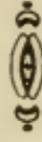


1849

BX9878
.52.A1
1849

Library of The Theological Seminary

PRINCETON · NEW JERSEY



PRESENTED BY

Rufus H. LeFevre

BX 9878

.52. A1

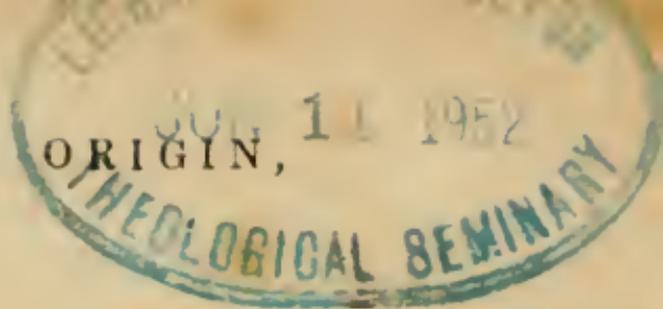
1849

J. V. Potts





JUN 10 1952
ORIGIN,



D O C T R I N E ,

CONSTITUTION AND DISCIPLINE,

O F T H E

✓
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO:

Printed at the Conference Office.

1849.

O R I G I N
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 Savior preached to them in their native language.

Amongst others, he raised up WILLIAM OTTERBEIN and MARTIN BŒHM, 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 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 BŒHM,	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 BŒHM,	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 whom they had cause to believe had experienced true religion in their own souls.

In the meantime, 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, Menonites. 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 BŒHM, HENRY KRUM,

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

There they united themselves into a society which bears the name, "UNITED BROTHERN IN CHRIST," and elected WILLIAM OTTERBEIN and MARTIN BŒHM, 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, annually, such a great distance to the Conference.

In the meantime, Brothers BŒHM 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 elected 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 TREYER,
ABR'M HIESTAND,	GEO. BENEDUM,
ANDREW ZELLER,	ABR'M TRACKSEL,
CHRISTIAN BERGER,	HENRY G. SPAYTH,
ABRAHAM MYER,	I. NIGHSWANGER,
JOHN SCHNEIDER,	CHRISTIAN KRUM,
HENRY KUMLER,	JACOB BOWLUS.

The Conference convened on the 6th of June, 1815, near Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland co., Pa. After 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 affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. Let the mind be in you which was in Christ, who took upon him 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 the 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 Savior 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 Testament, 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 I.

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 Confer-

ence 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 Con-

ference 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, meetinghouses, 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 recognised 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.

Question 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 within the first ten days of November next preceding the sitting of said Conference.

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. Should any be incapacitated by affliction or age to attend

such meeting, they may send a ballot containing the names of the candidates of their choice, and their own name signed on the back of their ballot.

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, and 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, and so descend if need be to the last candidate.

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 class-leader or steward takes the votes 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.

It shall be the duty of each General Conference, to examine the administration of each Annual Conference, whether it has strictly observed the rules, and pre-

served the moral principles of the Discipline in all its transactions.

In the election of all officers of the General Conference, a majority of all the votes shall be necessary to a choice.

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.

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 Conference shall elect a chairman by ballot to act in

conjunction with the Bishop. If no Bishop should be present, it shall be the duty of the Annual Conference to elect a Bishop *pro tem*, whose official acts shall be valid.

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 chap., 7th to 9th verse, and 2nd Tim., 2nd chap. 15th 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 con-

tingent expenses and the salary of traveling preachers?

5. Has reckoning been made with the traveling 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?

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 Con-

ference, 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; 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 measurable

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 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.

Organization of the Itinerancy and the Manner of Sustaining it.

Ques. Who are the Itinerants?

Ans. 1. All who propose themselves without reserve, and are received by a vote of Conference, shall be considered Itinerants from year to year, and may be employed under the direction of the General, or Annual Conferences.

2. The Bishops and presiding Elders of the past and present year, together with an equal number of local Elders or preachers, elected by the Annual Conference, shall constitute a stationing committee, whose duty it shall be to supply all the circuits, stations, and missions, as far as practicable, from the above list:

Provided, however, that if any of the preachers thus stationed, or any who may not receive an appointment, are dissatisfied, they shall have a right to appeal to the Annual Conference, if two thirds grant the appeal; the decision of which shall be final, and the report of said stationing committee shall be read at least twenty-four hours before the adjournment of Conference.

