Note: The basic unit in *The Handbook* is the paragraph, rather than page, chapter, or section. The paragraphs are numbered in order through the entire volume, but with many numbers skipped, in order to allow for future additions or amendments, and to fit into the following plan:

1 - 200  Basic Principles and Constitution  
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If a paragraph is divided into numbered parts, each is called a subparagraph. When a paragraph number is followed by a subparagraph number, the two numbers are joined by a colon. For example, 773:1 means paragraph 773, subparagraph 1. If a subparagraph is further divided into parts, they are followed by a letter. For example, 779:2a means paragraph 779, subparagraph 2, division a. A comparative or “cf.” reference, when found within a sentence applies only to that sentence. When the “cf.” appears in brackets outside the sentence the comparative reference(s) apply to the whole of the preceding paragraph.
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PART I – BASIC PRINCIPLES AND CONSTITUTION

Chapter I

HISTORY

A. The Origin of The Wesleyan Movement

1. The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia is part of a world-wide evangelical Denomination with ministries in six continents across more than ninety countries.

2. In a very real sense the church owes its origin to the great spiritual awakening of the 18th century when God raised up John and Charles Wesley, one a church builder and preacher, the other a preacher and hymn writer.

3. John Wesley (1703-1791) was an Ordned Minister of the Church of England, a graduate of Oxford University and an earnest seeker after inward holiness of heart. In May 1738 at a room in Aldersgate Street in London, he “felt his heart strangely warmed” by the assurance of faith for his personal salvation.

4. As a result of the personal conversion of John and Charles Wesley, their quickened lives and preaching was a most significant factor in the commencement of the mighty 18th Century spiritual awakening in England.

5. The Wesleyan revival soon spread from England to America where churches were established, Conferences were formed and in a few years, extraordinary growth in spiritual and numerical strength took place.

6. Methodism was first a movement stressing evangelism and a closer walk with God for those in existing churches. Later it developed along denominational lines, first in the U.S.A., in 1784, (the Methodist Episcopal Church) and then in England, 1795.

7. Early American Methodism was faithful to Wesley's emphasis on doctrine and Christian conduct. Early Methodists were totally opposed to slavery in any form. But when Methodism took root in the Southern United States, many of her Members were or became slave-holders and were inclined to condone the practice.

8. As agitation for the abolition of human slavery began, it became necessary for the Methodist Church to take note of its influence. By ecclesiastical pressure, the bishops and others tried to prohibit Methodist Ministers from agitating for the abolition of slavery. Denied the right to exercise their consciences in this matter, many withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church.

9. The Wesleyan Methodist Church grew out of this reform movement, and was organised in 1843 at Utica, N.Y. Our Denomination therefore, did not have its beginnings over a doctrinal issue. Wesleyan Methodists were, and are, clearly Methodist in doctrine, as that doctrine is reflected in Wesley’s sermons and other writings.

B. The Formation of The Wesleyan Church of North America

10. The holiness revival of the late 19th century brought new life to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, now that the slavery issue had been addressed in American society. It also brought a number of other holiness groups into being, especially the early camp meeting movement of the Pilgrim Holiness Church. The Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Pilgrim Holiness Church went through a period of growth, missionary outreach and absorbing other smaller groups.

11. Merger between The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Church of America was proposed at various times, and was formally achieved on June 26, 1968, at which time The Pilgrim Holiness Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America were united to form The Wesleyan Church.

C. The Organisation of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia

15. Prior to World War II Kingsley Ridgway was converted through the preaching of Rev. A.B. Carson, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. This was despite the fact that Kingsley Ridgway was at that time, studying for the ministry in the Methodist Church. Kingsley served alongside Rev. Carson and as a Lay Missionary to Papua New Guinea. Kingsley returned from Papua New Guinea to accompany Rev. Carson to Canada, where he married Carson’s daughter Dorcas and completed his ministerial studies through the Standard Church of America.

16. Kingsley and Dorcas served as missionaries with the Standard Church in Egypt, during which time, Kingsley completed his doctoral studies. When World War II started, the Ridgway family were repatriated to Australia. During the war Kingsley served with the R.A.A.F. as a military chaplain.

17. As the war came to a close, Kingsley was greatly burdened with the call to establish a holiness church in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Influenced by a providential connection with an American Wesleyan Methodist serviceman, Kingsley made the decision to contact the Wesleyan Methodist Church about sponsoring the new work rather than re-establishing his connection to the Standard Church.

18. After a careful study of The Wesleyan Methodist Church’s Discipline, he concluded, “This is exactly what we believe and the requirements of its Handbook are based on the Scriptures throughout”. He then wrote to America inquiring as to whether they would accept him as their Field Worker. The answer was in the affirmative, and on November 1, 1945, Rev. K.M. Ridgway became the official representative of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Australia.

19. The first meetings were held at 266 Flinders Lane Melbourne, followed by tent meetings at Essendon, Ascot Vale and later at Yarraville. From this group sprang a movement burdened for the spreading of the message of “full salvation”. This vision led in due course to the commencement of services in rented buildings at Moonee Ponds (later relocated to Carlton), Yarraville (later relocated to Sunshine) and Coburn and made the bold decision to purchase an impressive church building in Bendigo (later sold). The first church members were received on the 29th April 1946 at the home of Charles Lee in Monbulk, Victoria.

20. The first annual camp meeting was held at Barwon Heads in December 1946 and included the presence of Miss Grace Wood, an American missionary recently returning home after service in India, 1917-1946. Miss Wood stayed to assist the infant church for three years.

21. In October 1947, Dr. J.R. Swauger, General Secretary for Home Missions, visited the field and presided at the official organisational meeting of the Conference which was held in the Labour Hall, Severn Street, Yarraville on November 14, 1947. The newly
South Pacific Regional Conference became the first Regional Conference to be considered and approved by the International Conference held its first conference in Orlando, Florida. In 2008, at the second International Conference in Panama City, Panama, the goal is that the Regional/National Conference would in time become fully established General Conferences. In 2004 the International Conference of The Wesleyan Church recommended set of the world in the World Organisation Planning Conference, June 6-9, 1972, prior to the Second General Conference. The Planning Conference recommended setting apart those portions of the Constitution which contained the name, doctrines, and standards of conduct plus some new organisational articles as the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, which would be binding upon all General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church. It recommended the formation of a Wesleyan World Fellowship governed by a Charter, functioning through a General Council, with eventually an International Board of Review assisting in maintaining faithfulness to the essentials.

As the size of the International Church grew and began to equal the size of the North American Church, the new structure of an International Conference was put into effect. This new structure introduced the concept of Regional/National Conferences which would no longer be Mission Units, but Conferences with “defined autonomy”, relating directly to the International Conference (IC-6515:2). The goal is that the Regional/National Conference would in time become fully established General Conferences. In 2004 the International Conference held its first conference in Orlando, Florida. In 2008, at the second International Conference in Panama City, Panama, the South Pacific Regional Conference became the first Regional Conference to be considered and approved by the International Conference.
Chapter II

MISSION OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

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

76. The Wesleyan Methodist Church believes that to spread scriptural holiness throughout every land involves the entire church of Christ in mission to the world, including the following:

Sharing the divine revelation of full salvation through Christ as recorded in the Holy Scriptures so as to evangelise the lost and to minister redemptively to human society and its Institutions.

1. Relating new converts to Local Churches and providing Spirit-filled and well-trained Pastors and leaders for the same.
2. Developing in the converts patterns of worship to God and of fellowship with other believers.
3. Discipling them in turn to be witnesses for their Lord.
4. Guiding believers to experience entire sanctification so that they are enabled to live whole and holy lives.
5. Providing for them lifelong nurture and instruction, encouraging each to grow toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus.
6. Helping them to develop a Christian interpretation of life and the universe, training them to be good stewards of the talents, time, opportunities, and resources with which Christ has entrusted them.
7. Equipping them for lives of dynamic service to God and humanity, so that the full potential God has designed for each of them may be realised.
Chapter III

DEFINITIONS

77. Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to terms used in *The Handbook* of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

(1) **The Handbook.** Unless otherwise specifically indicated, *The Handbook* is understood to refer to *The Handbook* of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia as currently approved and authorised by the National Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

(2) **The National Conference.** Unless otherwise specifically indicated, “The National Conference” is understood to refer to the National Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

(3) **The Regional Conference.** Unless otherwise specifically indicated, “The Regional Conference” is understood to refer to the South Pacific Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

(4) **The International Conference.** Unless otherwise specifically indicated, “The International Conference” is understood to refer to the International Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

(5) **The General Conference.** Wherever the term “The General Conference” is used in *The Handbook* of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, it is understood to refer to the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

(6) **General Board of Administration.** Wherever the term “the General Board of Administration” is used in *The Handbook* of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, it is understood to refer to the North American General Board of Administration.
Chapter IV

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

A. Handbook Structure

80. The Constitution. Paragraphs 80-185 of The Handbook contain the Constitution of the South Pacific Regional Conference of the Wesleyan Church. Some sections of the Constitution cannot be amended without the approval of the International Conference. Amendments to the Constitution shall be effected in the following ways:

1) A proposed amendment may originate through a District Conference, a National Conference, a National Board of Administration or the Regional Board. The amendment shall be forwarded to the Regional Secretary through whom it shall be forwarded to each Member National Conference, for vote but not for amendment.

Multi-District Conferences

(2) Where the National Conference consists of multiple District Conferences, each District Conference shall vote and the amendment shall require a majority vote to pass that Conference.

a) The Secretary of each District Conference shall advise the National Secretary in writing of the result of the District Conference vote within fourteen days of the result. Informing subsequent District Conferences of these concluded votes prior to their own vote shall be discouraged.

b) A two thirds majority of the several District Conferences shall be required for the amendment to proceed to the National Conference, where a two-thirds majority vote shall be required for approval.

Single-District Conferences

(3) Where the National Conference does not include multiple Districts, a two-thirds majority vote of the National Conference shall be required for the amendment to pass.

Regional process

(4) Once all National Conferences have voted and advised the Regional Secretary of the result, the Regional Secretary shall advise each National Superintendent and National Secretary and the Regional President in writing of the conclusion, including the names of which National Conferences approved and which National Conferences disapproved the amendment.

(5) The amendment shall require the approval of all Member National Conferences to pass.

(6) Mission Units shall be governed by their sponsoring National Conference and shall not be required to vote on amendments to the Constitution.

Exceptions

(7) The amendment shall take effect with the written notification of the Regional Secretary and shall be included in the next publication of The Handbook, except where the amendment requires the approval of the International Conference as follows:

a) If the amendment seeks to change the Membership Requirements (130-155), it shall require approval of the International Board. The Regional Secretary shall submit proposals for membership changes, duly approved by the Member National Conferences, to the Secretary of the International Board. Changes shall not be implemented until approval is granted. See IC-6515:2i.

b) If the amendment seeks to change The Essentials, including the Articles of Religion (103-126), it shall require subsequent approval of the several General Conferences worldwide. International approval shall be sought by first forwarding the proposed amendment to the North American General Conference. (See IC-6745:8). The Regional Secretary shall submit such proposals, duly approved by the Member National Conferences, to the Secretary of the General Board and the proposed amendment shall not be implemented until approval is granted.

(8) National Conferences are approved to adjust numbering and cross-referencing when publishing the Constitution in their own Handbook.

(9) National Conferences are approved to use either of the terms National Board of Administration or National Council when publishing their Handbook, or to use the inclusive term National Board/Council.

81. Statutory Law. Other than the constitution (80-185), the remaining portions of The Handbook from Part I to Part X shall be Statutory Law for the government of the National, District and Local Churches of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and may vary from National Conference to National Conference.

1) Amendments to Statutory Law shall be achieved by majority vote of the respective National Conference according to the regulations prescribed in The Handbook.

(2) Statutory Law remains in effect until amended, rescinded, or declared unconstitutional. Statutory Law has precedence over all District or National Conference actions or Standing Rules.

82. Ritual and Other.

(1) Ritual. The Ritual of The Wesleyan Methodist Church consists of those rites and ceremonies contained in The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as approved by the National Board of Administration.

(2) Other. Various other Forms, Standards, Policy Documents and Charters are included as appendices for information.

100. The most recent publication of The Handbook, duly authorised by the National Board of Administration, has authority for The Wesleyan Methodist Church and supersedes all previous editions of The Handbook or any other publications.
B. The Articles of the Constitution

Preamble

101. There shall be an Established Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church in the South Pacific for the purpose of promoting holiness evangelism in the South Pacific in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church, coordinating the activities of The Wesleyan Church in the South Pacific, addressing South Pacific concerns, promoting closer fellowship and mutual understanding, and providing a means for joint planning, consultation, co-operative action, fellowship, worship and generally celebrating together the collective witness among all Units of The Wesleyan Church in the region. The South Pacific Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall consist of those bodies in the South Pacific that have originated in or have joined with The Wesleyan Church, that have been formally received by vote of the Regional Conference, and that are functioning under the authority of the Regional Constitution. Provision may also be made for Associate Members to be received which have not originated in or joined with The Wesleyan Church, but which are in harmony with The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.

(1) The constituent National Churches of this Conference at its inauguration were The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, The Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand, The Wesleyan Methodist Church of the Solomon Islands and The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bougainville.

(2) A full list of current Members of this Conference is available from the Regional Secretary.

Article I, Name

102. The official name of this Organisation shall be The South Pacific Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church. Recognising the importance and significance of the term “Methodist” in the South Pacific, it shall be referred to as The South Pacific Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in regional communications. Each Member National Conference shall have authority to determine its own name and the name(s) to be used within its constituency.

Article II, Articles of Religion

1. Faith in the Holy Trinity

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

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

2. The Father

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

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

3. The Son of God

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


4. The Holy Spirit

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

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

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

107. We believe that the books of the Old and New Testaments constitute the Holy Scriptures. They are the inspired and infallibly written Word of God, fully inerrant in their original manuscripts and superior to all human authority, and have been transmitted to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine. We believe that they contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man or woman that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. Both in the Old and New Testaments life is offered to present without corruption of any essential doctrine. We believe that they contain all things necessary to salvation; so that written Word of God, fully inerrant in th
6. God’s Purpose for Humanity

108. We believe that the two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbours as ourselves, summarise the divine law as it is revealed in the Scriptures. They are the perfect measure and norm of human duty, both for the ordering and directing of families and nations, and all other social bodies, and for individual activity, by which we are required to acknowledge God as our only Supreme Ruler, and all persons as created by Him, equal in all natural rights. Therefore, all persons should so order all their individual, social, and political acts as to give to God entire and absolute obedience, and to assure to all the enjoyment of every natural right, as well as to promote the fulfilment of each in the possession and exercise of such rights.


7. Marriage and the Family

109. We believe that every person is created in the image of God, that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, fellowship, subordination of the self to the larger whole, and fulfillment. God’s Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing the truth that that relationship is of one God with one people. Therefore God’s plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship.


8. Personal Choice

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

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

9. The Atonement

111. We believe that Christ’s offering of himself, once and for all, through His Family and for the salvation of those who reach the age of accountability only when they repent and exercise faith in Christ.


10. Repentance and Faith

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

Repentance is prompted by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. It involves a wilful change of mind that renounces sin and longs for righteousness, a godly sorrow for and a confession of past sins, proper restitution for wrongdoings, and a resolution to reform the life. Repentance is the precondition for saving faith, and without it, saving faith is impossible. Faith, in turn, is the only condition of salvation. It begins in the agreement of the mind and the consent of the will to the truth of the gospel, but issues in a complete trusting of oneself to Him as Saviour and Lord. Saving faith is expressed in a public acknowledgement of His Lordship and identification with His church.


11. Justification and Regeneration

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

We believe that we are accounted righteous before God only on the basis of the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, being justified by faith alone, and not on the basis of our own works.

We believe that regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the pardoned sinner becomes a child of God. This new life is received through faith in Jesus Christ, and by it, the regenerate is delivered from the power of sin which reigns over all the unregenerate, so that they love God and through grace serve Him with the will and affections of the heart, receiving the Spirit of Adoption.


Regeneration: John 1:12-13; 3:3; 5:8; 11 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:5; 10, 19; 4:24; Col. 3:10; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3-4; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:3.

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

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

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

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

13. Sin after Regeneration

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


14. Sanctification: Initial, Progressive, Entire

117. We believe that sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is separated from sin unto God and is enabled to love God with all the heart and to walk in all His holy commandments blameless. Sanctification is initiated at the moment of justification and regeneration. From that moment there is a gradual or progressive sanctification as the believer walks with God and daily grows in grace and in a more perfect obedience to God. This prepares for the crisis of entire sanctification which is wrought instantaneously when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, through faith in Jesus Christ, being effected by the baptism with the Holy Spirit who cleanses the heart from all inbred sin. The crisis of entire sanctification perfects the believer in love and empowers that person for effective service. It is followed by lifelong growth in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The life of holiness continues through faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ and evidences itself by loving obedience to God's revealed will.

Gen. 17:1; Deut. 30:6; Ps. 130:3; Isa. 6:1-6; Eph. 3:2-19; 4:28-29; Matt. 5:8; 18:21-22; Mark 5:17; 1 Cor. 1:26; 12:11; II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:13; 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 3:10, 12-13; 4:3, 7-8; 5:21-24; II Thess. 2:13; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 10:14; 12:14; 13:12; James 1:17-18; 4:8; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 1:7; 9; 3:8-9; 4:17-18; Jude 24.

15. The Gifts of the Spirit

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


16. The Church

119. We believe that the Christian church is the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ, who is the founder and only Head of the church. The church includes both those believers who have gone to be with the Lord and those who remain on the earth, having renounced the world, the flesh, and the devil, and having dedicated themselves to the work which Christ committed unto His church until He comes. The church on earth is to preach the pure Word of God, properly administer the sacraments according to Christ's instructions, and live in obedience to all that Christ commands. A Local Church is a body of believers formally organised on gospel principles, meeting regularly for the purposes of evangelism, nurture, fellowship, and worship. The Wesleyan Methodist Church is a Denomination consisting of Members within District Conferences and Local Churches who, as Members of the body of Christ, hold the faith set forth in these Articles of Religion and acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of its governing bodies.


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

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

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


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


18. The Second Coming of Christ

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


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


20. The Judgement of All Persons

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

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

21. Destiny

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


Article III. Observance of Sacraments

127. All persons to be baptised shall have the choice of baptism by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling. Since children are born into this world with natures inclined to sin, and yet the prevenient grace of God provides for their redemption during the period before reaching the age of accountability, those parents who so choose may testify to their faith in God’s provision by presenting their small children for baptism, while those who prefer to emphasise baptism as a testimony by believers to their own act of faith may present their children for dedication.


128. The Lord's Supper shall usually be observed in each Local Wesleyan Methodist Church monthly.

Article IV. Membership

130. Preamble. When Jesus finished His ministry on earth He left us with a command. “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19,20). These verses emphasise the twin issues of evangelism and discipleship. However, the Church is more than a recruitment and training organisation. What makes us a church is more than what we do – it is that we do it together. The Church is more than an organisation – it is a community. It is a place where people can belong and grow in their relationship with God.

It is our belief and practice that The Wesleyan Methodist Church is not a collection of independent churches unrelated to each other, nor merely an association of churches, but a family of believers connected by our identity in Christ and our relationship with one another. Membership serves as a common bond within our diversity. The commitments of membership contribute to the process of spiritual development, subsequent to conversion and leading to maturity in Christ. To enhance the discipleship process of maturing towards Christ-likeness, membership is used as a means of accountability. The accountability used within the community of faith is based on the primary and final authority of the Scriptures (Luke 17:3; Matt. 18:15), while also acknowledging the role of tradition, experience, and reason in shaping the historic values reflected in the Collective Conscience Statements. Membership becomes the channel whereby people are instructed and equipped to minister in the Church and as a witness to the world at large.

131. Categories of Membership. While membership by its very nature is covenantal, embracing commitments and affording opportunities, a practical distinction may be made by National Conferences between covenant membership as a full commitment to the Wesleyan Methodist movement, and community membership as a commitment to partnership and participation in a Local Church.

A. Covenant Membership

132. Covenant Membership commitments. While the Church acknowledges that a personal acceptance of the gift of God's forgiveness and grace incorporates a believer into the family of God, it also acknowledges the need for an ongoing commitment to growth and a set of agreed principles to follow.

To become a Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church the following requirements must be met. Although a commitment to Christ as Saviour and Lord is the beginning of our life as a Christian, the other requirements below are not necessarily sequential. Disregard of the principles embraced in these membership commitments subjects a Member to church discipline.

133. A commitment to Christ as Saviour and Lord. Without an acceptance of the consequences of sin (Romans 6:23), and the remedy for it (Acts 3:19), it is impossible to have a relationship with God or be a Member of the Church Universal. Thus these are essential for membership in the Local Church. Jesus said, “I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God” (John 3:3 NLT). When a person turns from sin and receives Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord that person is saved and instantly accepted into the family of God (John 1:12). This is witnessed by the act of baptism, which is an outward demonstration that your life and priorities have changed and that you now belong to Jesus. In The Wesleyan Methodist Church, salvation and baptism are essential for church membership.

134. A commitment to ongoing growth towards Christ-likeness. In the great commission (Matt. 28:18-20) Jesus called His followers to go and make disciples. While this involves evangelism it includes much more. The concept of discipleship was to produce
followers who were like their Master – followers who were hard to distinguish from the one they followed. The implication for the Church is profound. It is our goal as a church and as individuals to become progressively more like Christ.

This call to holy living is the substance of sanctification. Sanctification begins at the point of salvation. From that moment there is a gradual or progressive sanctification as the believer walks with God and daily grows in grace. This prepares the believer for the entire sanctification which occurs when the believer presents himself or herself as a living sacrifice and is cleansed from sin and filled with love for God and neighbour (Rom. 6:3-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Gal. 5:16-25; Col. 3:1; 2 Rom. 8:2-4, 13). This emphasis on growth includes a commitment to live in obedience to the Bible and to be accountable to the community of faith.

The following are some measurable ways to demonstrate growth towards Christ-likeness, and are minimal commitments for membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church:

1. To regularly attend church to worship and glorify God, to live in fellowship with those who attend, and to be encouraged and challenged in your spiritual growth. This often includes involvement in a small group within your Local Church.

2. To use your God-given talents and spiritual gifts to minister in and through the church so that the congregation may be built up.

3. To use your time carefully and responsibly in order to maximise your spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical well-being, including the principle of one day’s rest in seven.

4. To use your material wealth wisely, giving due consideration to the Biblical principle of tithing into the work of the Local Church and to giving to those in need.

5. To do all you can to advance the kingdom of God. To be willing to both receive and give help so that as believers we can grow in our relationship to God and each other.

6. To read and study the Bible, worship God, take the Lord’s Supper, pray, and to fast when necessary.

7. To abstain from all forms of spiritism, such as witchcraft, astrology and the like, and membership in any Secret Society.

8. To abide by the Scriptural teaching regarding marriage. This includes the affirmation that heterosexual monogamy is God’s plan for marriage and that sex outside of marriage – including adultery, bestiality, incest and homosexual practice is sinful. We believe however that the grace of God is sufficient to overcome both the practice of such activity and the propensity leading to such practices.

9. To minister to the poor, the vulnerable and those otherwise disadvantaged as mandated in the Scriptures and modelled by Christ.

135. A commitment to a life guided by the Holy Spirit's power and the Word of God. To assist people in holy living and to enable a lifestyle of growth, the following set of Filter Questions will help guide you in your decisions about what is appropriate for a Spirit-guided Christ-like life. Further assistance can be found by reading the section entitled Collective Conscience Statements (186-198).

1. Is the action Helpful, beneficial or constructive for me? Does the action contravene any clear teaching of Scripture? Does the Scripture speak to the issue at hand to offer me protection from harm (2 Tim. 2:16)? Does it cause me to grow spiritually or help others grow (1 Cor. 6:12a; 10:23)? Does the action pull me away from God or draw me to Him (Matt. 15:8; Heb. 3:19; James 1:14, 15)? Does the action make me less interested in spiritual things?

2. Is the action a Habit? Is it an addictive behaviour? Does it hold me in its power? Do I feel that I need this to be happy and fulfilled? Does it control my thoughts or actions (1 Cor. 6:12b)? Does the action keep me from being fully engaged as a human being? Does it impair my judgement? Does it cloud my thinking? Does it stop me being in charge of all my faculties (1 Cor. 5:12, Eph 5:18)? Does it control me or am I in control?

3. Is the action Hurtful for myself or for another Christian who is young in age or faith? Does the action violate what I experience as my conscience? Do I feel that it is wrong in my spirit (Rom. 2:15, 13:5, 1 Cor. 8:7, 1 Tim. 1:5, 1 Tim. 4:2)? If it passes the test of my own conscience, will doing it hurt someone else and cause them to be tempted to go against their conscience? Is it hurtful for a non-Christian? Could my behaviour cause a non-Christian to ignore the gospel or disregard Christ (1 Cor. 8:13; 10:24-11:1)?

4. Is the action Honouring to God? Glorifying God means to give God His rightful place, to please Him by seeking His interests. In doing it, would I bring glory to God or dishonour to Him (1 Cor. 10:31)? Does the action identify you as a follower of Christ or of the world? Will it make you more “of the world” rather than simply “in the world” (John 17)?

Susanna Wesley proposed a definition of sin that is helpful in determining the kind of actions that may be detrimental to spiritual well-being and may also be helpful in determining actions that are appropriate or inappropriate. She said, “Whatever weakens your spiritual life guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, in the light of the Filter Questions and the Collective Conscience Statements, is at the heart of covenant membership.

136. Acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Handbook in matters of Church Government. In any organization there is a need for some uniformity – some commonly held beliefs. In The Wesleyan Methodist Church these include our Mission and our Articles of Religion. The Mission (75-76) states our purpose as a Church, and the Articles state our core beliefs and doctrines.
(1) Articles of Religion. The Articles of Religion (103-126) of The Wesleyan Methodist Church are our commonly held doctrines and beliefs. Candidates for covenant membership shall affirm the Articles of Religion as summarised in the following statement:

a) We believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that Jesus Christ the Son suffered in our place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all persons at the last day.

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

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

d) We believe that God both counts and makes the believer righteous; that at conversion God frees the believer from the dominion of sin, purifies the heart by faith and perfects the believer in love at and through sanctification, and that God provides for the believer's growth in grace at every stage of their spiritual life, enabling the believer through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life.

(2) Elementary Principles. These are the basic principles of The Wesleyan Methodist Church:

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

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

c) The pastoral or ministerial office and duties are of divine appointment, and all Ordained Ministers in the Church of God are equal; but Ministers are forbidden to be lords over God's heritage, or to have dominion over the faith of the saints.

d) It is the duty of all Ministers and Members of the Church to maintain godliness and oppose all moral evil.

e) It is obligatory upon Ministers of the gospel to be faithful in the discharge of their pastoral and ministerial duties, and it is also obligatory upon the Members to esteem Ministers highly for the works' sake, and to render them a righteous compensation for their labours.

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

g) All persons have an inalienable right to private judgement in matters of religion, and an equal right to express their opinions in any way which will not violate the laws of God or the rights of other people.

h) All church trials should be conducted on gospel principles only; and no Minister or Member should be dismissed or removed except for immorality, the propagation of unchristian doctrines, or for neglect of duties enjoined by the Scriptures.

i) Whatever power may be necessary to the formation of rules and regulations is inherent in the Ministers and Members of the church; but so much of that power may be delegated from time to time, upon a plan of representation, as they may judge necessary and proper.

j) Members should not hold membership in any other church and must not hold membership in any Secret Society. We regard secret societies as quasi-religious in nature. Belonging to such organisations divides the Christian's loyalty and their secret nature contravenes the Christian's open witness, Ex. 20:3; Matt. 5:34-36; John 18:20; Acts 4:12; James 5:12.

Acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Handbook in matters of church government is a commitment expected of covenant membership.

138. Summary of Covenant Membership conditions:

(1) Confession of a personal experience of salvation, and a commitment to grow in grace and heart holiness.

(2) Christian baptism.

(3) Acceptance of the Articles of Religion as summarised in 136:1, the Membership Commitments (132-135), the Elementary Principles (136:2), and the authority of The Handbook in matters of church government.

(4) A covenant to support the Local Church, to live in fellowship with the Members thereof, and to seek God's glory in all things.

(5) The approving vote of the Members of the receiving church as provided for in Statutory Law.

140. The rights of Covenant Membership are:

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

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

(3) The right to vote and the eligibility to hold any office for which a person in covenant membership is eligible, if not under discipline.

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

(5) Members in good standing in any Wesleyan Methodist Church are entitled to membership privileges in any other Wesleyan Methodist Church to which they may wish to transfer their membership, subject to 138:5.

(6) Any Covenant Member charged with failure to uphold the Articles of Religion or to observe the membership Commitments must be dealt with by judicial process as given in The Handbook (1540-1542).

141. Termination of Covenant Membership. Covenant membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be terminated only by one or more of the following:

(1) Voluntary withdrawal.

(2) Joins another religious body, or joining a secret order.

(3) Expulsion after proper trial and conviction.

(4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined in 154:5-6.

(5) Death.

For records of termination, see 154.

142. Reception of Covenant Members.

Persons who have been duly accepted for covenant membership should be formally received in a public service, in which they shall make their confession and vows public, according to the manner given in the Rituals, and be given the right hand of fellowship by the Pastor or the Pastor's representative.

B. Other Categories of Membership
143. National Conferences may choose to implement additional categories of membership at their discretion, provided they do not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution (see 131). Such categories may include community membership, custodial membership, or other forms of membership when adopted by the National Conference as Statutory Law.

C. General Regulations for Membership

149. Means of Reception. Members may be received as Covenant Members by confession of faith or by letter.

(1) Those that are received as Covenant Members shall usually be considered as having joined on confession of faith, this being their initial application for church membership. The Pastor and the Local Board of Administration shall be responsible to provide membership training classes for all candidates, training them in the biblical doctrines and standards of the church, acquainting them with the history and organisation of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and explaining to them the meaning of the vows and of church membership (1676).

(2) Those who present letters of recommendation from other Denominations shall be examined by the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration. If it is discovered that they have indeed been previously converted and are fully committed to the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, they may be received as by letter (1679). However, if it is discovered that they have only recently made their commitment to Christ and are seeking after a full knowledge of the truth, they shall be encouraged to prepare for covenant membership like any other convert.

150. Transfer of Membership. When any Covenant Member shall request a letter of transfer to another Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Pastor and Local Church Secretary shall grant it on the proper form as given in 1801-1803, providing the Member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Both Pastor and Secretary shall sign the letter, and shall send it by registered or certified mail to the Pastor and Local Church Secretary of the church to which the Member is transferring. The letter shall be presented to the Local Board of Administration of the receiving church at its next session, but not later than thirty days from the date of issuance, and acted upon in the manner indicated in 244. When the Member has been duly received, the second part of the form shall be completed by the receiving church and forwarded to the church granting the transfer. The date the return letter is received shall mark the expiration of membership in the church granting the letter, and in the official membership record the Local Church Secretary shall enter opposite the Member's name, the date, and Withdrawn by letter of transfer.

151. The receiving church shall handle transfers as follows:

(1) Covenant Members shall be received, subject to the approving vote of the Local Church Conference, unless the Local Church Conference shall have delegated this right to the Local Board of Administration. The transfer of covenant membership may be questioned by the receiving church if it is evident that the person involved is not in a state of grace or is living in open violation of the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments.

(2) The membership of a Pastor, Senior Pastor, or Associate Pastor, and of such Members of the Pastor's family as so desire and have the proper credentials, shall be automatically transferred to the church to which appointed, or if the pastoral charge consists of more than one church, to the church of the Pastor's choosing. The Secretary of the church from which the Pastor is moving, shall forward the proper forms for the Pastor's membership and that of family members who so desire, to the Secretary of the receiving church who shall record them without any further action by the Local Church Conference or Local Board of Administration. The membership of an Assistant Pastor shall be transferred in the same manner as that of a Lay Member.

(3) A Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church transferring form one Local Church to another shall not be required to be involved in a public service of reception.

154. Record of termination.

(1) When any Member requests a letter of recommendation to some other Denomination, the Pastor and Local Church Secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 1804, if the Member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Such a person's membership in the Local Church granting the letter shall cease immediately, and the Secretary shall enter opposite the Member's name, the date, and Withdrawn by letter of recommendation.

(2) When any Member requests a letter of withdrawal, the Pastor and Local Church Secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 1805. The Secretary shall enter on the record book, (155), opposite the Member's name, the date the letter was granted, and Withdrawn by letter of withdrawal. If the Member's withdrawal occurs during the course of a judicial investigation, the Secretary shall note on the membership record, Withdrawn under accusation; and if withdrawal occurs during the course of a trial, Withdrawn under charges (cf. 1616).

(3) When any Member joins another Denomination, or other religious body exercising the functions of a church, or a Secret Society, no trial is necessary to remove such a Member. The Pastor, having investigated and ascertained the facts, shall report the same to the next session of the Local Board of Administration, and upon the Board's order the Local Church Secretary shall enter opposite the Member's name the date of the session, and Withdrawn through having joined another body.

(4) When any Member moves away from the church that holds their membership, and it is evident that distance will not permit their full and regular participation in the life of the church, the Pastor shall encourage that member to transfer their membership to The Wesleyan Methodist Church nearest their new residence. To that end, the Pastor shall notify the National Secretary of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of the name and address of the Member (755:10).

(5) When any Member moves away from the church of which holds their membership, and does not leave a forwarding address, or fails to report their spiritual standing or to send financial support, or to transfer their membership to the nearest Wesleyan Methodist Church, after one year that member may be dropped from the roll provided that every effort has been made to contact them and notify them of such an intention. The member's name shall be dropped upon the recommendation of the Local Board of Administration and the majority vote of the Local Church Conference, unless the Local Church Conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the Local Board of Administration. The Secretary shall enter opposite the Member's name the date of the vote, and Discontinued by vote.

(6) When any Member fails to attend the services of their local church for one year without a reason deemed justifiable by the Local Board of Administration, or to support the church financially as they are able, the Pastor and Local Board of Administration shall seek to restore the member to active fellowship, but if unable to do so, their name may be dropped upon the recommendation of the Local Board of Administration and the majority vote of the Local Church Conference, unless the Local Church Conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the Local Board of Administration. The Secretary shall enter opposite the Member's name the date of the vote, and Discontinued by vote for persistent neglect.
155. Record of Membership. Each Local Church shall have a permanent record maintained by the Local Church Secretary, in which shall be recorded all the names of the Members, the time when received and whether by profession of faith or by letter, the time and manner of termination of membership, whether by some manner of withdrawal, or by discontinuance for neglect, dismissal, or death; and all baptisms, marriages, pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent written record of the life and ministry of the Local Church.

Article V. The Ministry

157. The National Conference shall from time to time enact provisions for the training, qualification, and ordination to the ministry. Every Wesleyan Methodist Minister must be a Member of some Wesleyan Methodist Church, and each Ordained Minister must be a Member of a District. An Ordained Minister is a Minister of the gospel fully vested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

On Women in Ministry: Given the equality of men and women established in the creation account and maintained in the ministry of Jesus and the fact that Jesus came to represent and redeem all humankind there is no apparent inadequacy inherent in the female sex which would deem a person unsuitable for ministry. On these grounds The Wesleyan Methodist Church does not withhold any ministerial position or office from any person on the basis of sex but encourages both women and men to follow God’s call on their lives. The Wesleyan Methodist Church believes that the creation accounts given in Genesis teach that men and women were created as equals, both bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). This equality was damaged and women were subordinated as a consequence of the fall (Gen. 3:16; cf. 110). It is apparent from the Bible that God frequently chose to use women to minister. Notable Old Testament examples include Miriam who was both a prophetess (Ex. 15:20) and a leader (Mic. 6:4), Deborah who was a prophetess and a judge (Judges 4:4ff), and Huldah who was a prophetess (2 Kings 22:14ff; 2 Chron. 34:22ff). New Testament examples include Anna (Luke 2:36) and the four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:9) who are named as prophetesses, Phoebe who is named as a deacon of the Church (Rom. 16:1), Junia who is mentioned by Paul as one of the noteworthy apostles (Rom. 16:7), and Priscilla, who ministered with her husband Aquila, is described as Paul’s fellow worker (Rom. 16:3), and was involved in correcting the teaching of Apollos (Acts 18:26) and many other ministries (e.g. 1 Cor. 16:19). These specific examples are supported by general descriptions of the ministry and equality of women in the New Testament (Acts 2:17-18; Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 11:5; Phil. 4:2-3) and Jesus’ kind treatment of women and the admittance of them into His group of disciples which was counter to the culture of His day (John 4:7ff, Mark 15:40-41; Luke 8:1-3). In light of this biblical evidence it is the position of The Wesleyan Methodist Church that any prohibitions placed on the ministry of women in the New Testament (1 Cor. 14:33-35; 1 Tim. 2:11-15) were most likely in response to specific situations and do not stand as timeless nor universal restrictions.


158. The constitutional rights of Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church if not under discipline shall include the following:

1. To preach the gospel and in the case of Ordained Ministers to administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to perform all aspects of divine worship, and to solemnise the rite of marriage.

2. To be eligible, in the case of Ordained Ministers, for election to any office in the Church for which Ordained Ministers are eligible.

3. To contract the pastoral relationship with Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches subject to the other provisions of this Constitution (158.6; 163.1-2).

4. To enjoy the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which appointed by the District Conference.

5. To serve the assigned pastoral charge without interference by unauthorised activities of another Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

6. To transfer in the manner prescribed by The Handbook from one District to another, subject to the concurrence of the Superintendent and the District Superintendent of the District to which the transfer is sought.

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

Article VI. Organisation and Government

A. Local

160. Pastoral Charges. The Members of the Denomination shall be grouped into Local Churches. The following are the constitutional rights of each Local Church:

1. To receive, remove or discontinue Members subject to the provisions of The Handbook. This right vests severally in each Local Church.

2. To call its own Pastor, subject to confirmation by the District or National Conference.

3. To grant or revoke licences for Local Church ministry as provided in The Handbook. This right may be delegated to the Local Church Board.

4. To recommend persons for various ministries to the District or National Conference. This right may be delegated to the Local Church Board.

5. To elect its own Officers and to remove the same for cause. No Pastor or other Official has any right to appoint an Officer or declare an office vacant. This right belongs to the church alone, and vests severally in each Local Church.

6. To elect a Property Committee and through that Committee to supervise, control, and maintain its property for the use and benefit of the ministry and Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and subject to its regulations and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared. All church property shall be held in the name of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

7. To be represented in the voting membership of its District or National Conference, subject to the provisions of paragraphs 162 and 165, if not under discipline.

8. To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other Local, District, or National Units or Agencies of the Denomination.
B. District

162. A National Conference may divide the work under its jurisdiction into Districts. The regulations for those Districts shall be contained in Statutory Law and shall be governed by these constitutional principles:
   (1) All Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed Ministers in good standing in the District shall have full voting rights at the District Conference.
   (2) Other voting Members of the Conference shall be selected according to *The Handbook* provisions, with care to maintain the principle of equal representation of ministerial and Lay Delegates in the District Conference.

163. The constitutional rights of each District shall include the following:
   (1) The right to take charge of all the Ministers and Churches within its bounds (except those serving the National, Regional or International Conference who shall be amenable to the National Board of Administration for their official conduct and to their Districts for their moral character, and except the District Superintendent who shall be amenable both to the District and to the National Board of Administration) and subject to the right of the Ministers and Churches to enter into pastoral engagements.
   (2) To alter the agreement entered into by any Pastor and charge, or veto the action of the church and appoint another Pastor on said charge when it deems this to be for the best interest of the charge or Pastor involved or when the general interest of the work of the District would be better served by such change; and the said church or charge shall receive the Pastor appointed by the District Conference, provided that any such alteration of a previous arrangement between a Pastor and Church shall be separately reported and passed by vote of the District Conference to be effective.
   (3) To elect and ordain Ministers and to receive Ordained Ministers from other Denominations subject to the restrictions of *The Handbook*.
   (4) To receive or decline persons recommended to it for various ministries by the pastoral charges within its bounds.
   (5) To organise and receive Local Churches within the boundaries of the territory assigned to it by the National Conference, and to fix the boundaries of its Circuits and Churches.
   (6) To elect its own Officers as outlined in *The Handbook* and to dismiss them for cause.
   (7) To be represented in the lay and ministerial voting membership of the National Conference, if not under discipline.
   (8) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other District, Local, or National Units or Agencies of the Denomination.

C. National

165. **The National Conference.** The regulations for National Conferences shall be contained in Statutory Law of the respective Handbooks, under these constitutional principles:
   (1) Voting membership of the Conference shall be established according to *The Handbook* provisions, with care to maintain the principle of equal representation of Ministerial and Lay Delegates in the National Conference.
   (2) The Lay Delegates shall be Covenant Members in full relation within the bounds of the Conference they represent.
   (3) Each National Conference shall determine its own form of government, structure, means of decision making, means of reporting, Subsidiary bodies and Institutions provided they do not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution.

167. **Powers and Restrictions.** The National Conference shall have power:
   (1) To recommend to the Regional Secretary, by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting, an amendment to the Constitution (80).
   (2) To designate a criterion for parliamentary procedure for itself.
   (3) To elect its Officers and National Officials as provided for in *The Handbook* and to define duties and responsibilities.
   (4) To amend the Statutory Law in its own Handbook or make other rules and regulations subject to the Constitution and the Statutory Law.

D. Regional

170. **Criteria for Member National Conferences.** The South Pacific Region of the Wesleyan Church shall include those National Conferences which have qualified as Member National Conferences and those Conferences which are listed as Mission Units of a Member National Conference. A Mission Unit shall progress to the status of Member National Conference when it satisfies the following criteria in addition to the general requirements of paragraph 101.
   (1) The Mission Unit shall show evidence of being **self-propagating.** This shall include
      a) Evidence of sustained evangelism, discipleship and church growth.
      b) An established programme of ministerial training.
      c) A commitment to missions.
   (2) The Mission Unit shall show evidence of being **self-supporting.** This shall include
      a) A history of supporting its Pastors and denominational leaders.
      b) The presence of missionary personnel in the Mission Unit for specialised ministries shall not be deemed to conflict with the principle of self-support.
   (3) The Mission Unit shall show evidence of being **self-governing.** This shall include
      a) Adequate qualified National leadership.
      b) A commitment to the regional witness and the Regional Conference.
      c) Capacity to self-govern shall be evidenced by a minimum of twelve Ordained Ministers in good standing and 750 Covenant Members.

171. **A Mission Unit shall require the recommendation of its sponsoring Member National Conference and a majority vote of the Regional Conference to be received as a Member National Conference.**

175. **Powers and Restrictions.** The Regional Conference is under the jurisdiction of the International Conference of the Wesleyan Church, and in the interim of its sessions, the International Board. The Regional Conference shall serve as the primary venue for fellowship and consultation for The Wesleyan Methodist Church of the South Pacific, subject to the Constitution and the following restrictions:
176. Specifically the Regional Conference exists to advance the following objectives:

1. To create a formal venue for fellowship, reporting and consultation for Wesleyan Methodist National Conferences in the South Pacific;
2. To establish a platform of influence as the evangelical Methodist/Wesleyan movement in the South Pacific;
3. To serve as a point of contact for other Denominations of Methodist tradition;
4. To coordinate opportunities and standards for theological education, ministry training and development of leaders in the Wesleyan tradition;
5. To provide a unified Regional body to coordinate missionary ventures in the South Pacific region;
6. To nurture an ongoing relationship with Global Partners (Wesleyan World Missions of North America) and the General Conferences of North America, the Philippines, the Caribbean and Japan in the pursuit of mutual mission opportunities;
7. To maximise and fulfill the potential of the South Pacific area towards maturity and autonomy;
8. To participate in the internationalisation of the Wesleyan Church worldwide.

178. Regional Conference arrangements.

1. **Membership.** The Regional Conference shall be a venue for fellowship and consultation. Church Members from across the region shall be encouraged to attend and the program shall provide for times of inspiration, reporting and networking. Within the Conference, time shall be given to a business session at which elected delegates shall meet. The delegates shall be elected as follows:
   a) Each Member National Conference shall be entitled to the National Superintendent plus three ministerial and four Lay Delegates – a total of eight voting delegates.
   b) Each Mission Unit shall be entitled to the National Church leader plus one ministerial and two Lay Delegates – a total of four voting delegates.
   c) All currently serving Members of the Regional Board who are not Members of the Regional Conference by some other right (178:1a, b) shall be ex-officio voting Members of the Regional Conference.
   d) The Regional Board shall assign extra Delegates as necessary to maintain the balance of ministerial and Lay Delegates.
   e) The Regional Board shall invite other non-voting guests from Wesleyan Conferences outside of the region and from other Methodist/Wesleyan groups located within the bounds of the region.
   f) The Secretary of each Member National Conference and Mission Unit shall provide a complete list of their delegates.

2. **Regular Sessions.** The Regional Conference shall meet every four years at a date set by the Regional Board. This shall usually be timed to coincide with another Regional event or National Conference.

3. **Advisory Forums.** The Conference shall establish advisory forums as needed.

4. **Conference Program.** The Conference shall receive reports from countries, advisory forums and visiting delegations according to a program established by the Regional Board.

179. Regional Board. The Regional Board carries out the will of the Regional Conference, promotes the interests of the Regional Conference and serves as its Chief Governing Body in the interim of Regional Conference sessions.

1. **Membership.** The Regional Board shall consist of Members elected by the respective National Conferences:
   a) Two Members from each Member National Conference: the National Superintendent and one lay person.
   b) The National Church leader from each Mission Unit.

2. **Meetings.** The Regional Board shall meet annually at a time and date set at its previous meeting, either at an agreed venue or by electronic means. The meeting arrangements may be changed or a special meeting of the Board may be called, through action of the Chair. Arrangements for such meetings shall require twenty-one days’ notice, unless written consent is obtained from all Board Members to a shorter period of notice.

3. **Duties.** The duties of the Regional Board shall include:

   **Regional Officers**
   a) To appoint the Regional President and Regional Vice President from among the Superintendents of Member National Conferences (170-171). The Regional President shall Chair the Regional Conference and the Regional Board and shall represent the Regional Conference at ceremonial and fraternal events, including National Conferences of other Methodist/Wesleyan Denominations. Should the Regional President not be able to complete the full term the Regional Vice President will assume the position for the remainder of the quadrennium and the Regional Board shall appoint a new Vice President.
   A Regional President or Regional Vice President shall not serve two terms in succession. An exception may occur should the Regional Vice President assume the Presidency during the quadrennium.
   b) To appoint a Board Secretary from among its Board Members, who shall also serve as Regional Secretary and Secretary of the Regional Conference.
   c) To appoint the Regional Treasurer.

