shall determine the matter; in which case said Trustees shall supply the vacancy for the time being.

RULE IV.

1.—It shall be the duty of the Publishing Agent to take charge of the temporal concerns of the office; to keep all the books pertaining thereunto; to furnish, at the direction of the Trustees, such materials as may be needed at all times; and to act as General Book Agent under the instruction of said Trustees.

2.—It shall be the duty of the Publishing Agent to keep a general oversight over the hands in the office, and see that they do not spend their time in idleness.

3.—The Trustees shall have privilege to make any by-laws that may seem expedient to them, for the better regulation of the minor concerns of the office: provided, they do not violate any part of the above rules.

SECTION XXX.

Book Agency.

1.--There shall be a Book Agent appointed in each Annual Conference District, whose duty it shall be to take charge of all books sent to him by the Publishing Agent, and appertaining to, the Conference Printing Establishment in Circleville, Ohio.

2.--Said Agent shall be accountable to the Publishing Agent of said Establishment.

3.—It shall be his duty, so far as may be safe or expedient, to distribute to the circuit preachers, for the use of the church, all the books that may be sent to him by the Publishing Agent.

4.--Said Agent shall keep an accurate account of all the distributions of books, and collections of money, for, and in behalf of said establishment. If books are wanted in his district, he is to notify the Publishing Agent by letter; and each Annual Conference shall be responsible for all moneys or books in the hands of the agent of its own appointing, and on

default or neglect of duty on the part of a district agent, the Conference of which said agent is a member, shall be considered bound for any sum thus delinquent, with interest from the time of such default, or neglect of duty—Also, any district agent when succeeded by another in office, neglecting to transfer all books in his hands to his successor, and forwarding a receipt therefor, and closing up his own account, in some way satisfactorily shall be considered as neglecting his duty in the sense above specified. Said agent shall receive a fair per centage, as fixed by the Trustees, for his services, and be held responsible for all distributions of books that he makes.

5.—When a district agent fails to comply with the requirements of discipline, the Publishing Agent shall inform the Annual Conference of which he is a member or resident, of such delinquency.

6.—Said Agent shall make settlement with the Publishing Agent, by letter or otherwise, every six months.

SECTION XXXI.

Order to be observed in Building Meeting Houses.

Ques.—Is any thing advisable in regard to the building of Meeting Houses?

Ans.—Let all our Meeting Houses be built plainly and neatly with free seats, and not more expensive than necessary.

Ques.—To whom are our meeting houses, and the premises belonging to them, to be deeded?

Ans.—To a Board of Trustees, and their successors in office, in trust, as the property of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

Ques.—How is a Board of Trustees constituted?

Ans.—Whenever it is contemplated, by a Society, to purchase or to build a Meeting House, it shall be the duty of a leader or steward of such Society to make it known to the Quarterly Conference of the Circuit or Station to which he belongs, whose duty it shall be to appoint a judicious Board of Trustees, of not less than three in number. Provi-

ded, however, that none be required to serve more than four years, unless indispensably necessary. No person shall be considered eligible as a Trustee for any of our Meeting Houses, who is not a regular member of our Church.

Ques.—How are the Trustees to proceed in building a house?

Ans.—No Society shall commence the building of any meeting house, without first getting an act of incorporation, where the law of the State requires it. They shall form an estimate of the amount necessary to procure a lot, to build, and to make such other improvements as may be conceived necessary. And they shall at no time proceed with the building of a house of worship, beyond the means, either in hand or sufficiently secured, so as to avoid involving our houses of worship any way in debt, and also secure a lawful title for the lot upon which they intend to build.

To hold annual meetings, and keep a fair and regular record of the transactions of their Board, in a book provided

for that purpose, which shall at all times be open for inspection by the Quarterly Conference of said Circuit or Station.

To take charge of the meeting house property, furniture, premises, burial ground, &c.

Ques.--What shall be done when a vacancy or vacancies occur in the Board of Trustees?

Ans.--It shall be the duty of the Quarterly Conference to appoint a suitable person or persons to fill such vacancies.

Ques.--What shall be done when any of our houses are vacant?

Ans.--It shall be the duty of a Quarterly Conference, of the nearest circuit, to appoint not less than three suitable persons for Trustees, who shall have the power, when authorized by two-thirds of the members of that Conference, to lease, rent, or sell such meeting house, and the appurtenances belonging to it; and to appropriate the money arising from such lease, rent, or sale, to what said Conference may direct.

The above rule to be observed in purchasing or building parsonage houses.

It shall be the duty of our Presiding Elders, as soon as convenient, to appoint, or see that three or five suitable persons are appointed with the consent of the Quarterly Conference, to take up subscriptions to build or purchase a parsonage house for their respective Stations or Circuits, the same to be deeded to those three or five Trustees, and their successors in office, for the use of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. We command that all our parsonage houses be plain, and located in some central place.