3. Should there not be enough Itinerants to fill all the circuits, stations and missions, such vacancy shall be supplied by the presiding Elders.

Ques. 2. What shall be done for the support of Itinerants?

Ans. 1. It shall be the duty of the preacher in charge, in conjunction with the stewards of the quarterly conference, at its first session in each year, to make out an estimate of the regular expenses of the circuit or station, and apportion the same among the different appointments according to their several abilities :

Provided, however, should any Annual Conference think any other measure expedient, they may adopt it.

Ques. 3. What shall be done for the support of the presiding Elders ?

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. 4. How shall the presiding Elders be elected ?

Ans. The Annual Conference shall elect them by ballot. A majority of the whole number of votes shall be necessary to a choice.

Ques. 5. How shall they be stationed?

Ans. By the Bishop and two Elders.

Ques. 6. How shall the Bishops' fields of labor be assigned them?

Ans. By the General Conference, and in the fields thus assigned them they shall devote their whole time:

Provided, however, that they shall have the privilege of making interchanges when circumstances make it necessary, the same not being inconsistent with the wishes of the respective Annual Conferences.

Ques. 7 How shall their support be secured?

Ans. 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.

Ques. 8. What shall be done to regulate the Annual Conferences in the division of circuits or stations?

Ans. A circuit or station shall not

consist in any specific number of members, or appointments, but when the Annual Conference thinks it able to support a minister, it may be recognized as such.

¶ 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 Conference. Yet supernumerary and superannuated relations shall be duly recognised as in accordance with this section, and may be secured to any brother having just claims thereto by a vote of Conference.

Should a traveling preacher or Elder desire to leave the work 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.

SECTION VIII.

Missionary Societies,---Foreign and Home.

Ques. What shall be done to promote the further extension of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world?

Ans. 1. The old Foreign Missionary Society shall be immediately revived, and the former officers and Trustees be and are hereby appointed for the ensuing four years.

2. It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference of our church to adopt some suitable plan, by which annual collections may be raised for the foregoing object, said collections to be forwarded to the Treasurer of said society.

3. The Trustees and Officers of said

society shall constitute a board of missions, which is hereby authorized to send missionaries to Oregon and elsewhere, as soon as men and means can be raised.

4. It shall also be the duty of each Annual Conference in our connection to resolve itself into a Home Missionary Society, simply by appointing a Treasurer or Treasurers, the object of which shall be to extend the gospel within its own limits and elsewhere.

5. Annual collections shall be lifted, when practicable, on all the circuits and stations within said bounds for the above object.

6. All appropriations of funds belonging to the *Home Missionary Society*, shall be made by the respective Annual Conferences.

7. All bequests or donations, the interest of which is to go to Missionary purposes, made to either of the above societies, shall be kept sacred.

SECTION IX.

German Missionary Societies.

Ques. What shall be done to extend the blessings of the Gospel to the Germans of the west ?

Ans. 1st. Let all our Annual Conferences, as far as practicable, constitute *German* Missionary societies for said purpose.

2. Said Conferences shall, as far as circumstances may admit, form missions, circuits, and stations; and as far as possible supply them with men and means.

3. It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to cause collections to be taken up annually, when practicable, for German Missionary purposes on all the circuits and stations within its bounds. Said collections shall be forwarded to their respective Annual Conferences, and by them be appropriated to the extension of the German work within their own bounds, or elsewhere.

4. It is earnestly desired and recom-

mended, that all our Annual Conferences, especially in the west, use all laudable means to encourage and keep up German preaching, wherever hearers can be had.

SECTION X.

Quarterly Conference.

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

Ans. All the properly recognised 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. In the absence of the Presiding Elder the Quarterly Conference shall elect a Presiding Elder *pro tem*, whose official acts shall be valid.

2. To elect a secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all their proceedings, in a book provided for that purpose, in which the names of all

the members, composing the said Conference shall be entered.

3. To make a general, or, if necessary, a particular enquiry into the moral deportment and official character of all its members.