   **Regional Budget**
   d) To adopt an annual budget prepared by the Regional Treasurer to meet the expenses of board meetings, the Regional President’s itinerary and other expenses.
   e) To assign the share of the Regional budget due from each National Conference and Mission Unit.

   **Regional Management**
   f) To establish the date, venue and arrangements for Regional Conference.
   g) To investigate and mediate a dispute within a National Conference upon invitation from the National Conference or its National Board of Administration or its National Superintendent. The Regional Board shall have no authority to prescribe disciplinary measures.
b) To recommend such bylaws for the Regional Conference as it deems suitable, on the condition that these bylaws do not violate any provision of the Constitution.

i) To initiate a memorial to the several District/National Conferences for the purpose of changing the Constitution, subject to the provisions of paragraph 80.

International Relations

j) To appoint representatives to the International Conference (IC6735) giving due consideration to representation from across Member Conferences and Mission Units.

k) To recommend to the International Board, by the process detailed in paragraph 80:7a, an amendment to the membership commitments or the conditions of membership in The Handbook.

l) To recommend to the North American General Conference, by the process detailed in paragraph 80:7b, a change in the Essentials of the International Conference (IC6520-6730), including the Articles of Religion and the Statements of Practice and Relationship.

Article VII. Judiciary

181. Regional Board of Review. Each National Conference shall provide for its own judicial processes and it is expected that all disputes that can be settled through those internal processes, shall be so directed. Nonetheless, the Regional Conference shall provide for a Regional Board of Review, which shall have authority:

(1) To hear and determine any appeal from the decisions of the Regional Board, its Officers or any other Regional representative, as to the constitutionality of the decision.

(2) To settle questions in dispute between National Conferences.

(3) To hear and determine the constitutionality of any action by a National Conference within the region. The National Conference's internal appeal process shall be followed, or shown to have failed, before an appeal to the Regional Board of Review shall be considered.

182. Regulations.

(1) An appeal to the Regional Board of Review may be initiated by any National Board of Administration or Council within the region or by the International Board upon a majority vote of the Board or Council. Mission Units may initiate an appeal in the same manner as a Member National Conference.

(2) Appeals to the Board of Review shall be directed to the Chair of the Board. The Chair shall call a meeting of the Board at such time and in such location as facilitates good process, giving a minimum of three week's notice to all Members. During that time National Conferences and the International Board shall ensure that full representation is available.

(3) A decision of the Regional Board of Review shall be final.

183. Membership.

(1) Each Member National Conference shall provide two Members to the Board of Review; one Ordained or Commissioned Minister and one lay person.

(2) Each Mission Unit shall provide one lay person as a Member to the Board of Review.

(3) A Member of the Board of Review may not at the same time be a Member of the Regional Board or of a National Board of Administration or Council. All Members of the Board of Review shall be covenant or Full Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church at the time of their service.

(4) The International Board shall be invited to appoint their own representative to the Board of Review on a case by case basis, with voting privileges.

(5) The names of all Members of the Board of Review and the names of subsequent alternate Members shall be submitted in writing to the Regional Secretary and to the Chair of the Board of Review, with such authorisation attested to by their National Church leader, or by a General Superintendent in the case of the International Board. No Member shall participate on the Board of Review without receipt of such written notification.

(6) A Member of the Board of Review shall be refused for a particular case when the Member is personally interested or involved in the case, closely related to any parties involved, or has been active for or against either party in the matter being heard by the Board of Review. Any Member of the Board of Review may be challenged for such reasons or for other reasons, and the allowance of such challenge shall be decided by the remaining Members of the Board of Review. Whenever a Member is disqualified, the appointing body shall provide an alternate for the hearing of the particular case.

184. Organisation and procedure for the Board of Review.

(1) Meetings. The full list of Members appointed to the Board of Review shall be submitted to the Regional Secretary at the rise of Regional Conference. The Board shall organise itself and shall elect, from among its own Members, a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and such other Officers as considered necessary.

(2) Procedure. The Board of Review shall decide on its own methods and rules of procedure and shall adopt such bylaws as considered necessary, provided such do not go beyond, ignore or circumvent provisions of The Handbook. All parties shall file their briefs and arguments and shall present evidence under such rules as the Board of Review shall adopt from time to time.

(3) Quorum. Two thirds of the Members of the Board of Review shall constitute a quorum. A decision of the Board of Review shall require a majority vote of all present Members of the Board.

(4) Records. The Board of Review shall see that complete and accurate minutes are kept of all proceedings, testimonies, evidence, documents, and findings, certified copies of which shall be forwarded promptly after each session to the Regional Secretary. An official summary of the Board’s decisions shall be distributed promptly to all National Boards of Administration and Councils within the Region.

(5) Finances. Expense allowance for Members of the Board of Review shall be the same as for Members of the Regional Board, when the Members of the Board of Review are engaged in official business, and payment therefore shall be by the Regional Treasurer. The party making appeal shall be responsible for their own expenses involved in attending to the appeal.

Article VIII. Authority of the Constitution
185. **Regional Constitution.** The Constitution is agreed upon by all National Conferences in the South Pacific Regional Conference. The Constitution is that body of laws that sets forth fundamental doctrines and practices, the basic laws, principles and restrictions by which the Regional Church is governed, and guarantees certain rights to its Members and Ministers.

(1) **Relationship to Statutory Law.** The Constitution takes precedence over statutory law, ritual and all other laws and official actions of the governing bodies and Officers within its jurisdiction. It is the law to which all statutory law, ritual, and other legislative or official actions must conform.

(2) **Relationship to The Essentials.** The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church consist of an historic statement of faith and practice and are set forth in the International Charter of The Wesleyan Church (IC 6520-6730). Each Member of the International Conference must subscribe to the Essentials and must not contravene any of its provisions in its Constitution, Articles of Religion or Discipline/Handbook. The South Pacific Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church does so subscribe. The Articles of Religion and other statements of faith and practice which are a part of the Constitution of The Wesleyan Methodist Church are in accord with the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and are not intended to contravene or contradict them at any point.

(3) The process for amending the Constitution is contained in paragraph 80.
Chapter V

COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCE STATEMENTS

186. In past years, various social evils and vices have required a response from the church. The Wesleyan Methodist Church arose out of a strong sense of social conscience and over the years questions have been asked as to how a Christian should live given a certain set of circumstances. Many godly men and women grappled with issues that threatened the very fabric of society, the church and its witness in the community. Out of these deliberations a set of historic, ethical and practical principles were born that have become a “collective conscience” response to contemporary and social issues. Many men and women have chosen to live by these principles, denying what may be their right in order that they may make a statement to society against social evils and protect themselves and those who are young in age or faith. It must be remembered however that this list does not speak to every issue that has ever been faced or is currently being faced. It is representative of issues as they became important for the church to deal with in order to guide Christian lifestyle and witness.

A. Christian Social Concern

187. These statements represent convictions reflecting the collective conscience of the Members, Ministers and Officials of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and provide guidelines for bearing public testimony on the issues discussed.

(1) Gambling. We believe that gambling violates the principle of Christian Stewardship and the tenth commandment; is harmful to the individual in that it is emotionally addictive; can be a poor example to others of how to manage the resources of God or trust in God’s provision; appeals to greed; endangers families; lowers socio-economic standards and self esteem; engenders false hope; and is exploitative. We believe that abstinence is the best Christian response to gambling in all its forms. Ex. 20:17; Rom. 14:21; 1 Cor. 6:12 (6)

(2) Substance Abuse. Christians are to regard their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. While no ‘thing’ of itself is sinful, the Christian should avoid the use of anything which would damage the body, undermine the fellowship of the church, hinder the believer from reaching their full potential in Christ, enslave them (1 Cor. 6:12) or become a stumbling block to the young in age or faith (1 Cor. 8:9,13). The consequences to society stemming from the abuse of substances such as alcohol, tobacco, other harmful drugs and substances are of major concern because of their impact on the spiritual character and nature of individuals and society. These include family breakdown, increased violence and violent crime, increased property crime, and the destruction of the individual caught in the power of addiction. In the light of the overwhelming evidence of damage to society and the spiritual health of the individual by the abuse of such substances we deplore the industry created by the production of these substances and believe that even where these substances are legalised – total abstinence is the appropriate response. Eph. 5:15-18; Prov. 23:31-32; Prov. 31:4 (5)

(3) Gifts of the Spirit. We believe that every believer receives at least one spiritual gift. These spiritual gifts are given for the common good of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:7). The following passages list the best known gifts: Rom. 12:6 (3), 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 1 Cor. 14:40; Gal. 5:22 (17); I Cor. 12:1-14 (6). We believe that all spiritual gifts should be exercised in the light of Biblical truth. We encourage believers to seek in every way to live and serve the Lord in the fullness of and under the control of the Holy Spirit in the church.

In regard to the gift of tongues, we believe in the miraculous use of languages and the interpretation of languages in the biblical and historical setting. We believe that it is contrary to the explicit teaching of the Word of God to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or the gift of tongues is the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit (117–118).

We also believe that the distinction between the gift of languages as described in Acts and the use of an ecstatic prayer language is not clear from Scripture or from patterns of established historical usage in the Church. In response to this the use of such a prayer language shall not be promoted among us. Acts 8:14-17; 1 Cor. 12:1-14:40; Gal. 5:22-24.

(4) Equal Rights. We uphold the right of all individuals to equal opportunity politically, economically and religiously, and pledge ourselves to an active effort to bring about the possession of dignity and happiness by all people everywhere.

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

(6) Military Service. We teach respect for properly constituted civil authority and the proper loyalty to one’s country. We recognise the responsibility of the individual to answer the call of government and to enter into military service. However, there are those within the fellowship of our Church who believe that military service is contrary to the teaching of the New Testament and that their consciences are violated by being compelled to take part in such. We will therefore lend moral support to any Member who asks and claims exemption by legal processes from military service as a sincere conscientious objector and who asks to serve one’s country as a non-combatant.

(7) Divorce and Remarriage. On the basis of careful study of the Scriptures we teach the following with reference to divorce and remarriage after divorce.

a) That heterosexual monogamy is God’s plan for marriage, and we regard sexual sin of the spouse, such as adultery, homosexual behaviour, bestiality, or incest as the only biblical grounds for considering divorce, and then only when appropriate counselling has failed to restore the relationship (Ex. 20:14; 17; 22:19; Lev.20:10-16; Matt.5:32; 19:19; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18).

b) To obtain a divorce on other than scriptural grounds is a sin against God and humanity. Such separation of what God has joined is a direct and deliberate act of disobedience against both the Law and the Gospel. It separates one from God and subjects a Member to Church discipline (1631; 1634).

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

d) Divorce, however sinful the act and however serious the consequences, is not “unpardonable.” A redeemed sinner or reclaimed backslider is free to marry or remain unmarried. The one exception to this freedom of choice is mentioned by the Apostle Paul. It is a believer who disobeys the commandment of God and puts away a believing spouse. That person must remain unmarried to leave room for reconciliation to the spouse (1 Cor. 7).
The Lord's Day. We believe that one day's rest in seven is a fundamental principle for spiritual, mental and physical well being. We also believe that the regular gathering together for collective worship is an important aspect of spiritual health and growth. Therefore, in spite of the trends of contemporary society to completely secularise Sunday, the Lord's Day, we counsel people not to neglect gathering for collective worship and to observe a day of rest each week. We support the choice of our Members not to be engaged in secular employment on Sunday.

Religion in Public Life. Believing that it is possible to allow recognition of God and the invoking of His aid in public functions without violating the Australian Constitution, we advocate the enactment of suitable legislation by all levels of government which will strengthen the present provision for the free exercise of religion in national life and allow reference to, or the invoking of the aid of God, in any governmental or public document, proceeding, activity, ceremony or institution. We further affirm our belief in the School's duty to do full justice to the large place of the Judeo-Christian tradition in our heritage, and our conviction that the Bible is an appropriate book for reading in Schools and that the right of students to pray should not be abridged.

We believe that Christian parents have the right and responsibility to determine what is appropriate education for their children according to their conscience. Members and adherents are encouraged to test the education their children are receiving in accordance with Biblical principles and to strive for true excellence in the education provided for all children. In the light of this we maintain the right of our Members to seek exemption from participation by their children in all matters that are contrary to scriptural doctrines and principles as expressed in the articles of religion, membership commitments, or elementary principles of our Church, without prejudice to academic standing.

Judicial Oaths. We reserve for our Members the right to affirm the truth in testimony before the civil and criminal courts rather than to engage in a judicial oath.

Sanctity of Life. We seek to recognise and preserve the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and, thus, we are opposed to the use of induced abortion, euthanasia and Embryonic Stem Cell Research. However we recognise that there may be rare pregnancies where there are grave medical conditions threatening the life of the mother, which could raise a serious question about taking the life of the unborn child. In such a case, a decision should be made only after very prayerful consideration following medical and spiritual counselling. We believe that every life is precious to God. Therefore we are also opposed to causing the death of the elderly, deformed, disabled, or terminally ill for the sake of convenience or because their life is not considered worthwhile. We encourage our Members to become informed about the issues of abortion and euthanasia as well as becoming actively involved locally and nationally in the preparation and passage of appropriate legislation guaranteeing protection of life under law.

Appropriate Use of Media. We believe that our Members should exercise responsible stewardship of their leisure time. This will include careful regulation of the use in the home of all forms of media and communication where they feature thecheapening of human life, the excessively violent, and the sexually explicit and pornographic so as to honour the sentiment of Philippians 4:8 and to avoid addictive behaviour.

Parent-Child Relationships. We believe that all children are not the property of the State, but rightly belong in their parents care and remain under their care and responsibility in accordance with God's Word in every respect until they reach adult-hood. Parents are encouraged to invest appropriately in the spiritual, social and physical lives of their children in order to raise well-adjusted and morally responsible members of society.

Social Holiness. We believe our Members should be active in witnessing against social evils by appropriate forms of influence. This includes the following:

- Refusal to participate in inappropriate activities and events
- Positive and proactive involvement in welfare and the community
- Activities that exert appropriate influence on society and government

B. Christian Worship and Fellowship

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

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

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

192. Christian Liberty. The Christian, through His death on the cross, has freed His followers from sin and from bondage to the law. The Christian is “called unto liberty” (Gal. 5:13), and is not under the law as a means of salvation. “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (Gal. 5:1 NIV).

This liberty, however, is not to be construed as licence (Gal. 5:13). Rather, love for Christ constrains the Christian to live righteously and holy as God commands. By the Spirit of God, His laws are written on the heart (Heb. 8:10). So the Christian resists evil and cleaves to the good, not in order to be saved, but because they have been saved.

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

Christian Unity. The Wesleyan Methodist Church is fully committed to that true Christian unity which is based on scriptural truth and the fellowship of the Spirit, and deplores the separation or division of Christian brethren over peripheral and nonessential matters. While The Wesleyan Methodist Church opposes the building of one all-inclusive ecclesiastical organisation which regards neither
scriptural doctrine nor practice, it welcomes fellowship with those who are committed to the same doctrines and standards of holy living, and co-operation across denominational lines with those who hold the cardinal doctrines of the Christian religion revealed in the Bible.

C. Christian Stewardship

195. Meaning of Stewardship. The Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and all things, that humanity are His stewards of both life and possessions, that God’s ownership and humanity’s stewardship ought to be acknowledged, and that all people shall be held personally accountable to God for the exercise of their stewardship. God, as a God of system and order in all of His ways, has established a system of giving which acknowledges His ownership and humanity’s stewardship. To this end all His children should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support of the gospel.

196. Storehouse Tithing. Storehouse tithing is a scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing the tithe into that church to which the Member belongs. Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be regarded by all its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of The Wesleyan Methodist Church are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them. Gen.14:20; 28:22; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut.14:22; Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25; Mal. 3:10-11; Matt. 23:23; Acts 4:34-35; 6:1-3; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:13-14; Heb. 7:1-2, 6, 9.

197. Methods of Fund Raising. In the light of the scriptural teaching concerning the giving of tithes and offerings (cf. 196) for the support of the gospel, and for the erection of church buildings, no Wesleyan Methodist church should engage in any method of fund raising which would detract from these principles, hinder the gospel message, sully the name of the Church, discriminate against the poor, or misdirect the people’s energies from promoting the gospel.

198. Wills, Bequests, and Annuities. It is essential in the exercise of Christian stewardship that careful thought be given as to what shall be done with one’s estate after death. Civil laws often do not provide for the distribution of an estate in such a way as to glorify God. Each Christian should give careful attention to the preparation of their last will and testament in a careful and legal manner, and The Wesleyan Methodist Church and its various ministries through the Local Church, the District, world missions, extension and evangelism, education, and benevolences are recommended for consideration.
PART II – LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter I

LOCAL CHURCH ORGANISATION

A. Function of Local Churches

201. The Local Wesleyan Methodist Church is a body of Christian believers who hold the faith set forth in the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, who have been duly received as Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and formally organised according to its Handbook, who acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, who support its worldwide mission, and who meet together regularly for the purposes of evangelism, nurture, fellowship, and worship (160).

B. Types of Organisation

Pioneer Fellowship

202. A group meeting under the auspices of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, not yet meeting the requirements of a Developing Church, shall be designated a Pioneer Fellowship.

Developing Church

203. A new work, or a work which does not meet the requirements for an Established Church (209), shall be organised as a Developing Church. It shall be authorised by the District Conference (473:24) or the District Board of Administration (486:27), and shall be governed as follows:

1. The Pastor shall be selected by the District Board of Administration and appointed by the District Conference, except in the interim of District Conference sessions when the District Board of Administration shall have full power of appointment.

2. A membership roll shall be maintained, ordinarily for one to nineteen Members. Candidates for membership shall be examined and recommended by the Pastor until such a time as a Local Advisory Council is formed and assumes this duty; and their reception shall be authorised by the District Superintendent (511:15).

3. As soon as qualified Members are available, the District Superintendent, in co-operation with the Pastor, shall appoint a Local Advisory Council of three to five Members. The Pastor shall serve as Chair of this Council (cf. 325). They shall exercise the duties and powers of a Local Board of Administration (316), making all recommendations to the District Superintendent or the District Board of Administration instead of the Local Church Conference (511:15). All investments in land, buildings, and equipment (486:30; 1490-1491), matters involving employed Staff, and other major decisions must be authorised by the District Board of Administration; and all actions of the Local Advisory Council shall be subject to the review and approval of the District Board of Administration (486:28). The Local Advisory Council shall be responsible to assist the District Superintendent in qualifying the church as quickly as possible for organisation as an Established Church.

4. All property of a Developing Church shall be held by the National Corporation or District Corporation, with titles secured as given in 1491.

5. A Developing Church may have one Lay Delegate to the District Conference when so assigned by the District Board of Administration (439; 442:2; 443).

Pastoral Charge

207. A pastoral charge may consist of a single church, or of two or more churches designated by the District Conference as a Circuit; is supplied as a regular pastoral appointment by the District Conference; and transacts business through a Local Church Conference of the Covenant and Community Members. The constitutional rights of a pastoral charge are given in 160. If the District Conference desires to appoint a Minister to serve two or more churches that shall continue as separate pastoral charges, it may appoint that Minister as Pastor of one church and Supply Pastor of the other (1158-1159).

Established Church

209. Authorisation for Organisation. The organisation of a Developing Church as a fully Established Church, or of a group of believers who have applied to a District Superintendent for organisation as a Wesleyan Methodist Church, empowering it to assemble for business as a Local Church Conference and to elect a Local Board of Administration, and investing it with all the rights, powers, and duties of a Local Church as given in the Constitution (160) and as set forth elsewhere in The Handbook, may be authorised by the District Board of Administration and effected by the District Superintendent when it meets these requirements:

1. Twenty-four or more persons, who are Covenant or Community Members or are approved and ready to be received as Members, a two thirds majority of which shall be Covenant Members when the organisation shall be effected.

2. A Developing Church shall have been operating for twelve months before making application to become an Established Church. A reasonable degree of financial stability, including the meeting of such obligations as it may have to the national Church and the District, and the pastoral support level established by the National Board of Administration.

3. A reasonable degree of leadership and organisational maturity, with sufficient qualified persons to staff the minimum organisation provided for in 326.

4. The holding of all property in trust by the National Corporation or District authority as required in 1481, or steps taken to accomplish the same (1494), Where Local Trustees hold a property (for example, a church joining The Wesleyan Methodist Church which has historically been an independent work) special provision may be granted by the National Board of Administration according to (1494).

5. An Established Church shall be reclassified as a Developing Church if its total membership drops to twelve or less or if its covenant membership drops below eight. (cf. 473:24; 486:27); it may be reclassified if it ceases to meet one or more of the other conditions set forth in 209:2-4 if such is recommended by the District Board of Administration and voted by the District Conference.

210. Procedure of Organisation When the organisation of an Established Church has been authorised by the District Board of Administration, the District Superintendent shall consult with the Pastor and the Local Advisory Council, or if there are none, with those interested in forming the church, and appoint a time for an organisational meeting. The organisational meeting shall be conducted by the District Superintendent or their representative as follows:
(1) The reading of the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles by the presiding Officer.
(2) An examination of each of the candidates for membership, conducted by the presiding Officer, using the questions commonly addressed to such candidates (cf. 1677-1680), and the baptism of such as have not previously been baptised. When the organisation involves a church previously organised as a Developing Church, those who have been accepted as Members of the Developing Church need not be re-examined.
(3) A mutual pledge of purpose and fellowship on the part of all Covenant Members, including those being received. The presiding Officer shall ask each one:
   Question 1: “Are you in Christian fellowship with all those who present themselves for membership in this church organisation?”
   Answer: “I am.”
   Question 2: “Will you receive each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, and enter into mutual communion and fellowship, and promise to walk with each other in Christian sympathy, tenderly to instruct, counsel, admonish, and cherish each other with all long-suffering, gentleness, and love?”
   Answer: “I will.”
(4) A declaration made by the presiding Officer
On the basis of these mutual pledges in the presence of God, I proceed to give you each the right hand of fellowship, and declare by this act that you are a Christian church organised on the basis of The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and are vested with all the rights, powers, and duties assigned to an Established Church by The Handbook.
(5) The first session of the Local Church Conference, with the election of Officers who shall serve for the remainder of the year, or until specified, and the installation of the Officers (1768) by the person presiding over the organisational service.
(6) The report of the organisation by the District Superintendent to the next regular session of the District Board of Administration, and to the next regular session of the District Conference (473:24; 511:14).
(7) The taking of steps to provide for the pastoral oversight and care of the new church, if such has not already been done.

**Circuit**

212. Relationship of Circuit and Church. A Circuit is a pastoral charge in which a District Conference has grouped two or more Local Churches under one Pastor, and designated them as a Circuit, with business to be transacted by a Circuit Conference. Each church on the Circuit shall conduct its business according to the regulations applicable to its particular status as a Local Church and shall exercise its constitutional rights to receive, expel, and discontinue its Members, to elect its own Officers and Trustees, and to have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in matters of controversy between itself and other Units or Agencies of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (160:1, 160:2, 160:6, 8). The Circuit shall exercise all of the constitutional rights of a pastoral charge which are not reserved to the Local Church (160:2, 4, 7), and take charge of all matters of Circuit business as given in 213-216.

213. Circuit Conference. The Covenant Members of the several churches in a Circuit, duly called and assembled together to do business, shall constitute a Circuit Conference. It shall follow the same organisational and procedural pattern as a Local Church Conference (cf. 263-272). Its duties and powers shall be:
(1) To call the Pastor and set the terms of service (160:2; 278-292).
(2) To license Local Preachers (1178-1179), and to recommend suitable Members to the District Conference for District licences as Ministerial Candidates and Lay Ministers (160:3-4 1188).
(3) To elect Lay Delegates to the District Conference (160:7; 442-445).
(4) To elect a Circuit Secretary, such Members of the Circuit Advisory Council (214) in addition to the ex-officio Members as the Circuit Conference shall determine are needed to assure proper representation, and a Circuit Board of Trustees (if such is needed, cf. 215).
(5) To determine all matters involving two or more of the churches on the Circuit, including the authorisation of transactions involved in the purchase, erection, encumbrance, sale, or other disposition of a Circuit parsonage or other property (1505-1510).

214. Circuit Advisory Council. The Circuit Advisory Council shall direct Circuit affairs between sessions of the Circuit Conference, bearing the same relationship to the Circuit Conference that the Local Board of Administration bears to the Local Church Conference (316). It shall consist of Local Church Boards and/or Advisory Councils of the Member churches, and shall include the Pastor as Chair, and the Circuit Officers and such other representatives as the Circuit Conference shall determine are needed to assure proper representation. It shall elect one of its Members as Vice-Chair, and shall meet at least quarterly at such time and place as it shall determine. It shall nominate the Pastor, for invitation by the Circuit Conference and appointment by the District Conference, make recommendations on all matters over which the Circuit Conference has authority, and carry out and administer the decisions of the Circuit Conference.

215. Circuit Trustees. The Circuit Board of Trustees shall consist of three to five Members elected by the Circuit Conference. They shall organise themselves and carry on their work under the direction of the Circuit Advisory Council in the same manner as the Board of Trustees for a Local Church (348-351), except that they shall have jurisdiction only over that property owned by the Circuit, such as the Circuit parsonage (cf. 1505, 1510).

216. Circuit Committees. The Circuit Advisory Council may appoint such Committees as are necessary to the proper conduct of Circuit affairs, including a Nominating Committee to nominate the Circuit Officers (cf. 331-332).

217. Circuit Finance. Each church shall have its own bank account and Treasurer. One of the Local Treasurers shall also be designated as Circuit Treasurer and they shall be responsible to pay Circuit accounts, Pastor’s salary, etc. The formula to decide the proportion each church is to pay may be based on membership or income.

Local Churches in a Pioneer District

218. Pioneer Fellowships, Developing Churches, Established Churches and Circuits located in Pioneer Districts shall be authorised, organised, and governed under the supervision of the National Board of Administration, in harmony with The Handbook. (cf. 1520).
Chapter II

MEMBERSHIP

A. Essence and Necessity of Membership

226. Membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church is conditioned upon an experience of conversion whereby a person becomes a member of the body of Jesus Christ, and requires the ministry and sustenance of the other parts of the body for spiritual life and growth. Therefore it is of high importance that immediate steps be taken to shepherd, disciple, and train the new converts through community membership in order to expedite the process to covenant membership and effective fellowship, commitment, and service (cf. 239-240; 294:11; 316:7, 36:3:11). The overall mission objective of membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church is to acknowledge believers as belonging to the body of Christ, to disciple them in the faith, lead them into covenant relationship with The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and to equip them to minister to the church, community, and the world.

B. Categories of Membership

227. Membership Structure: While membership by its very nature is covenantal, embracing commitments and affording opportunities, a practical distinction is made between covenant membership as a full commitment to the Wesleyan Methodist movement, and community membership which is a commitment to partnership and participation in the Local Church.

Covenant Membership

228. Those persons shall be admitted to covenant membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church who meet the conditions set forth in the Constitution (132-138).

(1) Candidates for covenant membership shall be examined as provided for by the Local Board of Administration (316:7; 342-343), to determine whether they meet the requirements of the Constitution concerning their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, Elementary Principles, and the authority of The Handbook in matters of church government, and their willingness to enter into covenant with the Church.

(2) Candidates for covenant membership, who have satisfactorily passed the examination by the Local Board of Administration, shall be voted upon by the Local Church Conference unless the Local Church Conference has delegated this right to the Local Board of Administration (138:5; 274:1). In either case, it shall require a majority vote of those present and voting to receive; and if objections are urged against the reception of a Member, it shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

(3) Persons who have been duly accepted for covenant membership as explained in 228:1, should be formally received into covenant membership in a public service, in which they shall make their confession and vows public, according to the manner given in 1676ff, and be given the right hand of fellowship by the Pastor or their representative.

229. The rights of covenant membership are set forth in the Constitution (140). Any Covenant Member charged with failure to uphold the Articles of Religion or to observe the Membership Commitments must be dealt with by judicial process as given in the Judicial Policies.

Community Membership

230. A Local Church shall provide for the Community level of membership. Those who are converted to Christ but who are not able to assume the responsibility of covenant membership yet demonstrate willingness to be disciplined in the faith and instructed in Wesleyan Methodist convictions may be received as Community Members. The Local Board of Administration, having provided for their examination concerning their Christian experience and their intention to prepare for covenant membership may, if satisfied, receive them by majority vote. Community Members shall be formally received according to the manner given in 1680-1689. Such membership shall not be transferable.

231. The rights of community membership are:

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

(2) Access to the sacraments and ordinances of the Church. (This does not mean that The Wesleyan Methodist Church practices closed communion—cf. 1692; 1695.)

(3) Eligibility to fill any office or position in the Local Church other than those for which covenant membership is required by The Handbook, provided that the Local Board of Administration considers the Community Member sufficiently mature in years and spiritual development, exemplary in conduct, and gifted for such service. (Positions reserved for Covenant Members are election to the Local Board of Administration, eligibility for District licensing, election as Delegates to District and National Conferences, appointment as Lay Leader/Local Board of Administration Vice-Chair).

(4) Community Members shall have the right to vote on all matters related to the Local Church, except the reception of Covenant Members. All District and National matters can only be voted on by Covenant Members. Minimum voting age shall be sixteen.

(5) The right of a hearing before the Local Board of Administration in the event of dismissal from community membership, but if after such hearing the Board reaffirms the vote of dismissal there shall be no further right of appeal; joining another religious body shall of itself sever community membership in the Church.

232. A Community Member may become a Covenant Member at any time they are qualified and received as given in 228. It shall be the duty of the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration to assist a Community Member in qualifying for covenant membership. If upon reception into community status, the Member is sufficiently mature in years, every effort shall be put forth to prepare that person for and receive them into covenant membership within one year. If upon reception into community status, the Member is too young to profit by and respond to preparation for covenant membership, such may be delayed until adequate maturity is achieved. Every effort shall be put forth to prepare the person for and receive them into covenant membership by the time of their sixteenth birthday. As a part of its annual review of the church membership roll (cf. 316:10), the Local Board of Administration shall review the status of each Community Member and their progress toward covenant membership and shall have full power by majority vote to discontinue from community status then or at any other time a Member who has become inactive as defined in The Handbook 253 and 254, or to dismiss them at any time they violate the qualifications for reception into such status or their conduct becomes a reproach to the Church.

Custodial Membership
235. When a Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church who ceases to attend at least twelve Sundays a year and to support the Local Church financially, requests that their membership in the Denomination be maintained, even though they are not active Members of that Local Church, the Local Church has the option to record the name of the Member in a Local Church listing called Custodial Membership, which action would preserve the desired denominational link. The church will keep such a person on their mailing list and regularly update them on events in church life.

(1) The Member so listed shall have no voting or voice privileges in the Local Church until such time as they are able to participate in the life of the Local Church again. Neither shall they be eligible to hold Local, District or National office while an inactive Member.

(2) Renewed participation in the Local Church will be evidenced by attendance at least one Sunday each month for a minimum of three months, and a fulfilling of their membership commitments to that Local Church. When participation is re-established they may request their previous status as either Covenant or Community Members be restored.

(3) Members serving the kingdom through formal secondment to ministry outside The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or serving in a missionary capacity or other approved circumstances, shall be exempt from the application of this option.

(4) Members listed in the custodial membership category shall not be counted in Annual Statistical Returns as Covenant or Community Members while they are inactive Members. They shall be recorded in the Local Church as having their membership held in custody, and the number will be reported as required.

C. Reception of Members

238. Members may be received as Covenant Members or as Community Members by confession of faith or by letter.

239. Those that are received as Covenant Members or as Community Members shall be considered as having joined on confession of faith. The Pastor and the Local Board of Administration shall be responsible to provide membership training classes for all Community Members, training them in the biblical doctrines and standards of the Church, acquainting them with the history and organization of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and explaining to them the meaning of the vows and of covenant membership (132-142; cf. 1676).

240. Those who present letters of recommendation from other Denominations shall be examined by the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration. If it is discovered that the person involved had indeed been previously converted and is fully committed to the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, they may be received as by letter (cf. 1679). But if it is discovered that they have only now given their heart to Christ and they are seeking after a full knowledge of the truth, they shall be encouraged to become a Community Member by confession of faith, and to prepare for covenant membership like any other convert.

D. Transfer of Membership

243. When any Covenant Member shall request a letter of transfer to another Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Pastor and Local Church Secretary shall grant it on the proper form as given in 1801-1803, providing the Member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Both Pastor and Secretary shall sign the letter, and shall send it by registered or certified mail to the Pastor and Local Church Secretary of the church to which the Member is transferring. The letter shall be presented to the Local Board of Administration of the receiving church at its next session, but not later than thirty days from the date of issuance, and acted upon in the manner indicated in 244. When the Member has been duly received, the second part of the form shall be completed by the receiving church and forwarded to the church granting the transfer. The date the return letter is received shall mark the expiration of membership in the church granting the letter, and in the official membership record the Local Church Secretary shall enter opposite the Member's name, the date, and Withdrawn by letter of transfer.

244. The receiving church shall handle transfers as follows:

(1) Covenant Members shall be received, subject to the approving vote of the Local Church Conference, unless the Local Church Conference shall have delegated this right to the Local Board of Administration (151:1). The transfer of covenant membership may be questioned by the receiving church if it is evident that the person involved is not in a state of grace or is living in open violation of the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments.

(2) The membership of a Pastor, Senior Pastor, or Associate Pastor, and of such Members of their family as so desire and have the proper credentials, shall be automatically transferred to the church to which they are appointed, or if the pastoral charge consists of more than one church, to the church of the pastor's choice. The Secretary of the church from which the Pastor is moving shall forward the proper forms for membership and that of family members who so desire to the Secretary of the receiving church who shall record them without any further action by the Local Church Conference or Local Board of Administration. The membership of an Assistant Pastor shall be transferred in the same manner as that of a lay member.

245. A Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church transferring from one Local Church to another shall not be required to be involved in a public service of reception.

E. Termination of Membership

247. Covenant membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be terminated only by one or more of the following (141):

(1) Voluntary withdrawal.
(2) Joining another religious body, or joining a secret order.
(3) Expulsion after proper trial and conviction.
(4) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined in 253-254).
(5) Death.

248. Community membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be terminated in any of the above ways or by simple majority vote of the Local Board of Administration (231-5).

249. When any Member requests a letter of recommendation to some other Denomination, the Pastor and Local Church Secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 1804, if the Member is neither under discipline nor under charges. Such a person's membership in the Local Church granting the letter shall cease immediately, and the Secretary shall enter opposite the Member's name, the date, and Withdrawn by letter of recommendation.

250. When any Member requests a letter of withdrawal, the Pastor and Local Church Secretary shall grant it on the proper form provided in 1805. The Secretary shall enter on the record book, (256), opposite the Member's name, the date the letter was granted, and Withdrawn by letter of withdrawal. If the Member's withdrawal occurs during the course of a judicial investigation, the Secretary shall note on the membership record, Withdrawn under accusation; and if withdrawal occurs during the course of a trial, Withdrawn under charges.
251. When any Member joins another Denomination, or other religious body exercising the functions of a church, or a Secret Society, no trial is necessary to remove such a Member. The Pastor, having investigated and ascertained the facts, shall report the same to the next session of the Local Board of Administration, and upon the Board’s order the Local Church Secretary shall enter opposite the Member’s name the date of the session, and Withdrawn through having joined another body.

252. When any Member moves away from the church of which they are a Member, and it is evident that distance will not permit their full and regular participation in the life of the church, the Pastor shall encourage that member to transfer their membership to the Wesleyan Methodist Church nearest their new residence. To that end, the Pastor shall notify the National Secretary of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of the name and address of the Member (cf. 755:10).

253. When any Member moves away from the church of which they are a Member, and does not leave a forwarding address, or fails to report their spiritual standing or to send their financial support, or to transfer their membership to the nearest Wesleyan Methodist Church, after one year that member may be dropped from the roll provided that every effort has been made to contact them and notify them of such an intention. That member’s name shall be dropped upon the recommendation of the Local Board of Administration and the majority vote of the Local Church Conference, unless the Local Church Conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the Local Board of Administration. The Secretary shall enter opposite the Member’s name the date of the vote, and Discontinued by vote.

254. When any Member fails to attend the services of their church for one year without a reason deemed justifiable by the Local Board of Administration, or to support their church financially as they are able, the Pastor and Local Board of Administration shall seek to restore that member to active fellowship, but if unable to do so, their name may be dropped upon the recommendation of the Local Board of Administration and the majority vote of the Local Church Conference, unless the Local Church Conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the Local Board of Administration. The Secretary shall enter opposite the Member’s name the date of the vote, and Discontinued by vote for persistent neglect.

F. Record of Membership

256. Each Local Church shall have a permanent record maintained by the Local Church Secretary, in which shall be recorded all the names of the Members, the time when received and whether by profession of faith or by letter, the time and manner of termination of membership, whether by some manner of withdrawal, or by discontinuance for neglect, dismissal, or death; and all baptisms, marriages, pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent written record of the life and ministry of the Local Church.
Chapter III

LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

A. Composition and Function

261. The Covenant and Community Members of a Local Church, duly called and assembled together to do business constitute the Local Church Conference. It is the highest Governing Body of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, and exercises those powers granted to the Local Church by the Constitution (160), and other powers specifically granted to the Local Church Conference by the National Conference as set forth in *The Handbook*.

B. Sessions

263. Regular Sessions.

(1) Annual Sessions. The Local Church Conferences shall meet annually, near the close of the fiscal year, as established by the District Conference (473:18), at a time arranged by the District Superintendent and the Pastor and announced from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance (cf. 265). Reports shall be made; the Officers, Local Board of Administration, and Trustees shall be elected, (cf. 332; 398; 443); and such other business shall be transacted as necessary (cf. 272).

(2) Quarterly Sessions. The Local Church Conference may choose to meet quarterly at such times as the District Superintendent and Pastor shall arrange, unless the District Superintendent shall delegate full authority for setting such dates to the Pastor in writing. Such quarterly sessions shall be announced from the pulpit and in the weekly bulletin, when such is available, at least two weeks in advance of the appointed time. At each session, reports shall be given and other business transacted as necessary (cf. 272).

265. Special Session.

(1) General Business. The Local Church Conference may be called into special session by the Pastor, or in times of emergency by the District Superintendent, for the transaction of any business other than the election of Officers, with announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be given not less than one week before the appointed time. Notice shall also be given one week in advance in the church bulletin, when such is available. The requirements for special sessions dealing with legal or property matters are set forth in 1393 and 1498.

(2) Reception of Members. In those churches in which the Local Church Conference must vote on the reception of Covenant Members (151:1), the Pastor may call a special session for such a vote, with announcement from the pulpit in one regular service in advance of the appointed time.

(3) Pastoral Vote. The Vice-Chair of the Local Board of Administration (310), when authorised to do so by the Local Board of Administration, and having notified the District Superintendent, may call a special session of the Local Church Conference to conduct a pastoral vote, with announcement from the pulpit, and in the weekly bulletin when such is available, at least two weeks in advance of the appointed time, except that during negotiations for calling a new Pastor the announcement need be made only from the pulpit and in only one regular service in advance of the appointed time.

C. Organisation and Procedure

Officers

267. Chair. The District Superintendent or their representative shall preside over the Local Church Conference whenever present. In their absence, the Pastor shall preside, except over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a Pastor. The Vice-Chair of the Local Board of Administration (310) shall preside over sessions dealing with the securing or retaining of a Pastor, if the District Superintendent or their representative is not present. The District Superintendent may also preside, at the request of the Pastor, over other sessions of the Local Church Conference. In emergencies, when the Pastor is absent or incapacitated, the Vice-Chair may preside over other sessions with the permission of the District Superintendent.

268. Secretary. The Local Church Secretary, elected annually by the Local Church Conference, shall serve as Secretary of the Local Church Conference by virtue of this office (337:1).

Procedure

269. Quorum. Those Members who assemble for a meeting of the Local Church Conference when such has been duly called shall constitute a quorum.

270. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting in the Local Church Conference shall be sufficient in all items of business unless otherwise required by *The Handbook* or by local laws when dealing with legal matters.

(1) Issues related to denominational commitments shall be decided by the vote of the Covenant Members of the Local Church.

(2) No decision of a Local Church shall be contrary to the Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

271. Rules of Order. The business of the Local Church Conference shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except when formally suspended or otherwise ordered by *The Handbook*.

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

(1) Reading of minutes of last session.

(2) Receiving the reports of the Pastor(s), Sunday School Superintendent, Director of Wesleyan Men, Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women, Director of Kids for Missions, Director of Christian Youth Clubs, President of Wesleyan Youth, Director of Young Adults International, and any other the Local Church Conference shall order.

(3) Receiving the reports of the various Treasurers (345).

(4) Receiving and acting upon the reports of Boards and Committees.

(5) Receiving the reports of the Local Preachers.

(6) Granting or renewing of local licences for Local Preachers.

(7) Recommending suitable Members to the District Conference for District licences as Ministerial Candidates and Lay Ministers (160:3-4).

(8) Electing of Officers, Trustees, and Delegates.
D. Duties and Powers

274. The Local Church Conference has duties and powers:

(1) To approve by vote the reception of Covenant Members and to expel or discontinue Covenant Members unless it delegates full authority concerning membership to the Local Board of Administration (151:1; 160:1). Such authority may be withdrawn from the Local Board of Administration at any annual session of the Local Church Conference. Community Members do not vote on matters related to Local Church membership (231:3-4).

(2) To call a Pastor or renew the call (160:2; 279:1; 284; 290; 291; 296), or to vote on the termination of a renewed call as set forth in 292:2.

(3) To authorise a Nominating Committee, which shall be chaired by the Pastor, to which to Local Board of Administration shall elect three representatives from its membership, and to which the Local Church Conference may, at its option, elect three additional representatives who are not Members of the Local Board of Administration (331-332).

(4) To elect the Local Church Officers, which shall consist of the Lay Leader (if any), the Local Church Secretary, the Sunday School Superintendent, the Trustees (designating annually at least one Trustee to serve as a Member of the Local Board of Administration), Members-at-Large of the Local Board of Administration (cf. 303), and Lay Delegates to the District Conference (160:7). Community Members do not vote on Delegates to District Conference (231:3-4).

(5) To receive reports from the Pastor(s), Church Officers, Local Preachers and other persons, Boards, and Committees as desired, and as listed in 272:2-5. The actions of the Local Board of Administration shall be submitted at least twice annually to the Local Church Conference for information, consideration and ratification or review as appropriate.

(6) To remove, when such is in the best interests of the church, by a majority vote of those present and voting, any Church Officer, Trustee, or Delegate mentioned in 274:4 (cf. 316:25).

(7) To license Local Preachers and to renew or revoke such licence (cf.316:19; 1179; 1180; 1182:2; 1188; 1189). This power may be delegated to the Local Board of Administration.

(8) To recommend suitable Members to the District Conference for District licences as Ministerial Candidates, Licensed Ministers, or Lay Ministers (160:3-4). This power may be delegated to the Local Board of Administration. Community Members do not vote on District and National Church matters (231:4).

(9) To adopt petitions or resolutions to the District Conference, including memorials proposed for recommendation to the National Conference (462-464).

(10) To adopt financial policies, which policies shall be administered by the Local Board of Administration (cf. 316:29).

(11) To authorise the enlargement or decrease of the employed Staff (cf. 316:16).

(12) To adopt an annual budget (cf. 316:30), and to authorise all expenditures not provided for in the annual budget.

(13) To authorise the purchase or sale of property, the erection or major remodelling of buildings, and all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property, subject to the prior approval of the District Board of Administration, according to the procedure set forth in 1498-1500.

(14) To petition the District Board of Administration for the incorporation of the Local Church when it is deemed necessary as set forth in 1385, and to authorise the Local Board of Administration to incorporate the church when such incorporation has been approved by the District Board of Administration (486:30).

(15) To authorise, subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration, the establishment and operation of a Pioneer Fellowship, (cf. 203; 316:5; 486:27), a branch Sunday School, or a Developing Church, in order to share the benefits of the gospel with others.

(16) To adopt an annual calendar of events (cf.316:6).

(17) To delegate such responsibilities as it shall choose to the Local Board of Administration.

(18) To have recourse to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters of controversy between itself and other Local, or District, or National Units or Agencies of the Denomination (160:8).

(19) To authorise the establishment of a Day Care and/or Day School of Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary levels only, when such is desired, subject to approval by the District Board of Administration; and to delegate control of the Day Care and/or Day School to the Local Board of Administration (cf. 316:34-35; 486:32). A Local Church Conference shall not formalise post-secondary education in terms of an institute or of junior college or college-level programs, without prior approval of the District Conference and the National Board of Administration or its appropriate commission. (CE473:24).

(20) To authorise significant changes in mission, facilities, or finances of an established Day Care and/or Day School, subject to approval by the District Board of Administration (cf. 486:32).

275. Church Name and Logo

(1) No Church shall change its name without the consent of the District Board of Administration and without demonstrating reasonable cause for the change.

(2) Churches shall normally be named by adding the name of their locality to the front of the words “Wesleyan Methodist Church.”

(3) The words “Wesleyan Methodist Church” must be included into the full name of all churches.

(4) All signage and publications of the church shall:
   a) Carry the full name of the church, rather than the shortened “Wesleyan Church”;
   b) Carry the National Wesleyan Methodist Church logo; and
   c) Where the words “Wesleyan Methodist Church” and/or logo are in smaller print, they shall remain clear and legible.

(5) Communications and correspondence of the church as a minimum requirement carry the name of the church and logo.
Chapter IV

PASTORS

A. Function

276. A Pastor is an Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister, who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve as the spiritual shepherd, teacher, and administrative overseer of the Local Church, teaching the Word, directing the worship, administering the sacraments and ordinances of the Church, taking the comforts of the gospel to the sin-burdened, the sick, and the distressed, discipling converts, nurturing and instructing believers, equipping and enabling them for their part in ministry, and serving as Chief Executive Officer in the government of the Local Church.

277. A Minister who serves as the sole Pastor of a church shall be referred to simply as “the Pastor.” The term “Senior Pastor” shall be applied to the presiding Minister of a multiple pastoral Staff. The Pastor shall be expected to carry out the full pastoral function as set forth in 276, and ultimate responsibility for the same shall rest upon the Senior Pastor. An Associate Pastor is a helping Member of a multiple Staff who normally shares a broad range of the shepherding and teaching responsibilities and such administrative responsibilities as are delegated (cf. 297). An Assistant Pastor is a helping Member of a multiple Staff who normally is assigned more limited and specific aspects of the pastoral function (cf. 298).