NOTE.—The Trustees should be careful, in all cases, to have deeds of conveyance legally executed, and recorded in the county records where the property is: that is, to have the deed made to them and to their successors in office, in trust, for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and to erect and build, or cause to be built, a house of worship for the use of the members of said Church.

SECTION XXXII.

Certificates.

Members of our Society moving to other places, and seeking admission there, shall procure such a Certificate as this, signed by a leader or Preacher—

“This is to certify that A. B. is a member of good standing in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, at

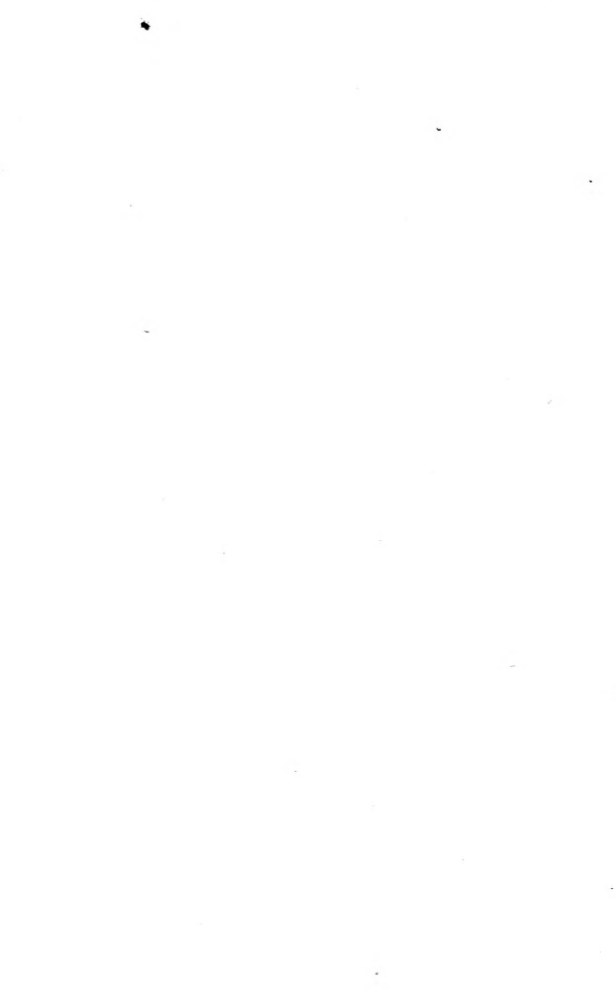
(Date, &c.)

Preachers removing from one Conference district to another, shall, when they apply to another Conference for admission, produce a transfer from the Conference to which he formerly belonged, and to be signed by the Presiding officer.

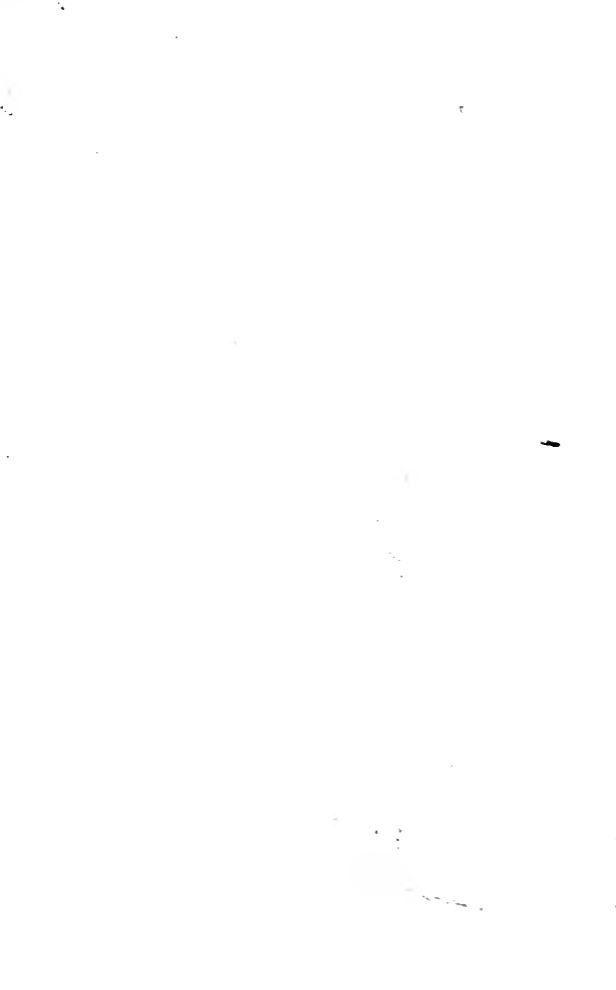
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