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

5. To grant license to exhort, or preach, to such as may have been recommended by at least two-thirds of the class (in each case a recommendation must be obtained) of which he or they may be 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.

6. To make settlement with the stewards and traveling preachers.

7. That the license of exhorters, and

Quarterly Conference-licensed preachers, be subject to renewal annually.

8. 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.

9. 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 on examination on the doctrine, discipline, church government and usages of our church, then the Quarterly Conference may license them till the next Annual Conference ensuing; after which, if their conduct and doctrine be 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 notification 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 XI.

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 to him or her 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 answer 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 ; but shall be recognised as a seeker under the watch-care of 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, when practicable, all of our meetings for worship.

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

Every one should strive to walk as in the presence of God; also, accustom himself to a close communion with God in all his employments, and never speak evil of his fellow beings, but practise love towards friend and foe; do good to the poor, and 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 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 hath prospered him,” 1 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 other unavoidable circumstances, have been brought to want, it shall 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 cir-

cumstances 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 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. 1 John, iii: 17, Psalm xli: 1, 2.

Resolved, That it be the advice of the General Conference, that all districts, stations, circuits, and missions, consisting of classes and otherwise, to cheerfully receive the preachers appointed by the stationing committees of the respective Annual Conferences.

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 violate, or habitually neglect these rules, they shall be, by their respective class-leaders, admonished to reformation; and should they not reform they shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may require.

ADMONITION ON DRESS.—Inasmuch as the Lord has commanded us not to be conformed to this world, (Rom. 12: 2) to lay apart all filthiness, and superfluity of naughtiness, (James, 1: 21) and as the principles of the christian religion, as taught both by the precepts and example of the meek and adorable Savior, are in strict and perfect accordance with these commandments,—

We therefore humbly beseech and admonish the members of our church, both male and female, to observe these divine precepts, in buying, making, and wearing of apparel, as also the cutting and wearing of the hair, *especially our ministers*

and their families, they being ensamples to the flock.

SECTION XII.

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.

Ques. What is the duty of a leader?

Ans. It shall be his duty to meet his class in prayer or class meeting, at least once a week; to speak to them concerning the spiritual welfare of their souls, and exhort them to unity and love. 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 trav-

eling 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. It shall also be his duty to provide the elements for Sacrament.

Ques. What are the duties of exhorters?

Ans. To make appointments wherever it is acceptable to the people; read portions of sacred Scripture, exhorting therefrom; exhorting saints, that they with purpose of heart should cleave to the Lord, and sinners to flee from the wrath to come; and this they shall do as often as practicable.

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

Ans. The class shall appoint one or more to visit the offending brother or member, and if possible reclaim him; but if unsuccessful, he or she 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. Yet, cases may happen, where it would be expedient to choose a committee from any other class, or classes, than the one to which the parties belong; also, an elder may be chosen as chairman, should the preacher in charge deem it best to do so.

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 party shall choose two arbiters, and the four shall choose a fifth; a decision of the majority of whom shall be final. Any per-

son refusing to abide by this decision, and every member refusing, in case of debt or 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 recommendation in writing, signed by the lead-

er to the Quarterly Conference of his circuit or station.

SECTION XIII.

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. 1. Be diligent. Never trifle

away your time; 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 réports; believe evil of no one without good evidence. Put the best construction on everything.

2. Speak evil of no one. Whatever may be your 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 instruc-

tion and prayer, and in meditating on the word of God. With these be occupied until our Lord cometh.

No preacher shall arbitrarily form a mission or circuit within the embrace of any circuit, or presiding Elder's district.

SECTION XIV.

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 elected 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—of Members in General—Classes.*

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 each quarterly Conference, where he is to be held accountable for the neglect of any regular appointment on his circuit.

7. It shall be his duty to use every laudable effort to circulate our books and church periodicals—collect funds due the Telescope office, and use due diligence to advance the interests of the Conference Printing Establishment.

8. 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.

9. No preacher shall dismiss any appointment from his circuit without the consent of Quarterly Conference.

10. To make out a list of all the ap-

pointments on his circuit, and present it to the Presiding Elder at each Annual Conference, for the convenience of his successor.