B. Manner of Pastoral Voting

Jurisdiction in Pastoral Voting

278. All matters related to voting on securing or retaining a Pastor are the concern of a pastoral charge (207), whether it consists of a single church or a Circuit. In most instances, a pastoral charge will consist of one Local Church, and the following paragraphs are so written. If a Circuit is involved, the Vice-Chair of the Circuit Advisory Council (214) assumes leadership in all negotiations, the Circuit Advisory Council fills the role of the Local Board of Administration, and the Circuit Conference rather than the Local Church Conference is the voting body.

Regulations for All Pastoral Voting

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

(1) All pastoral votes shall be taken at a duly announced session of the Local Church Conference (263-265).
(2) The District Superintendent or their representative shall preside over the Local Church Conference for the taking of the pastoral vote. If neither can be present, the Vice-Chair of the Local Board of Administration (310) shall preside.
(3) All pastoral votes shall be taken by secret ballot with special provision for absentee ballots (280).
(4) A pastoral call shall require an affirmative vote of two thirds of all present and voting Members of the Local Church Conference (280; 284; 290; 291).
(5) The Minister shall be notified in writing by the Local Church Secretary of the results of the vote, and, if the vote is favourable, of the support (including salary, expense allowances, housing, fringe benefits, moving expenses) and related matters which the church proposes to maintain.
(6) If the vote is favourable, the Minister shall notify the Local Board of Administration and the District Superintendent in writing of their decision within two weeks.

280. Absentee Ballots. A Member, who cannot attend a pastoral vote session of the Local Church Conference because of confining illness, required employment, or necessary out-of-town travel, may cast an absentee ballot subject to the following conditions:

(1) A standard ballot shall be secured from the Local Church Secretary, identical to the ballots to be used at the session, and submit the marked ballot prior to the session in a sealed envelope identified with the name of the absent Member.
(2) The Local Church Secretary must certify the envelope as being submitted by a Member to whom a ballot has been supplied, and who is eligible to cast an absentee ballot. In the event that the Local Church Secretary is unable to certify the eligibility of the person casting an absentee ballot, the Secretary may consult the Vice-Chair of the Local Board to determine eligibility.
(3) Envelopes containing such absentee ballots shall be opened at the session in which the vote is taken, by the Secretary in the presence of the Chair, prior to the tallying of the vote, and ballots placed without inspection with the others for counting by the tellers.

281. District Approval of Pastoral Agreement. A pastoral agreement, whether for an initial call or a renewal of call, must be reviewed and recommended by the District Board of Administration, and becomes final upon the approval of the District Conference. Each year the District Board of Administration shall review those pastoral agreements which are continuing before making its report to the District Conference (473;26; 486;9).

282. Time of Pastoral Changes. Except for such emergencies such as resignations removals, or deaths; pastoral changes shall take place at the close of the session of the District Conference or at such time as the District Conference shall designate.

283. Annual Review of Pastoral Support. The Pastor’s financial support and related matters shall be reviewed annually by the Local Board of Administration prior to the annual session of the Local Church Conference, whether or not a vote is being taken on the securing or retaining of a Pastor. If salary schedules previously adopted by the Local Church Conference must be amended before necessary improvements are made, the Local Board of Administration shall make appropriate recommendations. A report of the final action, whether by the Local Board of Administration of by the Local Church Conference, shall be sent by the Local Church Secretary in writing to both the Pastor (or Pastor-elect, cf. 279:5) and the District Superintendent.

Regulations for Initial Call of Pastor

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

(1) The vote shall be for a two-year call, subject to such adjustment as the District Superintendent shall approve, so that the term shall expire at the uniform time set by the District Conference (282).
(2) The Local Board of Administration, under the leadership of its Vice-Chair, shall counsel with the District Superintendent concerning possible candidates. If the church desires to call a Minister from another District, the Local Board of Administration shall first secure from its own District Superintendent and National Superintendent assurance that the transfer would be approved (cf. 158;6).
285. Waiver of Local Church Rights. If a pastoral charge has been unable to secure a Pastor prior to thirty days before the annual session of the District Conference, the Local Church Conference may, at any time thereafter, by majority vote delegate full authority for the employment of a Pastor to the Local Board of Administration, or it may waive its rights and leave the selection of a Pastor to the nomination of the District Board of Administration and appointment by the District Conference. If a pastoral charge waives its rights, or if neither Local Church Conference nor Local Board of Administration shall have secured a Pastor by the time the annual session of the District Conference convenes, the District Board of Administration shall nominate a Pastor for appointment by the District Conference. A Pastor so appointed shall be received and supported by the pastoral charge the same as if that Pastor had been employed in the usual manner.

286. Initial Call Resignation. If a Pastor resigns during the initial call term of service to a church, the Pastor must notify the Local Board of Administration and the Superintendent sixty days in advance. If the District Superintendent and the Local Board of Administration deem it wise, the Pastor may be released sooner.

287. Initial Call Removal. During the initial call term of a Pastor’s service, the District Board of Administration may remove the Pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members, provided such has been requested by the Local Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote in a meeting presided over by the District Superintendent, or such has been recommended by the District Superintendent (cf. 486:36).

288. Ad Interim Procedures. If a pastoral charge is left without a Pastor between sessions of the District Conference due to death, resignation, or removal, the Local Board of Administration and the Local Church Conference shall follow the regular procedures for securing a new Pastor with all arrangements subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (cf. 486:36).

Regulations for Renewal of Call

290. Procedure for Renewal of Call. Whenever a Pastor’s term of service is expiring, unless the Pastor shall give notice otherwise to the Vice-Chair of the Local Board of Administration (310) and the District Superintendent, in writing and at least sixty days prior to the convening of the District Conference, the Pastor shall be considered as available, and a vote on the renewal of the call shall be taken in keeping with the regulations governing all pastoral voting (279).

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

a) A vote for a two-year renewal of the call shall be taken. If the vote on a two-year renewal of the call is favourable, the Local Board of Administration, after consulting with the Pastor, may then recommend that a ballot vote be taken to renew the call for three years, four years, or, if the Pastor has served the church for at least three years for an extended period (291).

b) Or, prior to the vote on renewing the call, the Local Board of Administration, after consultation with the Pastor, shall recommend to the Local Church Conference a specific call for two, three, or four years, or, if the Pastor has served the church for at least three years, an extended call.

(2) A vote for a one-year renewal of the call may be authorised by the District Board of Administration upon the joint request of the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration when such is due to extenuating circumstances such as the Pastor’s approaching retirement.

291. Special Regulations for Extended Call.

(1) When a Pastor is serving for an extended period, and when the Pastor deems it advisable and when approval has been granted by the District Superintendent, may ask the Local Board of Administration to conduct a vote by the Local Church Conference on renewing the extended call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 279.

(2) When a Pastor is serving for an extended period, the District Superintendent shall review the pastoral agreement with the Local Board of Administration biennially. The Local Board of Administration by a majority vote shall either reaffirm the call or ask the Local Church Conference to vote on renewing the call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 279.

292. Termination of Renewed Call. The service of a Pastor whose call has been renewed may be terminated prior to the expiration of the term or in the interim of biennial reviews of an extended call (291:2) in one of three ways:

(1) The Pastor may resign, provided that the termination of service is first approved by the District Board of Administration. Except as otherwise mutually agreed upon by the Local Board of Administration and the District Board of Administration, notification of the Pastor’s resignation shall be given at least sixty days in advance and the resignation shall become effective in sixty days or at the time set by the District for pastoral changes (282).

(2) If one-third of the Members of the Local Board of Administration so request the District Superintendent in writing, the District Superintendent or their representative shall call and preside over a special session of the Local Board of Administration for the purpose of deciding on whether to call for a pastoral vote by the Local Church Conference. If the Local Board of Administration by majority vote calls for the taking of such a vote, and the District Board of Administration approves the taking of the same, it shall be taken in keeping with 279. If there is a majority vote of the Local Church Conference in favour of retaining the Pastor, and the Pastor agrees to remain, the Pastor shall be free to continue as if the vote had not been taken. If less than a majority are favourable to retaining the Pastor, their service shall terminate at the time set by the District for pastoral changes (282), or at a time mutually agreed upon by the Pastor, the Local Board of Administration, and the District Superintendent.

(3) The District Board of Administration may, by a majority vote, order the District Superintendent to conduct a pastoral vote in keeping with 279. Or the District Board of Administration, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent (511:19), and for the sake of the pastoral charge involved, may remove the Pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members (486:36), with the Pastor’s services terminating in sixty days unless ordered otherwise by the District Board of Administration. If at any time the District Board of Administration shall deem it in the interests of the District as a whole that the Pastor be free to serve elsewhere, it may by majority vote request that Minister to resign.

C. Duties and Powers

294. The Pastor shall administer the spiritual and temporal affairs of the work under their care in keeping with The Handbook and other National and District regulations, and shall be responsible:

General

(1) To devote himself diligently to the study of the Scriptures, to prayer, and to the assigned work of ministry.
(2) To seek, by all means, the conversion of sinners, the sanctification of believers, and the building up of God's people in the most holy faith.

(3) To pray to God for and with the church.

(4) To feed the church by reading, expounding, teaching, and preaching the Word.

(5) To have the general guidance, under the Holy Spirit, of the religious services, including the midweek service, cultivating the practice of corporate worship.

(6) To administer, if an Ordained Minister (158:1) or a Commissioned (1117:2) or Licensed Minister (1114:1), the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Each Pastor shall provide for the observance of the Lord's Supper at least once every three months. A Supply Pastor shall secure the services of an Ordained Minister, or a Commissioned (1117:2) or Licensed (1114:1) Minister who is a Pastor, for such observance (159:2).

(7) To solemnise, if an Ordained Minister (158:1) or a Commissioned (1117:2) or Licensed Minister (1114:1), the rite of matrimony, in keeping with the Scriptures and The Handbook (1130); to counsel with those being married and those already married, emphasising the spiritual values in all phases of marital and parental life, seeking to develop the spiritual ideals and resources necessary to build permanent unions and godly homes (cf. 187:7).

(8) To comfort the bereaved and to bury the dead.

(9) To provide pastoral guidance and oversight through visitation and counsel to the Members of the church and to others in need of a Pastor’s help. The Minister, as counsellor, has the right to protect the conversation with a counsellee as privileged communication.

(10) To keep all Members fully conversant with the Christian life-style set forth in the Membership Commitments and the biblical basis for the same, and to maintain with diligence and love adherence to these membership requirements (cf. 130:132).

(11) To be responsible for the instruction of all prospective Members in the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and policy of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and in the meaning and purpose of church membership, holding or arranging for membership classes for Community Members that they might be adequately prepared for covenant membership (cf. 239-240; 316:7; 363:11).

(12) To administer the ritual of membership and to give the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the church to new Members (228:3; 1670-1689).

(13) To report the names and addresses of Members who have moved away to the National and District Secretary of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (252).

(14) To grant, in conjunction with the Local Church Secretary, letters of transfer, recommendation, or withdrawal (243; 249; 250; 1801-1805).

(15) To receive any complaint or accusation against any Member of a church under their care, and to give the matter prompt and careful attention as required under the Judicial Policies, and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the Local Board of Administration for disposition (316:11).

Administrative

(16) To preside as Chair of the Local Church Conference and the Local Board of Administration except as otherwise provided (267; 309-310), and to oversee and direct all Departments and Local Church Organisations as the Chief Executive Officer.

(17) To serve as a voting Member of Boards and Committees established by the Local Board of Administration, and to meet with all Boards and Committees as time will permit.

(18) To meet with Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Youth, and Young Adults International and any of their Committees as they deem best and to call a special meeting of an Auxiliary or any of its Committees; to serve as an ex-officio Member of the Executive Committees of the Auxiliaries (1216:1; 1242:1; 1280:3f; 1341:1), and as Chair, or to appoint a representative as Chair, of the Nominating Committees of the Auxiliaries (1216:7; 1242:5; 1341:5).

(19) To give leadership to the missionary, evangelistic, educational, and devotional programs of the Local Church in harmony with objectives and programs of the District and the National church; to request the approval of the District Superintendent for the use of an evangelist or worker who is not a Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for a crusade or any other event (cf. 511:21).

(20) To promote all the interests of the National Church and the District, in the manner and to the extent authorised by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, and the District Conference.

(21) To instruct the Local Church concerning the financial plans of the National Church and of the District, and to see, together with the Local Board of Administration, that the United Stewardship Fund and all other obligations are met in full; and to protect the Local Church from solicitations not authorised by the National Church or the District.

(22) To promote stewardship, emphasising tithing and the storehouse plan as a part of the Christian's total stewardship (cf. 195-198), and to see that tithes and freewill offerings are collected regularly.

(23) To see that Trustees are elected and all church property properly secured according to The Handbook and the local laws, with all legal papers submitted to the District Superintendent for approval.

(24) To see that no steps are taken involving a church to which they are appointed in financial liability without proper authorisation from the Local Board of Administration and Local Church Conference, or without the approval of the District Board of Administration when such financial liability involves the mortgaging or other encumbering of the church property (274:12-13; 316:30-31; 486:30).

(25) To see that all property and building transactions are carried out as set forth in 1498-1500.

(26) To circulate holiness literature, promoting all subscription campaigns for National Church or District periodicals, setting a proper example with personal subscriptions; and to use in all Educational Departments and Agencies curriculum materials provided by The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(27) To have general supervision of the educational program of the Local Church, organising classes for the instruction of adults, youth, and children in the Word of God and for Christian living, attending all sessions possible, promoting the faithful attendance of Church Members, and providing for the instruction and inspiration of the leaders in educational work.

(28) To enlist youth for the gospel ministry, and for missionary and other special work, encouraging and helping them to prepare for their God-appointed task at Educational Institutions provided by The Wesleyan Methodist Church; to sign, in conjunction with the Local Church Secretary (337:3), licences for Local Preachers granted by the Local Church Conference (274:7; 316:19); and to have the oversight over all Local Preachers employing their services as constantly and effectively as possible.

(29) To recommend to the Local Board of Administration a potential Associate Pastor (297); to nominate to the Local Board of Administration an Assistant Pastor (298:2) or a Lay Assistant to the Pastor (299); to nominate to the Local Board of Administration all Members of the employed Staff; and to supervise, with the assistance of the Local Board of Administration, the services of all employed Staff members, including the custodians (cf. 316:16).
(30) To see that up-to-date files are kept on church constituency, membership, Sunday School enrolment, the membership of Subsidiary Organisations, and subscriptions to the various National Church and District publications, and to be ready to turn over such lists to the succeeding Pastor (cf. 256; 337:2, 337:5; 370; 388; 1217:4; 1243:5; 1280:3c; 1343:3).
(31) To see that adequate historical records and financial records are maintained for the church (cf. 256; 345:2, 345:5; 371; 1217:5; 1243:3; 1280:3c; 1343:3).
(32) To see that all necessary data are collected for the various statistical and financial reports, and to present reports to the Local Board of Administration monthly, to the Local Church Conference at its regular sessions, to the District Superintendent quarterly and as requested, to the District Conference annually on forms approved by the National Board of Administration, and to various National Church or District Departmental Officers as required.
(33) To attend National and District Conference sessions, institutes, and conventions planned for personal edification by the National Church or the District, and to participate in the life and work of the District and National Church as opportunity affords.

D. Pastoral Staff

296. Pastor/Senior Pastor. An Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve as sole Pastor of a church shall be referred to simply as “the Pastor.” The term “Senior Pastor” is applied to the presiding Minister in a multiple pastorial Staff who bears ultimate responsibility for carrying out the function set forth in 276.

297. Associate Pastor. An Associate Pastor is an Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister, who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve along with and under the direction of the Senior Pastor as approved by the Local Board of Administration; the Associate Pastor’s assignment normally includes a broad range of the shepherding and teaching responsibilities and such administrative responsibilities as are delegated, but may be concentrated on one or more specific aspects of ministry (cf. 277). The calling and assignment of the Associate Pastor shall be subject to the following guidelines:

(1) The Associate Pastor shall have training, experience, and ministerial standing compatible with those of the Senior Pastor.
(2) The Associate Pastor is recommended to the Local Board of Administration by the Senior Pastor; the Associate Pastor cannot be employed initially nor can the call be renewed without the express recommendation of the Senior Pastor. Otherwise, the call is made and renewed by the Local Church Conference in the same manner as that of the Senior Pastor, except that the termination point for the call can never be later than that of the Senior Pastor.
(3) The Associate Pastor’s appointment may be terminated in the same manner as that for a Pastor, with the additional provision that the term of service will end whenever there is a change in Senior Pastor in the Local Church to which they are appointed. Whenever a Senior Pastor terminates service at a time other than the uniform time of pastoral change (282), the Associate Pastor’s term shall expire at the succeeding uniform time for such change. The newly called Senior Pastor may recommend renewal of the call for the Associate Pastor to the Local Board of Administration.
(4) If a clergy couple is appointed to the pastoral Staff, only one shall be designated as Senior Pastor.

298. Assistant Pastor. An Assistant Pastor is an Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister, who is called of God and appointed by the Church to serve under the direction of the Senior Pastor as approved by the Local Board of Administration; the Assistant Pastor’s assignment normally includes more limited and specific aspects of the pastoral ministry (cf. 277). The calling and assignment of an Assistant Pastor shall be subject to the following guidelines:

(1) The Assistant Pastor shall have the training, experience, and ministerial standing which are suitable for the pastoral assignment.
(2) The Assistant Pastor is recommended to the Local Board of Administration by the Senior Pastor; the Assistant Pastor cannot be employed initially nor can the call be renewed without the express recommendation of the Senior Pastor. While the Local Church Conference creates the position, the Local Board of Administration employs the person subject to the recommendation of the Pastor and approval of the District Conference. Employment shall be for one year at a time except that its termination point can never be later than that of the Senior Pastor.
(3) The Assistant Pastor’s appointment may be terminated at any time at the Pastor’s recommendation and the vote of the Local Board of Administration. The term of service will end whenever there is a change in Senior Pastor in the Local Church to which they are appointed. Whenever a Senior Pastor terminates service at a time other than the uniform time of pastoral change (282), the Assistant Pastor’s term shall expire at the succeeding uniform time for such change. The newly called Senior Pastor may recommend the reemployment of the Assistant Pastor to the Local Board of Administration.
(4) The office of Assistant Pastor is an employed position, subject to final approval by the District Conference. It is to be assigned to no one as an honour or to provide special status.

299. Lay Assistant to the Pastor. Lay persons may also serve as paid assistants. While the Local Church Conference creates the position, the Local Board of Administration employs the person subject to the recommendation of the Pastor.

(1) The Lay Assistant must be a Member of the employing Local Church.
(2) Employment shall be for one year at a time.
(3) Employment of a Lay Minister shall be subject to review by the District Board of Administration and appointment by the District Conference.
Chapter V
LOCAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Function

301. The Local Board of Administration carries out the will of the Local Church Conference, serving as the chief governing and coordinating body of the Local Church in the interim of Local Church Conference sessions.

B. Membership

303. The Local Board of Administration consists of the Pastor as Chair, the Associate Pastor (except when the Pastor’s spouse), and the Local Church Conference shall elect from its Covenant Members up to 15 Members-at-Large to provide for proper administration and representation with regard to the size of the congregation. Provision shall be made for a Local Board of Administration to co-opt Covenant and/or Community Members on to the Local Board of Administration as participants where they regard their participation as necessary with the proviso that the number of Community Members on the Board will not exceed the number of Covenant Members. Members co-opted to the L.B.A. may be designated as voting or non-voting participants (see 231:3). The Local Board of Administration shall elect all other required Officers (see 316:16). All Members of the Local Board of Administration shall agree to live in accord with the Leadership Covenant (see 1195).

304. It is recommended that no two persons of the same household be elected to serve on the same Local Board of Administration, and that no person shall be elected to more than one office carrying ex-officio membership on the Board.

C. Sessions

306. Regular Sessions. The Local Board of Administration shall meet monthly at such time and place as it shall choose.

307. Special Sessions. The Local Board of Administration may authorise special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the Pastor, the Vice-Chair (for sessions dealing with a pastoral vote, or with the Pastor’s financial support and related matters), or in times of emergency by the District Superintendent or their representative. A special session may be held without previous announcement, if all Members of the Local Board of Administration are present. Otherwise, each shall have been notified either personally or by a notice mailed to His residence or by electronic mail at least forty-eight hours prior to the convening of the session. A special session may not be conducted in the absence of the Pastor except as provided for in 310.

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

D. Organisation and Procedure

Officers

309. Chair. The Pastor shall be Chair of the Local Board of Administration, ex-officio, presiding over all sessions except as noted in 310.

310. Vice-Chair. The Local Board of Administration shall elect one of its Members as Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair may preside over meetings of the Local Board of Administration when a pastoral vote or the Pastor’s support is under discussion (for exceptions, cf. 287; 292:2). The Vice-Chair may also preside over sessions or portions of sessions of the Local Church Conference dealing with a pastoral vote or the Pastor’s support when neither the District Superintendent nor their representative is present (287; 279:2). The Vice-Chair may preside, at the request of the Pastor, over other sessions of the Local Board of Administration or of the Local Church Conference. In emergencies, when the Pastor is absent or incapacitated, the Vice-Chair may also preside over other sessions of the Local Board of Administration and Local Church Conference with the permission of the District Superintendent. The District Superintendent or their representative shall preside over all sessions of the Local Board of Administration considering the termination of a pastoral agreement (287; 292:2), and in times of emergency.

311. Secretary. The Local Church Secretary shall be Secretary of the Local Board of Administration, ex-officio (337). If the Secretary is absent, the Local Board of Administration may elect a Secretary pro tem.

Procedure

313. Quorum. A majority of the Members of the Local Board of Administration shall constitute a quorum.

314. Voting. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient in all items of business except when voting on the reception of a Covenant Member against whom an objection has been made, which shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting (228:2; 153:5; 316:8); and when petitioning the District Board of Administration to remove a Pastor during the initial call, which shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting (287; 316:3). Community Members on the Local Board of Administration do not vote on matters related to membership (231:3-4).

E. Duties and Powers

316. The Local Board of Administration shall administer the affairs of the church in keeping with The Handbook, other National and District regulations, and the directions of the Local Church Conference, and shall be responsible:

General

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

(2) To provide a place of worship.
(3) To counsel with the Pastor, as the Pastor may request, concerning all phases of ministry, and to co-ordinate the work of all the Officers, Boards, Committees, and Auxiliaries of the church (cf. 383:3).
(4) To receive monthly reports from the Pastor (294:32), Associate and Assistant Pastor(s), Church Treasurer (345:3), Sunday School Treasurer (371); quarterly reports from Sunday School Superintendent (368:7); and reports as the Local Board of Administration shall require from all Officers, Boards, Committees, Auxiliaries, and Auxiliary Officers.
(5) To direct the church in its evangelistic outreach, Bible School SunSchool, seeking to win its community to Christ; to establish an Extension Department of the Sunday School; to recommend to the Local Church Conference the establishment and operation of a Pioneer Fellowship, a branch Sunday School, or a Developing Church, as it deems necessary and proper (cf. 203; 274:15).
(6) To recommend to the Local Church Conference an annual calendar of events (cf. 274:16).

Membership

(7) To provide for the examination of all candidates for church membership, which may be done by delegating the actual examination to a Committee on Witness and Membership (342-343); and to assist the Pastor in providing church membership classes (239-246; 294:11; 363:11).
(8) To make recommendations concerning the reception of Covenant Members to the Local Church Conference, unless full authority concerning such reception has been delegated by the Local Church Conference to the Local Board of Administration (151:1; 274:1); and when such authority has been delegated, to authorise the reception of Covenant Members by a majority vote, except that when an objection is raised against the reception of a Member it shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to receive (151:1; 227:2; 314). Covenant Members only, of the Local Board of Administration, shall have full authority over all membership matters.
(9) To approve, by its own authority, the reception of Community Members (229); or to drop Community Members from the roll (231; 248-254). Covenant Members only, of the Local Board of Administration, shall have full authority over all membership matters.
(10) To examine the church membership roll annually, and to provide for its revision according to the provisions of The Handbook (227-256; cf. 274:1).
(11) To consider all accusations and charges against Members of the Local Church and to appoint a Committee of Investigation and a Local Judicial Committee as provided for in the Judiciary (see Judicial Policies).
(12) To instruct the Local Church Secretary concerning the removal of the name of a Member who has joined another religious body or Secret Society (251); to recommend to the Local Church Conference that it remove from the roll by majority vote the name of a Member who has moved away and neither transferred membership to the nearest Wesleyan Methodist Church nor maintained contact with and support of the former church (253), and that it remove by a majority vote the name of a Member who has failed to attend or support the local church where membership is held for one year without proper reason (254), unless the Local Church Conference shall have delegated full responsibilities in such matters to the Local Board of Administration (274:1).

Pastors, Staff, and Licensed Workers

(13) To nominate Pastor and Associate Pastor to the Local Church Conference (284:2-3; 297:2); to assume full responsibility for securing a Pastor when such is delegated by the Local Church Conference (285); and to recommend to the District Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote the termination of a pastoral agreement if such becomes necessary during the initial call (287).
(14) To recommend to the Local Church Conference after a favourable vote has been received for a two-year renewal of the call, the renewal of the Pastor’s call for a term of three years, four years, or, if the Pastor has served the church for at least three years, for an extended period (290:1a); or to recommend prior to the vote on the renewal of call, and after consultation with the Pastor, a specific call for two years, three years, four years, or, if the Pastor has served the church for at least three years, an extended call (290:1b); to review biennially with the District Superintendent an extended call and by majority vote to reaffirm the call or recommend for the Local Church Conference to vote on renewing the call (291:2); to meet, at the request of one-third of its Members and under the chairing of the District Superintendent or their representative, to consider the possibility of ordering a pastoral vote before the expiration of a renewed call, and to call for such a vote by majority vote (292:2).
(15) To review annually the Pastor’s support and related matters (283).
(16) To recommend to the Local Church Conference the number of employed Staff positions, including Office Secretary, Custodian, and Assistant Pastor(s) (274:11); to employ persons for all such staff positions as have been authorized by the Local Church Conference, subject to the Pastor’s nominations for office employees and Assistant Pastors and the Board of Trustees’ nominations for custodians; to define the duties and working conditions of all such employees; and to assist the Pastor in the supervision of all employed Staff members.
Covenant Members only, of the Local Board of Administration, shall have full authority over the appointment of Officers and leaders of the Local Church, with the terms of employment approved by vote of the church.
(17) To employ Evangelists, Evangelistic Singers, and other Lay Ministers as needed (cf. 511:21).
(18) To provide, in co-operation with the Pastor, for the supply of the pulpit during the Pastor’s absence; and to provide, in cooperation with the District Superintendent, for the supply of the pulpit during temporary vacations.
(19) To recommend to the Local Church Conference the licensing and the renewing or revoking of licences of Local Preachers (1179-1180); cf. 274:7). Covenant Members only, of the Local Board of Administration, shall have full authority over Licensing of Local Preachers.
(20) To recommend Ministerial Candidates and Lay Ministers to the Local Church Conference for their approval and recommendation to the District Conference for District licences (cf. 160:4; 274:8). Covenant Members only, of the Local Board of Administration, shall have full authority over recommendations for District Licensing.

Officers, Boards, Committees, and Auxiliaries

(21) To elect, when so authorised by the Local Church Conference (274:3), three Members of a Nominating Committee from among the Members of the Local Board of Administration to serve as set forth in 331-332.
(22) To elect annually at such time as it shall determine, an Auditing Committee (353); all Sunday School Officers except the Superintendent, and all Departmental Supervisors and Teachers (363:7; 369-372; 374); one or more offering tellers (346:3); a Local Secretary for Church Periodicals (344); and such of the following as are needed and can be supplied: Financial or Tithing Secretary (346:2); musicians (358), CYC Director (385:1), Children’s Church Director (cf. 363:7), Vacation Bible School Superintendent (cf. 363:7), Literature Secretary (388), Local Missions Director (389), Local Evangelism Director (390), Adult Youth Leader (1280:23), and other special assignments.
(23) To approve two or more nominees submitted by the Nominating Committees, or to present other nominations as desired, for the Director of Wesleyan Men (1216:5), the Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women (1242:1), and the Chair of Young Adults International (1341:5), and to ratify the election of Officers by these Auxiliaries; to ratify the election of Wesleyan Youth Officers (1280:2b), and to review and approve the actions of all the Auxiliaries (1216:5; 1217:2; 1217:6; 1218; 1242:7; 1243:2; 1245; 1280:2b, 1280:3a, 1280:3f; 1284; 1341:5, 1341:7; 1343:4; 1345).

(24) To organise and elect such Boards and Committees as it deems necessary to the proper organisation of the church, such as the Committee on Witness and Membership (342-343), Committee on Finance and Stewardship (355-356), Music Committee (358-359), Ushering Committee (359), Communion Committee (359), Committee on Missions (395), and Committee on Evangelism (397); and to receive and evaluate their recommendations, including their appointment of Subcommittees; to serve as or to establish a Local Board of Christian Education, to determine its membership and to elect such Members, and to delegate full authority of the duties listed in 363:1-21 as it deems wise (cf. 361; 363:1-22).

(25) To recommend to the Local Church Conference the removal from office of any Local Church Officer, Trustee, or Delegate (160:5; 274:6), and to remove by majority vote of the Local Board of Administration all who fill other positions (334:4) and Officers of Auxiliaries (1216:7; 1242:7; 1280:5; 1341:7).

(26) To fill all vacancies occurring in those offices elected by the Local Church Conference, in the interim of its annual sessions, and all vacancies occurring in offices elected by the Local Board of Administration; and to provide for the filling of vacancies in the Auxiliaries in keeping with their respective constitutions (1216:7; 1242:7; 1280:5; 1341:7).

Property and Finance

(27) To direct the Local Board of Trustees in the maintenance of church property, the signing of notes and mortgages, and the attending to all legal matters connected with the church, in keeping with the requirements of local laws (1467), and The Handbook (348-351; 1465-1500; 1511).

(28) To direct the Local Board of Trustees to secure sufficient property and liability insurance to cover all buildings and vehicles owned and operated by the Local Church (350:6).

(29) To recommend financial policies to the Local Church Conference and to administer such as are adopted (cf. 274:10). The Local Board of Administration shall review all plans of support annually, adjusting salaries as advisable, recommending changes in the financial policies as necessary.

(30) To recommend an annual budget to the Local Church Conference, to assist the Pastor in securing the money necessary to fund the adopted budget, and to authorise expenditures within the limits of the adopted budget (274:12; cf. 355-356).

(31) To recommend to the Local Church Conference: all major expenditures or investments; the purchase or sale of property, the erection or remodelling of buildings, all mortgages or other indebtedness which encumbers the property, and major items of equipment (274:13; 1498-1500); and other expenditures not provided for in the annual budget (274:12).

(32) To implement all National Church and District plans which apply to the Local Church, and to see that the Local Church raises its assigned portion of the United Stewardship Fund, supports all other National Church financial campaigns and offerings, and raises the amount assigned to it by the District Conference for the support of the District work.

(33) To open the doors of the Local Church to properly authorised representatives of the National Church, the National Educational Institutions, and the District for the presentation of their interests and for the receiving of offerings in keeping with the approved financial plan.

Day Care and/or Day School

(34) To present to the District Board of Administration for approval a plan for a Day Care and/or Day School following authorisation by the Local Church Conference (274:19) or any plans for a significant change in mission, facilities, or finances of an established Day Care and/or Day School (486:32); to govern and direct a Day Care and/or Day School when such has been properly approved (486:32), or to govern while delegating the operation to a separate School Committee; to elect the separate School Committee and name its Chair when thus delegating said operation.

(35) To establish a separate treasury for a properly approved Day Care and/or Day School (cf. 274:19; 486:32) and to adopt financial policies to assure adequate supervision and accountability.

F. Pastor’s Advisory Committee

318. In larger congregations, when the Local Board of Administration has more than ten Members, the Local Church Conference may establish a Pastor’s Advisory Committee. This Committee shall consist of four to seven Members, who shall be recommended by the Pastor and elected by the Local Board of Administration. This Committee shall have no authority for final action in any matter except to render opinions on such questions as the Pastor shall refer to them.
Chapter VI

LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. List of Local Church Officers, Boards, and Committees

321. The following is a quick reference for Local Officers, Boards and Committees:

1) The Local Church shall have:
   - Auditing Committee (353)
   - Board of administration, Local (301-316)
   - Church Secretary (337)
   - Church Treasurer (345)
   - Delegate to District Conference (398; 439; 442-445)
   - Offering teller (346:3)
   - Pastor (276-294)
   - Vice-Chair of Local Board of Administration (310)

2) The Local Church may have:
   - Assistant Treasurer (346:1)
   - Associate or Assistant Pastor (296-299)
   - Building Committee (330:6)
   - Children’s Church Director, Staff, and Committee (363:2, 363:7)
   - Christian Education Board (361-363)
   - Christian Education Director (363:5, 363:2, 363:7)
   - Christian Youth Clubs Director, Staff, and Committee (382; 383:1-2)
   - Church Periodicals Secretary (344)
   - Communion Committee (359)
   - Custodial Staff (316:16; 350:5)
   - Day care and/or Day School Committee (274:19; 316:34-35; 486:32)
   - Evangelism Director and Committee (390; 397)
   - Fellowship Committee (363:19)
   - Finance and Stewardship Committee (355-356)
   - Financial or Tithing Secretary (346:2)
   - Judicial Committee (399)
   - Lay leader (339)
   - Literature Secretary (388)
   - Mission Director and Committee (389; 395)
   - Musicians and Music Committee (358-359)
   - Nominating Committee (331-332)
   - Office Staff (294:29; 316:16)
   - Pastor's Advisory Committee (318)
   - Sunday School Superintendent, Staff, and Committee (365-376)
   - Trustees (348-351)
   - Ushering Committee (359)
   - Vacation Bible School Superintendent, Staff, and Committee (363:2, 7-8)
   - Witness and Membership Committee (342-343)

3) The Local Church may have the following Auxiliary Officers
   - Wesleyan Men Officers and Committees (1216-1217)
   - Wesleyan Women Officers and Committees (1242-1243)
   - Wesleyan Youth Officers and Committees (1280)
   - Young Adults International Officers and Committees (1341-1343)
   - Kids for Missions (383:3; 393)

B. General Regulations

Minimum Organisation

324. Pioneer Fellowships. A Pioneer Fellowship (203) shall have no Local Boards, Officers, or Committees except such as are appointed by the Pastor, are amenable to the Pastor, and can be replaced at the Pastor’s discretion.

325. Developing Church. A Developing Church may also operate without any regularly constituted Officers other than the Pastor, but will ordinarily have a Local Advisory Council of three to five Members appointed by the District Superintendent in co-operation with the Pastor. The Pastor and these Members will form the Local Advisory Council. This Council may then appoint such other Officers and Committees as are needed and for which qualified personnel are available (Cf. 205:3).

326. Church. An Established Church, in addition to the Local Church Conference and the Local Board of Administration, shall have a minimum organisation consisting of a Local Church Secretary (357), a Local Church Treasurer (345), an offering teller (346:3), and an Auditing Committee (353). Normally it would have a Sunday School Superintendent and Staff (368-375). Additional offices, positions, and Committees may be added as provided herewith by the Local Board of Administration as need requires and as qualified personnel are available.


**Church Officers**

330. The Local Church Officers shall include all Members of the Local Board of Administration, Lay Leader (where applicable), Secretary, Treasurer, and Sunday School Superintendent, Delegates to District Conference, and Assistant Treasurer, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

1. They must be Covenant Members of the Local Wesleyan Methodist Church electing them (151:1), unless co-opted by the Local Board of Administration (231:3).

2. The Local Board of Administration, Lay Leader (where applicable), and Delegate to District Conference shall be elected by the Local Church Conference at its annual session (160:5-7; cf. 331-332). All other Church Officers and positions are appointed by the Local Board of Administration. Vacancies occurring between annual sessions of the Local Church Conference shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Local Board of Administration. Vacancies may occur by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, by resignation from office, or by removal (330:4).

3. They shall carry out their duties as given in *The Handbook* and as further defined by the Local Church Conference and the Local Board of Administration.

4. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor, shall be amenable to the Local Church Conference, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, upon recommendation of the Local Board of Administration and by a majority vote of the Local Church Conference, or as otherwise provided for.

**Nominating Committee**

331. Each Established Church may have a Nominating Committee consisting of the Pastor as Chair and three Members elected by the Local Board of Administration from its membership (274:3; 316:21). The Local Church Conference may, at its option, elect three additional representatives who are not Members of the Local Board of Administration.

332. When a Nominating Committee has been established, it shall present to the Local Church Conference, at its annual session, nominations for: Local Board of Administration from amongst the Covenant Members of the Local Church, Delegate(s) to District Conference, and Lay Leader (where applicable). Two or more names shall be presented for each office as is possible (cf. 304). The Nominating Committee may present to the Local Board of Administration nominations for: Local Church Secretary, Local Church Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, and one or more Trustees (if applicable). The Nominating Committee may be used for other nominations as ordered by the Local Church Conference or Local Board of Administration for positions appointed by the Local Board of Administration (cf. 334).

**Other Positions**

334. Persons holding positions of service within the Local Church, other than those specifically designated as Church Officers in 330, and including membership on Committees, shall be governed by the following regulations:

1. They shall be Covenant Members of the Local Wesleyan Methodist Church electing them in those instances in which *The Handbook* requires it.

2. They shall be elected annually by the Local Board of Administration (316:22, 24), or as otherwise provided (cf. 363:7).

3. They shall carry out their duties as given in *The Handbook* and as further defined by the Local Church Conference and Local Board of Administration.

4. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor, shall be amenable to the Local Board of Administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, by a majority vote of the Local Board of Administration.

5. All auxiliary leaders shall agree to live in accord with the Leadership Covenant (see 1195).

6. Vacancies may occur by death, by cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, by resignation from office, or by removal (334:4), and shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Local Board of Administration.

**Installation Service**

335. Those elected to church offices and to other positions of service within the Local Church should be installed in office at an annual installation service following the ritual given in 1768-1770.

**C. Witness and Membership**

**Church Secretary**

337. The Local Church Conference, at its annual session, shall elect by ballot from among its Covenant Members, a Local Church Secretary (cf. 331-332) to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. The Local Church Secretary shall be an ex-officio Member of the Local Board of Administration (303). General regulations covering this office are given in 330. The duties and powers of the Local Church Secretary shall be:

1. To record correctly and to preserve faithfully the minutes of all sessions of the Local Church Conference and the Local Board of Administration.

2. To maintain the Local Church’s record of membership, record of baptisms, marriages, and pastoral terms, and other information essential to a permanent written record of the life and ministry of the church (256).

3. To issue, in conjunction with the Pastor, all letters of transfer, recommendation, and withdrawal (243; 249-250; 1801-1805); and to sign, in conjunction with the Pastor (294:28), licences for Local Preachers granted by the Local Church Conference (274:7; 316:19; 1179-1180).

4. To send to the District Secretary an approved list of Lay Delegates to the District Conference duly elected by the Local Church Conference, immediately upon their election, and subsequently to approve an alternate Delegate (cf. 398; 442-445).

5. To have custody of all record books of all Departments of the church, including Auxiliary Organisations, after such books are full or in disuse, and to take whatever steps are necessary to preserve them and other historical records and materials, as directed by the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration.

**Lay Leader**

339. The Local Church Conference, at its annual session, may elect by ballot, from among its Covenant Members a Lay Leader (cf. 331-332), who shall serve for one year or until a successor is elected, and whose function shall be to assist the Pastor in such manner as the Pastor shall recommend and the Local Church Conference shall approve. General regulations concerning this office are given in 330. The duties of the Lay Leader may include any or all of the following: Member ex-officio of the Local Board of Administration (303),
leader under the Pastor's direction of church prayer meetings or of small groups, classes, or neighbourhood prayer cells for the deepening of spiritual life and home evangelism.

Committee on Witness and Membership

342. The Local Board of Administration may establish a Committee on Witness and Membership, composed of the Pastor, the Vice-Chair of the Local Board of Administration, the Local Church Secretary, the Lay Leader (if any), and such other Members as the Local Board of Administration shall elect. The Local Board of Administration shall name a Board Member as Chair of the Committee, and the Committee shall choose its own Vice-Chair and Secretary. General regulations governing membership on this Committee are given in 334.

343. The Local Board of Administration shall assign such duties to the Committee on Witness and Membership as it deems best, including any or all of the following:

1. To conduct the examination of candidates for membership; to counsel with Members concerning any failure to observe the Membership Commitments (132-135); to have initial responsibility in the annual revision of the membership roll; to assist the Pastor in attempts to restore Members who have ceased to attend or support the church; and to make recommendations concerning all these matters to the Local Board of Administration in accordance with the principles of Christian discipline (132; 316:7-12).

2. To make recommendations to the Local Board of Administration concerning crusades and other evangelistic efforts.

3. To alert the Local Church to its responsibilities in the area of community social and political reform, recommending courses of action it deems necessary to the Local Board of Administration (cf. 187:1-10).

4. To nominate, for election by the Local Board of Administration, such standing or special Subcommittees as the Local Board of Administration shall approve, with a Member of the Committee as Chair of each.

Local Secretary for Church Periodicals

344. The Local Board of Administration, at the time of its annual election may elect a Secretary for Church Periodicals to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. They shall be responsible to organize and manage the subscription campaign for the District and Church periodicals in co-operation with the Pastor (294:26) and Auxiliary solicitors.

D. Finance and Stewardship

Church Treasurer

345. The Local Board of Administration shall appoint from among its elected Members, a Local Church Treasurer (cf. 331-332) to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. If no suitably qualified person is available, the Local Board of Administration may co-opt from amongst the Members of the Local Church. If appointed in such a way they shall become a Member of the Local Board of Administration. For directions on Community Member voting see 303; 316:7-20. General regulations covering this office are given in 330. The duties and powers of the Local Church Treasurer shall be:

1. To receive, hold, and disburse, as ordered by the Local Church Conference or the Local Board of Administration, and in harmony with the financial plans of the National Church and of the District, all moneys of the Local Church, including such of the Departments and Auxiliary Organisations as the Local Board of Administration shall order. All funds raised by the Local Departments, other than the Auxiliaries, for National Church or District work, or for purposes other than Local Church work, and all money or pledges raised by representatives of the National Church or District in deputation work, shall be transferred to or placed in the Local Church treasury and shall be disbursed for their designated purpose by the Local Church Treasurer.

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

3. To make monthly reports to the Local Board of Administration, which should be distributed to the Members of the church, and to make reports to all regular sessions of the Local Church Conference.

4. To make monthly remittance of all United Stewardship Funds, other National Church, and District funds to the District Treasurer.

5. To submit the financial records for audit by the Auditing Committee annually (355), or more frequently if so ordered by the Local Board of Administration, and to submit to the Local Board of Administration the complete Treasurer's records at such time as they cease to hold the office of Treasurer.

346. Assistants for the Local Church Treasurer shall be provided for as follows:

1. An Assistant Treasurer may be elected by the Local Church Conference, with authority to sign cheques when the Treasurer is unable to do so.

2. A Financial Secretary or Tithing Secretary may be elected by the Local Board of Administration.

3. One or more tellers shall be elected by the Local Board of Administration to assist the Treasurer in the counting of all tithes and offerings, all moneys being counted by two or more persons and recorded as to date of receipt, purpose of the offering, and amount. These records shall be preserved and made available to the Auditing Committee.

Board of Trustees

348. Election. The Local Board of Administration may appoint a Board of Trustees (cf. 331-332), three to seven in number, one or more being elected at a given annual session for a term of three years, so that the terms of all shall not expire at the same time, or they may be elected to serve until their successors are elected; provided that the manner and conditions of election may be altered to conform to the local laws. General regulations covering this office are given in 330.

349. Organisation and Procedure. The Board of Trustees shall meet following the annual session of the Local Church Conference to elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, and shall meet at such other times as ordered by the Local Board of Administration or as made necessary by their duties.

350. Duties and Powers. The Local Board of Trustees shall carry out their duties as required by The Handbook (cf. 1465-1515) and shall be responsible:

1. To carry out the instructions of the Local Church Conference and the Local Board of Administration in supervising, controlling, maintaining, and improving all church property (160:6; 274:13; 316:27).

2. To supervise such expenditures as have been approved by the Local Church Conference or the Local Board of Administration for repairs, improvements, and alterations.
(3) To attend to all legal matters regarding the acquisition, purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer, or other disposition of property as properly authorized (1498-1500); to see that titles are correct, contain the proper trust clause (1481), are approved by the District Superintendent (511:11; 1498:4), and are recorded (1471); and to see that property and legal records are properly stored (1511).

(4) To attend to all other legal matters pertaining to the Local Church, as authorised and directed by the Local Church Conference or the Local Board of Administration, including renting property, borrowing money, and receiving and administering bequests and trusts.

(5) To nominate to the Local Board of Administration all custodians.

(6) To serve, if requested to, as a Building Committee for the planning and erection of a new sanctuary, educational unit, or parsonage, or a major remodelling program, and to assist the Pastor in preparing and submitting all building plans to the District Building Committee for their approval (523).

(7) To carry out the directions of the Local Church Conference concerning the purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer, or other disposition of property, provided that such transactions have been approved by the District Building Committee and District Board of Administration as set forth in 1498-1515.

(8) To make recommendations to the Local Board of Administration concerning sufficient property and liability insurance on the property and for any vehicles owned and operated by the Local Church, and to carry out the instructions of the Local Board of Administration in securing such insurance (316:26).

(9) To make such reports as are requested by the Local Church Conference or the Local Board of Administration.

351. Restrictions. The Local Board of Trustees shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(1) The Local Board of Trustees must carry out the instructions of the Local Board of Administration, the Local Church Conference, and the District Board of Administration. If a Local Trustee refuses to carry out such instructions when the instructions meet all the requirements of local laws and of The Handbook, they may be removed from office as given in 330:4 (cf. 1470).

(2) The Local Board of Trustees cannot mortgage or otherwise encumber Local Church property without the express authorization of the Local Church Conference and the approval of the District Board of Administration as set forth in 1498-1500.

(3) The Local Board of Trustees cannot deny the use of the parsonage, church building, or other Local Church buildings, to the Pastor who has been duly appointed by the District Conference or District Board of Administration, nor the use of the church building to the membership of the Local Church and duly elected Officials of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (cf. 1584:4).

(4) The Local Board of Trustees cannot divert church property from The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1472; 1515).

(5) When a church is reclassified as a Developing Church (cf. 209:5; 486:27), the office and power of the Local Board of Trustees shall cease, and all property shall pass directly under the control of the District Board of Administration (cf. 1492).

353. The Local Board of Administration shall, at the time of its annual election for positions other than Church Officers (316:22, 334), elect an Auditing Committee of one to three persons, who shall audit the books of the Local Church Treasurer and of all Departmental and Auxiliary Treasurers, certify the results to the Local Board of Administration, sign approval on the records, make any necessary recommendations to the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration, and make a report to the Local Church Conference at its annual session prior to the election of the Local Church Treasurer (272; 274:4). General regulations covering Committee Members are given in 334. The Local Board of Administration may choose to employ an auditor in lieu of electing an Auditing Committee.

354. The Local Board of Administration may establish a Committee on Finance and Stewardship, composed of the Pastor, the Local Church Treasurer, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and such other Members as the Local Board of Administration shall elect. The Local Board of Administration shall name a Board Member as Chair of the Committee, and the Committee shall choose its own Vice-Chair and Secretary. General regulations governing membership on this Committee are given in 334.

356. The Local Board of Administration shall assign such duties to the Committee on Finance and Stewardship as it deems best, including any or all of the following:

(1) To study the financial needs and programs of the church and of its various Departments and Auxiliaries, and to make recommendations to the Local Board of Administration concerning all financial matters, including financial policies and salary schedules, the annual budget, the purchase or sale of land, the erection, purchase, or sale of buildings, the purchase of major items of equipment, remodelling programs, loans and mortgages, and the handling of bequests and trusts (198).

(2) To promote the understanding and practice of total stewardship and the storehouse tithing plan (195-197).

(3) To promote the raising of the United Stewardship Fund, other National Church offerings, and such support as the District shall require.

(4) To serve as a Committee on Benevolence, to aid those in need within the church constituency and in the community (134:9), and to direct the raising of all special gifts for the Pastor.

(5) To nominate, for election by the Local Board of Administration, such standing or special Subcommittees as the Local Board of Administration shall approve, with a Member of the Committee as Chair of each.

E. Worship

358. All musicians, including Song Leaders, Choir Directors, Organists, and Pianists shall be nominated by the Pastor and appointed by the Local Board of Administration unless the Local Board of Administration shall delegate responsibility for nominations to a Music Committee. The Local Board of Administration may appoint or employ a Minister or Director of Music nominated by the Senior Pastor (297-299; 1152:5). The duties of the Minister or Director of Music shall be defined by the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration. General regulations covering these offices are given in 334.

359. The Local Board of Administration may establish Committees on Music, Ushering, and Communion Services, electing their Members and defining their duties. General regulations governing membership on such Committees are given in 334.

F. Christian Education

361. Membership. The Local Board of Administration shall serve as or shall establish a Local Board of Christian Education (316:24). The Pastor shall serve as Chair unless the Pastor shall recommend and the Local Board of Administration shall assign this duty to another Member of the Local Board of Administration, such as the Associate or Assistant Pastor, or other qualified person. If a
separate Board is established, the Local Board of Administration shall determine its membership, electing qualified Members in keeping with the provisions of 334 and/or designating ex-officio Members from among the heads of the various Educational Agencies and Auxiliaries (358; 368; 383; 384; 385; 388; 1217:2; 1243:2), assigning such duties to it as the Local Board of Administration deems fit (cf. 363). The Local Board of Christian Education shall elect its own Secretary.

362. Age-level Divisions. Whenever the Local Board of Christian Education shall so recommend, and the Local Board of Administration shall so authorise, the Local Board of Christian Education may organise its Members and such other educational leaders and workers as it shall choose into three age-level Committees: the Children’s Committee, the Youth Committee, and the Adult Committee. Each Committee shall be organised with a Chair and a Secretary, and shall serve to co-ordinate all educational and fellowship activities conducted by the Local Church or any of its branches for the age level assigned.

363. Duties and Powers. The duties and powers of the Local Board of Christian Education shall be:

1. To study, organise, promote, and conduct, under the leadership of the Pastor, and subject to the direction of the Local Board of Administration, the total program of Christian education for the Local Church, in keeping with the denominational objectives for Christian education (786).

2. To establish, structure, and supervise, in keeping with The Handbook, and the standards adopted by the National Board of Administration, such Educational Agencies as are authorised by the Local Board of Administration, including the Sunday School, Christian Youth Clubs, Wesleyan Youth, Young Adults International, Kids for Missions, Children’s Church, Weekday Church School, released time classes, and Vacation Bible School.

3. To co-ordinate all Educational Agencies (cf. 363:2) activities, and functions of the Local Church, setting goals, evaluating procedures, exploring new areas of need, and assigning responsibilities to the various Departments and Auxiliaries.

4. To determine, in keeping with The Handbook and the standards adopted by the National Board of Administration, the curricula of the various Agencies.

5. To recommend to the Local Board of Administration for the consideration of the Local Church Conference the appointment and/or the employment of a Minister or Director of Christian Education, and to advise the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration in defining the duties of the role. Such a person must be a Covenant Member of the appointing and/or employing Local Church (cf. 297-299).

6. To enlist and train administrators and Teachers for all phases of the Local Church’s educational task, in keeping with the leadership training program adopted by the National Board of Administration.

7. To submit nominations, or to appoint a Committee of its membership to submit nominations, to the Local Board of Administration for all Christian Education Officers other than the Sunday School Superintendent.

8. To appoint administrative Committees for each Educational Agency other than Wesleyan Youth (1280:3f), or Young Adults International (1343:4) including in each such Committee the Executive Officer involved and other workers or advisors as shall be deemed best (cf. 373; 383:2).

9. To remove from office by majority vote any worker elected by the Local Board of Christian Education when such is in the best interest of the work, and to recommend to the Local Board of Administration the removal of any Officer or Teacher in Local Christian Education (361-388) elected by the Local Board of Administration.

10. To organise a training hour, providing for all age levels, selecting the necessary leaders and instructors, and assigning responsibilities to the appropriate Agencies (cf. 363:2-3).

11. To assist the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration in conducting classes in membership preparation (cf. 294:11; 316:7).

12. To conduct or assign responsibility for conducting workers’ conferences.

13. To recommend to the Local Board of Administration modifications or enlargement of educational facilities, and the purchase of educational equipment including audiovisuals; to allocate space for various Schools and Agencies, both for assemblies and classes; and to supervise the storage and use of all equipment.

14. To promote the interest of The Wesleyan Methodist Church Educational Institutions.

15. To conduct extension classes and branch Sunday Schools when such are properly authorised (cf. 274:15; 316:5).

16. To minister to persons on nearby College campuses and military bases in keeping with the programs promoted by the National Department of Youth.

17. To observe such special days as shall be designated by the National Board of Administration and promoted by the National Departments of Local Church Education, Youth, and Education and the Ministry, and as shall be designated by District Agencies.

18. To be responsible for special programs, such as Christmas and Vacation Bible School, assigning responsibilities as it deems best, with all plans subject to the approval of the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration.

19. To serve as a Committee on Fellowship, or to nominate a Subcommittee on Fellowship for election by the Local Board of Administration.

20. To encourage and direct ministries of Christian family life in order to enrich the quality of homes and families within the Local Church constituency.

21. To nominate, for election by the Local Board of Administration, such standing or special Subcommittees as the Local Board of Administration shall approve, with a Member of the Local Board of Christian Education as Chair of each.

22. To exercise full authority in such of the duties covered in 363:1-21 as shall be delegated by the Local Board of Administration.

Sunday School

365. Each Local Church shall provide for systematic Bible study. The Sunday School normally serves as the basic Agency for such study.

367. General. The Sunday School shall be governed by the Local Board of Administration through the Local Board of Christian Education, under the general supervision of the Pastor. Immediate administration shall be the responsibility of either a Sunday School Superintendent and a Sunday School Committee or a Minister or Director of Christian education. If administration is through a Superintendent and a Committee, the structure outlined in paragraphs 368-375 shall be followed. If administration is through a Minister or Director of Christian Education, the Local Board of Administration may determine the structure and assign responsibilities as it sees fit. In all cases, administrators shall carry out their assignment in keeping with The Handbook, the standard adopted by the National Board of Administration and promoted through the National Department of Local Church Education, and the programs of the National Department and of the District Sunday School Committee.

368. Sunday School Superintendent. The Local Board of Administration, shall appoint from the Local Church membership a Sunday School Superintendent (cf. 331-332), to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 330. The duties and powers of the Sunday School Superintendent shall be:
(1) To have executive supervision of the Sunday School, administering its affairs in keeping with the provisions of 367.
(2) To consult with the Pastor and the Sunday School Committee, if there is such (373), on all major decisions.
(3) To promote interest in and attendance at the School.
(4) To have immediate supervision of each session of the School, seeing that each Department and class has the necessary leaders and that order is maintained.
(5) To counsel with the Teachers about their work.
(6) To conduct the assembly periods, unless such are assigned to Departmental Supervisors, and to maintain variety and interest in the assembly periods.
(7) To make a full report of statistics and general information to the Local Board of Administration quarterly, to the Local Church Conference at each regular session, and to the National and/or District Director of Sunday Schools as required (cf. 370).

369. Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. The Local Board of Administration shall, at the time of its annual election for positions other than Church Officers (316:22; 334), elect from among the Members of the Local Church and from nominations submitted by the Local Board of Christian Education (361; 363:7), an Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. They will assist the Superintendent in the performance of their duties as the Superintendent shall request or the Local Board of Christian Education shall assign, and, in the absence of the Superintendent, to perform the duties of the Superintendent relative to the supervision of a session of the School (368:4).

370. Sunday School Secretary. The Local Board of Administration shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the Local Board of Christian Education (361; 363:7), a Sunday School Secretary, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. The Sunday School Secretary shall keep complete and correct minutes of all sessions of the Sunday School Committee, maintain complete records of enrolment, attendance, absentees, visitors, and such other items as shall be required, and assist the Pastor and the Sunday School Superintendent in the preparation of reports involving Sunday School statistics. The Local Board of Christian Education shall appoint such assistants as the Sunday School Secretary shall require.

371. Sunday School Treasurer. The Local Board of Administration may, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the Local Board of Christian Education (361; 363:7), a Sunday School Treasurer, to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. Or the Local Board of Administration may recommend, and the Local Church Conference order, that the Sunday School funds be received by the Local Church Treasurer as part of a common treasury. If there is a separate Sunday School Treasurer elected, they shall receive, hold, and disburse the Sunday School funds as ordered by the Local Board of Administration, reporting concerning all receipts and expenditures to the Local Board of Administration monthly, and to each regular session of the Local Church Conference. All National Church and District funds raised by the Sunday School shall be transferred to the Local Church Treasurer for forwarding to the proper destination (345:1).

372. Sunday School Departmental Supervisors. The Local Board of Administration shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the Local Board of Christian Education (361; 363:7), a Supervisor for each Department (cf. 376). The Departmental Supervisor shall assist the Sunday School Superintendent, being responsible for the general operation of the Department including the assembly period of the Department, and the immediate supervision of each session of the Department (cf. 368:4). The Local Board of Christian Education shall appoint such other Departmental Officers as may be needed.

373. Sunday School Committee. The immediate administration of the Sunday School may be vested in a Sunday School Committee, subject to the approval of and correlated with the plans of the Local Board of Christian Education. It shall be composed of the Sunday School Superintendent as Chair, the Pastor (or if the Pastor prefers, the Associate or Assistant Pastor), Assistant Superintendent, Secretary (who shall serve as Secretary of the Committee), Treasurer, and the Departmental Supervisors.

374. Sunday School Teachers. The Local Board of Administration shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the Local Board of Christian Education (361; 363:7) such Sunday School Teachers and assistants as are needed, to serve for one year or until their successors are elected.

375. Amenability. General regulations covering the amenability, removal, and filling of vacancies for Sunday School Officers, Departmental Supervisors, and Teachers elected by the Local Board of Administration are found in 334. All others appointed by the Local Board of Christian Education are amenable to the Local Board of Christian Education and can be replaced as it sees fit.

376. Guidelines for organisation of Sunday School shall be provided through the standard adopted by the National Board of Administration.

Christian Youth Clubs

382. Each Local Church shall, whenever possible, maintain a Local Chapter of Christian Youth Clubs (594) (or Clubhouse Ministries).

383. The Local CYC Chapter shall be organised as follows:
(1) Local CYC Staff. The Local Board of Christian Education shall, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect from nominations submitted by the Local Board of Christian Education (361; 363:7) a Local CYC Director to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. The Local CYC Director shall be Chair of the CYC Committee (363:8; 383:2). General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The Local CYC Director shall seek to qualify as quickly as possible for certification by the District Director of Christian Education, as a Local Director. All other CYC workers, including age-level Directors and squadron leaders, shall be appointed by the Local Board of Christian Education, shall be amenable to it, and may be replaced by it as it deems necessary.
(2) Local CYC Committee. The Local CYC shall be administered by a CYC Committee, consisting of the Local CYC Director as Chair and of others appointed by the Local Board of Christian Education (363:8). The work of the CYC Committee shall be subject to the approval of and correlated with the plans of the Local Board of Christian Education. General regulations governing membership on this Committee are given in 334.
(3) Correlation. Whenever it is impractical for a Local Church to maintain CYC and Kids for Missions (393) separately, the Local Board of Administration may authorise the CYC to make full use of the KFM program of missionary education and promotion, and to channel missionary dues and offerings as if they were KFM funds.

Wesleyan Youth

384. Each Local Church shall, whenever possible, maintain a Local Chapter of Wesleyan Youth (1271-1284).

Young Adults International

385. Each Local Church shall, whenever possible, maintain a Local Chapter of Young Adults International (1331-1345).


LIT. SECRETARY

388. The Local Board of Administration may, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect a Literature Secretary to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The Literature Secretary shall be assigned such duties as the Local Board of Administration shall determine, such as the handling and distribution of Sunday School literature, the management of a Church and/or Sunday School Library, and the promoting of the interests of the Wesleyan Publishing House. (Cf. 344.)

G. MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

LOCAL DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

389. The Local Board of Administration may, at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334), elect a Local Secretary of Missions to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The Local Director of Missions shall assist the Pastor in promoting the work of world missions, in keeping with the policies and programs of the National Board of World Missions, the District Conference and District Board of Administration, and the District Director of World Missions.

LOCAL DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISM

390. The Local Board of Administration may at the time of its annual election (316:22; 334) elect a Local Director of Evangelism to serve for one year or until a successor is elected. General regulations concerning this office are given in 334. The Local Director of Evangelism shall assist the Pastor in promoting the work of evangelism in the Local Church in accordance with the mission of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (75) and in co-operation with the District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (559). The Local Director of Evangelism shall also assist the Pastor in the follow-up and discipling of new Christians, in the recruiting and training of workers for visitation evangelism, and in the administration of evangelism and follow-up programs.

WESLEYAN MEN

391. Each Local Church shall, whenever possible, maintain a Chapter of Wesleyan Men (1211-1218).

WESLEYAN WOMEN

392. Each Local Church shall, whenever possible, maintain a Local Chapter of Wesleyan Women (1236-1245).

KIDS FOR MISSIONS

393. Each Local Church may maintain a Local Kids for Missions club under the auspices of Wesleyan World Missions (383:3).

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

395. The Local Board of Administration may establish a Committee on Missions, composed of the Pastor, the Local Director of Missions, the Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women, the Director of Kids for Missions, and such other Members as the Local Board of Administration shall elect. General regulations governing the elected membership on this Committee are given in 334. The Local Board of Administration shall name a Board Member as Chair of the Committee, and the Committee shall choose its own Vice-Chair and Secretary.

396. The Local Board of Administration shall assign such duties to the Committee on Missions as it deems best, including any or all of the following:

1. To promote the interest of Wesleyan World Missions, in keeping with the programs of the National Board of World Missions and the District Director of World Missions.

2. To co-ordinate all missionary promotion and fund raising of the Local Church and its various Departments and Auxiliaries.

3. To carry out all programs of missionary education authorised and assigned by the Local Board of Christian Education.

4. To make recommendations to the Local Board of Administration concerning missionary conventions and services.

5. To nominate, for election by the Local Board of Administration, such standing or special Subcommittees as the Local Board of Administration shall approve, with a Member of the Committee as Chair of each.

COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM

397. The Local Board of Administration may establish a Committee on Evangelism, composed of the Pastor, the Local Director of Evangelism, and such other Members as the Local Board of Administration shall elect. General regulations concerning membership on the Committee are given in 334. The Local Board of Administration shall assign such duties to the Committee on Evangelism as it deems best, including any or all of the following:

1. To promote the work of evangelism through the Local Church in accordance with the mission of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (75).

2. To organise, in co-operation with the Pastor, the calling and visitation programs of the church.

3. To organise, in co-operation with the Pastor, follow-up and discipleship programs for new converts.

4. To provide for and oversee, in co-operation with the Local Christian Education Board, the training of workers for outreach evangelism and discipleship ministries.

5. To make recommendations to the Local Board of Administration concerning evangelistic services and to assist in promotion and conducting of such efforts.

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

7. To promote extension projects carried on by the Local Church.

H. LAY DELEGATES TO DISTRICT CONFERENCE

398. The Local Church Conference, at one of its officially announced sessions, shall elect by ballot (cf. 331-332), from among its Covenant Members, the number of Lay Delegates to the District Conference assigned by the District Board of Administration and a sufficient number of alternate Delegates who shall serve for the regular annual session and for any reconvened session. General regulations covering this office are given in 330 and in 442-445.
I. Judicial Committees

399. The Local Board of Administration shall elect, when it deems it necessary and in accord with the regulations of the Judicial Policies, a Committee of Investigation or a Local Judicial Committee. Complete regulations concerning the qualifications, procedures, and duties of such Committees are given in the Judicial Policies.
PART III – DISTRICT CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter I

DISTRICT ORGANISATION

A. Definition

401. A District is a specified geographical area or an ethnic grouping of churches created by the authority of the National Conference, within which the Churches, Ministers, and Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church are organised according to The Handbook and are under its governing authority (162).

B. Pioneer District

402. Purpose. New work, or other work which does not meet the requirements for a Provisional District (411), shall be provided for by establishing a Pioneer District.

403. Authorisation. The establishment of a Pioneer District may be authorised by the National Conference (650:15), upon recommendation of the National Board of Administration (691:27), or, in the interim of National Conference sessions, by the National Board of Administration (691:27). The authorising act shall define the boundaries and assign an official name to the Pioneer District. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the bounds of an Established District in the interim of National Conference sessions must have the approval of such a District and shall be effected as required in 430-431 (cf. 691:26).

404. Jurisdiction. A Pioneer District shall be under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration and shall be organised and administered by the District Superintendent under the supervision of the National Superintendent, and in accord with The Handbook. The District Superintendent shall be responsible for developing the work as rapidly as possible to the status of Provisional District (411).

405. Organisation. The District Superintendent, other Officers, and assigned workers shall be appointed by and the granting of ordination and commissioning and issuing of licences shall be voted by the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board, for which recommendations shall be submitted by the National Superintendent.

406. National Conference Representation. The election of representatives of a Pioneer District to the National Conference shall be determined in accordance with par. 602

C. Provisional District

Authorisation

410. Authorisation. A Provisional District is created by the National Conference (650:15), upon recommendation of the National Board of Administration (691:27), or, in the interim of National Conference sessions, by the National Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the next National Conference. The authorising act shall define the boundaries of the Provisional District and assign to it an official name. Any proposed boundaries that will alter the existing bounds of an Established District in the interim of National Conference sessions must have the approval of such District and shall be effected as required in 430-431.

411. Requirements. The minimum requirements for a Provisional District are:

1) A minimum of five Local Churches and 200 Covenant Members.
2) A sufficient number of Ordained Ministers for a District Board of Administration (476).
3) The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Methodist Church as required in 1481, or steps taken to accomplish the same (1480-1485; 1490-1515; 1521-1523).
4) A reasonable degree of spiritual, organisational, and financial stability.
5) A recommendation by the National Superintendent for recognition as a Provisional District (743:14).

Organisation and Government

415. Jurisdiction. A Provisional District shall be under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration, and shall be supervised by the National Superintendent in accordance with The Handbook and any other direction of the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee (743:13; 691:1). The District Superintendent shall be responsible for the developing of a Provisional District to meet the requirements of an Established District as soon as possible (421).

416. Organisation. A Provisional District shall be organised in the same manner as an Established District as set forth in The Handbook, insofar as possible, but with the following restrictions on its duties and powers:

1) District Superintendent. The District Superintendent of a Provisional District shall be elected by the District Conference (cf. 473:31; 507). The National Board of Administration may, however, at its discretion, present two or more nominations, from which the District Conference shall elect the District Superintendent (691:33). The Provisional District Superintendent shall confer with the National Superintendent concerning the important plans of the District, including the location of property, the erection of buildings, and financial matters (cf. 416:3).
2) District Officers, Boards, and Committees. A Provisional District shall first be concerned with the election of its District Officials (491) and District Board of Administration (476). Other District Departmental Officers, Boards and Committees shall be established as qualified personnel are available. It shall be the goal of the Officials of a Provisional District, in co-operation with the National Superintendent (743), to meet the requirements for a complete District organisation as soon as possible (421).
3) Amenability. The minutes of the Provisional District Conference and its District Board of Administration shall be reviewed by the National Superintendent who shall make any necessary recommendations to the National Board of Administration. (743:13)

National Conference Representation

417. The election of representatives of a Provisional District shall be determined in accordance with par. 602.

Reclassification

418. If a District no longer meets the requirements for a Provisional District (411), it may be reclassified as a Pioneer District by the National Conference (650:15), or the National Board of Administration (691:27).
A Provisional District, by a vote of its District Conference, may petition the National Board of Administration for reclassification as a Pioneer District if it falls below the requirements for a Provisional District (411). The National Board of Administration shall have authority to reclassify it as a Pioneer District (691:27).

D. Established District

Authority

An Established District is created by the National Conference (162; 650:15), upon recommendation by the National Board of Administration, or, in the interim of National Conference sessions, may be created by the National Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the next National Conference (691:27). The authorising act shall define the boundaries of the District and assign to it an official name.

The minimum requirements for an Established District are:

1. Twenty Local Churches.
2. Seven hundred and fifty Covenant Members.
3. The holding of all property in trust for The Wesleyan Methodist Church as required in 1481, or steps taken to accomplish the same (1480-1485; 1490-1529; cf. 1405).
4. A reasonable degree of spiritual, organisational, and financial stability.
5. A recommendation by the National Superintendent, (743:14).

Organising Conference

When an Established District has been authorised (420), an organising session of the District Conference shall be convened by the National Superintendent. (743:14). The National Superintendent shall declare it to be an Established District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, vested with all the authority and power as properly belong to it according to The Handbook. After such has been declared, the District Conference shall proceed to do business and elect its Officials.

Reclassification

If a District no longer meets the requirements for an Established District (421), it may be reclassified as a Provisional District by the National Conference (650:15) or the National Board of Administration (691:27,743:21).

An Established District, by a vote of its District Conference, may petition the National Board of Administration for reclassification as a Provisional District if it falls below the requirements for an Established District (421). The National Board of Administration shall have authority to reclassify it as a Provisional District. (691:27).

Amenability

An Established District is amenable to the National Conference and to the National Board of Administration. It may be placed under discipline for cause as set forth in the Judiciary (1592-1598).

E. Inter-District Co-operation

Two or more contiguous Districts may unite their resources and personnel in co-operative programs in such matters as church extension, camp meeting or camping programs, an exchange of Ministers, or the employment of specialists in such fields as Christian education. Such a co-operative program shall be administered by an inter-District Board or Committee composed of Members from each of the involved Districts. The plan for such co-operative efforts shall be worked out under the supervision of the National Superintendent and, after authorisation has been voted by each of the District Conferences, shall be implemented and the Members of the inter-District Board appointed by the respective District Boards of Administration.

F. Merger or Realignment of Districts

The National Conference shall have the authority to approve the merger or division of Districts, or the realignment of any District boundaries (162). Negotiations for such a merger, division, or realignment of Districts shall be under the supervision of the National Superintendent who shall work with representatives appointed for such a purpose by the National Board of Administration and the Districts concerned (cf. 691:26).

Whenever each District Conference involved in a merger, division, or other realignment of Districts shall approve the proposed plan, the National Board of Administration shall have the authority to grant final approval in the interim of National Conference sessions (cf. 691:26).

G. Zones

The District Board of Administration may divide the District into Zones which may be on the basis of geographic location or ethnic identity for the purpose of administration, fellowship and service.

The Zone Supervisor

(1) The Purpose of the Zone Supervisor. The Zone Supervisor shall be a spiritual leader who is given supervisory responsibility within the Zone, under the direction of the District Superintendent.

(2) Regulations.

a) Election. The Zone Supervisor shall be elected by the District Board of Administration during the annual District Conference session. The election shall be from nominations presented by the District Superintendent.

b) Qualifications. A Zone Supervisor shall be elected from amongst the Ordained Ministers within the District.

c) Term of Office. The election of a Zone Supervisor shall be for a term of one year.

d) Vacancy. Whenever the office of a Zone Supervisor is vacated, the District Board of Administration shall appoint an Ordained Minister within the District to hold office until the next annual District Conference.

e) Amenability. The Zone Supervisor is amenable to the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration.

(3) Duties of the Zone Supervisor. The duties of the Zone Supervisor shall be the following:
a) To work under the direction of the District Superintendent as a Supervisor of Pastors and Local Churches within the Zone, being responsible to the District Superintendent for the following:
   - Promoting evangelism and church growth within the Zone, and encouraging Pastors to hold baptism and membership classes.
   - Assisting churches without pastoral supply to observe the Lord’s Supper, and to conduct baptismal services.
   - Being a spiritual leader among the Pastors.

b) To inform the Pastors of the Zone regarding matters of importance from the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration.

c) To report to the District Superintendent as may be required regarding any or all of the Pastors or Local Churches within the Zone.

d) To submit a quarterly report of activities, to the District Board of Administration and an annual report of activities, to the District Conference.

e) To perform any other duties assigned by the District Superintendent or the District Board of Administration.

434. Zone Advisory Council

(1) Purpose. The Zone Advisory Council shall provide a forum for the Local Churches of the Zone to share in fellowship and planning for the advancement of the work. There should also be provision for spiritual and inspirational sessions.

(2) Membership. Membership shall consist of the District Superintendent, District Treasurer, and Zone Supervisor, as ex-officio Members. Each Local Church within the Zone shall be represented by the Pastor or Pastors, and three Covenant Members elected by the Local Board of Administration or the Local Advisory Council.

(3) Sessions. The Zone Advisory Council may meet annually at a time and place approved by the District Board of Administration.

(4) Organisation and Procedure.
   a) Chair. The District Superintendent or their appointee shall be the Chair of all sessions.
   b) Secretary. The Council shall elect a minutes Secretary to serve for the duration of its sessions.
   c) Powers. The Council shall have no legislative powers over any Pastor or Local Church Board. The Council may agree to co-operative plans for evangelism, church growth, and membership increase. The Council may also submit recommendations or resolutions to the District Conference Action Committee.

H. Affiliate Churches

435. An independent congregation of the Wesleyan tradition which seeks a less than full relationship with The Wesleyan Methodist Church may commit to Articles of Agreement and be recognized and listed as an Affiliate Church. The District Board of Administration shall authorize on behalf of The District Conference to develop and agree to the terms of the Articles of Agreement. Such relationships shall exist to encourage fellowship and to include the affiliated body in adult, youth and children ministries of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and to benefit the Affiliated Unit through acquaintance with and involvement in Wesleyan Methodist Church Institutions of higher education, global outreach ministries and helpful publications of the Denomination. The relationship may be terminated at any time, either by vote of the District Board of Administration or the ruling body of the Affiliate Church.

(1) Membership. All persons who have met the membership requirements of the independent congregation shall be listed by the District as Affiliate Members. Any Affiliate Member who seeks to transfer membership to The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be examined by the Pastor and the Local Board of Administration. If it is discovered that the person involved had indeed been previously converted and is fully committed to the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, said Affiliate Member may be received as by letter into the covenant membership of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. If the Affiliate Church elects to become a Wesleyan Methodist Church congregation, the Procedures of Organisation as set forth in The Wesleyan Methodist Church Handbook shall be followed.

(2) Pastors. The calling of Pastors to an Affiliate Church shall be determined by said church’s by-laws and shall not require approval of The Wesleyan Methodist Church District Conference. A change of Pastor or Senior Pastor of an Affiliate Church shall automatically give rise to a review of the affiliate status and shall require a renewal vote by the District Board of Administration to extend the relationship. In the event the Affiliate Church seeks to secure the leadership of a Wesleyan Methodist Church Minister, that arrangement shall require the consent of the District Superintendent and the ratifying vote of a majority of the District Board of Administration. A Wesleyan Methodist Church Pastor serving on Staff of an Affiliate Church may be appointed by the District Conference as in Special Service.

(3) Government. The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall not regulate the governance of an Affiliate Church. However, the District Board of Administration shall review the governmental structure of the church seeking affiliate status and shall be satisfied it is founded upon biblical principles prior to authorising affiliate status. Conversely, any Affiliate Church desiring to adopt The Wesleyan Methodist Church Handbook as a governance model for the Local Church may do so.

(4) Property and Support Obligations. As long as the independent Unit retains the status of an Affiliate Church it is not subject to the trust clause and other provisions for holding property as set forth in The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

It is anticipated that the Affiliate Church will financially support The Wesleyan Methodist Church and its various ministries. The details of such support shall be agreed upon between the Affiliate Church and the District Board of Administration.

It is expected that the various Agencies of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall have access to the Affiliate Church for the presentation of their programs and for the solicitation of support in the same manner as with all other Wesleyan Methodist Churches.

(5) District/National Conference Representation. Each Affiliate Church may send the Pastor and one lay representative as honorary delegates, having voice but no vote, to the annual District Conference. The listed Affiliate Members shall not be included in the membership count which determines the number of persons a District Conference is authorised to elect as National Conference Delegates.

(6) Continuance of Status. The District Board of Administration shall be empowered to renew the status of an Affiliate Church for up to five years from inception of the relationship. If the Affiliate Church has not begun the process leading to acceptance as an Established Church by the fifth year, renewal of the affiliate status shall require the annual recommendation of the District Board of Administration and annual approving vote of the District Conference.

(7) Use of Name. The Affiliate Church may not adopt the name The Wesleyan Methodist Church nor utilize such benefits as come under the denominational umbrella until said Unit is received as a developing or established Wesleyan Methodist Church and conforms to
The Wesleyan Methodist Church Handbook in all matters of governance. It may choose to advertise with such language as “A congregation of the Wesleyan tradition” or “affiliated with The Wesleyan Methodist Church.”

A sample of an agreement between a District and an Affiliate Church is contained in 1860.
Chapter II

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A. Function

436. A District Conference is the Chief Governing Body of a District, exercising such powers as are delegated to it in the Constitution and by the National Conference as set forth in The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

B. Membership

Plan of Representation

437. The District Conference, as required by the Constitution (162), shall be composed of an equal number of Ministers and laypersons as voting Members, and other nonvoting Members as listed herewith.

Voting Members

438. Ministers. The ministerial voting Members of the District Conference are those who meet the following requirements:

1. Ordained Ministers under appointment (539:1), retired (539:2; 1173), on reserve (539:3; 1172), or on educational leave (539:4; 1171:1).
2. Licensed Ministers who are Ordained Ministers-Elect (162).
3. Commissioned or Licensed Ministers who are Pastors or full-time Associate or Assistant Pastors of Local Churches in that District (162; 539:7; 539:10; 1117; 1111).
4. Ministerial Members of the District Board of Administration who are not voting Members by some other right (162).

439. Laypersons. The lay members of the District Conference with voting rights are those elected as Delegates by the churches or Circuits of that District (160:7; 162; 442-445) and the lay members of the District Board of Administration. The total number of lay members with voting rights shall be equal to the total number of ministerial voting Members as set forth in 442:1. Each Established Church or Circuit is entitled to a minimum of one Lay Delegate as its constitutional right (160:7; cf. 207), according to its number of Covenant Members and to additional Lay Delegates allotted by the District Board of Administration (442:1-5). A Developing Church which is judged to be qualified may be allotted one Lay Delegate (205:5; 442:2; 443).

Nonvoting Members

440. The nonvoting Members of the District Conference, with a voice but without a vote, are:

1. Ordained Ministers without appointment (539:5; 1174).
2. Ordained Ministers in process of transfer (539:6; 1128; 1175).
3. Commissioned or Licensed Ministers who are not voting Members of the District Conference as listed in 438:2-4, including those in process of transfer (1128).
5. Lay Ministers (539:14-16; 1190).
7. District Directors of Wesleyan Men (1225:2) and Wesleyan Youth (1298:2k), and District Co-ordinators of Wesleyan Women (1252:2), Director of Children’s Ministries, and Young Adults International (596).

Forfeiture of Representation

441. A Local Church or Circuit which is under discipline shall forfeit all rights to representation by a Lay Delegate in the District Conference (160:7; 162).

The Election of Lay Delegates

442. Allotment. The District Board of Administration shall assign to each church or Circuit the specific number of Lay Delegates which it shall elect as its representatives to the District Conference, in keeping with the provision in 439 for the total number of Lay Delegates and subject to the following regulations:

1. The District Board of Administration shall first determine the total number of Lay Delegates required for the next session of the District Conference (439) which shall equal the number of ministerial voting Members eligible at the time such determination is made (cf. 438).
2. One Lay Delegate shall first be allotted to each pastoral charge (160:7; 213:3; 162; 207), including any Developing Churches deemed qualified (205:5; 439).
3. One shall be subtracted from the number needed to balance the ministerial vote for each lay member of the District Board of Administration.
4. The number of Lay Delegates yet required for the next District Conference shall be allotted to the pastoral charges according to a ratio of representation. In fixing the ratio of representation, only the Covenant Members shall be considered as listed on the statistical report of the preceding District Conference. The District Board of Administration shall establish the ratio of representation and apply it in such a manner as to assign the exact number of Lay Delegates to be elected by each pastoral charge.
5. The District Secretary shall promptly notify each Pastor of the exact number of Lay Delegates allotted to their pastoral charge, and the manner in which such number was determined.

443. Election. The Lay Delegates to each District Conference shall be elected at any duly called session of the Local Church Conference or Circuit Conference, by ballot, and by a majority vote of those Covenant Members present and voting (332; 398). In the case of a Developing Church, election shall be by the Local Advisory Council, subject to approval by the District Board of Administration (205:3, 5). A person accepting election as a Delegate obligates himself to attend faithfully the entire District Conference session, unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances. The Local Church Secretary shall promptly forward a list of the elected Lay Delegates to the District Secretary.
444. Alternate Delegates. A sufficient number of alternate Lay Delegates having the same qualifications (445) shall be elected in the same manner and at the same session as the Delegates (443), and shall fill any vacancies in the order of their election. Whenever an alternate Delegate is required to serve, the Local Church Secretary shall also notify their appointment to the District Secretary.

445. Qualifications. A Lay Delegate must be a Covenant Member and in good standing of the pastoral charge they represent, both at the time of election and at the time of the District Conference. An Ordained Minister, Commissioned or Licensed Minister may not be elected or serve as a Lay Delegate.

C. Sessions

447. Annual Session. The District Conference shall meet annually at a place of its own choosing and at a time as decided upon by the National Board of Administration in co-operation with the District Board of Administration (486d; 691:34). The District Conference may, by vote, refer the decision concerning the place to the District Board of Administration. The District Secretary shall notify in writing all ministerial voting Members, pastoral charges, and nonvoting Members of the time and the place not less than sixty days before the scheduled opening. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans adopted by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration may, by a two-thirds majority vote, declare that such an emergency exists and authorise the necessary changes.

448. Reconvened Session. The District Conference may be reconvened at any time during the year by a two-thirds majority vote of the District Board of Administration and the approval of the National Board of Administration (691:28). A reconvened session shall also be ordered by the District Board of Administration when requested to do so by the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee (701). The District Board of Administration shall designate the place and, in co-operation with the National Superintendent, fix the date, which shall be not less than thirty days after the call shall be issued. The District Secretary shall notify in writing all ministerial voting Members, pastoral charges, and nonvoting Members of the time, place, and purpose of the reconvened session. The District Conference shall have the same rights and powers in a reconvened session as in the annual session.

D. Organisation and Procedure

450. The Chair. The National Superintendent shall preside over the District Conference, assisted by the District Superintendent. When the National Superintendent is not present, the District Superintendent shall preside or take the responsibility for the same, unless the District Conference invites the Assistant National Superintendent to do so (473:7; 746:3). If none of the foregoing is present, the District Conference shall elect from among its Ordained Ministers a Chair pro tem.

451. The Secretary. The District Secretary shall be the Secretary of the District Conference ex-officio. The District Secretary shall accurately record the proceedings and preserve them in permanent form as prescribed by The Handbook (cf. 472), and perform any other duties as shall be required by the District Conference.

Procedure


454. Quorum. A majority of all the ministerial voting Members and Lay Delegates of the District Conference (438-439) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

455. Delegates. Local Churches shall elect the assigned number of Lay Delegates to represent them for the whole of the District Conference. Where this representation for the full period of the Conference is not possible because of illness or other extenuating circumstances, allowance may be made, with the approval of the District Conference, for an alternate Delegate to be seated in the place of the original Delegate. When an alternate Delegate is seated in this way, that alternate Delegate cannot be subsequently replaced.

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


458. Suspension of Rules. The District Conference may by two-thirds vote suspend any rules of order for a certain item of business, provided such a suspension does not contravene The Handbook or other National Conference legislation.

459. Appeals on Questions of Order. The Chair shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the District Conference body. If any matter is ruled out of order by the Chair on the basis that it is unconstitutional or in violation of The Handbook, the decision of the Chair may be appealed by any Member of the District Conference. If the appeal is seconded, the Chair shall clearly state the question and the reasons for the decision, and the one moving the appeal shall state the reasons for the appeal. The vote shall then be taken without debate. A two-thirds vote of the District Conference, present and voting, shall be required to overrule the decision of the Chair. If the Chair is overruled, the action of the District Conference shall be suspended until a ruling shall be given by the National Board of Administration as provided for in 691:36.

460. Legislation. Rules and resolutions adopted by a District Conference shall continue in force until amended or rescinded, unless such actions are by nature temporary or unless an action of the District Conference is declared unconstitutional or contrary to The Handbook as set forth in 743:9,13 and 1651:3 (cf. 163:8).

Resolutions

462. Resolutions. Resolutions may be submitted to the District Conference by a Local Church Conference, a Circuit Conference, the District Board of Administration, the Annual District Convention of Wesleyan Men, the Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Youth, or Young Adults International, Zone Advisory Council, a District Board or Committee concerning the work assigned to it, or any three voting Members of the District Conference with their signatures.

463. Memorials. All resolutions intended for eventual recommendation by the District Conference to the National Conference, including changes in The Handbook and any other proposals, shall be designated as “memorials.” Anyone authorised to submit a resolution may also submit a memorial to be passed upon by the District Conference.

464. Procedure. All resolutions shall be submitted as directed by the District Conference and within a time limit as set by the District Conference. The appropriate District Conference Committee (cf. 468:1) shall be responsible to review each resolution or memorial as to its origin (462), clarity, relationship to The Handbook and other existing legislation of the National Conference or District
Conference, and shall report them to the District Conference together with their recommendations. A properly submitted resolution cannot be withheld from the Conference body by a Committee unless withdrawn by its authors or declared out of order by the Chair of the District Conference as contravening The Handbook (743:27). The Committee Chair shall present any resolutions in question to the District Conference Chair for a ruling before presenting them on the Conference floor. The District Conference may by a two-thirds vote suspend the requirement that a resolution must first be reviewed by a Committee (cf. 468:1) and immediately proceed to consider and vote upon said resolution.

**Committees**

466. The District Conference shall have such Committees as are required by The Handbook, and may create and define the duties of such other Committees as are deemed necessary.

**District Conference Action Committee**

467. A District Conference may establish a District Conference Action Committee (473:9) that shall combine the functions of a resolutions Committee and a ways and means Committee. It shall consist of the District Superintendent, the District Treasurer, and from three to nine other Members elected by the Conference with due consideration for lay representation (cf. 471:2). The District Conference may delegate the election of the Committee Members to the District Board of Administration. The District Superintendent shall be the Chair or shall appoint another to serve, and the Committee shall elect a Secretary and other Officers as deemed necessary. The Committee shall meet as called by the Chair at such a time as will provide for careful and thorough work before the scheduled opening of the District Conference and at other times as deemed necessary.

468. The duties of the District Conference Action Committee are:

1. To receive all resolutions and memorials for the District Conference, to review them, and to report them to the District Conference with the Committee's recommendations and in such order as the Committee shall determine (462-464).
2. To conduct and report on any research or investigation regarding the merits of proposed District legislation as requested by the District Conference or District Board of Administration, or as deemed necessary by the Committee.
3. To assign Members of the Committee to study, prepare, and plan any phase of the Committee's work and report back to the Committee.
4. To review the standing rules of the District in order to make recommendations to the District Conference concerning the alignment of such rules with National Conference legislation, and concerning any other necessary amendments (473:5).
5. To provide, if possible, all Delegates to the District Conference with copies of resolutions or memorials, properly classified, at least ten days before the opening of the District Conference.

**District Conference Nominating Committee**

470. Each District may have a District Conference Nominating Committee consisting of the District Superintendent as Chair, and two or more Ordained Ministers and an equal number of laypersons elected by the District Conference (473:10). The elected Members of the Nominating Committee shall not succeed themselves and may not be re-elected until after a lapse of one year. The Committee shall organise itself and elect a Vice-Chair and a Secretary. It shall serve for one year and shall meet as called by the Chair at such a time as will provide for careful and thorough work before the District Conference session. The District Conference shall also have the right to make nominations from the floor.

471. The duties of this Committee shall be determined by the District Conference and may include such as the following:

1. To present nominations for the District Secretary, District Treasurer (unless this appointment has been delegated to the District Board of Administration (518)) and each elected Delegate to the National Conference.
2. To present nominations for each of the following in accord with the requirements and regulations for each as set forth in The Handbook, and in keeping with the provisions of The Handbook for various options in combining responsibilities or referring the power of nomination or election to other bodies: the District Conference Action Committee (467), the District Auditing Committee (521), the District Building Committee (523), the District Statistical Committee (525), the District Secretary for Church Periodicals (527), the District Board of Ministerial Development (532), the District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (559), the District Director of World Missions (560), the District Director of Sunday Schools (588), the District Director of Leadership Training (590), the District Director of Children's Ministries (594), and the District Board of Review (1573).
3. To present any other nominations as shall be requested by the District Conference.

The District Conference Journal

472. The District Conference journal shall contain the complete and accurate record of the proceedings of the District Conference, prepared by the District Secretary who shall have the duty:

1. To have it approved by an Editing Committee or by the District Superintendent.
2. To arrange the journal as far as possible according to the table of contents and general format prepared by the National Secretary and approved by the National Board of Administration.
3. To see that it contains a complete directory for the District as set forth in 517:8.
4. To annually deliver to the National Secretary copies of the District journal (517:1).

E. Duties and Powers

473. The duties and powers of the District Conferences as set forth in the Constitution (cf. 453) and as authorised by the National Conference are:

Relating to the Constitution

1. To propose an amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote, to be submitted to the National Conference as a memorial (636; 650:1), or to propose an amendment to the Constitution to be submitted first to the other District Conferences (650:2).
2. To vote on the ratification of an amendment to the Constitution adopted by the National Conference (650:1); and to vote on a proposed amendment to the Constitution originating in another District Conference (650:2).

Relating to the National Conference

3. To adopt memorials to the National Conference for proposed changes in The Handbook or for other legislation (463; 636; 641).
To elect Delegates to the National Conference as set forth in 602-616 (cf. 471:1).

To review all standing rules of the District and bring them into harmony with the Constitution, other provisions of The Handbook as currently revised and amended, and with other National Conference legislation (468:4).

To request a special session of the National Conference in concurrence with two-thirds of the District Conferences (623).

Relating to the District Conference

(7) To invite, if desired, the Assistant National Superintendent to preside over the District Conference whenever the National Superintendent is not present (450; 746:3).

(8) To receive a report concerning the interests and progress of the Denomination from the National Superintendent presiding over the District Conference, or if the National Superintendent is not present, from the Assistant National Superintendent (473:7).

(9) To authorise, if desired, a District Conference Action Committee, designate its number of Members, and provide for the election of the Members as set forth in 467.

(10) To authorise, if desired, a District Conference Nominating Committee, designate its number of Members, elect such Members, and determine its duties as set forth in 470-471.

(11) To determine the place of the next annual session of the District Conference or to delegate this authority to the District Board of Administration (447).

Relating to District Administration

(12) To take charge of all Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Ministers, Ministerial Candidates, Lay Ministers, Pioneer Fellowships, Developing Churches, Pastoral Charges, Auxiliary Organisations (cf. 486:22; 1250:1), and other District work within its bounds, except when the District is under discipline, and except for those Members of the District who are elected as National Officers (711), missionaries appointed under the National Board of World Missions (875), and others who are amenable only to the National Board of Administration for their official duties (1631; 1570; 1587).

(13) To receive a report concerning their official duties from the following: the District Superintendent (511:26), the Assistant District Superintendent (514:6), and the District Treasurer (515:9); the District Director and Treasurer of Wesleyan Men (1225:2, 5), the District Co-ordinator and Treasurer of Wesleyan Women (1225:2, 5), the District Wesleyan Youth Director and Treasurer (1298:3); the District Departmental Officers, including the District Secretary for Church Periodicals (527:4), the District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (559:8), the District World Missions Director (560:7), the District Director of Christian Education (579:7), the District Director of Young Adults International (1361:2), the District Director of Sunday Schools (588:5), the District Director of Leadership Training (590:7), the District Director of Children’s Ministries (594:6), and any others as desired by the District Conference.

(14) To consider the numerical and financial progress of the District by receiving a complete statistical and financial report as compiled and submitted by the District Statistical Committee (526:1-3), for which reports shall be submitted to the Committee on the approved forms as set forth in 526:1.