11. 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.

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

It shall be the duty of circuit preachers to visit as much as possible.

Resolved, that each preacher, whether local or itinerant, make use of every laudable effort to enlarge the borders of our Zion, in spreading scriptural holiness over these lands, and report to their respective annual Conferences the number of new appointments obtained.

SECTION XV.

Election of Elders.

Ques. How is an Elder constituted ?

Ans. After a probation of three years, a preacher may be presented to the yearly Conference for consideration; whereupon the Bishop shall propose to conference the following questions :

Ques. 1. Is he blameless touching the marriage state ?

2. Is his deportment in the social circle marked with watchful sobriety ?

3. Is he hospitable towards the afflicted and needy ?

4. Is he faithful in the public ministration of God's word ?

5. Is his household subject to rules of piety ?

Should the above questions be answered in the affirmative, a committee of three or five elders shall be appointed, before whom the candidates shall each appear, and speak uninterruptedly in answer to the following questions, viz :

Ques. 1. Upon what foundation do you believe the Bible to be the word of God?

2. How do you prove the fall of man by transgression?

3. How do you prove the redemption of man by Jesus Christ?

4. Do you believe in the God-head of Jesus Christ?

5. What foundation have you for such a belief?

6. Do you believe in the Holy Ghost as presented in our Confession of Faith?

7. Upon what evidence do you believe this?

8. Do you believe in future everlasting punishment?

9. What is the Biography of the Bible?

10 Name at least one of the Patriarchs, and tell some circumstance which occurred in his life?

11. In what Division of the earth was the Bible primarily written?

12. What great occurrence is the first subject of Bible history.

13. Of what nation does the Bible give the most particular history ?

14. What is signified by the chronology of the Bible ?

It shall be the privilege of the committee in the close, to propose any question touching the answers given, wherein their understanding may not have been distinct. It shall also be their duty to make out, sign and deliver to Conference a report of each case which may have been before them. Whereupon, by a majority of the votes of the Elders of Conference, said candidates may be elected to ordination. All ordained ministers of other denominations, who may join our church as such, must pass the above examination, but they may be exempt from the laying on of hands. Yet circumstances demanding it, a licentiate may be presented to Conference for ordination, at any time prior to a probation of three years; provided two-

thirds of the Elders present vote for the same.

SECTION XVI.

Elders' Duties.

It is the duty of an Elder to preach as often as he can, to baptize, to administer the Lord's supper, solemnize marriages, to perform all parts of divine service, to be an example to the flock of Christ, by imitating his moral example; and in a very special manner it shall be the duty of an Elder to cherish and encourage young ministers, and always to be looking for those whom God hath called to preach, and advise them to take up the cross, and begin the work without delay, that the labor of this gospel harvest may be faithfully performed.

SECTION XVII.

Ordination of Elders.

1. On the day appointed there shall

be a suitable sermon or exhortation delivered.

11. 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.”—*Tit. 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 yourse'f, 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 to do so.

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 XVIII.

Presiding Elders.

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, and trustees, and administer the ordinances of God's house. He shall inquire and examine whether the preachers do their duty, preach every Sabbath; and exhort them to maintain discipline and order, love and seriousness in the society.

4. He can also, in conjunction with two elders, preachers, exhorters or lead-

ers, [one from each circuit,] change the preachers in his district.

5. 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.

SECTION XIX.

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, together with an equal number of elders or preachers, 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. It is incumbent on them to perform the rites of ordination.

5. When a Bishop neglects his duty, unless through unavoidable circumstances, he cannot be suffered to retain his office.

6. If our church should at any time be destitute of a Bishop, a Bishop *pro tem*

shall be elected from among the Elders at each Annual Conference. Each Bishop *pro tem* shall attend the next succeeding Conference, in conjunction with the Bishop *pro tem* there elected; that a regular Correspondence be maintained until the ensuing General Conference.

7. 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 XX.

Immoral Conduct of Preachers.

Ques. What shall be done when an Elder or Preacher is reported guilty of immorality?