(15) To take such actions and adopt such rules as it shall judge necessary to promote the interest and prosperity of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the bounds of the District, and to amend or rescind the same, provided that it shall not add to or take from any provision of the Constitution or other provisions of The Handbook, and provided that any three Members may appeal an action of the District Conference as set forth in 1638 (cf. 691:20).

(16) To adopt financial plans which will provide for the support of the District obligation for the United Stewardship Fund (903 ff) assigning to each church its share of these obligations (904, cf. 486:10); to adopt an annual budget of income and expense for the District, or to assign this duty to the District Board of Administration (cf. 486:16).

(17) To set the salaries, allowances, and other related matters for the District Officials (491) and District Departmental Officers (499), unless the District Conference shall refer such matters to a Committee for study and recommendation, and to the District Board of Administration for approval and implementation.

(18) To determine the dates for the District fiscal year which shall be binding on all Churches, Boards, Committees, and Organisations within the District for the keeping of records and reports.

(19) To employ the Assistant District Superintendent as a full-time official, if desired, and further to define the duties of the role in addition to those required by The Handbook (513-515).

(20) To create, if so desired, a Camp Meeting Board and define its duties, or to delegate this to the District Board of Administration.

(21) To authorise the incorporation of the District as provided for in 1401-1406. After such incorporation, the District Board of Administration shall carry out the will of the District Conference concerning the holding of District and Local Church property (cf. 1494), and shall have power, on its own resolution, to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the Corporation.

(22) To elect, in states where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the law requires the property to be held by Trustees, a District Board of Trustees from among the Members of the District Board of Administration, which shall carry out the will of the District Conference concerning the holding of District and Local Church property (cf. 1494), and which shall carry out its duties as set forth in 529 (cf. 1465-1485; 1520-1528).

(23) To delegate any of its duties not restricted to the District Conference by the Constitution.

Relating to Churches, Ministers, and Lay Workers

(24) To authorise the establishing of a Pioneer Fellowship (203) a Developing Church (205), a Church (209), a Circuit (212), the reclassification of a Church as a Developing Church (209:5; cf. 486:27), to declare a Church as discontinued or abandoned (1503), and to hear a report from the District Superintendent of the organisation of new churches (210:6; 511:14); to grant in concurrence with the National Board of Administration prior approval to a Local Church Conference for post-secondary education in terms of an Institute, Junior College, or College-level programs (274:19).

(25) To determine the boundaries of each pastoral charge within the District (163:5; 486:9c; 1510).

(26) To receive and pass upon the recommendations of the District Board of Administration concerning the pastoral agreements, appointments, and District Conference relations, as follows (486:9):

a) To approve the pastoral agreements entered into between the pastoral charges and the Ministers, or to alter such an agreement, or to veto the action of the pastoral charge and appoint another Pastor, provided that any such alteration or veto shall be for reasons as set forth in the Constitution, and shall be voted on as a separate action by the District Conference (163:1-2, 281).
b) To appoint a Pastor to those pastoral charges not yet supplied at the time of the District Conference or whenever requested to do so by a Local Church (285) or to delegate such appointment to the District Board of Administration, and to employ a qualified person as a Supply Pastor when deemed necessary (1159).

c) To appoint each Minister to the proper category of service or other appointment (1156-1175); appointing each Ordained Minister not included on the appointed list (539:1) to the proper District Conference relation as retired, on reserve, on educational leave, without appointment (539:2-6), or in process of transfer (1128); appointing each Commissioned or Licensed Minister to the proper category of service (539:7-9; 539:10-12; 1158-1175) or in the process of transfer (1128); to license as Ministerial Candidates those persons so qualified (539:13; 1110:1); and to appoint as Lay Ministers, designating their particular ministry (1187-1189); those who have been granted the proper commissions and licences (539:14-15) or to list them as in process of transfer (539:16).

(27) To fix the date for pastoral changes within the District (282).

(28) To elect to ordination, a candidate the District Conference deems qualified (1119), after receiving a report from the District Board of Ministerial Development (537:5) which shall be acted upon as a separate item of business.

(29) To grant a licence, commission, recognition, or restoration, in keeping with the requirements of The Handbook, after receiving the report and recommendations from the District Board of Ministerial Development (537:5), as follows:

a) A recognition as Ordained Minister in process of transfer to an Ordained Minister being received from another Denomination (1128), and a recognition as an Ordained Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in full standing when all requirements have been met (1128-5).

b) A District ministerial licence, the granting of which shall become effective when the person receives an appointment as set forth in 1112:7 and 1113:3 (cf. 473:26(e); 486:9).

c) A recognition of a Commissioned or Licensed Minister being received from another Denomination as in process of transfer (1128) and a recognition of such Commissioned or Licensed Ministers in full standing when all requirements are met (1128).

d) A licence as a Ministerial Candidate for those who are qualified (1110:1-2; 1171).

e) A licence as a Lay Minister, designating the particular ministry (1187), or a recognition of a Lay Minister or the equivalent thereof in process of transfer from another Denomination, and subsequent recognition as a Lay Minister in full standing when all requirements have been met (1189).

f) A Commission as Lay Missionary (1191).

g) Any other licence or commission as shall be authorised by The Handbook.

h) The restoration of orders, commission, or licence as set forth in 1136-1144; 1190 (cf. 537:4).

(30) To receive and pass on a written annual service report, through the District Board of Ministerial Development as set forth in 537:7-9, from each Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, and Lay Minister; to receive an explanation from each person whose report has been found unsatisfactory, and to vote on the continuation of such person for appointment which shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence for approval (537:9).

Relating to the Election of Officials and Committees

(31) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an Ordained Minister to the office of District Superintendent for a term of one year (cf. 507:1-2). Re-election thereafter shall be for a term of two years. If the vote is favourable, the District Board of Administration, after consultation with the District Superintendent and the presiding Officer, may then recommend that a ballot vote be taken to extend the term to four years (507:2).

(32) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, an Ordained Minister as Assistant District Superintendent (513).

(33) To elect, by ballot and by majority vote, a District Secretary (516; cf. 471:1), a District Treasurer (518; cf. 471:1) unless this has been delegated to the District Board of Administration to appoint (518) or, if deemed advisable, a District Secretary-Treasurer, and Members-at-Large of the District Board of Administration (476-477).

(34) To elect, for a term of three years, the Members required to fill vacancies on the District Board of Ministerial Development (532; cf. 471:2); and to designate, if it so desires, the Ordained Ministers of said Board as the Council of Ordination (546; cf. 486:35).

(35) To elect (cf. 471:2) two or more Members for the District Auditing Committee, or to direct the District Board of Administration to employ an auditor (521-522); to elect (cf. 471:2) one or more Ordained Ministers and an equal number of laypersons as Members of the District Building Committee, or to delegate the election of this Committee to the District Board of Administration (523); to elect (cf. 471:2) Members, in such number as desired, for the District Statistical Committee (525); to elect (cf. 471:2) a District Secretary for Church Periodicals (527), or to delegate the election to the District Board of Administration (527).

(36) To elect (cf. 471:2) a District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (539) and a District Director of World Missions (560).

(37) To employ, if desired, or to authorise the District Board of Administration to employ a District Director of Christian Education (578); and to assign the duties of the various District Secretaries or Directors of Christian Education Agencies as desired (579:3; 588; 590; 594; 595).

(38) To elect (cf. 471:2), whenever such duties have not been assigned to a District Director of Christian Education (cf. 473:37), a District Director of Sunday Schools (588), District Director of Leadership Training, if desired (590), District Director of Children's Ministries (594).

(39) To elect four Ordained Ministers and three laypersons as Members of the District Board of Review, and to elect two Ordained Ministers and two laypersons to serve as alternates and to fill vacancies as set forth in 1573 (cf. 471:2).

Relating to Church Law and the Judiciary

(40) To request, by a two-thirds majority vote, a ruling on a point of Wesleyan Methodist Church law or an interpretation of The Handbook from the National Superintendent (743:27); and to appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, such a ruling to the National Board of Review (1651; 1651:3; cf. 473:45).

(41) To appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, a decision of the National Superintendent on the legality of an action by the District Conference, a District Board or Committee, or a District Official, to the National Board of Review (181:2; 743:26; 1651:3; cf. 163:6; 473:45).

(42) To adopt, by a two-thirds majority vote, a complaint against the National Conference or another District and order its presentation to the National Board of Review for settlement (1651:5-6); and to adopt such a complaint, by a majority vote, against the National Board of Administration to be presented to the National Board of Review for settlement (1651:5; cf. 163:8).

(43) To appeal, by a two-thirds majority vote, a judgement of the National Board of Review to the National Conference for final settlement (1633; cf. 163:8; 473:45).

(44) To exercise judicial powers according to the provisions of the Judicial policies. (1540-1542).
(45) All appeals must be filed in the office of the National Secretary within sixty days after the date of the official decision on the matter.
Chapter III

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Function

475. The District Board of Administration carries out the will of the District Conference, promotes the interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District, and serves as the Chief Governing Body of the District in the interim of District Conference sessions.

B. Membership

476. Composition. The District Board of Administration is composed of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary, the District Treasurer, and Members-at-Large according to the size of the District:

1. When a District has ten or fewer Established Churches, the District Conference shall elect at least three Members-at-Large to the District Board of Administration, making a total of not fewer than seven Members, elected so that at least two of the seven are lay persons (cf. 476:3).

2. When a District has more than ten Established Churches, but fewer than twenty, the District Conference shall elect at least five Members-at-Large to the District Board of Administration, making a total Board of not fewer than nine Members, elected so that at least three of the nine are lay persons (cf. 476:3).

3. Whenever a District Conference chooses to elect more than the minimum number of Members-at-Large to its District Board of Administration, due regard shall be given to elect a proportionate number of lay persons.

4. All Members of the District Board of Administration shall agree to live in accord with the Leadership Covenant (see 1195).

477. Regulations for a Member-at-Large. Each Member-at-Large of a District Board of Administration shall be a Covenant Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District which they serve, both at the time of election and throughout the tenure of membership. A ministerial Member-at-Large shall be chosen from among the Ordained or Commissioned Ministers of the District. The term of office shall be for one year, and they shall serve from the close of the District Conference at which they are elected until the close of the next regular session of the District Conference or until a successor is elected and qualified. Regulations governing the amenability of a Member-at-Large of the District Board of Administration and the declaring and filling of a vacancy in such office are the same as those for District Officials set forth in 494 and 496 (cf. 486:25a).

C. Sessions

478. Organising Sessions. The District Board of Administration shall meet immediately after the close of the District Conference for an organising session:

1. To care for any business delegated to it by the District Conference which requires immediate attention.

2. To elect those Departmental Officers and Members of Boards or Committees, and to elect or ratify the election of those Officers of Auxiliaries, whose terms expire at the time of the District Board of Administration’s organising session (cf. 486:18).

3. To determine the boundaries of the Zones as given in 486:12.

4. To make plans for the year and to care for any other business as deemed necessary.

479. Regular Sessions. The District Board of Administration shall meet at such time and place as it shall determine, provided that it shall meet at least once each quarter.

480. Special Sessions. The District Board of Administration may authorise special sessions as it deems necessary, or it may be called into special session by the District Superintendent, or in the event of an emergency when the District Superintendent is unable to act, by the Assistant District Superintendent. A special session shall also be called when requested by the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee (691:28). All Members shall be notified at least one week in advance of a special session, except when all are able to meet on shorter notice.

481. Evaluation Sessions. The National Superintendent shall meet with the District Board of Administration at least once each quadrennium, either in a regular session or in a session called specifically for self-evaluation, to consider its priorities, review the distribution of its time and evaluate the effectiveness of its efforts, using the duties and powers listed in The Handbook as a guide. The National Superintendent shall also, with the District Board of Administration, evaluate the service of and financial provision for the District Superintendent. The method and extent of such evaluation shall be determined by the National Board of Administration with special attention focused on those responsibilities that are most likely to contribute to future outreach and growth to the glory of God.

D. Organisation and Procedures

482. Chair. The District Superintendent shall preside as Chair over the District Board of Administration. The Assistant District Superintendent shall preside in the absence of the District Superintendent, or when requested to do so by the District Superintendent. If neither is present, the Board shall elect from among its Members a Chair pro tem.

483. Secretary. The District Secretary is the Secretary of the District Board of Administration by virtue of the office.

484. Quorum. A majority of all Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

485. Voting. A majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Handbook or by legal or corporate requirements.

E. Duties and Powers

486. The duties and powers of the District Board of Administration are:

General Duties

1. To serve as the Chief Governing Body of the District in the interim of District Conference session, caring for all the interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the bounds of the District in accord with The Handbook.
(2) To promote the interests of the National Departments and Educational Institutions of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in the manner and to the extent authorised by the National Conference and the National Board of Administration, to encourage their support, and to receive their representatives.

(3) To be responsible within the District for the promotion of World Missions and Evangelism and Church Growth (551).

Related to the District Conference

(4) To carry out the plans and objectives of the District Conference.

(5) To co-operate with the National Board of Administration in fixing the date for the annual session of the District Conference so that the National Superintendent may preside (447; 691:34).

(6) To call for a reconvened session of the District Conference by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of the District Board of Administration, subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration, and to call for a reconvened session when requested to do so by the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee (448).

(7) To allot to each Church or Circuit of the District the number of Lay Delegates it shall elect to the District Conference (442).

(8) To submit resolutions to the District Conference that will provide for a more efficient administration, better correlation, and advancement of the District work, and to submit proposed memorials to the National Conference (636; cf. 473:3).

(9) To serve the District Conference as a Committee on Pastoral Relations and Ministerial Appointments, being responsible:

a) To review all pastoral agreements between Churches and Ministers of the District (cf. 281).

b) To receive a report from the District Board of Ministerial Development concerning matters related to District Conference appointments and relations as set forth in 537:10.

c) To submit to the District Conference a comprehensive report covering all the Churches and Ministers of the District: recommending any necessary changes in the boundaries of the pastoral charges or in the classification of Churches (473:24-25); recommending the appointment of Pastors for all Churches for the coming year (cf. 205:1), including the approval, alteration, or veto of pastoral agreements already made by the Churches and Ministers (163:2), and the appointment of Pastors or the delegation of responsibility for such appointment for Churches otherwise without Pastors (473:26), and recommending the appointment and/or classification of all other Ordained Ministers (1121:5), Commissioned or Licensed Ministers, Lay Ministers, and the licensing of Ministerial Candidates as set forth in 473:26 and 539 (cf. 1110:1-2).

(10) To carry out the following duties concerning the United Stewardship Fund: to submit a recommendation to the District Conference for the raising of the District obligation and the apportioning to each church of its share of the District obligation (cf.519:6), unless the District Conference shall delegate this to another Committee (cf. 467-468); to approve adjustments in United Stewardship Fund assessments; to administer the District plan for raising the District obligation and to see that such obligation is paid in full.

Duties Relating to District Officers, Committees, and Auxiliaries

(11) To have the general oversight of all District Officials (491), Department Directors of the District; to approve their plans and to co-ordinate their work; and to see that the work is administered according to The Handbook and the directives of the District Conference (cf. 494-496; 502-504; 519:8; 534; 551; 1222; 1223:4; 1224:4; 1225:6; 1249; 1250:4; 1251:5, 7; 1252:5; 1294; 1296:1d; 1296:3; 1298:3d; 1511), the District Secretary (517:6; 1213; 1218).

(12) To incorporate the District, when so authorised by the District Conference (473:21), as provided for in 1401-1406; to serve as the Board of Directors of such Corporation; and to have power on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the Corporation, and to exercise its corporate powers in accord with the provisions of The Handbook (1401-1406; 1465-1485; 1491; 1494; 1520-1529).

(13) To adopt an annual budget of income and expense for the District, if so assigned by the District Conference (473:16); to promote the raising of District funds in keeping with the plans of the District Conference (473:16); to direct the District Treasurer in the handling and disbursement of such funds (519:3); and to have the District Treasurer bonded and to set the amount of such bond, the expense for which shall be paid by the District.

(14) To employ an auditor when so authorised by the District Conference and to assign the duties (521-522); to direct an audit of the records and funds in the custody of the District Treasurer, the District Treasurers of the Auxiliary Organisations, or any other treasurers of the District, whenever such is deemed necessary (519:7; 1225:5; 1298:3d).

(15) To elect such District Officers and Members of the District Boards or Committees as required by The Handbook or delegated to it by the District Conference (cf. 467; 473:20; 486:35; 488; 521; 523; 525; 527; 553; 573; 578; 582; 1224:4; 1251:5; 12963; 1577); to elect at least three Members of the District Board of Ministerial Development in keeping with the requirements for that Board and to ratify the appointment of the Chair if the District Superintendent chooses not to serve (532-533).

(16) To serve as or to establish a separate District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth as set forth in 552-555, taking a special interest and responsibility for developing, supervising, and promoting an aggressive program of District Evangelism and Church Growth, and to co-operate in such endeavour with the National Superintendent and the National Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (793).

(17) To serve as or to establish a separate District Board of Christian Education as set forth in 571-572; to elect a Chair and such Members as may be decided upon (572); to approve its plans and to assign such duties as desired (575; 576:9).

(18) To approve the time and place for the District Wesleyan Men Convention (1223:1); to approve the nominations submitted by the Wesleyan Men Nominating Committee for the District Wesleyan Men of Administration or to make other nominations as desired (1224:4); to ratify the election of District Wesleyan Men Officers (1224:4); to approve all plans and actions of the District Wesleyan Men Convention (1225:4) and the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (1225:6); and to supervise a Local Chapter of Wesleyan Men when it serves more than one Local Church (1213; 1218).

(19) To approve the time and place of the District Conventions of Wesleyan Women (1250:1; cf. 1250:4), Wesleyan Youth (1300:2), and Young Adults International (1357:1); to recommend to the District Conference the enlargement of the membership of the Wesleyan
Women Convention, if desired, in keeping with 1250:2; to approve the nominations for the District Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women (1251:7), the District Director of Wesleyan Youth (1300:4a), and the District Director of Young Adults International (1359:4), or to make other nominations as desired, and to ratify the election of the other District Officers (1251:5; 1300:5; 1359:4); and to approve the plans of the District Conventions and the Executive Committees of Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Youth, and Young Adults International as provided in their respective constitutions (1250:4; 1251:1; 1300:6; 1357:4).

To employ, when so authorised by the District Conference (473:37), a District Director of Christian Education (578), who shall be nominated by the District Board of Christian education (576:7); and to assign duties to such a Director (579:1-9).

To request a ruling on a point of church law or an interpretation of The Handbook from the National Superintendent and to appeal the same to the Board of Review and to request assistance from the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee, through the National Superintendent, when deemed necessary (743:27-28).

To remove for cause or whenever the best interests of the Church and the District so require:

a) Any of its Members, with the exception of the District Superintendent (cf. 509), by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members, and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term (477; 494; 496).

b) Any Departmental Officer (499), Member of a Board, Committee, or other Agency of the District, or the District Officers of an Auxiliary Organisation, by a majority vote and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term (504).

Related to Churches and Ministers

To organise and supervise all pastoral charges of the District in accord with The Handbook and other District directives so that each one may be an effective Unit of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, to guard carefully the spiritual life and general welfare of all the churches; to plan and conduct conventions, institutes, or seminars for Pastors and other workers in the District, promoting such for the purpose of spiritual refreshment, leadership development, greater efficiency, and a more united effort within the District and the National Church (cf. 743:17,18).

To authorise the establishment of a Pioneer Fellowship (203; 274:15), a Developing Church (205), and an Established Church (209), and to receive a report from the District Superintendent on the effecting of such Organisations (210:6); to reclassify an Established Church as a Developing Church when its number of Covenant Members drops to twelve or fewer (209:5); and to declare a Church as discontinued or abandoned (473:24; 1503).

To review the actions of the Local Advisory Council of each Developing Church (205:3).

To approve all pastoral agreements and make all ministerial appointments in the interim of District Conference sessions, subject to the final approval of the District Conference (288; 292:3).

To approve in writing the proposal of a Local Church Conference for the acquisition, purchase, sale, mortgage, transfer, or other disposal of real property in accord with the provisions in 1498-1515, after first receiving a written report and recommendation from the District Building Committee when such is required as set forth in 523; to authorise the incorporation of a Local Church in keeping with 1385 (cf. 274:13; 1388:6).

To supervise and co-ordinate the merger of two or more churches and to establish the procedures for such mergers.

To approve the plans of a Local Board of Administration for the establishment of a Day Care and/or Day School, and after its establishment to approve any significant change in mission, facilities, or finances (cf. 274:19; 316:34-35; 785).

To take charge of any complaints or accusations against a Local Church or Circuit within the District and to carry out disciplinary proceedings as deemed necessary in accord with the Judicial policies; to intervene and protect the property rights of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and the District as set forth in 1388:6; 1513; 1525:6; and to authorise the District Superintendent to call for an affirmation of loyalty and to reorganise a Local Church as set forth in 1582.

To grant temporary recognition (cf. 537:3) to Ordained Ministers, Commissioned Ministers, Licensed Ministers, and Lay Ministers, or persons with equivalent standing, from other Denominations, as being in process of transfer, subject to the action of the next District Conference (473:29a; 473:29c; 473:29a; 511:25; 1128; 1189).

To appoint the desired number of Ordained Ministers as a Council of Ordination (546), except when the District Conference shall designate the Ordained Ministers on the District Board of Ministerial Development as the Council of Ordination (473:34; 537:6); and, in case of emergency, in the interim of District Conference sessions, to elect to ordination a candidate recommended by the District Board of Ministerial Development (1119:5).

To consider and pass on the proposed resignation by, or a proposed vote on, a Pastor after the renewal of the call, when such is considered before the term of service expires or in the interim of biennial reviews (292:1-2); or to remove a Pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of the District Board of Administration in keeping with the provisions of 287; 292:3; 511:19; and to appoint a Supply Pastor, if necessary, until another Pastor has been obtained (288); or to remove a Supply Pastor by a majority vote if deemed necessary (1159:5).

To take charge of judicial proceedings, the ordering of investigation (1608) or trial, for any Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, Lay Minister, or other worker under the jurisdiction of the District (1570), in accord with the provisions of the Judiciary (1576-1580).

To represent the District, in the interim of District Conference sessions, in judicial proceedings over matters of controversy between the District and other Local, District, or National Units or Agencies (163:10; cf. 1651:5b).

F. Executive Committee

488. A District Board of Administration with nine or more Members may establish an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Executive Officers of the District Board of Administration. Additional Members may be elected at the discretion of the District Board of Administration. The Executive Committee may act for the District Board of Administration as that Board shall authorise.
Chapter IV

DISTRICT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

A. List of District Officers, Boards, and Committees

490. The following is a quick reference for District Officers, Boards and Committees:

1. The District shall have:
   - Administration, Board of (475-486)
   - Assistant Superintendent (513-515)
   - Auditing Committee or Auditor (521-522)
   - Building Committee (523)
   - Delegates to National Conference (417; 473:4; 602-616)
   - Ministerial Development, Board of (531-537)
   - Ordination Council (546)
   - Review, Board of (530; 1573-1575)
   - Secretary (516-517)
   - Statistical Committee (525-526)
   - Superintendent (506-511)
   - Treasurer (518-519)
   - World Missions Director (560)

2. The District may have:
   - Camp Meeting Board (473:20)
   - Children’s Ministries Director (594)
   - Christian Education, Board of (571-576)
   - Christian Education Director (578-579)
   - Church Periodicals Secretary (527)
   - Conference Action Committee (467-468)
   - Conference Journal Editing Committee (472:1)
   - Conference Nominating Committee (470-471)
   - Evangelism and Church Growth Director (559)
   - Evangelism and Church Growth, Board of (552-555)
   - Executive Committee of the District Board of Administration (488)
   - Judicial Committee (1577)
   - Leadership Training Director (590)
   - Secretary-Treasurer (473:33)
   - Sunday School Committee (581-585)
   - Sunday School Director (583)
   - Trustees, Board of (473:22; 528; 529; 1529)

3. The District may have the following Auxiliary Officers and Committees:
   - Wesleyan Men Officers and Committees (1223:3; 1224-1225)
   - Wesleyan Women Officers and Committees (1250:3; 1251-1252)
   - Wesleyan Youth Officers and Committees (1294; 1296-1298; 1300)
   - Young Adults International Officers and Committees (1357; 1359)

B. District Officials

491. Identification. The District Officials include the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary, and the District Treasurer. They are elected by the District Conference, by ballot and by majority vote, and are ex-officio Members of the District Board of Administration (473:31-33; cf. 476).

492. Qualifications. A District Official other than the District Superintendent (cf. 507:1) must be, at the time of election and throughout the term of service, a Covenant Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District, and, if a Minister, a ministerial Member of the District they serve (cf. 496).

493. Term of Office. District Officials other than the District Superintendent (cf. 507:2) shall be elected for a term of one year, except when a District Treasurer is appointed by the District Board of Administration (cf. 518). All District Officials shall assume office at the close of the District Conference session at which they are elected, and shall serve until the close of the District Conference marking the end of their term or until their successors are elected and qualified.

494. Amenability. A District Official shall administer the office according to The Handbook, and as directed by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, the District Conference, and the District Board of Administration. District Officials other than the District Superintendent shall serve under the general supervision of the District Superintendent, shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and the District so require, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of the District Board of Administration (486:25a). The amenability of the District Superintendent is set forth in 509 (cf. 163:1).

495. Reports. A District Official shall report to each session of the District Conference concerning official duties (473:13), and to the District Board of Administration as required.

496. Vacancies. The office of a District Official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District, by resignation, by removal (494), or in the case of a Minister, by ceasing to be a ministerial Member of the District. In all cases other than that of the District Superintendent (507:5), the filling of a vacancy in the office of a District Official until the next session of the District Conference shall be by a majority vote of all Members of the District Board of Administration (486:25a).
C. District Departmental Officers and Committees

499. Identification. District Departmental Officers include the District Secretary for Church Periodicals (527), the District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (559), the District Director of World Missions (560), the District Director of Christian Education (578), the District Director of Sunday Schools (588), the District Director of Leadership Training (590), the District Director of Children's Ministries (594), All District Departmental Officers and Members of District Boards (other than the District Board of Administration, cf. 477) and Committees are subject to the regulations as set forth herewith in 499-504. (Regulations governing the Auxiliaries are set forth in their respective constitutions Part VIII.)

500. Qualifications. A District Departmental Officer or Member of a District Board or Committee (499) must be a Covenant Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District at the time of election, with the exception of Ordained Ministers appointed to denominational service, and if a Minister, a ministerial Member of the District (cf. 504).

501. Term of Office. A District Departmental Officer or Member of a District Board or Committee (499) shall be elected to serve for a term of one year, unless otherwise stated in The Handbook. They shall assume office at the close of the District Conference session at which they are elected, or, whenever elected by a District Board, at the time of their election, and shall serve until the close of the next regular session of the District Conference.

502. Amenability. Each District Departmental Officer and Member of a District Board or Committee (499) shall carry out their duties according to The Handbook and other directives of the National Church or District. They shall serve under the general supervision of the District Superintendent and shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration. They may be removed by the District Board of Administration, by a majority vote, for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and the District so require (486:25:2).

503. Reports. A District Departmental Officer shall report to the District Conference as required by The Handbook or by the District Conference (473:13), and shall make other reports to the Board or Committee which they serve, the District Board of Administration, or the District Superintendent as may be requested.

504. Vacancies. The office of a District Departmental Officer or membership on a District Board or Committee (499) may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District, by resignation, by removal (502), or in the case of a Minister, by ceasing to be a ministerial Member of the District, or in the case of a Minister serving under the special provision of paragraph 500, by discontinuing the appointment to denominational service. A vacancy may be declared and filled for the unexpired term by the District Board of Administration, by a majority vote.
Chapter V

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

A. District Superintendent

506. Function. The District Superintendent is to be the spiritual and administrative leader of the District.

507. Qualifications and Tenure. The regulations for a District Superintendent are (cf. 491-496):

(1) Elections. The District Superintendent shall be elected by the District Conference, by ballot and by majority vote, from among the Ordained Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (473:31; cf. 743:15). If the District Superintendent is elected from outside the membership of the District in which they are to serve, they shall immediately arrange for the transfer of Local Church and District membership.

(2) Term of Office. The initial election of a District Superintendent shall be for a term of one year. Re-election thereafter shall be for a term of two years (cf. 493). If the vote is favourable, the District Board of Administration, after consultation with the District Superintendent and the presiding Officer, may then recommend that a ballot vote be taken to extend the term to four years. The salary of a District Superintendent shall continue for one month beyond the date for the termination of service.

(3) Ex Officio Duties. The District Superintendent is a Vice-Chair of the District Conference (450), Chair of the District Board of Administration (476; 482), Chair of the District Board of Ministerial Development unless they appoint another to serve in their place (533), Chair of the District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth unless they appoint another to serve in their place (553), Chair of the District Building Committee (523), Member (and Chair, unless they choose to appoint another in their place) of the District Conference Action Committee when such is authorised (467), Chair of the District Conference Nominating Committee when such is authorised (470), and an ex-officio Member of the District Conventions and the District Executive Committees of Wesleyan Men (1223:2; 1224:1), Wesleyan Women (1250:2; 1251:1), Wesleyan Youth (1296:1; 1300:3a), and Young Adults International (1357:2; 1359:2, 1359:4).

(4) Vacancy. Whenever the office of a Superintendent is vacant other than at District Conference, the District Board of Administration, in consultation with the National Superintendent, shall appoint an Acting Superintendent to serve until the next annual session of the District Conference.

(5) Special District Committee for Nominations. Whenever a vacancy has resulted in the appointment of Acting Superintendent, or whenever a District Superintendent shall announce that they will be unavailable for continued service, a special District Committee for Nominations shall be formed with the National Superintendent as Chair, comprised of the Members of the District Board of Administration, or by persons they choose. The special District Committee for Nominations shall screen and select persons believed to have the qualities needed for the office of District Superintendent and present one or more nominees to the District Conference session. The District Conference shall elect in accordance with 507:1, and shall not be limited to the persons nominated by the special Committee on Nominations.

509. Amenity. The District Superintendent is amenable, as provided in the Constitution, to the National Board of Administration for their official duties and to the District Conference for both their official duties and moral character (163:1). They may be removed from office by the National Board of Administration, by a two-thirds majority vote of all its Members, for cause or whenever the National Board deems it necessary for the best interests of the Church and the preservation of the District (691:35).

511. Duties. The District Superintendent shall administer the office in accord with The Handbook and any other official directives from the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, the District Conference, and the District Board of Administration. The duties are (cf. 507; 507:3):

General Duties

(1) To have the oversight of the Church within the District, endeavouring to lead the District forward in the fulfilment of the mission of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (75-76).

(2) To give special attention to the initiation and promotion of an aggressive program of evangelism and church extension, as approved by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration (cf. 203; 205; 209; 486:3; 486:19; 552).

(3) To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry, teaching the people concerning the doctrines, purposes, and programs of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and promoting the interests of all the National Departments and the District.

(4) To co-operate with the National Superintendent (cf. 743:16), the National Board of Administration and its Executive Committee in the oversight of the District work and, in matters of District Church Evangelism and Church Growth.

(5) To assist the National Superintendent in presiding over the District Conference, and to preside over the District Conference or take responsibility for the same, whenever the National Superintendent is not present, except when the Assistant National Superintendent is requested by the District Conference to preside (450).

District Administration

(6) To be the Chair of the District Board of Administration (476; 482), and to submit recommendations to the District Board of Administration that will provide for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of the District work.

(7) To be the Chair of the District Board of Ministerial Development or to appoint another to serve in their place subject to ratification by the District Board of Administration (533); to be the Chair of the District Conference Nominating Committee when such has been authorised (470).

(8) To exercise administrative supervision over all District Officials, Departmental Officers, Boards (cf.553; 575), Committees, Auxiliary Organisations (cf. 1213; 1222; 1225:2; 1249; 1252:2, 7; 1296; 1359:1), Pioneer Fellowships, Developing Churches, Established Churches, Circuits, Ministers, and other workers (cf. 1159:2) of the District with the exception of those who are amenable only to the National Board of Administration for their official duties (163:1; 473:12), and to see that the plans and policies of the National Church and District are carried out.

(9) To meet with any District Board, Committee, Auxiliary Organisation, or other District Agency at their discretion, and make such recommendations as they deem advisable; and to counsel with the various Officers, Directors, employees, and others serving the District concerning their work.

(10) To serve as an ex-officio Member of the District Executive Committees of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Youth, and Young Adults International (1224:1; 1251:1; 1296:1; 1359:1).
Local Churches

(12) To visit, or to appoint the Assistant District Superintendent or other representative to visit, each church in the District at least once a year, making careful inquiry into the progress and administration of the church and seeking to advance its spiritual life and to preserve a written report of such visits for future reference and for any successor.

(13) To investigate carefully concerning the support of Pastors and to advise and encourage the Local Churches to provide for their adequate support.

(14) To recommend that the District Board of Administration authorise the establishment of a Pioneer Fellowship (203), a Developing Church (205), an Established Church (209), the reclassification of a church (209:1), and to preside over the organisation of an Established Church or appoint a representative to do so (210), and to report the organisation of new churches to the District Board of Administration and to the District Conference (210:6).

(15) To supervise and promote the development of a Developing Church, approving the reception of Members (205:2; cf. 1560:2), appointing the Secretary-Treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent in co-operation with the Pastor (205:3), and approving the plans of the Pastor and the Local Advisory Council in the interim of sessions of the District Board of Administration (205:3).

(16) To arrange the date for the regular session of a Local Church Conference (263:1-2), to preside over a Local Church Conference whenever present (267), to convene a Local Board of Administration or a Local Church Conference in times of emergency and preside over the same (265:1; 287; 292:2-3; 310), and carry out any other provisions for a Local Board of Administration or Conference as prescribed in The Handbook.

(17) To counsel with a Local Board of Administration for the securing of a Pastor (284:1-2), providing it with a list of names of those Ministers available for a call, and to carry out the provisions of The Handbook concerning the call, the renewal of a call, the review and termination of an extended call, the resignation and release of a Pastor from the pastoral agreement, and other matters pertaining to pastoral relations for the pastoral charges under their care (265:3; 279:2; 284:1-2; 286; 290:2-292; 310).

(18) To approve the transfer of any Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister from another District, in concurrence with the National Superintendent (158:6; 284:2; 743:22; 1127:1), and, when objecting to such a transfer, to state reasons if requested to do so.

(19) To recommend to the District Board of Administration the removal of a Pastor whenever the best interests of the church involved demand it, and to recommend to the District Board of Administration the appointment of a supply, if necessary, until another Pastor has been obtained (287; 288; 292:3; 486:29).

(20) To perform all the functions of a Pastor for a Local Church within the District when such church is without a Pastor, or to recommend to the District Board of Administration the appointment of a Supply Pastor until the Local Church obtains a Pastor (486:29; 486:35).

(21) To approve the employment of an Evangelist or Workers of another Denomination for crusades or other meetings by a Local Church or any District organisation, and, when objecting to such employment, to state reasons if requested to do so (294:19; 316:17).

Ministers

(22) To counsel with Pastors, Ministers, and Lay Ministers under their care, giving special attention to the encouragement and guidance of candidates for the ministry. To receive all initial expressions of interest in the appointment of a Ministerial Candidate holding credentials in the District.

(23) To be responsible, if the National Superintendent is absent, for leading the Council of Ordination (546) in conducting the ritual of ordination (1119:6; 1711-1720), and the ritual of commissioning a Minister (1731-1741); to sign with the District Secretary such certificates, licences, or other official forms, as are required by this office and issued to such persons as are authorised by the District Conference; to have charge of services for the installation of Pastors (1764).

(24) To request any special reports from the Pastors, Ministers, and Churches that will facilitate oversight of the District; to receive a quarterly statistical report from each pastoral charge as required by the National Church.

(25) To approve in writing the temporary service of an Ordained Minister in a District other than the one of which they are a Member (1127:2); to grant a letter of transfer or standing to any Ordained, Licensed, or Commissioned worker in good standing of the District (1854; 1856); to instruct the District Secretary to enrol as a Member of the District a Minister who transfers from another District in the manner prescribed by The Handbook (158:6; 1127:1; 1854-1855), and to order the enrolment of a Ministerial Candidate, or Lay Minister so transferring (1110:4c; 1110:6d; 1190; 1854-1855); and to guide a Minister or Lay Minister from another Denomination seeking recognition and membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1128; 1189). (cf. 1133)

Reports

(26) To report annually to the District Conference concerning official duties and personal ministry (473:13), and to the District Board of Administration as required; to report the National Conference when required to do so by the National Board of Administration (650:12); to report to the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee; to counsel with the National Superintendent at least once a year concerning the plans and objectives for the District, reporting to the National Superintendent on the activities of the District and progress toward its objectives during the past year (cf. 743:9, 13).

Judicial

(27) To receive any complaint or accusation against any person or Local Unit under the jurisdiction of the District (1562:4; 1570:1-5; 1576:1; 3; 1581:1-2), and to give prompt and careful attention to the matter as required in the judiciary (1576:1; 1581:1-2) and to refer any matter requiring official investigation or judicial proceedings to the District Board of Administration for disposition (486). (cf. 1580:2; 1582)
B. Assistant District Superintendent

513. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be elected, by ballot and by majority vote, by the District Conference from among the Ordained Ministers of the District (473:32). The qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a District Official as set forth in 491-496.

514. The duties of the Assistant District Superintendent are:
(1) To serve as Member and Vice-Chair of the District Board of Administration, presiding over the Board whenever the District Superintendent is not present or when appointed to do so by the District Superintendent (482).
(2) To convene the District Board of Administration in times of emergency when the District Superintendent is not able to act (480).
(3) To serve as Member of the District Board of Ministerial Development (532).
(4) To assist the District Superintendent and to serve as their representative to Local Churches or District Organisations as the Superintendent may request.
(5) To perform such other duties as may be required by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration.
(6) To report annually to the District Conference concerning official duties (473:13) and to the District Board of Administration as required.

515. A District Conference may choose to have the Assistant District Superintendent as a full-time District Official, and shall further define the duties in addition to those set forth in The Handbook.

C. District Secretary

516. The District Secretary shall be elected by the District Conference by ballot and by majority vote (473:33; cf. 471:1). The qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a District Official as defined in 491-496.

517. The duties of the District Secretary are:
(1) To be the Secretary of the District Conference, recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and forwarding copies to the National Secretary and National Superintendent (cf. 472:4).
(2) To serve as a Member and as the Secretary of the District Board of Administration (476; 483), recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form, forwarding a copy of the minutes of each session to each Member of the Board, and to the National Superintendent.
(3) To issue official notices and communications from the District Conference, including assignments for the United Stewardship Fund (765:1), and other financial obligations, and from the District Board of Administration; and to keep permanent file copies of all correspondence, reports, and other records.
(4) To issue and sign all certificates, licences, and other official forms as properly authorised by the District and as prescribed for a District Secretary by the National Conference or National Board of Administration (511:23).
(5) To forward promptly to the National Secretary: The statistical and financial reports of the District Conference as may be required by the National Board of Administration; a certified list of the National Conference Delegates, and the certification of an alternate when a Delegate is unable to attend (608:611); a copy of each memorial adopted for presentation to the National Conference; a copy of the official District directory for inclusion in the denominational directory, and of each change in the directory as it occurs (517:8); and to cooperate in forwarding other information to the National Secretary as they may request.
(6) To be the custodian of the official District records and archives, except as otherwise provided for in The Handbook (535; 1511), including the records of the District Statistical Committee (526:3) and all District Judicial Committees (1573; 1577:4), and to be instructed by the District Board of Administration as to the exercise of such custody (486:15); and to forward to the National Secretary the credentials of a Minister when such credentials have been surrendered or removed by judicial process (755:7; 1127:4; 1137).
(7) To receive an official copy of the minutes of each Board, Committee, Auxiliary Organisation, or other District Agency, and to preserve them in the District archives.
(8) To maintain a complete and current District directory listing the District Officials, each District Board or Committee with the names of its Members and Officers, the District Departmental Officers (499), the names and addresses of each Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, Lay Minister, and Commissioned Lay Missionary, the address of each Pioneer Fellowship, Developing Church, Church, Circuit, and parsonage within the bounds of the District, and other information as desired (cf. 539).
(9) To aid in collecting books, documents, photographs, or other historical materials for the historical archives of the Denomination in co-operation with the National Secretary (755:7).
(10) To notify all churches and Ministerial Members of the District of the time and place of the next regular session of the District Conference at least sixty days in advance (447), and to notify them of any reconvened sessions as directed by the District Board of Administration (448).
(11) To perform such other duties as may be required by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration and as pertain to the office.

D. District Treasurer

518. The District Treasurer shall be elected by the District Conference, by majority vote, except where the Conference shall delegate to the District Board of Administration the authority to appoint the District Treasurer for maximum terms of two years. The District Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the District Board of Administration and shall be a voting Member of the District Conference.

519. The duties of a District Treasurer are:
(1) To serve as a Member of the District Board of Administration (476), and, when such has been authorised, as a Member of the District Conference Action Committee (467).
(2) To be bonded to the amount set by the District Board of Administration, the cost of which shall be paid by the District (486:16).
(3) To have custody of all District funds, unless otherwise provided for by The Handbook; to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the financial plans of the National Conference and the District Conference and as directed by the District Board of Administration.
(4) To receive, record, and hold all funds specified for the National Church from the several churches, District Organisations, or from any other sources within the District, and to remit such funds monthly to the National Treasurer on the approved forms and as instructed by the National Treasurer.

(5) To serve as a District Director of Stewardship, promoting stewardship and storehouse tithing on the District level, in cooperation with the National Treasurer.

(6) To prepare and submit to the District Board of Administration, or to another Committee if such has been designated by the District Conference, a recommended plan to provide for the raising of the District obligation to the United Stewardship Fund, designating the amount to be assigned to each Local Church as its share of the District obligation, in accord with the regulations for the United Stewardship Fund (903); which plan, as approved by the proper Board or Committee, shall be presented to the District Conference for adoption (473:16; 486:10; cf. 467-468); and to notify promptly the National Treasurer of the District USF obligation on forms provided by the National Treasurer (cf. 761:4).

(7) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit, after the close of the fiscal year, as provided for in 521-522, and at any other time as may be requested by the District Board of Administration (486:17).

(8) To submit a complete financial report of all funds in their care, certified by the auditor or the Auditing Committee, to each regular session of the District Conference (473:13), to submit reports to the District Board of Administration (486:11), the District Superintendent, and the National Treasurer as they may require.

(9) To perform such other duties as may be required by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration and as pertain to the office.

E. District Auditing Committee

521. The District Conference shall provide for the auditing of all financial records and funds by the election of a District Auditing Committee, or by directing the District Board of Administration to employ an accountant for that purpose (522; cf. 486:17). The District Auditing Committee shall be a Standing Committee and shall consist of two or more persons elected for a term of one year by the District Conference (473:35; cf. 471:2). General regulations for the membership of this Committee are given in 499-504. The duties of the Auditing Committee are:

(1) To audit annually, after the close of the District fiscal year, and before the financial reports are presented to a District Conference or Convention, the records and funds of the District Treasurer (519:8), the District Treasurers of Wesleyan Men (1225:5), Wesleyan Women (1252:5), Wesleyan Youth (1298:3d), Young Adults International (1361:4), and any other Treasurer of a District Board or Agency having custody of District funds (cf. 583); and to perform such audits at other times as may be requested by the District Board of Administration.

(2) To submit a written report to the District Conference and to each of the District Conventions of the Auxiliaries concerning the results of the audit. A financial report may not be accepted as approved by any official body until certified as correct by the Auditing Committee or employed auditor.

(3) To perform such other duties as may be required by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration.

522. The District Conference may direct the District Board of Administration to employ an accountant to perform any part or all of the duties assigned to the District Auditing Committee, in which case the auditor’s report shall be submitted to the District Conference by the District Secretary.

F. District Building Committee

523. There shall be a District Building Committee elected by the District Conference (473:35; cf. 471:2), unless the District Conference shall delegate the election to the District Board of Administration. The Committee shall consist of the District Superintendent as Chair and one or more Ordained Ministers as desired with an equal number of laypersons. The elected Members should be persons who are capable and experienced in property transactions and the construction of buildings. General regulations governing the membership of this Committee are given in 499-504. The duties of the District Building Committee are:

(1) To investigate the proposed sites for Local Church buildings, parsonages, or other Units, in order to ascertain that such properties are properly located in the community to be served and adequate in size for future expansion and parking facilities; to consider also the plans and requirements of any metropolitan or urban planning commission, if such an Agency exists; to consider also the financial plans and liabilities to be incurred; to act upon the proposal of the Local Church and to report its findings and recommendations in writing both to the District Board of Administration and the Local Church (cf. 1498-1500).

(2) To consider the proposal of a Local Church (274:13) for the construction of a Local Church building, parsonage, educational unit, or the remodelling of such buildings when it amounts to ten percent or more of the value of the building; to advise them in detail concerning the architectural plans; to consider carefully the financial liability and the plans of the Local Church for meeting such liabilities; and to report its findings and recommendations in writing to the Local Church and the District Board of Administration (486:30; cf. 1498-1500).

G. District Statistical Committee

525. Each District Conference shall elect a District Statistical Committee of the desired number (473:35; cf. 471:2), or the District Conference may delegate this responsibility to the District Board of Administration. General regulations for the membership of this Committee are given in 499-504.

526. The duties of the District Statistical Committee are:

(1) To receive, on behalf of the District Conference, complete annual statistical and financial reports from such persons, Units, and Agencies as the National Board of Administration shall designate, on forms approved by the National Board and made available by the National Secretary; and to compile and submit to the District Conference a comprehensive statistical and financial report for the District as a whole.

(2) To report to the District Board of Administration the name of each person who fails to submit a report in the proper manner and at the appointed time.

(3) To submit, after the Committee has finished its work all reports and records to the District Secretary for filing.
H. District Secretary for Church Periodicals

527. Each District Conference may elect a District Secretary for Church Periodicals, or the District Conference may delegate this responsibility to the District Board of Administration. The qualifications, term of office, amenability, and other regulations are those of a District Departmental Official as defined in 499-504. The duties of the District Secretary for Church Periodicals are:

1. To secure and maintain the names and addresses of the Local Secretaries for Church Periodicals.
2. To assist the Pastor and the Local Secretary for Church Periodicals in securing subscriptions.
3. To assist the editors of the Church periodicals in securing subscriptions.
4. To submit an annual report of activities to the District Conference, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the National Periodicals Secretary (473:13).