Ans. 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; but as the apostle saith, 1 Timothy, 5 chap, 19 verse, "Receive not an accusation against an El-

der, but before two or three witnesses.—Should it appear he is justly accused, notice thereof shall be given him, and a time and place appointed where the accusers and the accused shall meet. Then three Elders, or one Elder and two Preachers shall try his case, which are to be appointed by the parties concerned, each party appointing one, and the two a third; should they be satisfied that the accusation is sustained, then the accused shall hold his peace till the An. Con. where he shall be accountable. But if the Elder be a Bishop, he shall be tried by that Annual Conference within whose bounds the cause of accusation occurred. But should sufficient satisfaction be given by an expression of repentance, or otherwise, he may be retained. 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 An-

nual Conference, to answer to the charges preferred against him ; and if he fail to attend, [unavoidable circumstances excepted,] he shall be suspended, or expelled, as Conference may think proper.

NOTE.—When a Preacher or Elder is expelled from one Annual Conference, he shall not be received into another Conference without the consent of the Conference from which he was expelled.

SECTION XXI.

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 addi-

tion to that above stated, as, in their judgment, will supply the wants of his family.

3. It shall be the duty of a 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 expense.

Ques. What shall be done for the needy, superannuated, or worn out traveling preachers, and 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 specified above, it shall be retained by the Conference from year to year, until such cases occur. And in case the Annual Conference, shall, upon evidence received, be satisfied 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 twelve years of age.

The preachers shall account to the Annual Conference for all presents received.

SECTION XXII.

Constitution

Of the Society formed for the support and relief of the traveling or superannuated and in the service of the gospel worn out Preachers of the United Brethren in Christ.

ARTICLE I.

This society is to be known by and bear the name of "THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST."

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The funds of this society and all other concerns, are to be directed and managed by a board

of seven Trustees, a majority of whom is to constitute a quorum to transact the business entrusted to them.

SEC. 2. The first trustees are to be appointed by the present Annual Conference and hold their appointment until their successors are appointed by the next General Conference, who shall appoint the Trustees for this society, at each succeeding General Conference for four years.

SEC. 3. In case of death, resignation, or expulsion of any member of the board of Trustees, the President of the board shall notify and call a meeting of the members of the board, where they shall fill the vacancy by electing another member from the subscribers.

SEC. 4. The Trustees shall elect a President out of their own body, who shall preside and have a casting vote in all their proceedings, sign in the name of the PRESIDENT and TRUSTEES of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY of the UNITED BROTHERS IN CHRIST, all contracts, deeds, leases, &c. in behalf of the society.

SEC. 5. The Trustees shall appoint a Treasurer, who shall give bond and securities for the faithful performance of his trust.

SEC. 6. All monies on account of subscriptions donations or otherwise, shall be paid over to the Treasurer, and by him invested in such funds, and appropriated to such purpose, as the board of Trustees shall from time to time direct.

SEC. 7. A correct account of all receipts and expenditures is to be kept by the Treasurer, and annually transmitted to the annual conference, and every four years to the general conference.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. Every member of this society shall pay annually One Dollar on or before the first day of March in every year to the fund of this society.

SEC. 2. Every person who subscribes and pays Ten Dollars, shall be a member for life, without any further contribution.

SEC. 3. If any member neglects or refuses to pay for three successive years his annual subscription, he by so doing excludes himself of his membership.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. The funds of the society received by subscription, donation or otherwise, shall, by the direction of the board of Trustees, be invested in such manner, as shall appear to them the most safe and productive.

SEC. 2. The funds shall be kept SACRED until the capital shall amount to twenty thousand dollars, and on no account whatever shall the board of Trustees appropriate any part of the capital fund before this time.

SEC. 3. The board of Trustees shall annually direct their Treasurer, to pay over to the annual conferences, such sums (after the necessary expences incurred) as may have occurred by interest or revenue on the capital fund.

SEC. 4. The annual conferences shall distribute such sums, as may appear to them most proper and beneficial.

ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1. The board of Trustees shall have the power to locate the place, and appoint the time of their meeting.

SEC. 2. They shall have the power to make by-laws, and adopt such other rules and regulations, as may appear necessary to the welfare of the society, provided such by-laws, rules and regulations are not contrary to this constitution.

SEC. 3. They also have power to adopt and use a common seal in behalf of the society.

ARTICLE VI.

The general conference shall have power to ALTER AND AMEND this constitution, provided two-thirds

of the members of their body agree to such amendment or alteration, and the names of the YEAS and NOES are entered in their portocoll.

The above constitution has been adopted and ratified by the United Brethren in conference assembled.

The following persons were appointed Trustees until the next general conference.

John Cronise,	Valentive Daub,	A. Newcomer,
Geo. Martini,	Jacob Wenger,	Jacob Brazer,
	Sam'l Huber.	April 11, 1822.

Resolved, 1. That the Presiding Elders of the several conferences, furnish each preacher in charge with a list of all the names of all the members of the Benevolent fund society on their respective circuits.

Resolved, 2. That the preachers make every practical effort to procure subscriptions.

Resolved, 3. That each preacher in charge, collect the money due the Benevolent fund society on his circuit, station or mission, principal or interest, as the case may be, and pay it over to the conference Treasurer, on or before the first day of November, or sooner if practicable, annually.

Resolved, 4. That each conference appoint a conference Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to report to the Treasurer of the fund society on or before the first day of December.  The Western conference Treasurer shall report to the Treasurer of the Scioto Conference.

Resolved, 5. The Treasurer of the Scioto conference shall report to the Treasurer of the Parent society, on or before the twenty-fifth of December, so that the Treasurer of the Parent society, at Hagerstown, Md., may be enabled to report through the Telescope, on or before the 16th day of January, in each year.

Resolved, 6. That should no report be received from any annual conference by the Treasurer of the Parent society, according to the preceding resolutions, then

and in that case, the Treasurer of the Parent society shall retain such dividend, until a report be received: but should such a conference fail a second time to report according to the above rules, then such conference shall forfeit its dividend for the two years then passed, and such dividend revert to the general funds of the society.—May, 1849.

SECTION XXIII.

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 person present knows any just cause or impediment why these persons should not be joined in marriage, let the same now speak or forever after keep silent.

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

“N., wilt thou have this woman to be 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, 'I will' "

[Then shall the minister say to the woman:]

"M., wilt thou have this man to be 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 you both shall live? If so, then answer, 'I will.' "

[Then the minister shall require them to join their right hands, 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 solemnise 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 regularly licensed minister to solemnize marriage, and none are permitted to solemnize marriage with *Quarterly* Conference license.

SECTION XXIV.

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 character in every thing, so far as is consistent with truth.

7. Labor in honor, each preferring another before himself.

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

SECTION XXV.

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 pro-

mote confidence and communion with God among us, to wean us from the love of the world, and to inure us to a life of heavenly mindedness; also, to encourage us to strive after and practice 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 by.

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 the dead at his appearing, and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine.”—2 Timothy, 4 : 1, 2.

SECTION XXVI.

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 XXVII.

Sabbath Schools.

Whereas, the Sabbath school institution is in every way worthy our highest regard and untiring efforts to promote as a branch of the christian church,

Resolved, therefore, that we labor to have Sabbath schools organized throughout the church.

Resolved, That all our ministers, both Itinerant and otherwise, do all consistently in their power to organize Sabbath Schools in our societies wherever practicable.

Resolved, That our Printing Establishment furnish the Church as soon as practicable, with books of suitable character for Sabbath Schools; meanwhile we will get books whencesoever we see proper.—
May, 1849.

SECTION XXVIII.

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 XXIX.

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 XXX.

Ardent Spirits.

The distilling, vending, and use of ardent spirits as a beverage, shall and is hereby forbidden throughout our society; and should any preacher, exhorter, lead-

er, or layman, be engaged in distilling, vending, or using ardent spirits as a beverage, he shall be accountable to the class, the quarterly or Annual Conference to which he belongs. 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, or habit. And if all friendly admonitions fail, such offending person or persons shall no longer be considered members of our church, but shall be expelled from the same ; provided however that this rule shall not be so construed as to prevent druggists and others, from vending or using it for medicinal or mechanical purposes.

SECTION XXXI.

Free Masonry.