I. District Board of Trustees

528. The District Conference of each Established District shall be incorporated or shall cause a Corporation to be formed and maintained to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as set forth in 1401-1406. In places where local laws prohibit such incorporation, or where the local laws require property to be held by Trustees, the District Conference may elect from among the Members of the District Board of Administration the Members of the District Board of Trustees in such number as desired (473:22; cf. 1525:3). The District Trustees shall hold office until their term expires as Members of the District Board of Administration and until their successors are elected and qualified. The District Board of Trustees shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration (cf. 1525).

A District Trustee may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of all the Members of the District Board of Administration whenever it is deemed necessary for the best interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and the District or whenever a Trustee shall refuse to carry out the directions of the District Board of Administration, except when such directions are contrary to local laws or to The Handbook (477; 486:25b; 494; 1471). The office of a District Trustee may also become vacant by death, cessation of membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or cessation of membership on the District Board of Administration. A vacancy on the District Board of Trustees shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of all the Members of the District Board of Administration (477; 486:25b; 496).

529. The District Board of Trustees shall administer its duties in accord with The Handbook (1465-1485; 1524-1529), and as directed by the District Board of Administration. Its duties are:

1. To hold all District property, and such Local property as may be held by the District (1491; 1494), in trust for The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1524.
2. To attend to all legal matters pertaining to the District transactions for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other disposal of property, as ordered by the District Board of Administration (cf. 1525).
3. To fulfill such other duties as pertain to their office as Trustees and as may be assigned to them by the District Board of Administration.

J. District Board of Review

530. Each Established District shall have a District Board of Review, which shall consist of four Ordained Ministers and three laypersons elected annually by the District Conference (473:39; cf. 471:2). Two Ordained Ministers and two laypersons shall also be elected at the same time to serve as alternates and to fill vacancies in the order of their election. The District Board of Review serves as an appellate body for lay members and Local Churches and has original jurisdiction over charges or complaints proffered against Local Churches. The duties and powers of the District Board of Review are set forth in the Judicial policies. General regulations governing the Members of the District Board of Review are set forth in 499-504.
Chapter VI

DISTRICT MINISTERIAL SUPERVISION

A. District Board of Ministerial Development

531. Function. There shall be a District Board of Ministerial Development which shall be responsible for the examination and recommendation to the District Conference of all candidates for ordination, licence, commission, ministerial study and development, restoration, or transfer from another Denomination.

532. Membership. The Board shall consist of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, and from five to eight additional Members, at least three of whom shall be elected by the District Board of Administration (486:18) and the remainder by the District Conference (473:34). At least two Members shall be laypersons, and the ministerial Members shall be Ordained Ministers. The term of office for the elected Members shall be for three years; with the election so arranged approximately one-third shall be elected each year. General regulations for the Members of this Board are defined in 499:504.

533. Organisation. The District Superintendent shall be the Chair unless they shall appoint another to serve in their place with such appointment subject to ratification by the District Board of Administration. The Board shall annually elect a Vice-Chair and a Secretary. The Board may divide into smaller groups and apportion the work among them as deemed necessary, provided that all recommendations of the Board to the District Conference shall be adopted by the full Board.

534. Sessions. The Board shall be convened by the Chair in sufficient time before the opening of the District Conference to enable the Board to complete its work in a careful and thorough manner, and shall meet at other times as deemed necessary upon the call of the Chair. The District Board of Ministerial Development, as early as possible after the date of the District Conference has been fixed, shall appoint the time for all candidates to meet with the Board, subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (486:11).

535. Records. The Secretary of the District Board of Ministerial Development shall keep suitable and permanent records which shall be the property of the District and shall be preserved as directed by the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration. The Secretary of the Board shall keep:

(1) A correct and complete journal of the proceedings of the Board meetings, an official copy of which shall be submitted to the District Secretary for permanent filing (517:7).

(2) A record of the ministerial studies and training of each Ministerial Candidate, including the work done in a College or Theological School. A record of all credits earned shall be recorded at least once each year in cooperation with the National Director of Education and Ministry as set forth in 828 and shall be available to the Board in considering its recommendations to the District Conference.

(3) A personnel record of each Ordained, Licensed, or Commissioner Minister of the District, on forms as authorised by the National Board of Administration, including important personal and family information; educational qualifications; ministerial service including pastoral and other District appointments, offices held, and credentials issued by the District. Whenever a letter of transfer is granted, a transcript of the personnel record shall be provided, if requested, but the record shall remain in the permanent files of the District.

537. Duties. The duties of the District Board of Ministerial Development shall be:

Related to Ordination, Commissions, Licences, and Ministerial Candidates or Students

(1) To examine carefully (cf. 691:32) each candidate for election by the District Conference to ordination, or election to a Commissioned Minister's status, the granting of a District Ministerial Licence, a Licence as a Ministerial Candidate, a Commission or Licence as Lay Minister, a Commission as a Lay Missionary, and any other commission or licence as may be authorised by The Handbook. The examination shall include an interview with each candidate, not less than one month prior to the election to ordination, making such investigation as is deemed necessary to affirm the individual's:

a) Personal experience of salvation and entire sanctification;

b) Full commitment to the Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, Elementary Principles, and polity of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and acceptance of its authority;

c) Evidence of having the qualifications for the ministry to which the candidate feels called as set forth in The Handbook, and shall result in recommendations to the District Conference for those whom the District Board of Ministerial Development judges to be qualified for said ministry (cf. 533; 537:5).

(2) To consider each person recommended by a Local Church Conference (274:8) or Circuit Conference (213:2) or Local Board of Administration (274:8) for the granting of a licence as a Ministerial Candidate (539:13; 1110), and to recommend to the District Conference for such licence those who are deemed worthy (473:29b, 473:29c; cf. 1171:2) to encourage all such Ministerial Candidates to enrol for ministerial training in an approved School of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to supervise and counsel them, keeping a record of their ministerial studies (535:2).

(3) To consider and examine any person who desires to be received into the District from another Denomination, and to be recognized as an Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister, or Lay Minister, and to recommend to the District Conference for reception as in process of transfer, and subsequently for recognition as in full standing, only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to The Handbook (cf. 1128; 1187-1190); and, in the interim of District Conference sessions, to make such recommendation to the District Board of Administration (486:34).

(4) To consider and examine any person applying for restoration of orders, commission, or licence, and to recommend to the District Conference only such a person as it deems properly qualified according to The Handbook (cf. 1136-1144).

(5) To present to the District Conference, as a separate report, a recommendation for the election of a candidate to ordination as an Ordained Minister (473:28; cf. 1119:5) or commission as a Minister (1117:1c), and to present to the District Conference a combined report of all other recommendations concerning the commissioning, licensing, recognition, or restoration of Ministers, and Lay Ministers, and the licensing of Ministerial Candidates (473:29; 1110).

(6) To serve, with the exception of the lay members, and when so designated by the District Conference (473:34; cf. 486:35), as a Court of Ordination (546); and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the District Conference.

Related to the Annual Services Reports

(7) To receive, on behalf of the District Conference, a written annual service report (541) from each Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, and Lay Minister; to review such reports and pass on each one as follows (cf. 473:30):
a) A report which shows that the work has been done according to The Handbook and that the annual statistical report (526:1) has been properly submitted shall be marked as approved and returned to the person submitting it (cf.537:9).

b) A report in which there are unsatisfactory answers, or which shows that the work has not been done according to The Handbook, or that the annual statistical report (526:1) has not been properly submitted, shall be reviewed with the person submitting the report. If reasons for such irregularities are not satisfactory to the District Board of Ministerial Development, the report shall be marked as unsatisfactory and returned to the person submitting it (cf.537:9).

(8) To investigate the reason for the failure to submit an annual service report on the part of those persons required to do so (541; 1110:4), and to take appropriate action as set forth in; 1113:1; 1117:4b; 1123:2; 1189:2.

(9) To present a report (cf.533) to the District Conference concerning the results of the examination of the annual service reports, listing all Members of the District responsible to submit such reports as to whether their reports were approved, unsatisfactory, or not received. A person whose annual service report has been found unsatisfactory (537:7b) shall report to the District Conference wherein they have failed, and it shall require a two-thirds vote of confidence by the District Conference to approve such a person for continued appointment.

Related to Appointments and District Conference Relations

(10) To submit reports to the District Board of Administration concerning the following matters related to District Conference appointments and relations: The results of the examination of the annual service reports (537:8-9); the availability for appointment, and any desired changes in appointment or District Conference relations, as recorded on the annual service reports; those persons qualified for a District ministerial licence, the granting of which shall become effective upon their appointment (473:26c, 473:29b; 486:9; cf. 1112:7; 1113:3); those other persons qualified for a licence, commission, reception from another District or Denomination, or restoration (473:26, 473:29; 486:9).

Related to Ministerial Development

(11) To co-operate with the District Superintendent (511:22) and the District Board of Administration (486:20) in providing opportunities for the personal and professional growth of Ministers with the District. The activities of the District Boards of Ministerial Development might include individual or group interviews, assessments, growth contracts, seminars, or other means of assisting Ministers to achieve their full potential for ministry.

B. The Listing of District Conference Relations and Appointments

539. The Ordained Ministers, Commissioned Ministers, Licensed Ministers, Ministerial Candidates, Lay Ministers, and Supply Pastors of the District shall be listed in the following order as appointed by the District Conference (Chapter II - B.1.b.440, 473; cf. 486:9). This listing shall be included in the District Conference journal (472) as an official District directory and shall be used for the District Conference roll call.

**Ordained Ministers**

1. Appointed Ordained Ministers (1156-1170)

   a) District Service.
      The District Superintendent and other Ordained Ministers in full-time service of the District in a ministerial capacity (1167; cf. 515; 578).
   b) Pastoral and Local Service.
      - Ordained Ministers appointed as Pastors, Associate or Assistant Pastors, within the District (1158).
      - Ordained Ministers on loan to other Districts of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for service as Supply Pastors (1127:2; 1159:1).
      - Ordained Ministers appointed to serve in a Local Church Christian Education program (1166:2).
   c) Evangelistic Service.
      - District Evangelist. Ordained Minister appointed as an Evangelist (1160; 1162).
      - Reserve Evangelist. Ordained Minister appointed as an Evangelist (1163)
   d) Denominational Service.
      - Ordained Ministers elected by the National Conference or National Board of Administration as National Officials (711; cf. 1167).
      - Ordained Ministers elected or employed by the National Board of Administration, or those elected or employed by the Board of Directors of a National Subsidiary Corporation other than an Educational Institution, for full-time National Church service in a ministerial capacity as set forth in 1167 (cf. 691:16).
      - Ordained Ministers appointed by the National Board of Administration for service in a ministerial capacity as missionaries or workers under the National Departments of Evangelism and Church Growth or World Missions as set forth in 1165.
      - Ordained Ministers employed to serve in a ministerial capacity on the administrative Staff or Faculty of a National Educational Institution of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1166; 920).
   e) Chaplains. Ordained Ministers serving as military or industrial chaplains (1168).
   f) Inter-Church Service (1169). Ordained Ministers employed in a ministerial capacity in Inter Church service, serving with an Educational, Evangelistic, or Missionary Organisation not directly related to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, provided such service is approved by the District Conference.
   g) Special Service (1170). Ordained Ministers in active ministry not otherwise provided for, if such service is approved by the District Conference.

2. Retired Ordained Ministers (1173:1)
   Ordained Ministers retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, provided they were either on the appointed list, on reserve, or on educational leave at the time of such incapacitation or retirement.

3. Reserve Ordained Ministers (1172)
   Ordained Ministers available for but without appointment. An Ordained Minister who remains on reserve for two consecutive years shall be automatically transferred to the list of Ordained Ministers without appointment unless continued on reserve by vote of the District Conference.

4. Ordained Ministers on educational leave (1171:1)
Ordained Ministers enrolled in a Seminary or other Graduate School for advanced training for church service.

5. **Ordained Ministers without appointment** (1174)
   a) Ordained Ministers not available for appointment.
   b) Ordained Ministers employed in other than a ministerial capacity
   c) Ordained Ministers not otherwise listed.

6. **Ordained Ministers in process of transfer** (1128; 1175)
Ordained Ministers from another Denomination who have been granted recognition as Ordained Ministers in process of transfer (473:29a; cf. 537:3; 1128).

**Commissioned Ministers**

7. **Commissioned Pastors** (1158)
Commissioned Ministers appointed as Pastors or as full time Associate or Assistant Pastors of Wesleyan Methodist Churches in that District (162:1; 438:3).

8. **Other Commissioned Minister appointments**
Commissioned Ministers appointed to service in a Local Church Christian education program (1166:2), or in a ministerial capacity to District, Denominational, or Inter-Church service (1156; 1165; 1167; 1169), and those in retirement.

9. **Commissioned Ministers in process of transfer**
Commissioned Ministers or their equivalent from other Denominations who have been granted recognition as Commissioned Ministers in process of transfer (1128).

**Licensed Ministers**

10. **Licensed Pastors** (1158)
Licensed Ministers appointed as Pastors or as full-time Associate or Assistant Pastors of Wesleyan Methodist Churches in that District (162:1; 438:3).

11. **Other Licensed Minister appointments**
Licensed Ministers appointed to service in a Local Church Christian education program (1166:2), or in a ministerial capacity to District, Denominational, or Inter-Church service (1156; 1165; 1167; 1169).

12. **Licensed Ministers in the process of transfer**
Licensed Ministers or their equivalent from other Denominations who have been granted recognition as Licensed Ministers in process of transfer (1128).

**Ministerial Candidates**

Those approved by the District Conference to be licensed as Ministerial Candidates as set forth in 1110.

**Lay Ministers**

14. **Lay Ministers serving as Supply Pastors** (1187-1190)
15. **Other Lay Ministers**
List by specific category such as Christian Education, Youth, Music, Evangelist, Social Worker, Spouse in Ministry, Lay Missionary, etc.

16. **Lay Ministers in process of transfer**

**Annual Service Reports**

541. **Annual Service Reports.** The District Conference shall receive an annual service report from each Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, and Lay Minister on forms authorised by the National Board of Administration and made available by the National Secretary. Pastors or Senior Pastors shall submit the “Pastor’s Annual Service Report.” Associate and Assistant Pastors shall submit the “Associate/Assistant Pastor’s Annual Service Report.” Other Ordained Ministers and Commissioned or Licensed Ministers and Ministerial Candidates shall submit the “Minister’s Annual Service Report.” Lay Ministers shall submit the “Lay Worker’s Annual Service Report.” All such reports shall be submitted to the District Board of Ministerial Development, serving on behalf of the District Conference, as directed by the District Board of Administration or the District Superintendent (537:7-9).

**Council of Ordination**

546. Each District shall provide for a Council of Ordination to assist the National Superintendent (743:22; 1712), or, in their absence, the District Superintendent (511:23), in carrying out the will of the District Conference for the ordination of Ministers (1119:6; 1171-1729), and the commissioning of Ministers (1732), and Lay Ministers (1740). The Council of Ordination may consist of the desired number of Ordained Ministers appointed by the District Board of Administration (486:35), or the District Conference may designate the Ordained Ministers of the District Board of Ministerial Development as the Council of Ordination (473:34; 537:6). The Council of Ordination will be responsible to plan the ordination and/or commissioning services.

**Chapter VII**

**DISTRICT MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM**

A. **District Coordination of Missions and Evangelism**

551. The District Board of Administration shall be responsible within the District for the promotion of World Missions, National and District Evangelism and Church Growth, and the Co-ordination of Wesleyan Men and Wesleyan Women on the District level as set forth in *The Handbook* (486:3, 19, 21-22).

B. **District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth**
552. **Function.** The District Board of Administration shall serve as or shall establish a District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth to aid the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration in developing, supervising, and promoting an aggressive program of District Evangelism and Church Growth (486:19; 511:2).

553. **Membership.** If a separate District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth is established, it shall have as its Chair the District Superintendent (cf. 511:2), unless they shall appoint another to serve in their place with such appointment subject to ratification by the District Board of Administration. In addition to the Chair, the Board shall consist of two or more Ordained Ministers and an equal number of laypersons elected by the District Board of Administration who are especially concerned and qualified for this phase of the church’s mission. In addition, the District Board of Administration may designate the District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth as an ex-officio Member (559). The term of office for the elected Members shall be for two years, with the election so arranged that approximately one-half shall be elected each year. Other than the Chair, the Board shall elect its own Officers. General regulations governing the Members of this Board are set forth in 499-504.

554. **Sessions.** The District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth shall meet soon after the close of the District Conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as it shall decide or the District Board of Administration shall order. Special sessions may be called by the Chair as needed.

555. **Duties.** The duties of the District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth shall be:

1. To study potential fields for District extension work and report on and make recommendations to the District Board of Administration concerning the same.
2. To stimulate interest in District Evangelism and Church Growth throughout the District to help raise the funds needed for the District church growth program.
3. To make recommendations to the District Board of Administration concerning the establishment of a Pioneer Fellowship, Developing Church, or Established Church, the appointment of Pastors for the same, and real estate transactions and building projects connected with church growth projects (cf. 486:27, 29-30).
4. To assume District supervision of the District church growth program or a specific church growth project to the extent delegated by the District Board of Administration.
5. To perform other duties as may be required by the District Board of Administration in the interest of District evangelism and church growth.

**C. District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth**

559. A District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth may be elected by the District Conference (473:36; cf. 471:2), and is an ex-officio Member of the District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth (553), if so appointed by the District Board of Administration. The term of office, amenability, and other requirements for a District Departmental Officer are set forth in 499-504. The duties are:

1. To report promptly to the National Director of Evangelism and Church Growth and to co-operate with the National Director in promoting the interests of general evangelism and church growth; and likewise to promote the interests of the District program of evangelism and church growth.
2. To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the District Board of Administration for approval.
3. To assist the District Superintendent in arranging for deputation work within the District by representatives of the National Board of Evangelism and Church Growth.
4. To assist the District Superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of National or District evangelism and church growth at the District Conference or camp-meeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at District or Zone meetings.
5. To assist Pastors in promoting evangelism and church growth in the Local Churches.
6. To promote giving to the Co-Labourers plan.
7. To keep a record of activities, reports, and correspondence and to submit it to their successor.
8. To submit an annual report of activities to the District Conference (473:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished in the District for National and District evangelism and church growth, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the National Director of Evangelism and Church Growth; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).
9. To perform other duties in the interest of National and District evangelism and church growth, as may be required by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration, or the District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth.

**D. District Director of World Missions**

560. A District Director of World Missions shall be elected by the District Conference (473:36; cf. 471:2). The term of office, amenability, and other requirements as a District Departmental Officer are set forth in 499-504. The duties are:

1. To report promptly to the National Director of World Missions and to co-operate with the National Director in promoting an interest in and a burden for world missions outreach within the District.
2. To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the District Board of Administration for approval (cf. 551).
3. To assist the District Superintendent in arranging for deputation work within the District by representatives of the National Board of World Missions. (473:13).
4. To assist the District Superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of world missions at the District Conference or camp meeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at District or Zone meetings.
5. To assist Pastors in planning for World Missions Conventions and in promoting world missions in the Local Church.
6. To keep a record of all activities, reports, and correspondence and to submit this to their successor.
7. To submit an annual report of activities to the District Conference (473:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the District for world missions, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the National Director of World Missions; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).
8. To perform other duties in the interest of world missions outreach as may be requested by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration.

**E. District Director of Wesleyan Men**
562. The District Director of Wesleyan Men (1225:2) is a nonvoting Member of the District Conference unless they are a voting Member by some other right (440:8). The District Director of Wesleyan Men shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Men to the District Board of Administration for approval (486:21). In the interim of District Board of Administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the District Superintendent. The District Director of Wesleyan Men shall endeavour to guide the District activities of Wesleyan Men toward soul-winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship in a co-ordinated effort to forward the District program.

F. District Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women

563. The District Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women is a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (1251; 1252:2) unless they are a voting Member by some other right (440:8). The District Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Women to the District Board of Administration for approval (486:22). In the interim of District Board of Administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the District Superintendent. The District Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women shall endeavour to guide the District activities of Wesleyan Women into soul-winning, evangelism, pioneer work, and concern for world outreach in a co-ordinated effort to forward the District program.
Chapter VIII

DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A. District Board of Christian Education

571. Function. The District Board of Administration shall serve as or shall establish a District Board of Christian Education, which shall endeavour to develop, supervise, correlate, and promote a comprehensive District program of Christian education, viewing Christian education as a total process, dealing with the whole person, aiming at a fully co-ordinated educational program in harmony with the objectives for Christian education as set forth in 800 (cf. 486:20).

572. Membership. If a separate District Board of Christian Education is established, it shall have as its Chair a person elected by the District Board of Administration. General regulations governing other Members of this Board are set forth in 499-504. Additional Members shall be chosen in one of the following ways:

(1) Supervision Option. The District Board of Administration shall elect two or more Ordained Ministers and an equal number of laypersons to serve with the Chair as the District Board of Christian Education.

(2) Co-ordination Option. The District Board of Christian Education shall consist of the Chair elected by the District Board of Administration (486:20), the District Director of Christian Education (578), the District Director of Sunday Schools (588), the District Director of Leadership Training (590), the District Director of Children’s Ministries (594), the District Director of Wesleyan Youth (595; 1296:1a), the District Director of Young Adults International (596; 1359:1), the District Director of Wesleyan Men (1225:2), the District Coordinator of Wesleyan Women (1252:2), and such Members-at-Large as the District Board of Administration shall elect.

573. Organisation. The District Board of Administration shall elect a Chair of the District Board of Christian Education. The Board shall otherwise organise itself, elect its own Officers, and may elect an Executive Committee for ad interim business (cf. 571).

574. Sessions. The District Board of Christian Education shall meet soon after the close of the District Conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as it shall determine, provided that not less than two sessions shall be held each year. Special sessions may be called by the Chair as deemed necessary.

575. Amenability. The District Board of Christian Education shall be an advisory and coordinating body, and shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration. All plans of the Board shall be approved by the District Board of Administration (486:20), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the District Superintendent (511:8), before their implementation.

576. Duties. The duties and powers of the District Board of Christian Education are:

(1) To develop, supervise, and co-ordinate the work of Christian education within the District; to review and co-ordinate plans of each Director and Agency, including the District Director of Christian Education, the District Sunday School Committee, the District Sunday School Director, the District Director of Leadership Training, the District Wesleyan Youth Director, the District Director of Children’s Ministries, the District Director of Young Adults International, and others that may be appointed for Christian education activities in the District, which shall subsequently be submitted to the District Board of Administration for approval (cf. 575).

(2) To receive reports from the various District Directors and Secretaries of the Board and to advise them concerning their work, assisting each District Agency to maintain an effective program for its particular phase of Christian education.

(3) To advise and assist the District Directors and Secretaries in implementing the plans and programs of the various Departments which they represent within the District.

(4) To be responsible for the planning and supervision of the summer camps for children and youth; to submit detailed plans for such camps to the District Board of Administration for their approval; and to carry out the approved plans.

(5) To promote the interests of the Educational Institutions of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, particularly the Educational Institutions in the area of which the District is a part, and to see that they are represented in the various youth camps and conventions as deemed appropriate.

(6) To present recommendations to the District Board of Administration and to the District Conference for the growth of the work through the various ministries of Christian education, and for the financial plans and other interests of the work under their care.

(7) To nominate a District Director of Christian Education as set forth in 578; to define the duties in addition to what is set forth in The Handbook and to supervise activities.

(8) To nominate to the District Board of Administration the Members-at-Large for the District Sunday School Committee (582; cf. 486:18).

(9) To perform such other duties related to Christian education as are assigned by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration.

B. District Director of Christian Education

578. The District Conference may employ or may authorise the District Board of Administration to employ a Director of Christian Education (473:37) who shall in the latter case be nominated by the District Board of Christian Education (486:23; 576:7). The term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a District Departmental Officer are set forth in 499-504, except that when they are employed by the District Board of Administration that Board shall have authority to determine their term of office.

579. The duties of a District Director of Christian Education shall be (cf. 578):

(1) To report their election promptly to the National Director of Christian Education, the National Director of Youth, and the National Director of Ministerial Development, and to co-operate with them in implementing and promoting the policies and programs of the National Boards within the District.

(2) To serve as the Executive Secretary of the District Board of Christian Education, if so appointed by the District Board of Administration (cf. 571-572), helping to co-ordinate the total program of Christian education within the District, and serving as a resource person in advising and assisting the various educational leaders of their particular phase of the work.

(3) To assume, as assigned by the District Conference (473:37), the duties of the District Director of Leadership Training, the District Sunday School Director, the District CYC Director, the District Director of Young Adults International, and the promotional duties of the District Wesleyan Youth Director.

(4) To visit the churches of the District in such order and manner as the District Superintendent shall approve, assisting Pastors, Sunday School Superintendents, CYC Directors, Wesleyan Youth Directors, and other educational leaders.
A District Director of Sunday Schools may be elected by the District Conference (473:38; cf. 471:2), or the duties shall be assigned to the District Director of Christian Education (473:37; 579:3). The District Director of Sunday Schools shall be Chair of the District Sunday School Committee. The term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a District Departmental Officer are set forth in 499-504. The duties are:

1. To report promptly to the National Director of Christian Education and to co-operate with the National Director in implementing and promoting the plans and policies of the National Board of Christian Education within the District.

2. To serve as Chair of the District Sunday School Committee, providing leadership to the Committee for the Sunday School work of the District; to present all plans and recommendations of the Committee to the District Board of Christian Education for review and co-ordination, and subsequently to the District Board of Administration for approval (cf. 575).

3. To co-operate with and assist the Pastors and Local Sunday School Superintendents in the organisation and advancement of their Sunday Schools according to the approved standard and in reaching the goals set by the National Church and the District Conference.

4. To keep a file of correspondence and other records and to submit it to their successor.

5. To submit an annual report to the District Conference (473:13) concerning official activities, the work of the District Sunday School Committee, and a complete statistical report for the Sunday Schools; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

6. To increase qualifications and capacity for Sunday School work by attending denominational and other approved Sunday School conventions, conferences, and seminars, and through correspondence subjects, and periodicals as time permits and opportunity affords.

7. To conduct any special Sunday School services or programs, or to arrange for promotional displays at the District Conference, camp meeting, and other District gatherings.

8. To perform other duties in harmony with its responsibility as may be assigned by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration, or the District Board of Christian Education.

C. District Sunday School Committee

581. Function. The District Sunday School Committee is responsible for those phases of Christian education within the bounds of the District as assigned to the National Board of Christian Education in 800, with particular emphasis on the Sunday School work and leadership training.

582. Membership. Each District may have a District Sunday School Committee which shall be composed of the District Sunday School Director as Chair (588), the District Director of Leadership Training if any (590), and from one to three additional Members-at-Large as decided upon and elected by the District Board of Administration (478:2; cf. 486:18; 576:8). Whenever the duties of either the District Director of Leadership Training or the District Sunday School Director are assigned to the District Director of Christian Education (579:3), the District Director of Christian Education shall be an ex-officio Member of the Sunday School Committee. General regulations for the Members of the Sunday School Committee are set forth in 499-504.

583. Organisation. The District Sunday School Director shall be the Chair, and the Committee shall elect a recording Secretary who shall record the proceedings of Committee meetings (cf. 517:7) and keep a permanent file of records and reports. The Committee may also elect a Vice-Chair and a Treasurer, if deemed necessary.

584. Amenability. The District Sunday School Committee shall be amenable to the District Board of Christian Education and through that Board to the District Board of Administration, in all matters of District organisation and program. All Committee plans shall be submitted to the District Board of Christian Education for review and co-ordination, and subsequently to the District Board of Administration for approval (cf. 575). In matters pertaining to Sunday School organisation, philosophy, curriculum, and objectives the Committee shall carry out their work in accord with The Handbook and the directives of the National Board of Christian Education.

585. Duties. The duties of the Sunday School Committee are:

1. To promote and encourage the Sunday School work of the District, seeking to carry out the objectives of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for Christian education as set forth in 800:1-7 (cf. 581).

2. To plan for Sunday School and leadership training rallies, conventions, institutes or workshops on a District, Zone, or Local level; to arrange for special services or promotional displays at Zone or District meetings; submitting all such plans to the District Board of Christian Education for review and co-ordination, and subsequently to the District Board of Administration for approval (cf. 575).

3. To assist Pastors and Local Sunday School Officers in the organisation of leadership training classes and programs.

4. To make recommendations to the District Board of Christian Education for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of Sunday School work (cf. 581).

5. To see that a Sunday School has been organised in each church, and to assist each Sunday School to meet the approved standard of achievement.

6. To submit recommendations for Sunday School work, including the financial plans for Sunday School promotion, to the District Board of Christian Education for review and co-ordination, and subsequently to the District Board of Administration for approval (cf. 575).

7. To submit an annual report of activities to the District Conference (473:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the District for Christian education, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the National Directors of Christian Education, Youth, and Ministerial Development; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

8. To perform other duties in the interests of Christian education as may be assigned by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration, or the District Board of Christian Education.
(8) To give leadership to the District program of family ministries and the co-ordination of Local Church family ministries in co-operation with the program of the National Board of Christian Education.

(9) To perform such other duties in harmony with responsibilities as may be assigned by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration, or the District Board of Christian Education (cf. 590).

E. District Director of Leadership Training

590. A District Conference may elect a District Director of Leadership Training (473:38; cf. 471:2), or the District Conference may assign duties to the District Director of Christian Education (473:37; 579:3). If the District does not have a District Director of Christian Education and also chooses not to have a District Director of Leadership Training, the duties of the District Director of Leadership Training shall be assigned by the District Conference to the District Sunday School Director (588:9). The District Director of Leadership Training shall be a Member of the District Sunday School Committee (582). The term of office, amenability, and other regulations as a District Departmental Officer are set forth in 499-504. The duties are:

(1) To be responsible for the District program of leadership training under the District Board of Christian Education; to report at once after their election to the National Director of Christian Education and co-operate with the National Director in the implementation and promotion of leadership training within the District.

(2) To be certified as a Director of Leadership Training.

(3) To formulate plans with the District Sunday School Committee for leadership training rallies, institutes, conventions, or seminars on a District, Zone, or Local Church level; and to submit such plans to the District Board of Christian Education for review and co-ordination (576:1) and subsequently to the District Board of Administration for approval (cf. 575).

(4) To assist Pastors and Local Church Directors of Christian Education in conducting classes or setting up effective programs of leadership training in the Local Church.

(5) To keep a permanent record of correspondence and other plans and to submit them to their successor.

(6) To conduct any special services or to arrange for promotional displays on leadership training at the District Conference, camp meeting, and other District gatherings.

(7) To submit an annual report to the District Conference (473:13) regarding official activities and the progress of leadership training within the District, including a statistical report; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(8) To perform such duties in harmony with responsibilities as may be assigned by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration, or the District Board of Christian Education.

F. District Director of Children’s Ministries

594. There may be a District Director of Children’s Ministries elected by the District Conference (473:38; cf. 471:2), or duties shall be assigned to the District Director of Christian Education (473:37; 579:3). The District Director of Children’s Ministries shall be an ex-officio Member of the District Board of Christian Education (572) and a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:8). The term of service, amenability, and other regulations as a District Departmental Officer are set forth in 499-504. The duties are:

(1) To report their election promptly to the National Director of Christian Education, and to co-operate with the National Director in developing and promoting various midweek ministries for children within the District.

(2) To serve as a Member of the District Board of Christian Education, if so appointed by the District Board of Administration (cf. 571-572); and to work with the Board for a co-ordinated program of all the various phases of Christian education throughout the District (cf. 575; 576:1).

(3) To work with Pastors, Local Directors of Christian Education, Local Director of CYC, and Local Directors or leaders of other Children’s Ministries approved by the Local Board of Administration, in developing a vigorous outreach to children.

(4) To promote children’s camping, at Local and District level, and assist the District Director of Christian Education, in the organisation of District camps (579:5).

(5) To promote the use of Vacation Bible Schools by Local Churches and recommend materials and resources.

(6) To submit an annual report to the District Conference (473:13) regarding official activities and the progress of Children’s Ministries in the District, including a statistical report; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 503).

(7) To perform such other duties related to Children’s Ministries as may be assigned by the District Conference, the District Board of Administration, or the District Board of Christian Education.

G. District Director of Wesleyan Youth

595. There may be a District Director of Wesleyan Youth who shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference unless they are a voting Member by some other right (440:8; 1296:1a; 1298:2k). The District Director of Wesleyan Youth shall co-ordinate all plans for Wesleyan Youth with the District Board of Christian Education and submit them to the District Board of Administration for approval. In the interim of District Board of Administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the District Superintendent. The District Director of Wesleyan Youth shall endeavour to guide the District activities of WESLEYAN YOUTH in accord with the purpose and mission of Wesleyan Youth (1272), and in a co-ordinated effort to forward the District program of Christian education.

H. District Director of Young Adults International

596. The Young Adults International District Director is elected by the annual Young Adults International District Convention as set forth in 1359:4 and is a nonvoting Member of the District Conference unless they are a voting Member by some other right (440:8). The Young Adults International constitutions are set forth in paragraphs 1331 to 1380.
PART IV – NATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Chapter I

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A. Function

601. The National Conference is the Chief Governing Body of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, exercising such powers as are delegated to it in the Constitution (165)

B. Membership

Plan of Representation

602. The National Conference shall be composed of voting and nonvoting Members as follows:

Voting Members

(1) The voting Members shall consist of an equal number of Ministers and laypersons of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (165):
   a) The National Officials of the Church as defined in 710, the National Departmental Officers of the Church as defined in 770:1, the National Superintendents Emeriti, Members of the National Board of Administration who are not voting by some other right, the Principal of each Denominational College, and such Delegates-at-Large as shall be necessary to maintain parity between Ministers and laypersons (605-606).
   b) The District Superintendent of each District and a Lay Delegate elected on their behalf at the same time and in the same manner as other Delegates (608-616).
   c) One ministerial and one Lay Delegate elected by each District for every fifty Covenant Members or major part thereof. The District Superintendent and the Lay Delegate elected on their behalf (602:1a) shall be the representatives for the first fifty Members.
   d) The voting Delegates for any District shall not exceed the number representing 750 Covenant Members. Such Delegates shall be additional to any ex-officio voting Delegates from that District.

Nonvoting Members

(2) The following when they are not voting Members by some other right shall be seated as nonvoting Members when present at the National Conference session: former National Superintendents, the National Director of Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Youth, and the National Sunday School Secretary.

Forfeiture of Representation

603. A District which has been placed under discipline as provided for in the Judicial Policies, shall forfeit all rights to any representation in the National Conference (163:9). The Delegates, including the District Superintendent and any Delegate-at-Large from that District, shall not be recognized or seated until the District they represent is officially reinstated.

Election of Delegates

605. The election of Delegates-at-Large shall be arranged for by the National Secretary and approved by the National Board of Administration in accordance with the following regulations:

   (1) The parity of equal ministerial and lay membership in the National Conference shall be maintained.
   (2) Districts shall be considered in order of size with Delegates-at-Large being allocated to fairly represent the Districts.

606. The National Board of Administration shall act upon the recommendation of the National Secretary in one of its sessions consistent with the provisions of paragraph 608. The Delegates-at-Large shall be elected by the appointed Districts at the same time and in the same manner as the other National Conference Delegates (608-616).

Delegates

608. The Delegates to the National Conference shall be elected by the District Conference, by ballot and by majority vote, at its last annual session preceding the National Conference. When the last annual session is within sixty days of the opening date of the National Conference, the District Conference may elect its Delegates at the previous annual session. The statistical report for the annual session of the District Conference at which the Delegates are elected shall be used for determining the number of Covenant Members, and consequently, the number of National Conference Delegates (602:1b). A certified list of all Delegates to the National Conference shall be promptly forwarded by the District Secretary to the National Secretary.

609. A person accepting election as a Delegate obligates himself to attend faithfully the entire National Conference session, unless hindered by unforeseen and justifiable circumstances.

Alternate Delegates

610. Each District Conference shall also at the same session elect by ballot and by majority vote a sufficient number of alternate ministerial and Lay Delegates, not to exceed the number of Delegates. Such alternates shall meet the same qualifications as the Delegates (613-616) and shall fill vacancies in the order of their election.

611. Whenever the District Superintendent, who is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1b), is unable to attend, their place shall be filled by the Assistant District Superintendent. If the Assistant District Superintendent is an elected Delegate to the National Conference, their place shall then be filled like any other vacancy by an alternate Ministerial Delegate.

Qualifications of Delegates

613. A ministerial delegate must be an Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed Minister who is a Member of the District they represent, both at the time of election and at the time of the National Conference.
C. Sessions

Regular Sessions

620. The National Conference shall meet every four years, at a place and time of its own choosing or it may delegate either or both to the National Board of Administration. The National Secretary shall notify in writing all ministerial voting Members, pastoral charges, and non-voting Members of the time and place not less than sixty days before the scheduled opening. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans adopted by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration shall have the power to make necessary changes.

621. Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans of the National Conference for the time of the next regular session, the National Board of Administration may, by a two-thirds vote, declare that such an emergency exists and authorise the necessary changes (cf. 691:6).

Special Sessions

623. A special session of the National Conference shall be called by the National Superintendent (743:6) whenever authorised to do so by a two-thirds vote of the National Board of Administration (691:6), or when requested to do so by two-thirds of the District Conferences (473:6). The time and place for the special session shall be decided by the National Board of Administration (691:5-6), or, in the interim of its sessions, by the Executive Committee. The time shall always be later than the next session of each District Conference.

625. Any duly called special session of the National Conference shall have full authority to transact any item of business which may be transacted at a regular session.

D. Organisation and Procedure

Officers

627. The Chair. The National Board of Administration shall appoint a Chair to preside over the National Conference. Whenever the National Superintendent is not the appointed Chair, the Superintendent shall be entitled to be seated beside the Chair.

628. The Secretary. The National Secretary shall be the Secretary of National Conference (755:1), ex-officio. The National Secretary shall accurately record the proceedings, preserve them in permanent form, and perform any other such duties as shall be required by the National Conference (cf. 751).

Procedure

629. Delegates. Once a Delegate has been seated at the National Conference, an alternate Delegate cannot thereafter be seated in their place (cf. 609).

630. Quorum. A majority of all the Delegates elected at the Districts shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number shall have the authority to adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

631. Voting. The ministerial and Lay Delegates shall deliberate in the sessions of the National Conference as one body. However, upon the final vote on any question, except proposed amendments to the Constitution (101-185) on a call of one-fourth of the Members, the house shall divide so that ministerial and Lay Delegates shall vote separately. It shall require a majority vote of each branch to pass any question upon which the division has been called.

632. Rules of Order. National Conference business shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except when formally suspended by the National Conference or when other procedures are required by The Handbook.

633. Appeals on Questions of Order. The Chair shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the National Conference. In case of such an appeal, the vote shall be taken without debate, except that the Chair may state the grounds of their decision, and the appellant may state the grounds of their appeal.

634. Suspension of Rules. The National Conference may suspend for a particular session any statutory law (81) set forth in The Handbook governing the procedures of the National Conference by a two-thirds majority vote

Handbook Changes

636. Resolutions to the National Conference, including proposed changes in The Handbook other than the Constitution (Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found.), may be submitted by a District Conference, a District Board of Administration, the National Board of Administration, a National Conference Committee, the Governing Board of an Educational or Benevolent Institution, the Governing Board of a Subsidiary Corporation, the National Executive Committee of an Auxiliary organization, or any 5 Members of the National Conference.

637. No change to the Handbook shall be effected except through the process of resolution or memorial to a duly called session of the National Conference, following the process as outlined in paragraphs 80-82. The National Board of Administration is not to effect Handbook changes by its own authority.

Committees

640. The National Conference shall have such Committees as it may deem necessary. The Committee shall be nominated by the National Board of Administration unless required otherwise by The Handbook. (770)

Committee on Memorials

641. The National Board of Administration shall serve as the Committee on Memorials. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Memorials to receive all memorials for the National Conference, classify them, pass on each of them, and submit such memorials to the National Conference, together with the Committee’s recommendation, and in such order as the Committee shall determine. All memorials shall be submitted to the National Secretary no later than 14 days prior to the National Board of Administration meeting as the
Committee on Memorials prior to the National Conference and shall be classified and printed for distribution to the National Conference

Delegates no later than twenty one days before the opening date of the National Conference.

National Communications Committee

643. The objective of the National communications program of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be to facilitate the spread and advancement of scriptural holiness in a world becoming increasingly literate, by providing doctrinally sound and spiritually effective periodicals, curriculum materials, books, tracts, and other similar materials and promoting their distribution and use. All publications of the Church shall be in harmony with its Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles.

(1) The National Communications Committee is responsible for the literary content and form of The Australian Wesleyan and all other National Church publications assigned to it by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration. The Committee shall also serve as a Book and Tract Committee. It is under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration and the supervision of the National Superintendent. It shall be administered by the National Editor in accordance with the bylaws provided by the National Board of Administration.

(2) The National Communications Committee shall consist of the National Superintendent as Chair, the National Editor, and three other Members elected by the National Board of Administration.

Auditing Committee

644. The National Board of Administration shall appoint an auditor annually, or if desired, may appoint an Auditing Committee consisting of five Members, one of whom is designated Chair. Duties shall be:

(1) To audit annually, after the close of each financial year, the records and funds of the National Treasurer and all other Treasurers and books in National Departments, Agencies, and Auxiliaries.

(2) To submit a written report to the National Conference concerning the results of the audits for the previous years. A financial report may not be accepted in Conference until it is certified as correct by the Auditor or Auditing Committee.

(3) To perform other such duties as may be required by the National Board of Administration or the National Conference.

National Conference Planning Committee

645. The National Secretary, National Treasurer, and four other persons elected by the National Board of Administration at least one year before the convening of a regular session of the National Conference, shall constitute a National Conference Planning Committee.

646. The National Conference Planning Committee shall be responsible to arrange all necessary matters for the National Conference such as the lodging, meals, exhibits, space allotments, and whatever else may be necessary for the convenience and efficiency of the National Conference. They shall have the authority to carry out this responsibility and to enter into any necessary contracts, subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Board.

647. The National Conference Planning Committee, together with the National Superintendent, shall formulate a program for the National Conference, including any worship services, and other special features, all of which shall be subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration or, in the interim of its sessions, the Executive Board.

Nominating Committee

648. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, and one lay and one ministerial Member from each District, who shall serve only one term successively, appointed by the National Board of Administration. Their duties shall be:

(1) To present to the National Conference two or more nominations for each National Official to be elected. They shall not bring nominations for the National Superintendent or the Assistant National Superintendent. (650:16)

(2) To present nominations for Members of National Committees, Boards, and Agencies.

(3) To present such other nominations or fulfill such duties as may be assigned to them by the National Board of Administration or National Conference.

National Conference Journal Committee

649. The Journal Committee shall consist of a Chair elected by the Conference, the National Secretary, and two other Members elected by the Conference. Their duties shall be:

(1) To arrange the Journal as far as possible according to the table of contents and general format approved by the National Board of Administration.

(2) To include the minutes of proceedings and all reports given in Conference.

(3) To include a directory for the National Conference, including Officers both National and District.

(4) To approve final format as a Committee or have it approved by the National Superintendent.

(5) To print and distribute the Journal, including sending copies to the Regional Church.

E. Duties and Powers

650. The duties and powers, and restrictions of the National Conference are:

Related to Constitution and Handbook

(1) To approve an amendment to the Constitution as described in 80, by a two-thirds majority vote of the National Conference.

(2) To adopt changes in keeping with the Constitution, in the Statutory Law of The Handbook by a majority vote.

Related to Regional Conference and International Conference

(3) To elect Delegates to the Regional Conference as assigned by the Regional Constitution (178), or to assign the appointment of Delegates to the National Board of Administration. Ministerial Delegates shall be elected from among the Ordained Ministers of the Districts, and Lay Delegates shall be Covenant Members of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) To submit resolutions to the South Pacific Regional Conference, the North American General Conference or the International Conference if approved by majority vote of National Conference (637).
Related to National Administration

(6) To receive written reports concerning their official duties from the following National Officers: The National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, the National Treasurer, the National Secretary, the Directors of National Auxiliaries, the Directors of all National Boards, Chief Officers of Affiliates, and other persons as may be required.

(7) To receive from the National Secretary a report of all the official actions of the National Board of Administration.

(8) To consider the numerical and financial progress of the Church by receiving a complete statistical report prepared and submitted by the National Secretary.

(9) To receive a report and approve financial plans proposed by the National Board of Administration which will provide for the work of the National Church in its various ministries.

(10) To adopt plans and legislation for the advancement of the Church in all phases of its ministry.

(11) To establish Agencies and Affiliations to administer and promote the work of the Church in various Institutions and ministries.

Related to Districts

(12) To receive written reports from the District Superintendent of each established, Provisional and Pioneer District, highlighting major advancements and concerns (511:26).

(13) To organise the work into Districts and to determine their boundaries.

(14) To determine the dates for the financial year for the Districts which shall be binding on all Churches, Boards, Committees, and Organisations within the church for the keeping of records and reports, and to delegate this duty to the National Board of Administration if it so desires.

(15) To authorise the establishment of Pioneer, Provisional and Established Districts, and to reclassify Districts according to their meeting of requirements.

Related to Elections

(16) To elect by ballot and majority vote from among the Ordained Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, the National Superintendent and the Assistant National Superintendent.

(17) To elect by ballot and majority vote, the Members-at-Large of the National Board of Administration.

(18) To receive nominations and elect other Officials, Board Members, and Committee Members as required by The Handbook or as the Conference deems necessary (470).

Related to Judiciary

(19) To exercise authority in matters of judicial discipline as set forth in the Judicial Policies.
Chapter II

NATIONAL BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Function

676. The National Board of Administration carries out the will of the National Conference, promotes the interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and serves as its Chief Governing Body in the interim of National Conference sessions (172).

B. Membership.

678. The National Board of Administration is composed of the National Superintendent as Chair, Assistant National Superintendent (746), National Secretary, National Treasurer and all District Superintendents as ex-officio Members, plus Members-at-Large to a total of twelve Members. Ministerial Members shall be Ordained or Commissioned Ministers. Due regard shall be given to the balance of ministerial and lay members (174:5b) All Members of the National Board of Administration shall agree to live in accord with the Leadership Covenant (see 1195).

C. Sessions

680. Organising Session. The National Board of Administration shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the National Conference for an organising session. It shall act:
   (1) To organise by electing Officers and Committees as required by The Handbook, the National Conference and the National Board of Administration.
   (2) To care for any business assigned to it by the National Conference which requires immediate attention.
   (3) To elect the additional Members of the Executive.
   (4) To care for any other necessary business.