Free Masonry in every sense of the

word shall be totally prohibited, and there shall be no connection with secret combinations, (*a secret society is one whose initiatory ceremony or bond of union is a secret*) and any member found connected with such a society shall be affectionately admonished, twice or thrice, by the preacher in charge ; and if such member does not desist in a reasonable time, he shall be notified to appear before the tribunal to which he is amenable, and if he still refuses to desist, shall be expelled from the church.

SECTION XXXII.

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.

And when it is known to any of our ministers in charge of a circuit, station

or mission, that any of its members hold a slave or slaves, he shall admonish such members to manumit such slave or slaves; and if such persons do not take measures to carry out the discipline, they shall be expelled by the proper authorities of the church; and any minister refusing to attend to the duties above described shall be dealt with by the authorities to which he is amenable.

SECTION XXXIII.

Rules and Regulations of our Printing Establishment, in Circleville, O.

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

4. 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. 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 foregoing rules.

SECTION XXXIV.

Book Agency.

1. There shall be one or more book agents 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 the money 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 of-

vice, 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 percentage, as fixed by the Trustees, for his services, and be held responsible for all distribution 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, and present to each Annual Conference to which he is accountable, a full and complete report of the true state and condition of his agency, to be examined and acted upon by Conference.

SECTION XXXV.

Order to be observed in Building Meeting Houses.

Ques. Is anything advisable in regard to the building of Meeting Houses?

Ans. Let all our Meeting Houses be built plain and neat, 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 to be 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 be-

longs, whose duty it shall be to appoint a judicious Board of Trustees, of not less than three in number, or as the law of the state, in which said house is to be built, may direct; provided, 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 grounds, &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, or station 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 rules 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 parsonage houses 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 members of said church.

SECTION XXXVI.

Charters.

Whereas the laws of certain States require Churches and institutions to be incorporated, in order to be recognized in law :

Therefore, in such cases the Quarterly Conferences of the respective circuits, stations, and Missions, shall appoint a competent committee, consisting of three, who shall apply to the proper source for an Act of Incorporation, on all the church property within the bounds of such

circuit, station, or mission; and at the last Quarterly Conference of each year the presiding Elder shall examine said committee in reference to the above subject.

2. When Legacies are bequeathed to the Church, the names of the presiding Bishops should be inserted in the will of the Testator, to be under the control of said Bishops and their successors in office, to be appropriated to the purpose specified by the donors.

SECTION XXXVII.

Certificates.

Members of our society moving to other places, and seeking admission there, shall procure such a Certificate as the following, 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.)

A Preacher removing from one Conference district to another, shall, when he

applies to another Conference for admission, produce a transfer from the Conference to which he formerly belonged, signed by the Presiding Officer.

(Form of Transfer.)

This is to certify that _____ is a regular _____ or _____ in the church of the United Brethren in Christ, of _____ Annual Conference, and is hereby transferred to _____ Annual Conference of said Church.

ERRATUM.

In preparing the corrections and additions of the discipline as directed by General Conference, the following clause, which should have been placed after the 3d answer to the 2nd question, 4th section, was overlooked:

No preacher shall be permitted to electioneer favorable to his own election to any office, or delegation in the church, and should any be found doing so, he shall be accountable to the next Annual Conference of which he is a member, to be dealt with according to the judgment of said Conference.