681. Regular Session. The National Board of Administration shall meet annually or biannually at a time and place it shall designate or as fixed in its bylaws. The Executive Committee may change the time and place by a two-thirds vote if circumstances so require (701:1). Notice for all the sessions shall be sent by the National Secretary in writing to all Members at least two weeks in advance (cf. 755:3).

682. Special Session. A special session may be ordered by the National Board of Administration, the Executive Committee (701:1) or the National Superintendent (743:6). All Members shall be notified at least two weeks before convening the special session, and the agenda will be stated (cf. 755:3).

D. Organisation and Procedure

684. Chair. The National Superintendent shall preside as Chair over the National Board of Administration. The Assistant National Superintendent shall preside in the absence of the National Superintendent, or when requested to do so by the National Superintendent. If neither is present, the Board shall elect from among its Members a Chair pro tem.

685. Secretary. The National Secretary is the Secretary of the National Board of Administration by virtue of their office.

686. Quorum. A majority of all Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

687. Voting. A majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Handbook or by legal or corporate requirements.

E. Duties and Powers

691. The duties and powers of the National Board of Administration are:

   General Duties

   (1) To serve as the Chief Governing Body of the Church in the interim of National Conference sessions, caring for all the interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the bounds of the National Church in accord with The Handbook.
   (2) To promote the interests of the National Departments and Educational Institutions of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in the manner and to the extent authorised by the National Conference and the National Board of Administration, to encourage their support, and to receive their representatives.
   (3) To be responsible within the National Church for promotion of World Missions and National Evangelism and Church Growth (551).

   Related to National Conference

   (4) To carry out the plans and objectives of the National Conference.
   (5) To fix the date of the National Conference, having regard to paragraph 620.
   (6) To call for a reconvened session of the National Conference by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of the National Board of Administration
   (7) To allot to each District the number of Lay Delegates it shall elect to the National Conference (605-606).
   (8) To submit resolutions to the National Conference that will provide for a more efficient administration, better correlation, and advancement of the District work, and to submit proposed memorials to the National Conference (636; cf. 473:3).

   Related To the National Board of Administration

   (9) To fill for the unexpired term vacancies occurring among the National Officials (711-716) or Members of the National Board of Administration (678) by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the National Board of Administration present and voting or by a majority of all the Members of the National Board of Administration, whichever is greater, in such a manner as to fulfil all the requirements for such offices and positions.
(10) To elect by majority vote, from among its lay members, one layperson to be a Member of the Executive Committee (694).
(11) To refer such matters to the Executive Committee as shall be deemed wise; to review such actions of the Executive Committee as are not final; and to receive and act upon its recommendations.

Related To Corporations

(12) To elect a Board of Directors of The Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust Ltd. as per Handbook paragraph 1412:6.
(13) To incorporate when so authorised by a National Conference, as provided for 1411-1423; to serve as the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds majority vote of such Corporation; and to have power on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the Corporation, and to exercise its corporate powers in accord with the provisions of The Handbook.
(14) To carry out the instructions of the National Conference relative to the incorporation of any Agency, Institution, Board, Organisation, or other similar body (650b) or, in the interim of National Conference sessions, to authorise the establishment of such a Corporation by a two-thirds majority vote and to care for such Corporation matters as the approval and amendment of articles and bylaws, all in keeping with the provisions of The Handbook (cf.1431-1433).
(15) To have authority to negotiate and arbitrate legal and temporal matters in cases of dispute involving the National Church without resort to the courts when the National Board of Administration, by a two-thirds vote, deems such procedure necessary; provided, however, that the emergency authority hereby granted shall not be construed to modify or rescind any of the provisions of The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church with reference to the prescribed conveyance of church property; and further provided, that this authority to negotiate and arbitrate shall not be a limit on the power or authority to resort to litigation in the courts when such procedure is deemed advisable.

Related to National Church

(16) To have the general oversight of all National Officials, National Department Officers, Boards, Committees, Employees, Auxiliary Organisations of the National Church; to approve their plans and to co-ordinate their work; and to see that the work is administered according to The Handbook and the directives of the National Conference (cf. 770; 774; 805; 825; 1202).
(17) To provide for the preservation and security of all National and District records and archives, directing the District Superintendent (511:11; 1511), the District Secretary (517:6-7), the Secretary of the District Board of Ministerial Development (535), and any others, concerning the care of the records placed in their custody.
(18) To adopt an annual budget of income and expenditure for the National Church if so assigned by the Conference; to promote the raising of funds in keeping with the plans of the Conference; to direct the Treasurer in the handling and disbursement of such funds (761:13); and to have the Treasurer bonded and to set the amount of such bond, the cost of which shall be paid by the National Church (761:5).
(19) To employ an auditor when so authorised by the National Conference and to assign their duties; to direct an audit of the records and funds in the custody of the National Treasurer (761) the National Treasurers of the Auxiliary Organisations, (1205) and District Treasurers, whenever such is deemed necessary (519:7).

Related to National Officers and Boards

(20) To have general oversight of all National Officers, Boards, Committees, employees, and Agencies; to approve their plans and to co-ordinate their work; and to see that their work is carried out according to The Handbook and the directives of the National Conference. To receive annual reports from each official Board and Committee.
(21) To elect such Departmental Officers and Members of the National Boards or Committees as required by The Handbook or delegated to it by the National Conference.
(22) To appoint a National Treasurer for a two year term, and set terms of employment (759).
(23) To appoint or employ full or part-time National employees and administrative Officers within the limits of the budget.
(24) To approve the time, place, and speaker for the National Wesleyan Youth Convention and/or Camp; to approve the nominations for National Directors and ratify the election of other National Officers.
(25) To remove for cause or whenever the best interests of the National Church so require:
   a) Any of its Members, with the exception of the National Superintendent, by a two-thirds majority vote of all the Members, and to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term.
   b) Any Departmental official Member of the Board, Committee or other Agency of the National Church.

Related to Districts

(26) To recommend to the National Conference the establishment or alteration of District boundaries, and in the interim of the National Conference sessions, to approve the merger, division, or other realignment of Districts when each District Conference involved has approved the plan.
(27) To authorise the organisation of Pioneer, Provisional or Established District (403, 410, 420) and in the interim of National Conference to reclassify a District when it falls below the minimum requirement (418,424).
(28) To request, as it deems necessary, the reconvening of a District Conference or a special session of a District Board of Administration; and to assist a District Board of Administration when it shall request such assistance through the National Superintendent; to approve the reconvening of a District Conference when requested by the District Board of Administration (448).
(29) To authorise the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposal of real property within a Pioneer District in accordance with the provisions of The Handbook.
(30) To approve the official actions of a Provisional District in matters of the purchase sale encumbrance transfer or other disposal of real estate, and to give special directions as deemed necessary (1521).
(31) To authorise the incorporation of a Provisional District when so recommended by the National Superintendent.
(32) To approve election to ordination when so recommended by the National Superintendent on behalf of a Pioneer District (405).
(33) To present, at its discretion two or more nominations for the District Superintendent of a Provisional District (4161:1, 743:14).
(34) To approve the time for each District Conference, in co-operation with the respective Boards of Administration (447; 486:5).
(35) To remove a District Superintendent, by two-thirds majority vote of all its Members, whenever it deems it necessary for the best interests of the church and the preservation of the District (509).
Related to Judiciary

(36) To request a ruling on a point of church law or an interpretation of The Handbook, from the National Board of Review (1651:3).
(37) To take charge of judicial proceedings, the ordering of investigation (1608) or trial, for an Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, Lay Minister, or other worker under the jurisdiction of a District (1570), in accord with the provisions of the Judicial Policies.
(38) To represent a District, in the interim of District Conference sessions, in judicial proceedings over matters of controversy between the District and other Local, District, or National Units or Agencies (163:10) when requested by a District Board or a District Superintendent.

F. The Executive Committee

Function

693. The Executive Committee carries out the will of the National Board of Administration, serving as necessary in the interim of National Board of Administration sessions.

Membership

694. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the National Superintendent, Assistant National Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer, and one other Member giving due regard to lay/ministerial balance (691:10).

Sessions

695. The Executive Committee shall meet at a time and place as set by the Chair.

Organisation

696. Chair. The National Superintendent shall preside as Chair over the Executive Committee. The Assistant National Superintendent shall preside in the absence of the National Superintendent, or when requested to do so by the National Superintendent. If neither is present, the Committee shall elect from among its Members a Chair pro tem.

697. Secretary. The National Secretary is the Secretary of the Executive Committee by virtue of their office.

698. Quorum. A majority of all Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

699. Voting. A majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient except for those matters for which a larger majority is required by The Handbook or by legal or corporate requirements.

Duties, Powers, and Restrictions

701. In the interim of National Board of Administration sessions, the Executive Committee shall exercise such powers and have such duties as may be assigned to it by The Handbook including the power:
(1) To transact all business referred to it by the National Board of Administration (691:18); to change the time and place of meeting of the National Board; and to order a special session of the National Board of Administration if deemed necessary (682).
(2) To transact any and all other business the National Board of Administration may transact except that the Executive Committee shall not make recommendations directly to the National Conference, nor take final action on the adoption of the National budgets (691:18), nor transact any business which requires more than a simple majority vote of the National Board of Administration.

702. Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings shall be forwarded promptly to all Members of the National Board of Administration for their information and review.

G. Commissions

703. The National Board of Administration may provide for commissions, each of which shall serve as an advisory body to the National Board of Administration. All matters related to the membership, organisation and procedure of the commissions shall be determined by the National Board of Administration.

H. Finance Committee

Function. To serve as a research and advisory Committee to the Treasurer, in budget planning, financial control and investment.

Members. The Members are elected by the National Board of Administration from its own Members with the National Treasurer ex-officio and Chair. It may co-opt others from time to time as nonvoting advisory Members.

708. Duties. The duties shall be determined by the National Board of Administration.
Chapter III

NATIONAL OFFICERS

A. National Officers

710. The following are the National Officers:
(1) National Superintendent (726-743)
(2) Assistant National Superintendent (745-746)
(3) National Secretary (751-755)
(4) National Treasurer (757-761)

711. Identification. The National Officers include the National Superintendent, the Assistant National Superintendent, the National Secretary and the National Treasurer. They are elected by the National Conference, by ballot and by majority vote, with the exception of the National Treasurer who is appointed by the National Board of Administration (759). The National Officers are ex-officio Members of the National Board of Administration.

712. Qualifications. A National Official must be at the time of election, and throughout the term of service, a Covenant Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church.

713. Term of Office. The National Superintendent, Assistant National Superintendent and National Secretary shall assume office at the close of the National Conference session at which they were elected and shall serve until the close of the National Conference marking the end of their term or until their successors are elected and qualified.

714. Amenability. A National Official shall administer their office according to The Handbook and as directed by the National Conference, and the National Board of Administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church so require, upon a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of the National Board of Administration. The amenability of the National Superintendent is set forth in 729.

715. Reports. A National Official shall report to each session of National Conference, concerning official duties, and to the National Board of Administration, as required.

716. Vacancies. The office of a National Official may become vacant by death, by cessation of membership in a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, by resignation or by removal. In all cases other than that of the National Superintendent (7465), the filling of the National vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of all Members of the National Board of Administration.

B. National Superintendent

Function

726. The National Superintendent is to be considered as the general spiritual and administrative leader of the Church.

General Regulations

727. A National Superintendent is elected from among the Ordained Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church by the National Conference as a National Official of the Church (165) and is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1), the National Board of Administration (678), and the Executive Committee (694).

729. The term of office, amenability, and other regulations for a National Superintendent are:
(1) Term of Office. The National Superintendent shall be elected by National Conference and shall serve from the close of that session until the close of the next regular session of National Conference.
(2) Amenability. The National Superintendent is amenable to the National Board of Administration for their official conduct and to their District for their moral character.
(3) Vacancy. Whenever the office of the National Superintendent is vacated other than at National Conference, the National Board of Administration shall appoint an Acting Superintendent to serve until the next session of the National Conference.

General Duties

743. The general duties of the National Superintendent include responsibility for supervising, co-ordinating, and promoting the various branches of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Australia. The duties shall be:
(1) To present all recommendations concerning the work under the Superintendent's care to the National Board of Administration;
(2) To promote a concern for soul winning, evangelistic outreach and church extension in all of its phases;
(3) To carry on a spiritual and inspirational ministry both verbal and written, teaching the doctrines and furthering the spiritual purposes of the Church as the need demands and the opportunity affords;
(4) To exercise general administrative supervision over The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia in harmony with The Handbook and to see that the plans and the policies of the church are carried out.

Related to Administration

(5) To supervise the work of all Departmental Officers (770:1) and Denominational College Principals (933), meeting regularly with each Officer to review the goals, strategies and progress of their ministry; providing such recommendations as is deemed useful; and reporting all such recommendations to the next regular meeting of the National Board of Administration.
(6) To serve as Chair of the National Conference when so appointed by the National Board of Administration, Chair of the National Board of Administration and Chair of the Executive Committee, to serve as Chair of District Conferences (450), and to submit recommendations to the National Board of Administration that will provide for a more efficient administration, correlation, and advancement of the National work; to order a special session of the National Board of Administration (682).
(7) To be the Chair of all National Conference Committees or to appoint another to serve in their place subject to ratification by the National Board of Administration and to be the Chair of other National Committees as appointed by the National Conference or National Board of Administration;
(8) To travel throughout the administrative area to which they are assigned, giving such spiritual leadership and inspirational ministry as the need demands and the opportunity affords, and to promote the Educational Institutions of the church;
(9) To meet with any Governing Body, District Board of Administration, Committee, or other official body at their discretion and make such recommendations as they deem necessary to uphold The Handbook, and carry out the directives of the National Conference, the National Board of Administration, or its Executive Committee;
(10) To report to each session of the National Conference and to each session of the National Board of Administration concerning official duties and personal ministry, and at other times as required by the Board;
(11) To promote the witness and outreach of The Wesleyan Methodist Church through the various media of mass communication, special evangelistic crusades, urban or rural evangelisation, and other evangelistic efforts as authorised by the National Board of Administration;
(12) To employ such personnel as are necessary for the carrying out of their duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget and personnel policies adopted by the National Board of Administration;

Related to Districts

(13) To exercise general supervision, within their assigned area, over each Established, Provisional and Pioneer District including the work of their Superintendents, to schedule and conduct a minimum of one personal conference each year with each District Superintendent in their area, counselling them regarding plans and objectives of the District for the year and receiving reports of activities and progress toward objectives during the past year; to review minutes of Pioneer/Provisional Conferences and District Boards of Administration and make recommendations to National Board of Administration as deemed necessary.
(14) To recommend to the National Board of Administration the recognition of a Provisional District or an Established District (411, 421:5); to convene an organising session when an Established District has been recognized (422).
(15) To present, for their consideration, one or more nominations for District Superintendent to a District Conference, when requested to do so by the District Conference; to consult with a District Board of Administration when a District Superintendent is being re-elected concerning the District Board of Administration’s recommendation to the District Conference that the District Superintendent’s term of office be extended to four years and to have charge of the service of installation of a District Superintendent (1772);
(16) To work closely with the District Officials in promoting evangelism and formulating plans for pioneer work and church extension; and to promote the Educational Institutions of the church.
(17) To encourage and promote special efforts in each District to raise the District obligation for the United Stewardship Fund in full, and to encourage the support of world missions. To promote spiritual and financial aid to Pioneer Churches by Established Churches;
(18) To encourage each District Board of Administration to plan and conduct conventions, institutes, or seminars for Pastors and other workers in the District, promoting such for the purpose of spiritual refreshment, leadership development, greater efficiency, and a more united effort within the District and National Church;
(19) To make available promotional materials that will aid pioneer Pastors and others in introducing The Wesleyan Methodist Church;
(20) To meet with each District Board of Administration at least once in each National Conference term for the purpose of evaluation as provided for in 481.
(21) To recommend to the National Board of Administration or the National Conference the reclassifying of an Established District as a Provisional District (424-425) when it fails to meet the minimum requirements for an Established District (421) and appears to be making insufficient progress toward again meeting these requirements within the next full Conference year.
(22) To preside over the ordination of Ministers (1711-1720), the commissioning of Ministers (1731) and lay Ministers (1741), when present and to deliver the address if so requested; and to sign all credentials, certificates, and other forms incidental to their office;
(23) To approve the transfer of any Ordained Minister and Commissioned or Licensed Minister between Districts in concurrence with the District Superintendents of the Districts (1586; 2842 511:18; cf.1127:1); to approve the reception of a Minister from another Denomination (1128).
(24) To consult with a District Board of Administration concerning the purchase, location, encumbrance, sale, transfer, or other disposition of real property used for District purposes such as a District parsonage, headquarters, or campground (cf.511:11);

Related to Judiciary

(25) To carry out judicial responsibilities as set forth in the Judicial Policies;
(26) To certify that the disciplinary requirements have been met for the restoration of a Minister and to forward such request and certification to the National Secretary (755:10; 1140);
(27) To rule on the legality of an official action by a District Conference, any District Board or Committee or a District Official as follows. Any three or more Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within a District or Pioneer District may request such a ruling and shall submit their petition in writing signed by each petitioner (163:6). If their ruling is further disputed the matter may be submitted by the petitioner to the Board of Review;
(28) To submit a report of all rulings on points of law interpretations of The Handbook or other judicial acts to the next session of the National Board of Administration or its Executive Committee for their information and to the next National Conference for approval.

Conferring of the Status of National Superintendent Emeritus

744. The conferring of National Superintendent Emeritus status is an honour that may be granted by the National Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia upon retirement of a National Superintendent who has provided outstanding service to the Denomination.

(1) A recommendation shall be made by the National Board of Administration. The recommendation is made taking into account the following criteria:
   a) That the nominee has moved to the ranks of retired, on account of age, infirmity, or long and faithful service;
   b) That the nominee has served at least ten years as National Superintendent;
   c) Evidence of extraordinary and meritorious contributions to the fulfilment of the mission and programs of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia;
   d) Recognition from outside The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia of noteworthy contributions to the mission of the church.
(2) Upon a majority vote of the National Board of Administration, the recommendation shall be presented to the National Conference. The vote of the National Conference shall be taken by secret ballot, and shall require a two thirds majority to pass.
(3) The status shall be conferred upon the recipient at the rise of Conference at the time of the installation of National Church Officers. If infirmity or extenuating circumstances make it impossible for the recipient to be present at the National Conference, a Committee appointed by the National Board of Administration (but including the National Superintendent) shall confer the status at an appropriate time and place.

Responsibilities of a National Superintendent Emeritus

(4) A National Superintendent Emeritus will be an example in holy lifestyle and demeanour. Official duties of a National Superintendent Emeritus shall include the following:

a) A National Superintendent Emeritus shall be required to maintain a membership relationship with The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.
b) A National Superintendent Emeritus shall be available to provide counsel to the incumbent National Superintendent.
c) A National Superintendent Emeritus may be called upon to perform occasional administrative duties or to represent the National Superintendent or the National Church at significant occasions.
d) (To be included if/when we are moving to Established National Church status) National Superintendents Emeriti shall officiate during the installation of the National Church Officers at the rise of National Conference.

Withdrawal of the Status of National Superintendent Emeritus

(5) The status of National Superintendent Emeritus is not conferred lightly upon any individual and to protect the integrity of the status, it will be withdrawn if:

a) The person so designated withdraws from covenant membership in a Local Church in The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia (c.f. 247-254).
b) The person so designated is brought under judicial process and convicted as outlined in Handbook Part X, Judiciary, and Judicial Policies.

C. Assistant National Superintendent

745. The Assistant National Superintendent shall be elected, by ballot and by majority vote, by the National Conference from among the Ordained Ministers of the National Church. The qualifications, term of office, amenability and other regulations are those of a National Official as set forth in 711-716.

746. The duties of the Assistant National Superintendent are:

1) To serve as a Member and Vice-Chair of the National Board of Administration (678), presiding over the Board whenever the National Superintendent is not present or when appointed by the National Superintendent (684).
2) To convene the National Board of Administration in times of emergency when the National Superintendent is not able to act.
3) To assist the National Superintendent and to serve as their representative to Local Church or District Organisations as the Superintendent may request.
4) To perform such other duties as may be required by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.
5) To report to the National Conference concerning official duties and to the National Board of Administration as required.
6) In the event of a vacancy in the office of National Superintendent, to call a special session of the National Board of Administration to elect an acting Superintendent (729:3)

D. National Secretary

751. The National Secretary shall be elected by the National Conference by ballot and by majority vote. The qualifications, term of office, amenability and other regulations are as provided in paragraph 711-716.

752. The National Secretary shall be elected by National Conference and shall serve from the close of that session until the close of the next regular session of National Conference and shall be amenable to the National Board of Administration and be under the supervision of the National Superintendent.

755. Duties. The duties of the National Secretary are:

1) To be the Secretary of the National Conference, recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form.
2) To serve as a Member and as the Secretary of the National Board of Administration (628) recording accurately and completely the proceedings of each session and preserving them in permanent form, forwarding a copy of the minutes of each session to each Member of the Board.
3) To issue official notices and communications from the National Conference, including assignments for the National Budget and other financial obligations, and from the National Board of Administration; and to keep permanent file copies of all correspondence, reports, and other records.
4) To issue and sign all certificates, licences, and other official forms as properly authorised by the National Conference as prescribed for a National Secretary by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.
5) To collect and compile accurately all statistics for the National Church and to report the same to the National Conference, the National Board of Administration and the Executive Committee as required, except when a National Statistician is specifically appointed (767:1).
6) To co-ordinate the various statistical forms of the Departments and Auxiliaries with the approved reports for the Local Churches and Districts. To receive an official copy of the minutes of each Board, Committee Auxiliary Organisation, or other National Church Agency and to preserve them in National archives.
7) To maintain a complete and current National directory, listing the National Board or Committee with the names of its Members and Officers, the National Departmental Officers (711), the names and addresses of each Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, Lay Minister, and Commissioned Lay Missionary, the address of each mission, Developing Church, Established Church, Circuit, and parsonage within the bounds of the National Church, and other information as desired (c£539).
8) To aid in collecting books, documents, photographs, or other historical materials for the historical archives of the Denomination in co-operation with the National Superintendent and the National Archivist (767:2).
(9) To notify all Local Churches and Ministerial Members of the National Church of the time and place of the next regular session of the National Conference at least sixty days in advance (447), and to notify them of any reconvened sessions as directed by the National Board of Administration (448).

(10) To perform such other duties as may be required by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration and as pertain to the office.

E. National Treasurer

757. Function. The National Treasurer has custody of the National Church funds and accounting records and is responsible for assigned fiscal management (761).

759. Office. The National Treasurer shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration and shall be an ex-officio Member of the Board and the National Conference. The term of service shall be determined by the National Board of Administration. The qualifications, amenability and other regulations are those of a National Officer (711).

761. Duties. The duties of the National Treasurer are:

(1) To serve as a Member of the National Board of Administration and, when such has been authorised, as a Member of the National Conference Committee on Memorials.

(2) To be bonded to the amount set by the National Board of Administration, the cost of which shall be paid by the National Church.

(3) To have custody of all National funds, unless otherwise provided for by The Handbook; to receive, record, hold, and disburse such funds in keeping with the financial plans of the National Conference and as directed by the National Board of Administration.

(4) To receive, record, and hold any funds specified for the National Church from the several churches, District and National Organisations, or from any other sources within the National Conference.

(5) To submit all records and funds for an annual audit after the close of the fiscal year and at any other time as may be requested by the National Board of Administration.

(6) To submit a complete financial report of all funds in their care, certified by the auditor or the Auditing Committee, to each regular session of the National Conference; to submit reports to the National Board of Administration and the National Superintendent.

(7) To perform such other duties as may be required by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

(8) To serve as Treasurer of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and Secretary of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd., Trustee of Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australian Superannuation Fund, Secretary of The Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust, and to have the custody of such other funds as may be assigned by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

(9) To serve as financial consultant for each of the commissions, National Departments and Auxiliaries, and to co-ordinate the keeping of financial records.

(10) To manage and co-ordinate the various insurance programs.

(11) To serve as Chair of the National Finance Committee.

(12) To present all recommendations to the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board in keeping with their approved policies and procedures.

(13) To prepare the annual budget for the National Board of Administration to be co-ordinated with the budgets of the other administrative offices in keeping with the approved policies and procedures.

(14) To have oversight in insurance of all properties of the Denomination and to liaise with District Treasurers to ensure adequate property insurance.

(15) To be responsible for the safe-keeping of all official documents, records, and files of the Denomination.

(16) To report annually to the National Board of Administration, to each session of the National Conference, and at other times as required concerning official duties and personal ministry.

F. National Editor

765. The National Editor is elected by the National Conference. The term of service, amenability, and other regulations for this office are the same as those of Departmental Officers, as given in 773-774. The National Editor shall administer their office in accord with The Handbook, the Policy of the National Board of Administration and other directives from the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board. Responsibilities of the Editor:

(1) To serve as editor of The Australian Wesleyan, and any other publication assigned by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

(2) To administer the National Publications Committee (643), reviewing and recommending books for the general reading program of the church.

(3) To serve as editorial consultant for all National Departments and Offices of the Church.

(4) To present all recommendations related to publications to the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board in keeping with their approved policies and procedures.

(5) To submit an annual budget to the National Board of Administration prior to the beginning of the financial year.

(6) To employ such personnel as are necessary to the carrying out of the duties, subject to the limitations of the annual budget, to contract all or part of the publication to commercial agents where it is more economical and efficient.

(7) To report to each session of the National Conference, annually to the National Board of Administration, and at other times as required.

G. Other Officers

767. The National Board of Administration may appoint other Officers as required, or may choose to list the other Officers for election at the National Conference.

(1) A National Statistician may be appointed to collect and compile accurately all statistics for the National Church and to report the same to the National Conference, the National Board of Administration and the Executive Committee as required (755:5).

(2) A National Archivist may be appointed to systematically collect and store historical records of the Denomination, including minutes, books, documents, photographs, or other historical materials. The National Archivist shall be responsible to the National Board of Administration and shall work in co-operation with the National Superintendent (755:6).
Chapter IV

NATIONAL CHURCH DEPARTMENTS

A. List of Departments and Committees

770. The following are the Departmental Officers and Committees of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(1) Departmental Officers

Christian Education
- Director of Spiritual Formation (810)
- Director of Education and the Ministry (825)

Missions and Evangelism
- Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (850)
- Director of World Missions (875)

Social Concern
- Director of Social Concern (890)

(2) National Committees

- Committee on Memorials (641)
- Publishing Committee (643)
- Conference Planning Committee (645)
- Nominating Committee (647)
- Conference Journal Committee (649)

771. The National Conference or the National Board of Administration may elect other Committees which are deemed necessary for the administration of the church.

B. Regulations for Departmental Officers.

773. Qualifications and Election. Departmental Officers must be Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church at the time of their appointment and throughout their term of office. It is expected that they be faithful and exemplary Christians in life, stewardship, tithing and conduct. They shall be elected by the National Conference by majority vote. The term of office for Departmental Officers shall be for a Conference term, from the rise of the Conference at which they are elected to the rise of the following Conference, unless their service is discontinued mid-term as provided for in Handbook 716.

774. Amenability and Reports. Departmental Officers are amenable to the National Board of Administration and under the supervision of the National Superintendent (743:5). Officers shall report to each session of National Conference concerning their official duties, annually to the National Board of Administration, and at other times as requested by the National Conference or National Board of Administration. Each Department that maintains its own bank account/s shall submit a financial summary of its operations bi-annually to the National Treasurer and audited financial statements annually to the National Treasurer.

775. Duties. Duties specific to each Director are listed under the respective Departments.

776. Advisory Councils. Each Departmental Director may convene a Council to serve as an advisory body in the work of the Department. Such Advisory Councils shall consist of the Director as Chair, the National Superintendent and other Members as approved by the National Board of Administration. These Councils shall meet as required by the Director. Ultimate responsibility for the Department rests with the Director, under the supervision of the National Superintendent.
Chapter V

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A. Objectives

800. The ultimate objective of Christian education within The Wesleyan Methodist Church is to declare the truth of full salvation through Christ as recorded in the Bible, and to guide sinful, fallen individuals to experience the crises of conversion and entire sanctification, dynamic service to God and humanity, and continuous growth unto the fullness of the stature of Christ. To accomplish this, Wesleyan Methodist Christian education will endeavor:

1. To help each person to recognize the Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and to know, believe, and obey its teachings.
2. To help each person to recognize the need for salvation and for God's provision for salvation through Christ's death and resurrection, leading to the experience of new birth through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
3. To help each convert to recognize the need for cleansing from the carnal nature and for the sanctifying and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, and to experience the crisis of entire sanctification through consecration and faith.
4. To help each believer to relate to the Church as the body of Christ, being encouraged to become a Member of the Local Church and to find a place of service within it.
5. To instruct each person in the fundamentals of the faith, in the history of the Christian Church, the importance of the Reformation and the Wesleyan movement, the history of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, its precedent bodies and its missionary outreach, being warned against the false doctrines of the age and equipped as a witness for the Lord.
6. To help each person to develop a Christian interpretation of life and of the universe, being enabled to see God's sovereign purpose at work, and trained to be a good steward of the talents, time, opportunities, and material goods with which God has entrusted each one.
7. To encourage each person to grow toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus, demonstrating Christian attitudes and actions in every relationship of life.

B. Department of Spiritual Formation

805. The Department of Spiritual Formation is responsible, on the National level, to carry out the objectives of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for Christian education (800) in such phases as Sunday School, small group ministries, the promotion of Christian family life, the children's ministries of the Church, the youth and young adult ministries of the Church and the adult ministries of the Church. The Department is responsible for ministries related to the identification and recruitment of leaders in the various age groups of the Church consistent with the function of the Department. The Department is responsible for serving as the Church's resource Agency for all adult related concerns with regards to spiritual formation, discipleship, and membership development.

810. The National Director of Spiritual Formation. The Director of Spiritual Formation is elected by the National Conference as a Departmental Officer (770:1) and is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1e). The Director is amenable to the National Board of Administration, serves as a nonvoting resource person to that Board, and is under the supervision of the National Superintendent (774, 743:5).

811. Regulations. The Director of Spiritual Formation shall exercise leadership in this Department in keeping with The Handbook and other directives as may be given by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board. The term of service and general regulations for this office are provided in 773-775.

812. Specific Duties.

1. To coordinate the development of literature and other resources for Local Church education, children's ministries and disciplership across the church.
2. To liaise with District Directors of Christian Education and other church workers, encouraging them in their duties, advising and receiving reports, and providing training and resources.
3. To encourage a National young adults' camping ministry and to promote fellowship amongst those who are called to ministry.
4. To promote the call to full-time Christian service, with special attention to recruiting for approved Educational Institutions (930-931, 950-952).
5. To present recommendations to the National Conference and the National Board of Administration on matters related to spiritual formation.
6. To perform such other duties related to spiritual formation as are assigned by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

C. Department of Education and the Ministry

820. Function. The Department of Education and the Ministry is responsible for coordinating the implementation of The Wesleyan Methodist Church's objectives for Christian education (800) as they relate to the training of Christian Ministers, missionaries and educators who are enrolled in a course of study for a Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

825. The National Director of Education and the Ministry. The Director of Education and the Ministry is elected by the National Conference as a Departmental Officer (770:1) and is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1e). The Director of Education and the Ministry is amenable to the National Board of Administration, serves as a nonvoting resource person to that Board, and is under the supervision of the National Superintendent (774, 743:5).

826. Regulations. The Director of Education and the Ministry shall exercise leadership in this Department in keeping with The Handbook and other directives as may be given by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board. The term of service and general regulations for this office are provided in 773-775.

1. In addition to these requirements, the Director of Education and the Ministry shall have completed educational requirements for ordained service in The Wesleyan Methodist Church and shall have either higher educational qualification and/or experience in higher education.

828. Specific Duties.
(1) To recommend to the National Board of Administration the courses of study for pre-ordination, commissioning, lay ministry and specialised ministries for The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1152).

(2) To evaluate subjects and equivalents being offered by Denominational and Partner Colleges and other Agencies as to their effectiveness and relevance to the needs of ministry in The Wesleyan Methodist Church and to make recommendations to the National Board of Administration for maintaining proper standards and procedures.

(3) To produce literature and other resources on subjects, standards and procedures for the District Boards of Ministerial Development and prospective Ministerial Candidates.

(4) To monitor and review the performance of District Boards of Ministerial Development.
   a) The Director shall endeavour to meet with each District Board of Ministerial Development each quadrennium for training and review, and the District Boards of Ministerial Development shall provide access to student records and other documentation as part of a regular process of assessment.
   b) The role of the Director shall normally be to monitor the District processes rather than individual candidates. If however, there is a serious concern about the processing of a specific candidate, the Director may, in consultation with the National Superintendent, lodge an objection with the relevant District Board of Administration or District Conference.

(5) To ensure provision of a systematic program of professional development for Ordained, Commissioned and Lay Ministers and to assist Districts in gaining participation.

(6) To make recommendations to the National Board of Administration for amendments to the Pastor's Annual Service Report (541).

(7) To promote the call to full-time ministry, with special attention to recruiting for approved Educational Institutions.

(8) To promote and manage the National Theological Educational Appeal (910).

(9) To perform such other duties as may be required by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.
Chapter VI

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

A. Objectives

840. The ultimate objective of The Wesleyan Methodist Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing with all humanity the good news and glorious experience of full salvation. To this end, The Wesleyan Methodist Church, through its Department of Evangelism and Church Growth and Department of World Missions, shall endeavour:

(1) To evangelize the nations of earth, seeking the salvation of the individual and the entire sanctification of believers as the primary responsibility of all missionary work.
(2) To gather the converts into churches and enlist them in the work of God's kingdom.
(3) To place well-qualified and Spirit-filled Pastors over the churches, giving special emphasis to the training of workers and leaders for the church.
(4) To share the benefits of the gospel, and to facilitate evangelistic work through specialized ministries such as medical, educational, literary and benevolent work.
(5) To promote, in accordance with scriptural and indigenous principles, the growth and development of the churches in each field or area to a church body that is spiritually mature, well organized, financially responsible and missionary minded, and that can assume its place in the Wesleyan Church internationally.

B. Department of Evangelism and Church Growth

845. Function. The Department of Evangelism and Church Growth is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (840) within the borders of Australia and in such other places as shall be assigned to it by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

850. The National Director of Evangelism and Church Growth. The Director of Evangelism and Church Growth is elected by the National Conference as a Departmental Officer (770:1), and is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1e). The Director of Evangelism and Church Growth is amenable to the National Board of Administration, serves as a nonvoting resource person to that Board, and is under the supervision of a National Superintendent (774, 743:5).

851. Regulations. The Director of Evangelism and Church Growth shall exercise leadership in this Department in keeping with The Handbook and other directives as may be given by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board. The term of service and general regulations for this office are provided for in 773-775.

852. Specific Duties.

(1) To promote interest in evangelism and outreach in personal soul-winning, planned missions and church extension, including recommending resources, writing articles, and coordinating national training events and seminars.
(2) To make recommendations to the National Board of Administration and the National Conference for methods of promoting evangelism and church growth.
(3) To facilitate specific church planting ventures when they involve multi-District initiatives.
(4) To supervise specific church planting ventures when so assigned by the National Board of Administration, especially in the case of very remote locations or in other extenuating circumstances where it is impractical to place the church plant under an existing District's care.
(5) To give special attention to Pioneer Districts, in coordination with the National Superintendent, to encourage and resource church planting efforts.
(6) To maintain a current list of District Evangelists from the various Conferences, and to make recommendations from that list when a Local Church or District requests assistance in securing an Evangelist.
(7) To perform such other duties as may be required by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

C. Department of World Missions

860. Function. The Department of World Missions is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (840) in those fields and areas beyond the borders of Australia as approved by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

875. The National Director of World Missions. The Director of World Missions is elected by the National Conference as a Departmental Officer (770:1), and is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1e). The Director of World Missions is amenable to the National Board of Administration, serves as a nonvoting resource person to that Board, and is under the supervision of a National Superintendent (774, 743:5).

876. Regulations. The Director of World Missions shall exercise leadership in this Department in keeping with The Handbook and other directives as may be given by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board. The term of service and general regulations for this office are provided for in 773-775.

878. Specific Duties. Drawing upon the assistance of qualified Church Members as provided for in 776, the duties and responsibilities of the Director shall be:

In relation to missionary personnel

(1) To enlist and interview all missionary candidates and recommend them to the National Board of Administration for its approval.
(2) To establish the basis of financial and prayer support for each approved missionary.
(3) To provide for the pastoral care of missionaries on the field and at home.
(4) To liaise with the General Department of World Missions (Global Partners, North America) with respect to vacancies in existing fields and to second missionaries to the General Department of World Missions.

In relation to the Australian Church

877. Responsibilities.

(1) To liaise with the General Department of World Missions (Global Partners, North America) with respect to vacancies in existing fields and to second missionaries to the General Department of World Missions.

(2) To establish the basis of financial and prayer support for each approved missionary.

(3) To provide for the pastoral care of missionaries on the field and at home.

(4) To perform such other duties as may be required by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.
To promote worldwide missionary interest, understanding and zeal throughout the Australian Church and co-operate with District Missions Directors in fulfilling their duties (560).

To work in close harmony with the National and District Superintendents in arranging missionary deputation throughout the Australian Church.

To submit a financial summary bi-annually and an audited financial statement annually to the National Treasurer (774).

To present all recommendations to the National Board of Administration for approval, including all projects for missionary support.

To provide recommendations for missionary projects to Wesleyan Methodist Auxiliaries and churches.

To present a budget to the National Board of Administration for approval before the beginning of the financial year.

To allocate a percentage of funds raised for operational expenses.

To present to the National Conference or the National Board of Administration for its approval any recommendations for new fields of service to be pioneered by the Australian Church.

The Director of World Missions will convene a Council to act as Advisory Board.

880. Regulations for Missionary Assignment. Missionaries approved by the National Board of Administration shall be governed as follows:

1. The assignment of missionaries shall be the responsibility of the National Board of Administration. When assignment includes secondment to a field under another Conference’s jurisdiction, assignment shall be decided in concurrence with the Board of Administration of the other Conference. When an assignment includes secondment:

2. Missionaries shall continue to be Members of their Australian District Conference, voting or nonvoting (440; 438).

3. Missionaries may be voting Members of the Australian National Conference (602).

4. Missionaries shall carry out their duties in harmony with the provisions of The Handbook and shall work in harmony with the Local, District, National and Regional Officers and Organisations.

5. Missionaries shall be amenable to the proper authorities on the field of service and to the Australian National Board of Administration for their official conduct and for the performance of such duties and services as are assigned.

6. Missionaries seeking to raise support in North America shall require the prior approval of Global Partners.

882. Missionaries from other National or General Conferences. Missionaries from other National or General Conferences may be accepted to serve in Australia by the National Board of Administration.

1. Missionaries from other National or General Conferences shall be received in accordance with International Charter 6730a, which acknowledges "the right of a Member or Minister to transfer from one Unit to any other Unit of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, with the understanding that consideration must be given to differences in requirements for licensing and ordination of Ministers as provided for in the various disciplines (Handbooks) of Units worldwide."

2. Missionaries from other National or General Conferences may be appointed as Officers in the District or National Organisation.
Chapter VII
SOCIAL CONCERN

890. Objectives. The Department of Social Concern exists to encourage and facilitate practical demonstrations of God's love through Members, Churches and Conferences of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Australia. The Gospel calls all people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to a fulfilling life of peace and faithfulness. This same Gospel requires every Christian to demonstrate God's gracious intent to humanity through community engagement, benevolent acts and the appropriate use of influence to achieve social reform.

891. Limitations. Although community engagement is a glorious and God-honouring purpose, The Wesleyan Methodist Church is aware that an over-emphasis on physical and emotional needs can serve to misdirect the Church away from its primary missionary objective (840). For that reason, the following regulations shall serve to inform all activities promoted by the Department of Social Concern:
(1) The Department of Social Concern shall not engage in any endeavour, albeit ever so honourable, that denies the right of our Members to overtly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.
(2) The Department of Social Concern shall include prayer as a primary means in all its efforts, both for physical wellbeing and for the softening of hearts to the gospel.
(3) The Department of Social Concern shall not sponsor or endorse the use of physical or emotional coercion in achieving its ends and shall specifically oppose violent means.

895. The National Director of Social Concern. The Director of Social Concern is elected by the National Conference as a Departmental Officer (770:1), and is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1c). The Director of Social Concern is amenable to the National Board of Administration, serves as a nonvoting resource person to that Board, and is under the supervision of a National Superintendent (774, 743:5).

896. Regulations. The Director of Social Concern shall exercise leadership in this Department in keeping with The Handbook and other directives as may be given by the National Conference, the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board. The term of service and general regulations for this office are provided for in 773-775.

897. Specific Duties.
(1) Related to ABC Inc.
a) To serve as Director of ABC Inc and to ensure that ABC Inc is managed in accordance with its Constitution as approved by the National Board of Administration (898:2).
b) To promote the work of ABC Inc amongst our churches, and to facilitate Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches of Australia in establishing local branches of ABC Inc.
(2) Related to Public Statements. To make recommendations to the National Board of Administration and the National Conference for official position statements and press releases on key social issues. The Director of Social Concern shall not issue public statements without the approval of the National Superintendent, the National Board of Administration or the National Conference.
(3) Other. To fulfil the general duties of Departmental Officers (774) and such other duties as may be required by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration.

898. ABC Inc. ABC Inc is a not-for-profit organisation established under the auspices of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for the purpose of unifying and supporting the community development efforts of Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches across Australia.

(1) ABC Inc. shall be governed by a Director and a Board of Managers, elected by the National Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. They shall govern the Agency in accordance with National Board of Administration's Policy for Denominational Agencies and the ABC Constitution approved by the National Board of Administration and duly submitted to the relevant government authorities.

(2) Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches shall be encouraged to develop a clear statement of community engagement for their congregation, and to establish a local branch of ABC Inc. when useful in the fulfilment of their stated community goals.
Chapter V
NATIONAL CHURCH FINANCIAL PLAN

Summary

900. The financial plan for the National Church shall consist of the United Stewardship Fund, special offerings, and planned gifts. (1) United Stewardship Fund shall be established and administered as set forth in 901-910. (2) Special offerings shall be authorized and administered as set forth in 910 and shall provide support for World Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, Theological Education, and support for other purposes authorized by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration. (3) Planned gifts and bequests shall be promoted by the National Treasurer or their appointee.

A. United Stewardship Fund

Definition

901. The United Stewardship Fund is a unified budget for the financial support of designated District and National Church administration. It shall consist of two parts:

(1) The U.S.F. District Fund shall provide support for District administration and ministries.
(2) The U.S.F. National Fund shall provide support for National Church administration, and funding of National Departments when funds are available.

Basis

902. The U.S.F. shall be determined annually by percentage (902:2) of the base income of all churches for the previous financial year which shall be computed in the following manner.

(1) Base Income. The base income shall be the total income of a Local Church and all of its Departments for the previous fiscal year less money received

- By loans (borrowed money)
- From sale of real property and assets
- From Evangelism and Church Growth Funds
- By a bequest through a will
- For a building fund
- For Wesleyan World Missions
- National or District Evangelism and Church Growth offerings
- For the National Educational Fund appeal

(2) Percentage. The total U.S.F. shall consist of a percentage of base income fixed by the National Conference. This percentage shall be further allocated between National and District funds. The National Board of Administration shall review the USF percentage annually and adjust the percentage by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members (691:18).

(3) Special Ministries. A treasury, distinct and separate from that of the Local Church, shall be established to provide for the financial administration of Day Care Centres, Day Schools, Retirement Homes, Nursing Homes, and such enterprises (cf. 316:35).

District and Local Regulations

903. District Responsibility. Each established, Provisional, and Pioneer District shall be responsible to raise its share of the U.S.F. for National and District support, in accord with the following provisions:

(1) District obligation. The District Board of Administration shall be responsible through its Treasurer to collect from the churches the full amount of U.S.F. In a Pioneer District this responsibility shall be vested in the District Superintendent. The obligation of a District shall be to collect an amount equal to the designated percentage of the base income as defined in 920:1-3. The calculation for the U.S.F. shall be based on the financial reports of the Local Churches as compiled by the District Statistical Committee prior to the annual District Conference.

(2) National Apportionment. The District Treasurer shall be responsible to forward the National apportionment promptly each month to the National Treasurer.

(3) U.S.F. Concessions. When a District Board of Administration decides to waive the obligation of a Local Church to pay all or part of its U.S.F. this does not reduce the District’s obligation to pay the due apportionment to the National fund, unless agreed to in writing by the National Board of Administration.

(4) A church in financial crisis shall have the right to:

- Appeal to the District for the alleviation of USF obligation, by recalculation;
- Appeal to the National Board of Administration through the District Board of Administration for USF obligations to the National Church to be reviewed;
- The National Board of Administration shall delegate to the National Finance Committee the responsibility for receiving each submitted request and shall recommend to the National Board of Administration a process of action using the following criteria:
  - If the church is deemed to be “in crisis” then a portion (or all) of outstanding USF may be waived;
  - New figures of assessment be determined using current income as a base and using 10% as the percentage;
  - The circumstances of the church be reviewed by the National Finance Committee one year later;
  - If the outstanding USF is more than three years old and there is no apparent possibility of it being caught up in the next twelve months, upon application from the District Board of Administration and recommendation of the National Finance Committee, it may be waived in full.

904. Local Church Responsibility. The Pastor and the Local Church Board of Administration shall be responsible for the faithful collection of the amount assigned by the District to their church, and shall raise it on the undivided plan. The Local Church Treasurer shall forward the full installment to the District Treasurer (345:4) each month. A Local Church has met its obligation to the U.S.F. when it has paid in full to the District Treasurer the amounts assigned to it by the District Board of Administration. In a Developing Church the Pastor and the Local Advisory Council shall have the responsibility for raising U.S.F.

905. Developing Church Responsibility. A Developing Church shall pay U.S.F. on an increasing scale according to the following plan.
(1) A Developing Church is exempt from U.S.F. for the first full year after its formation.
(2) For the second year it shall pay 25% of U.S.F. as calculated on the first year’s income
(3) For the third year it shall pay 50% of U.S.F. as calculated on the previous year’s income.
(4) On the fourth year it shall pay 75% of U.S.F as calculated on the previous year’s income.
(5) For the fifth and final year it shall pay its full percentage of U.S.F.