J. MONTGOMERY, Sec'y Gen. Con.

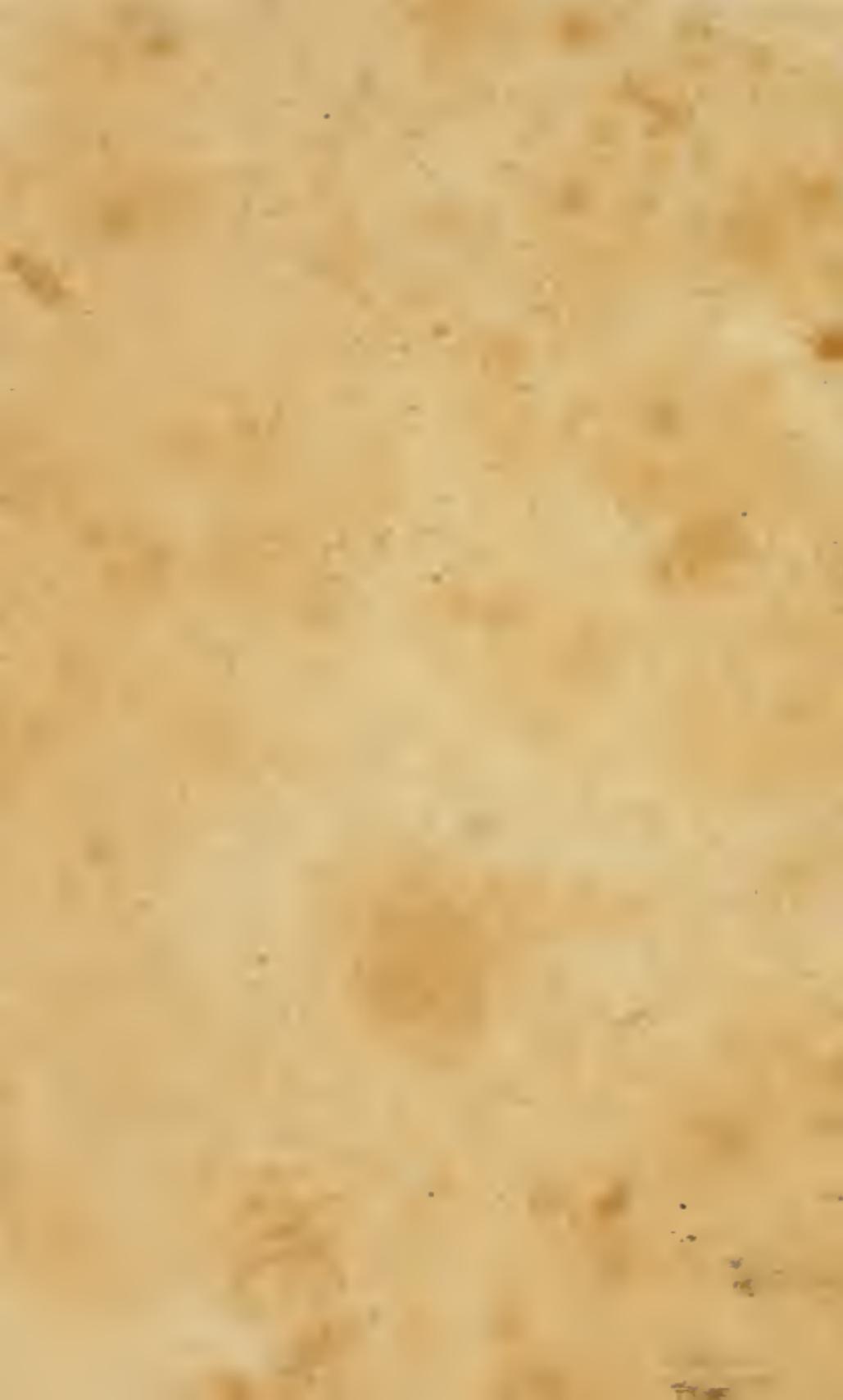
INDEX.

Ardent Spirits,	79
Bishops, Election and duties of	62
Benevolent Fund Constitution,	68
Book Agency,	86
Building Meeting Houses,	89
Confession of Faith,	12
Constitution,	15
Conference, General	18
" Annual,	22
" Quarterly,	35
Course of Reading,	26
Classes,	44
Children, instruction of	77
Charters,	93
Certificates,	94
Doctrinal Publications,	78
Elders, election of	34
" duties of	57
" ordination of	57
" Presiding,	61
Free Masonry,	80
Itinerancy, organization of	27
Immoral conduct of preachers,	64
Missionary Societies,	32
" " German,	34
Members in General,	38
Marriage Ceremony,	72
Origin of the church,	3
Oaths,	79
Preachers, reception of	24
Preachers' duties,	49
Circuit Preachers' duties,	51
Printing Establishment,	82
Salaries,	66
Sabbath Schools,	78
Slavery,	81
Visiting from house to house,	75
Union, necessity of	78











BX9878.52 .A1 1849

Origin, doctrine, constitution, and

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



1 1012 00045 5909