B. Special Offerings

910. Special Offerings. In addition to the U.S.F. for the support of church ministries the church shall make provision for the following offerings. No Agency, Department, Institution, Organisation, or similar body of The Wesleyan Methodist Church may solicit offerings or present financial appeals without the approval of the National Board of Administration.

(1) World Missions. The work of World Missions shall not be supported by the U.S.F. but by the annual self denial offering, funds raised through deputation work and other solicitations, money raised by Auxiliary Organisations, and other offerings specified for world missions.

(2) Evangelism and Church Growth. The National Conference has approved an annual offering for the advancement of evangelism and church planting.

(3) Education Fund. The National Conference has approved a special annual offering for the support of Ministerial Candidates. The Ministerial Education Fund shall be managed by the National Director of Education and the Ministry, in keeping with the Policy for Education Funds as approved by the National Board of Administration. Education Funds shall be made available as a subsidy to candidates currently under a District Board of Ministerial Development, studying at an approved Denominational or Partner College, at the successful completion of each subject.

In addition, since Denominational Colleges do not receive any income from United Stewardship Fund, they are authorised to solicit donations for projects approved by the National Board of Administration or from a surplus accrued in the Education Fund. Partner Colleges are authorised to recruit for students in Local Churches and at District and National events by invitation, but are not authorised to solicit donations for projects.

(4) Auxiliary Organisations. Wesleyan Men, Wesleyan Women, Wesleyan Youth and Young Adults International shall raise financial support for approved projects in accord with their respective constitutions, subject to the general oversight of the National Board of Administration.

(5) Other Contributions. Other offerings, contributions, bequests, and donations shall be used as specified by the donor and may be forwarded through the regular channels to the National Treasurer.
Chapter VI
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

A. Ownership and Control

Basic Principles

920. The Educational Institutions of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be governed in harmony with these principles:
(1) All Schools, in fulfilling the mission of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall seek to produce Christian workers and committed laypersons for the Church of Jesus Christ.
(2) The Church and its Educational Institutions shall work in the closest harmony. In its legislative assemblies, the Church defines its faith. In its classrooms, the Church studies, expounds and defends its faith. In the congregation, the Church worships its Lord and proclaims its faith. To safeguard the doctrinal purity of the Church, it shall be required that all Educational Institutions maintain and promote the doctrinal position of the Church as set forth in its Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles. Any person employed on the administrative Staff or Faculty of an Educational Institution of The Wesleyan Methodist Church must affirm adherence to the doctrine of entire sanctification and other doctrines of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in the Articles of Religion.
(3) In establishing its Educational Institutions, and in guiding their life and work, The Wesleyan Methodist Church seeks to provide the highest possible quality of Christian education for those who study under its auspices without regard to race, national origin, or gender (187:4).

Lines of Authority

925. The authority on all matters of operation rests with the National Conference. In practice this shall function as follows:
(1) The National Board of Administration has authority, by two thirds vote of all its Members, to establish or dissolve an Educational Institution.
(2) The National Board of Administration has authority, by two thirds vote of all its Members, to enter into a co-operative agreement with other persons/groups of like theological and behavioural commitment in the ownership, operation or networking of Educational Institutions.
(3) The National Board of Administration has authority to provide for and deal with all matters pertaining to charters and bylaws, including the adoption and revision of such Standards for Educational Institutions as it shall deem to be wise.
(4) The National Board of Administration has authority to provide for Boards of Control.
(5) The National Board of Administration is not empowered or authorised to contravene, override or set aside a decision of a College Board of Managers, which conforms to the National Board of Administration Standards for Educational Institutions.

B. Denominational Colleges

Relationship to the Wesleyan Methodist Church

930. Identification. A Denominational Theological College is one which is owned and operated by The Wesleyan Methodist Church and approved by the National Board of Administration (925:1). As such, it shall be required to provide quality training for Christian workers and Ministers to serve the Australian Church in its national and missionary commitment to the spread of the full gospel of Jesus Christ. It shall maintain a curriculum which satisfies the educational requirements for ordination in The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

931. Governance. A smaller denominational College shall be governed by a College Principal, who may be assisted by an Advisory Council, under the supervision of the National Board of Administration. A larger denominational College shall be governed by a Board of Managers under the supervision of the National Board of Administration. A College Board of Managers is elected by the National Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. The guidelines for establishing a Board of Managers and the regulations for governing a College shall be contained in the National Board of Administration Standards for Educational Institutions (925:3).

932. College Boards of Managers.
(1) The National Conference shall elect College Boards of Managers according to a formula printed in the National Board of Administration Standards for Educational Institutions.
(2) The Board of Managers shall report to the National Conference whenever it is in session and to the National Board of Administration when requested by the National Superintendent.
(3) The Board of Managers shall be responsible for observance of the Standards for Educational Institutions of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as approved by the National Board of Administration.

933. Principal. The Principal is elected by the National Conference and is an ex-officio Member of the National Conference (602:1c). The Principal is amenable to the National Board of Administration, serves as a nonvoting resource person to that Board, and is under the supervision of the National Superintendent (743:5). The Principal shall report to the National Conference whenever it is in session and to the National Board of Administration annually and at other times when requested by the National Superintendent.
(1) The Principal of the College shall be elected by the National Conference for a four-year term, the beginning of which shall be determined by National Conference.
(2) The College Board and the National Board of Administration may submit nominations for the position of Principal, with the source of such nominations indicated to the Conference.

934. Duties and Powers. The Principal of the College shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the College Corporation and shall govern the College in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws. The Principal shall be an ex-officio Member of all standing Committees of the College and shall have custody of the seal of the Corporation.

935. Vacancy. In the event of a vacancy during the Conference term the National Board of Administration shall appoint a Principal for the remainder of the Conference term, giving due regard to nominations from the College Board of Managers.

Property

936. Ownership. Title to the property of a Denominational College shall be held by The Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust Ltd. for the use and benefit of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Australia.
937. **Limitation of Powers.** The Board of Managers may not at any time sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets without the express approval of the National Board of Administration or the National Conference.

C. **Partner Colleges**

*Relationship to the Wesleyan Methodist Church*

950. **Identification.** A Partner Theological College is one which is not owned or operated by The Wesleyan Methodist Church, but which, because of its theological orientation, is suitable for the training of Wesleyan Methodist Ministerial Candidates.

951. **Relationship.** A partner relationship shall be established through the authority of the National Board of Administration in accordance with paragraph 925:2. Primary responsibility for supervision of the partnership and of the welfare of Wesleyan Methodist students shall normally be delegated to the Department of Education and the Ministry. The establishment of a Partner College relationship shall include provision for the Pre-ordination Course of Study (1152:1-3).

952. **Qualifications.** A Partner College shall, as a minimal requirement, share The Wesleyan Methodist Church's commitment to the accuracy of the Bible, its holiness heritage and its Wesleyan-Arminian doctrinal stance.
PART V – WORLD ORGANISATION

Chapter I

BASIC PRINCIPLES

1001. The Wesleyan Church, in the fulfilment of its mission to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world (75-76), recognizes the following basic principles for its worldwide organisation.

1) The missionary objectives of the Wesleyan Church, as set forth in paragraph 105 of the Discipline of the North American Conference, call for dynamic worldwide evangelism, resulting in the planting of Local Churches, which in turn develop into National church structures in the host countries or regions, each of which should become a partner in world evangelism as a Unit of the Wesleyan Church worldwide.

2) Such National Churches shall be organised as Pioneer Districts, Provisional Districts, Established Districts, and National or Regional Conferences as set forth in 868 of the Discipline of the North American Conference. As they increase in spiritual, numerical, financial, and organisational strength and maturity, they become established National/Regional Conferences and then General Conferences as set forth in 1001-1012 of The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church North America.

3) The Essentials is a statement of faith, practice, and relationship which serves as a unifying bond for all Units of the Wesleyan Church around the world. This statement is incorporated in the Charter of the International Conference of the Wesleyan Church (see Appendix C: 6520-6730) and no Unit of the Wesleyan Church may contravene any of the provisions of the Essentials in the development of its own discipline or in establishing structures and practice.

4) Each National Church shall endeavour to establish its own pattern of government, since it is recognized that variations in local conditions, cultural patterns, governmental regulations, and other factors require adaptations in the organisational structure of the church.

6) It shall not be the purpose of the Wesleyan Church to keep National Conferences dependent on a parent body, but to develop strong churches that are aggressive in assuming responsibility for progress and growth in their own countries or regions as well as having the vision of participating in the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church worldwide.
Chapter II

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A. Status

1005. The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia is a founding Member Conference of the South Pacific Region of the Wesleyan Church. The Australian Church enjoys defined autonomy in directing its own structures and affairs (IC-6515-2), a strong obligation to maintain the fellowship and vitality of the Wesleyan Church in the South Pacific Region (177), and specific obligations to the International Conference of the Wesleyan Church (80:7; 185:2).

B. Relationship

1006. Representation. As a Member Conference of the South Pacific Regional Conference of the Wesleyan Church, the Australian National Conference is entitled to send Delegates to the Regional Conference, which shall in turn send Delegates to the International Conference of The Wesleyan Church (ICWC) on a plan of representation determined by the Charter of the ICWC.

1007. Membership Rights. In keeping with the Statement of Relationship contained in the Essentials, Members have the right to transfer membership not only among Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches but also from one National Church to another or to Districts within the United States or Canada (1005).

1008. Transfer of Ministers. Ministers may transfer their credentials from one National Conference to another with the understanding that consideration must be given to differences in requirements for licensing and ordination of ministers as provided for in the various Disciplines/Handbooks of Units worldwide.

C. Accountability

1010. The National Superintendent is the primary representative for the Australian National Conference in all matters related to the International Wesleyan Church and is accountable to:

(1) Work in submission to the National Conference and the National Board of Administration.

(2) Serve the role of Mission Director in relation to the missionaries serving in Australia from the North American Department of World Missions.
Chapter III

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

1015. Preamble. There shall be an International Conference of The Wesleyan Church for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church, coordinating the activities of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, addressing global concerns, promoting closer fellowship and mutual understanding, and providing a means for joint planning and cooperative action among all Units and General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall consist of those bodies which have originated in or which have joined with The Wesleyan Church and that adhere to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and other provisions of its Charter. Provision may also be made for Associate Members to be received which have not originated in or joined with The Wesleyan Church, but which are in harmony with The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.

1016. Organisation and Governance. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall function through its quadrennial sessions composed of representatives from each General Conference, each Established National/Regional Conference and Mission Units functioning under a General Conference missions Department. The number of representatives from each Unit shall be determined according to the number of Members, with due regard to the principle of lay representation. In the interim of International Conference sessions, it shall function through the International Board and the Executive Committee of the International Board. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall be organised and governed in accordance with its Charter.

The Charter of the ICWC is contained in Appendix C.
PART VI – MINISTRY

Chapter I

MINISTERIAL ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

A. Meaning of Ministry

1101. Ministry in the Christian context means service. It is a term which has been lifted out of the commonplace through the modelling of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is identified in both the Old and New Testaments as the Servant or Minister of God and humanity. Our Lord also chose this term to characterize the activity of His followers in obedience to His commands and mission. He called all of His followers to a general or corporate ministry which would glorify Him, edify the Church, and evangelise the world. He made such possible through imparting to each believer one or more gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7-27) in order that each Member might participate in the work of the ministry and contribute their part to the growth and development of the whole body (Eph. 4:11-16).

B. Qualifications and Call of the Specialised Minister

1102. While God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, assigns to each believer a part in the general or corporate ministry of the Church, He also calls some to a specialised or representative type of ministry. As Christ chose His twelve apostles “that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach” (Mark 3:14), so He still calls and sends forth His messengers to be servants of the servants who make up the whole Church. As the Holy Spirit impresses this call upon the individuals involved, He also confirms the call through the Church. It is the responsibility of the Church to recognize and endorse God’s call, provide for the training and employment of those He selects, and to respect the office of the specialised ministry by refusing its exercise to those not called of God.

1) The Church’s endorsement may be limited to a probationary period, taking the form of a licence, or it may be granted on a more permanent basis, taking the form of commissioning or ordination.

2) All Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia shall agree to live in accord with the Leadership Covenant (1195).

1103. The Wesleyan Methodist Church believes that four marks will concur in the person whom God has called: grace, gifts, fruit, and an abiding sense of divine call. All candidates for ministerial licence, commission, or ordination shall be examined concerning each of these marks:

(1) As to grace, are they converted? Are they entirely sanctified? Are they manifesting the fruit of the Spirit? Are they worthy examples to the Church and to the world?

(2) As to gifts, are they able to think clearly to understand and communicate matters related to salvation; to speak persuasively, to practice loving care, to provide leadership?

(3) As to fruit, have any been truly convicted of sin and converted to God through their ministry, and have believers been edified?

(4) As to an abiding sense of divine call, can they testify to a continuing and increasing conviction that they have been chosen by God for a specialised and representative ministry?

1104. Any person sustaining a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures and the Membership Commitments (132:2h; 187:7; 1129; 1141) shall be ineligible for licensing, commissioning, or ordination in The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

C. Ministerial Candidate

1110. Those pursuing ministerial studies shall be encouraged to study under the direction of the District Board of Ministerial Development and to be licensed as Ministerial Candidates.

(1) Ministerial Candidate. A Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who confesses a call of God to be a Minister (1101-1103) may be granted a licence as a Ministerial Candidate by meeting the following requirements in order:

a) Covenant membership in a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District granting the licence.

b) Recommendation from the Local Church Conference or the Local Board of Administration (274:8) to the District Conference for a licence as a Ministerial Candidate.

c) Enrolment in an approved Denominational College (930-931) or Partner College (950-952) in preparation for ordination (cf. 1171:2).

d) Readiness to pursue studies with all diligence until completed, to otherwise prepare for ministry, and to commit wholly to the ministry in The Wesleyan Methodist Church when studies are completed.

e) Examination by the District Board of Ministerial Development (537:2) relative to qualifications for ministry (1103) including a personal religious experience, ministerial call and evidence thereof, and its recommendation to the District Conference for the granting of the licence (537:5).

f) Approval by vote of the District Conference (473:26c; 486:9c; 537:2).

(2) Renewing a Licence for a Ministerial Candidate. The licence for a Ministerial Candidate may be renewed annually by meeting the following requirements:

a) The Ministerial Candidate completes at least two subjects each year in the appropriate course of study (1188).

b) The Ministerial Candidate shows readiness to continue studies in preparation for ordination in The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1171:2), or, for one having just completed the course of study, to take an appointment within the coming year.

c) The proper reports have been made (1110:4).

(3) Rights of Ministerial Candidate. As long as a Ministerial Candidate qualifies for and receives a licence as a Ministerial Candidate, the Ministerial Candidate shall have the right:

a) To preach the gospel.

b) To be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:4).

c) To transfer from one District to another (1110:5c) in the same manner as a Lay Minister (1190).

d) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such a court (140:4; 158:7; 1570; 1576-1580).

(4) Duties of a Ministerial Candidate. A person holding a licence as a Ministerial Candidate shall be responsible to report annually to the District Board of Ministerial Development concerning progress in studies (537:2) and on the proper annual service report form (537:7); and to report to the District Superintendent and the Board of Ministerial Development at other times as required.
(5) Regulations for a Ministerial Candidate.
   a) A Ministerial Candidate is amenable to the District which grants the licence, and the licence may be revoked between sessions of the District Conference by judicial process as set forth in 1576-1580.
   b) A Ministerial Candidate from another Denomination will need to qualify for such licence in The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1110-1111.
   c) A Ministerial Candidate, when transferring District membership (cf. 1110:3c; 1127:1), in addition to a letter of transfer, shall be supplied by the District Superintendent and the District Board of Ministerial Development with a properly attested statement of standing in the ministerial course of study.
   d) All inter-District expressions of interest in the appointment of a graduating college student shall be in the first instance addressed to the District Superintendent of the District in which the student holds credentials.

D. Licensed Minister

1111. Identification. A Licensed Minister is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by a District Conference, through the granting of a ministerial licence which serves as authorisation for and appointment to actual service in the ministry, subject to supervision and evaluation, as a step toward ordination. A Licensed Minister may be a former Ministerial Candidate who has qualified for and been appointed to regular service in one of the categories listed in 1156-1170.

1112. Granting a District Ministerial Licence. A Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who confesses a call of God to be a Minister (cf. 1101-1103), may be granted a District ministerial licence by meeting the following requirements in order:
   (1) Covenant membership in a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District granting the licence.
   (2) Satisfactory service as a Ministerial Candidate in The Wesleyan Methodist Church for at least one year.
   (3) Completion of the subjects adopted by the National Board of Administration as being prerequisites for licensing (1851; cf.1150; 1152).
   (4) Recommendation from the Local Church Conference to the District Conference for a District ministerial licence (274:8).
   (5) Readiness to accept the District Council’s appointment to active service in one of the categories listed in 1156-1170; to pursue the studies with all diligence until completed; to prepare for ordination; and to be given wholly to the ministry.
   (6) Examination by the District Board of Ministerial Development (537:1) relative to the qualifications for the ministry and for a District ministerial licence (cf. 1101-1103; 1112:1-5), including a personal religious experience, ministerial call and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and subsequent recommendation by the District Board of Ministerial Development to the District Conference for the granting of a District ministerial licence (537:5).
   (7) Recommendation by the District Board of Administration for immediate appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1170.
   (8) Adoption by the District Conference of the separate recommendations of the District Board of Ministerial Development (1112:6) and of the District Board of Administration (1112:7).

1113. Renewing a District Ministerial Licence. A District ministerial licence is effective for one year only, and authority to carry on the office and work of a Minister under such a licence shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the District Conference until such time as the holder of the licence is commissioned or ordained to the ministry. A Minister may be granted renewal of the ministerial licence by meeting the following requirements:
   (1) Satisfactory service under a previous appointment, including loyalty to and compliance with the rules of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and of the District, and including the proper filing of reports. If a Licensed Minister fails to file the annual service report (541), unless such failure is due to illness, injury, or a similar emergency, the licence shall not be renewed (cf. 537:8).
   (2) Agreement to continue under District appointment to one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1170 within the coming Conference year.
   (3) Confirmation that the Minister has completed at least two subjects in the pre-ordination study course (1152:1) in the previous year. The pre-ordination study course must be completed within ten years of service under a ministerial licence. The ministerial licence shall not be renewed beyond the tenth year. If, after six years the pre-ordination course of study has not been completed, the District Board of Ministerial Development may encourage the candidate toward Commissioned Minister or Lay Minister status (1117:1; 1188).

1114. Rights of Licensed Minister. As long as a Minister qualifies for and receives a District ministerial licence, the Minister shall have the right:
   (1) To preach the gospel (158:1), and when appointed as a Pastor or full-time Associate or Assistant Pastor of a Wesleyan Methodist Church, to administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnise the rite of matrimony.
   (2) To contract a pastoral relationship with Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches subject to the approval of the District Conference and other regulations of The Handbook (158:3; 163:1-2).
   (3) To enjoy, if appointed as a Pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which assigned by the District Conference (158:4); and to serve the assigned pastoral charge without interference by unauthorised activities of another Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (158:5; cf. 1132-1133).
   (4) To be a voting Member of the District Conference if an Ordained Minister-elect or if the Pastor or a full-time Associate/Assistant Pastor of a Wesleyan Methodist Church in that District (162:1; 438:2-4); to be a nonvoting Member if otherwise classified or appointed (440:3); to be eligible for election to any office not restricted to Ordained Ministers or lay persons.
   (5) To transfer in the manner prescribed by The Handbook from one District to another, subject to the concurrence of the National Superintendent and the District Superintendent over the District into which transfer is sought (158:6; cf. 1116:2; 1126; 1127:1).
   (6) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving character or ministerial conduct complaints and to appeal the decision of such court (158:7; 1570; 1576-1580).

1115. Duties of a Licensed Minister. A person holding a District ministerial licence shall be responsible:
   (1) To enrol in the pre-ordination course of study (1152:1) under the District Board of Ministerial Development and to pursue the course of study with all diligence until completed.
   (2) To serve the District faithfully under whatever appointment is received, seeking to complete the requirements for ordination as quickly as possible.
   (3) To report annually to the District Conference on the appropriate service report form (541; 1113:1), and to the District Superintendent and the District Board of Ministerial Development as required (294:32).

1116. Regulations for a Licensed Minister.
God's call to be a Minister (cf. 1101-1103) may be commissioned as a Minister by meeting the following requirements in order:

a) Satisfactory service under a District ministerial licence with appointment by the District for a minimum of six years (cf. 1113:3).

b) Completion of the Commissioned Minister's course of study or its equivalent (1152:3).

c) Recommendation of the District Board of Ministerial Development after consultation with the District Board of Administration (cf. 1117:1).

d) Election by the District Conference by a majority vote to Commissioned Minister's status (473:28, 473:29).

e) Public service of commissioning, in which the Minister shall witness to a Christian experience, conviction of a divine call to the ministry, commitment to the doctrines and practices of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and loyalty to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, after which the Minister shall be separated to the Christian ministry through the laying on of hands in the person of the National Superintendent (743:22), the District Superintendent (511:23), and a Council of Ordination (546).

f) Issuance and signing of a commission by the National Superintendent the District Superintendent, and the District Secretary (1835).  

1117. Identification. A Commissioned Minister is one who has demonstrated calling, gifts, and usefulness, who has served six or more years as a Licensed Minister, who because of age, aptitude, or other extenuating circumstances and after counsel with and agreement by the District Board of Ministerial Development chooses not to pursue full ministerial standing as an Ordained Minister, and who has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of a District Conference and by a commissioning service and thus has been vested with those functions of the Christian ministry essential to this level of service. The Commissioned Minister shall be subject to the following regulations:

(1) Qualifications for Commissioning. A Licensed Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who has an abiding conviction of God's call to be a Minister (cf. 1101-1103) may be commissioned as a Minister by meeting the following requirements in order:

a) To preach the gospel and to administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnise the rite of marriage wherever local laws will permit.

b) To be eligible for election to any office not restricted to Ordained Ministers or lay persons.

c) To contract a pastoral relationship with Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches subject to the approval of the District Conference and other regulations of The Handbook (158:3; 163:1-2).

d) To enjoy, if appointed as a Pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which appointed by the District Conference (158:4); and to serve the pastoral charge without interference by unauthorised activities of another Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (158:5; 1132-1133).

e) To be a voting Member of the District Conference if pastoring a Wesleyan Methodist Church or serving as a full-time Associate or Assistant Pastor of a Wesleyan Methodist Church (162:1; 438:3), or a nonvoting Member of the District Conference if appointed to some other category of service or in the process of transfer (162:1; 440:3).

f) To transfer in the manner prescribed by The Handbook from one District to another, subject to the concurrence of the National Superintendent and the District Superintendent over the District into which transfer is sought (158:6; 112:6; 1127:1).

g) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (158:7; 1570; 1576-1580).

h) To have the right to use the title Reverend while currently under appointment in one of the categories listed in The Handbook 1156.

(3) Duties of a Commissioned Minister. A Commissioned Minister shall be responsible:

a) To be devoted without reservation to the Christian ministry, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the appointment of the District Conference in determining and occupying this field of service.

b) To report annually to the District Conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 541; 1117:4b), and to the District Superintendent as required (cf. 296:32).

c) To voluntarily file all credentials with the District Superintendent if service in one of the categories of ministry listed in 1156-1170 ceases for a period of five years or more (1137-1138).

d) To voluntarily surrender credentials if guilty of an offence that would disqualify from service as a Commissioned Minister (1137; 1139-1140).

(4) Regulations for a Commissioned Minister.

a) A Commissioned Minister is amenable to the District where membership is held, and may be deposed from the ministry and ordered to surrender credentials by judicial process as set forth in 1576-1580.

b) A Commissioned Minister who fails to file the annual service report (541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the District Board of Ministerial Development, and requested to report at the next session of the District Conference. One who then fails to report shall be declared withdrawn from the District, and shall be so entered upon the minutes of the District Conference.

c) When a Commissioned Minister surrenders the commission after acknowledging guilt for an offence (1117:3d), or is ordered to surrender it after due judicial process (1580:4), it shall be lawful to publish such fact in The Australian Wesleyan.

F. Ordained Minister

1118. Identification. An Ordained Minister is a Minister whose calling, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ by the vote of a District Conference and by the solemn act of ordination (1711-1729), and thus has been fully vested with all the functions of the Christian ministry.

1119. Qualifications for Ordination. A Licensed Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who has an abiding conviction of God's call to be a Minister (cf. 1101-1103) may be ordained as an Ordained Minister by meeting the following requirements in order:
(1) Covenant membership in a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District granting ordination.
(2) Satisfactory service for two years subsequent to completion of the pre-ordination course of study, except for those who have been under appointment and supervision during the years spent completing their course of study. This service must be full-time (as determined by the District Board of Ministerial Development) in one of the categories of service listed in 1156-1170. At least one year must have been in The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District in which ordination is to take place. If ordination is to be in a District other than the one in which the service requirement was met, the District Board of Ministerial Development of the appointing District must recommend the candidate to the ordaining District.
(3) Completion of the pre-ordination course of study or of its equivalent (1851; cf. 1150; 1152:1).
(4) Examination by the District Board of Ministerial Development relative to qualifications for the ministry and for ordination (cf. 1101-1103; 1119:1-3), including a personal religious experience, ministerial call and evidence thereof, matters of education, doctrine, and practice, particularly a personal commitment without reservation to each of the Articles of Religion and the Membership Commitments and loyalty to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and circumstances of personal, family, and business life which bear upon the ministry; and a subsequent report by the District Board of Ministerial Development to the District Conference (537:1, 5).
(5) Election by the District Conference to ordination (473:28). In case of an emergency, a candidate who has been recommended by the District Board of Ministerial Development may be elected to ordination by the District Board of Administration in the interim of the sessions of the District Conference (486:35) with the approval of the National Superintendent.
(6) Public service of ordination (1711-1729), in which the Minister shall witness to a Christian experience, affirm conviction of a divine call to the ministry, commitment to the doctrines and principles of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and loyalty to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, after which the Minister shall be separated to the Christian ministry by the Church through the laying on of hands in the person of the National Superintendent (743:22), the District Superintendent (511:23), and a Council of Ordination (546).
(7) Issuance and signing of a certificate of ordination by the National Superintendent, District Superintendent, and District Secretary (1836).

1121. Rights of an Ordained Minister. As long as an Ordained Minister maintains spiritual life, moral character, and faithful ministry, and is neither under discipline nor expelled from the ministry, the Ordained Minister shall have the right (138):
(1) To preach the gospel and to administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to perform all parts of divine worship, and to solemnise the rite of matrimony.
(2) To be eligible for election to any office in the Church for which Ordained Ministers are eligible.
(3) To contract a pastoral relationship with Local Wesleyan Methodist Churches subject to the other provisions of The Handbook.
(4) To enjoy, if appointed as a Pastor, the use for religious meetings of the church building or buildings of the pastoral charge to which assigned by the District Conference (158:4); and to serve the assigned pastoral charge without interference from unauthorised activities of another Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (158:5; 1132-1133).
(5) To be a voting Member of the District Conference if under appointment, retired, on reserve, on educational leave, or a Member of the District Board of Administration (162:1; 438:1; 539:1-4), and a nonvoting Member if without appointment or in the process of transfer (440:1-2); and to have these Conference relations changed only after careful investigation by the District Board of Administration, and interview if possible (486:9c).
(6) To transfer in the manner prescribed by The Handbook from one District to another, subject to the concurrence of the National Superintendent and the District Superintendent over the District into which transfer is sought (1586; cf. 1127:1).
(7) To have recourse, even if under discipline, to a proper court of jurisdiction in any matters involving complaint against character or ministerial conduct and to appeal the decision of such court (1587; 1570; 1576-1580).

1122. Duties of an Ordained Minister. An Ordained Minister shall be responsible:
(1) To be devoted without reservation to the Christian ministry, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the appointment of the District Conference in determining and occupying this field of service.
(2) To report annually to the District Conference on the appropriate service report form (cf. 541; 1123:2), and to the District Superintendent as required (cf. 294:32).
(3) To voluntarily file all credentials with the District Superintendent if service in one of the categories of ministry listed in 1156-1170 ceases for a period of five (5) years or more (cf. 1137-1138).
(4) To voluntarily surrender credentials if guilty of an offence that would disqualify from service as an Ordained Minister (cf. 1137; 1139-1140).

1123. Regulations for an Ordained Minister.
(1) An Ordained Minister is amenable to the District where membership is held, and may be deposed from the ministry and ordered to surrender credentials by judicial process as set forth in 1576-1580.
(2) An Ordained Minister who fails to file the annual service report (541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the District Board of Ministerial Development, and requested to report at the next session of the District Conference. If the Ordained Minister then fails to report, the District shall declare the Ordained Minister withdrawn and shall record the action upon the minutes of the District Conference.
(3) When an Ordained Minister surrenders the certificate of ordination because guilty of an offence (1122:4), or is ordered to surrender it after due judicial process (1580:4), it shall be lawful to publish such fact in The Australian Wesleyan.

G. General Regulations for Ordained Ministers and Commissioned or Licensed Ministers

Special Advice to Ministers

1125. John Wesley’s “Rules of a Helper” have perhaps never been excelled as counsel to Ministers, whether young or old. These “Rules” are, in part, as follows:
(1) Be diligent. Never be unemployed a moment, never be triflingly employed, never while away time; spend no more time at any place than is strictly necessary.
(2) Be serious. Let your motto be, “Holiness unto the Lord.” Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.
(3) Believe evil of no one without good evidence; unless you see it done, take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. The judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner’s side.
(4) Speak evil of no one, else your word especially would eat as doth a canker. Keep your thoughts within your own breast till you come to the person concerned.
(5) Tell everyone under your care what you think wrong in their conduct and temper, and that lovingly and plainly as soon as may be, else it will fester in your heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.
 Avoid all affectation. A preacher of the gospel is the servant of all.

 Be ashamed of nothing but sin. Let your industry, as well as your humility, commend itself to all.

 Be punctual: do everything exactly at the time.

 Do not mend the rules, but keep them; not for wrath but for conscience’ sake.

 You have nothing to do but to save souls; therefore spend and be spent in this work; and go always not only to those that desire you, but to those who need you most.

 Membership of Ministers

 1126. Local Church Membership. Each Wesleyan Methodist Minister, whether Ordained, Commissioned, or Licensed, must be a Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church (157). If serving as a Pastor, membership is automatically transferred to the church of service (244:2). If serving in some capacity other than that of a Pastor, the holding and transfer of Local Church membership shall occur in the same manner as a lay person. A Commissioned or Licensed Minister must be a Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District where appointed or licensed. An Ordained Minister may be a Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church outside the District where ministerial membership is held except when regulations governing a particular appointment or office prohibit such (cf. 244:2; 492:50).

 1127. District Membership. An Ordained Minister or a Commissioned Minister shall be a Member of the District where appointed to service (cf. 1117:4), as shall each Licensed Minister and Ministerial Candidate of the District which issues the licence (cf. 1110:3b; 1111:4; 1121:5). The Minister’s District membership shall be subject to the following regulations:

 1. If a Minister desires to accept a pastoral call from a church within the bounds of another District, or if a Minister not serving as a Pastor desires to transfer ministerial membership to another District, the Minister must first obtain the written permission of the National Superintendent and the District Superintendent over the District into which transfer is desired (1586:6; 511:18; 743:25). When such has been obtained, the Minister shall ask the District Superintendent for a letter of transfer (1854; cf. 511:25) to be sent directly to the District Superintendent of the District into which transfer is desired (cf. 1116:2). The Minister shall continue to be considered as a Member of the former District until a reply has been received from the District to which application has been made stating that the Minister has been duly enrolled as a Member of the District Conference (1855; cf. 511:25).

 2. In an emergency, an Ordained Minister may serve as Supply Pastor of a church located within the bounds of a District other than the one in which ministerial membership is held (cf. 1159:1), provided that such an arrangement has the written approval of the Superintendent of each District involved (511:25), and does not continue beyond the next session of the District Conference in which membership is held without the consent of the District Conference.

 3. If a Minister so requests, the District Superintendent may grant a letter of standing (1856; cf. 511:25), which shall immediately terminate ministerial membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church (cf. 1138). Such a letter of standing shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance in the case of an Ordained Minister, or until the next session of the District Conference from which withdrawn in the case of a Commissioned or Licensed Minister.

 4. If a Minister declines in writing withdrawal from the Church, or leaves for parts unknown, or joins another Denomination, either as a Member or as a Minister, or fails to submit the annual service report (541; 1117:4c; 1123:3), the District Board of Administration may recommend and the District Conference may order that the Minister be declared withdrawn (cf. 1135; 1136; 1138). (Cf. 1580:2; 1597-1598.)

 5. No letters of transfer or standing shall be granted to any Minister by a District Superintendent until satisfactory evidence is given by the applicant that no outstanding debts are unpaid for, and that the Minister has honourably withdrawn from the contract for service with the church or District.

 Reception of Ministers from another Denomination

 1128. An Ordained Minister from another Denomination, or a Minister from another Denomination who has been ordained to deacon’s orders or who has been licensed or authorised in some manner equivalent to the commissioning or licensing of a Wesleyan Methodist Minister by a District Conference, may present a letter of standing or other credentials and transcripts or other records of ministerial training to the District Superintendent (511:25) and seek reception into The Wesleyan Methodist Church as an Ordained Minister or Commissioned or Licensed Minister, as the case may justify (486:34) subject to the approval of the National Superintendent (743:23), and according to the following procedures:

 1. The applicant shall join a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District.

 2. The applicant shall be examined by the District Board of Ministerial Development relative to Christian experience, call, and qualifications for the ministry as given in 1101-1103 (cf. 1117; 1119:4), the equivalence of training to the Wesleyan course of study (1152:1-3; cf. 1150), and to the nature of ordination, commission, or licence. A report of the examination of prior studies shall be prepared by the National Director of Education and Ministry and sent to the District Board of Ministerial Development.

 3. If the District Board of Ministerial Development so recommends (537:3), the District Conference may appoint the applicant as an Ordained Minister in process of transfer (473:29a; cf. 539:6; 1175; cf. 1118), a Commissioned Minister in process of transfer (539:9; 1117; 1175; cf. 1117), or a Licensed Minister in process of transfer (539:12; 1175), which relation shall continue for one year unless the District Conference shall by vote extend it. While serving under this relation, the applicant is a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (44b:2, 44b:3), may serve as a Supply Pastor (1159), and shall seek to correct any deficiencies in ministerial training as determined in the report of examination of prior studies prepared by the National Director of Education and Ministry. If at any time the District Board of Administration shall determine that it is not in the best interests of the District to continue the relation, they may by majority vote terminate the relation and any supply assignment, and thus dismiss the applicant from all ministerial relations to The Wesleyan Methodist Church. An Ordained Minister in the process of transfer shall have authority to administer the sacraments and perform marriages, while serving as a Supply Pastor (1159:2). This authority may also be extended to a Licensed Minister in process of transfer when recommended by the District Board of Administration and authorised by the National Superintendent. The continuance of this authority is conditional upon completion annually of the subjects recommended by the National Director of Education and Ministry (1159:2).

 4. If the year of service is satisfactory and all deficiencies in ministerial training are corrected, the District Board of Ministerial Development may recommend to the District Conference that the applicant be recognized as an Ordained Minister or Commissioned or Licensed Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and be received as a ministerial Member of the District (537:3). If an Ordained Minister in process of transfer faces extensive additional academic requirements, and age or other extenuating circumstances make it doubtful to the applicant and the District Board of Ministerial Development that such requirements can be met, the District Board of Ministerial Development, after consultation with the District Board of Administration, may authorise the applicant to qualify for Commissioned Minister’s status and proceed accordingly (cf. 1117).
(5) When an Ordained Minister or Commissioned Minister has been so received, a proper certificate validating the ordination or commission shall be signed and issued (1837). For the Licensed Minister, a licence shall be issues (1833).

### The Minister and Marriage

**1129.** Any Minister who enters into a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures, and to those expositions of Scripture as set forth in the Membership Commitments (cf. 187:7), after having been ordained, commissioned, or licensed, shall be dismissed from ministerial standing, provided that guilt shall be established in accord with the judicial processes set forth in *The Handbook* (1576-1580).

**1130.** In performing marriages, Wesleyan Methodist Ministers shall not unite in marriage any person who is divorced, unless such divorce and remarriage is in keeping with the Scriptures and the Membership Commitments. In carrying out this duty, the Minister shall be guided by the principles set forth in 187:7.

**1131.** In performing marriages, Wesleyan Methodist Ministers shall not unite in marriage persons of the same sex.

### Relationship to Other Ministers and Churches

**1132.** Each Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall respect the rights of each other Minister within this field of labour, and shall not interfere with the work of, nor influence anyone against any Pastor, District Official, or other Minister of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (cf. 158:5). In the event of any such violation of ministerial ethics, the aggrieved person may file a complaint with the District Superintendent (1576; cf. 1556:2, 1556:4).

**1133.** If a Wesleyan Methodist Minister shall engage to serve another Denomination, or an interdenominational or independent work, as a Pastor or in some other regular capacity, except by permission of the District Conference, or in the interim of its sessions, by permission of the District Board of Administration, the District Board of Administration may recommend and the District Conference may order that the Minister be declared withdrawn. If serving within the territory of a District other than the one to which the Minister belongs, the Minister must have not only the permission of the District to which they belong, but also the permission of the District Superintendent over the territory where labour is proposed to labour (511:25). An Ordained Minister serving outside The Wesleyan Methodist Church with the permission of the District in which membership is held shall be placed either on the appointed list in the category of Inter-Church service (1169) or special service (1170) or listed as an Ordained Minister without appointment (1174).
Chapter II
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

A. Priority of Ministerial Education

1146. The Wesleyan Methodist Church gives priority in its organisation and its Educational Institutions to the training of its Ministerial Candidates for the Christian ministry and related fields of labour (920:1). The Church expects persons who answer the call to preach to prepare thoroughly for this ministry and to devote themselves throughout this ministry to being able dispensers of divine wisdom.

B. Administration of Ministerial Education

1148. The administration of ministerial education in The Wesleyan Methodist Church involves both National and District bodies, Officers, and Agencies. The National Conference adopts the overall framework for ministerial training and establishes the various Agencies and Schools responsible to carry out the work (650:10, 11; 925). The National Board of Administration considers the recommendations of the National Director of Education and the Ministry in adopting the basic courses of study and coordinating the total program (691:16; 1151-1152). The National Director of Education and the Ministry promotes the enlistment and preparation of candidates for the ministry. The Colleges adapt the basic courses of study to their use and enrol candidates for the ministry in classroom preparation. The District Boards of Ministerial Development are responsible to recognise potential Ministers, encourage and guide them in their training, maintain records for them and administer the oral examination prior to recommendation for District license, commission or ordination (537:1; 1117:1c; 1119:4).

C. Types of Ministerial Education

Programs of Study

1150. The following programs of study are open to the candidates in meeting the educational requirements for ordination in The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(1) Post-Graduate Studies The completion of a post graduate qualification in theological or ministry studies from a Denominational or Partner College of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (930-931; 950-952).

(2) Under-Graduate Studies. The completion of an undergraduate qualification in theological or ministry studies from a Denominational or Partner College of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (930-931; 950-952).

(3) Vocational Education and Training. The completion Vocational Education and Training qualification/s from a Denominational or Partner College of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (930-931; 950-952).

(4) Training outside the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Some candidates for the ministry will have secured some or all of their college studies outside the Institutions and Agencies of The Wesleyan Methodist Church prior to their commencement as a ministerial candidate. In such cases, National Director of Education and the Ministry, shall carefully evaluate such work in terms of its degree of equivalence to the ministerial course of study of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, giving particular attention to the candidate's qualifications in the areas of Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity (828:2; 1112:3; 1117:1b; 1119:3; 1128:3).

a) The National Director of Education and Ministry shall report all transcript evaluations back to the District Board of Ministerial Development.

Courses of Study

1151. The National Director of Education and the Ministry shall develop (828:1), and the National Board of Administration shall adopt (691:20), courses of study for pre-ordination, specialised ministries, Commissioned Ministers, and special lay ministries. Each course of study shall be composed of a number of subjects determined by the National Board of Administration. No credit shall be given for any subject in which the final grade is less than passing.

1152. The National Board of Administration shall provide for the following courses of study:

(1) Pre-ordination Course of Study. The pre-ordination course of study shall consist of:

   (a) the completion of a theological or ministry qualification:
       a two year (full-time equivalent) postgraduate Masters degree or
       a three year (full-time equivalent) undergraduate Bachelor degree or
       four years (full-time equivalent) of Vocational Education and Training qualifications consisting of a Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and a Graduate Certificate

   (b) Completion of the full list of ordination subjects — (biblical, historical, theological, and practical, including subjects in Wesleyan Methodist doctrine, history, and polity) as specified by the National Board of Administration.

(2) Commissioned Minister's Course of Study. The Commissioned Minister's course of study shall consist of:

   (a) The completion of a theological or ministry qualification:
       a one and a half year (full-time equivalent) postgraduate Masters degree or
       a two year (full-time equivalent) undergraduate Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Associate degree or
       a two year (full-time equivalent) Vocational Education and Training Diploma

   (b) Completion of the full list of commissioning subjects (biblical, historical, theological, and practical subjects), as specified by the National Board of Administration.

(4) Lay Minister's Course of Study. The Lay Minister's course of study shall consist of the equivalent of one year full time study (Postgraduate, Under-graduate or Vocational Education and Training) as specified by the National Board of Administration, and shall include subjects in Wesleyan Methodist doctrine, history and polity, and such other subjects as are pertinent.
Continuing Education

1153. The National Director of Education and the Ministry and the National Board of Administration shall adopt varying programs of continuing education for Ordained Ministers, Commissioned Ministers and Lay Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Chapter III
MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

A. Categories of Service

1156. While The Wesleyan Methodist Church recognizes only two levels of ministry which in and of themselves have a degree of permanency, that of Ordained Minister and that of Commissioned Minister, it also recognizes that the Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, or Licensed Minister preparing for ordination as an Ordained Minister may serve the Church in various capacities. Christ has called some to be “apostles, and some, prophets, and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-12). The Church recognizes the following categories of service to which a District Conference may appoint an Ordained Minister, or, as circumstances warrant, a Commissioned or Licensed Minister (473:26); pastor (1158-1159); evangelist (1160-1163); missionary (1165); educator (1166); administrator (1167); chaplain (1167; cf. 1168); Inter-Church service (1169); and special service (1170). Service within these categories that qualifies as being “in a ministerial capacity” would include that service for which ministerial training is required or greatly desired. The National Board of Administration adopts guidelines for each category which will aid District Boards in identifying the kinds of service which are considered to be “in a ministerial capacity.”

Pastors

1158. Regular Pastoral Service. The pastoral office is defined in 276. In The Wesleyan Methodist Church, pastoral service includes the Pastor of a Church (296), an Associate Pastor (297), and an Assistant Pastor, who may specialize in such ways as Minister of Christian Education, Minister of Music, Minister of Visitation, or Minister of Youth (298). An Ordained Minister appointed by a District Conference to any of these levels of pastoral service in connection with a Wesleyan Methodist Church, Developing Church, or mission shall be placed on the appointed list (cf. 539:1b); a Commissioned or Licensed Minister appointed as Pastor or full-time Associate or Assistant Pastor of a Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be a voting Member of the District Conference (161; 438:3; 539:7, 10; 1114:4; 1117:2e).

1159. Supply Pastors. A District Conference (207; 473:26h2; 539:19), or, in the interim of its sessions, the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration (486:29, 36; 511:19-20) shall have the power to appoint a Supply Pastor, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

1. A Supply Pastor may be a Wesleyan Ordained Minister or Commissioned Minister or Licensed Minister serving under some other appointment or an Ordained Minister on loan from one District to another (cf. 207; 539:1b; 1127:2), a Lay Minister (1188-1189), a Minister in process of transfer from another Denomination (1128), a Minister who belongs to another Denomination, a Ministerial Candidate, a Local Preacher, or a lay person.

2. A Supply Pastor shall be appointed temporarily to fill the pulpit and to provide a spiritual ministry, but shall not have authority to administer the sacraments or to perform marriages unless that authority adheres on some other basis or has been granted by the District Superintendent. A Supply Pastor shall not perform the administrative function of the Pastor except in filing of reports unless authorized to do so by the District Superintendent (cf. 511:8, 511:20).

3. A Supply Pastor’s church membership shall not be automatically transferred to the church of service.

4. A Supply Pastor shall be granted a certificate of authorization to supply on the form provided in 1828.

5. A Supply Pastor shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:7) and shall not be eligible to serve as a voting Lay Delegate on behalf of a Local Church.

6. A Supply Pastor may be removed or replaced at any time by the District Board of Administration (486:36; 511:19, 511:20; cf. 1570:4).

Evangelists

1160. Functions. An Evangelist is an Ordained Minister or Commissioned or Licensed Minister who devotes time to travelling and preaching the gospel without any specific pastoral assignment, and who is authorized by the Church to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land.

1161. Examination. Before appointment as an Evangelist, the candidate shall be examined carefully by the District Board of Ministerial Development relative to Christian experience, full personal commitment to and support of the Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments, to the government, Institutions, and best interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, gifts and aptitudes for the work of an Evangelist, and the intention to devote time to the work of evangelism.

1162. Appointment. An Evangelist is an Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister or Licensed Minister appointed by a District to serve in the field of evangelism. An Ordained Minister so appointed shall be placed upon the appointed list (cf. 539:1c). A Commissioned or Licensed Minister so appointed shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (539:11) and is a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:3). To receive such an appointment, the Minister must devote a major portion of time to the work of evangelism.

1163. Reserve Evangelist. An Ordained Minister who due to age or physical disability is limited in activities may be appointed as a Reserve Evangelist (cf. 539:1c). Appointment and certification as a Reserve Evangelist shall be according to the same conditions and procedures as for an Evangelist (1160-1162), except that Reserve Evangelists shall not be required to meet the same level of service required for Evangelists. Reserve Evangelists shall, however, be required to have some satisfactory level of evangelistic ministry each year.

1164. Evangelistic Reports. In addition to the filing of the annual report (541), each Evangelist shall file an annual statistical report with the District Statistical Committee, and the National Board of Evangelism and Church Growth on forms approved by the National Board of Administration and made available by the National Secretary.

Missionaries

1165. When an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister has been appointed by the National Board of Administration to serve in a ministerial capacity under the National Director of World Missions (878:1-4) or under the Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (852:1), the District Conference shall list the Minister as if it had so appointed the individual. An Ordained Minister so appointed shall be placed upon the appointed list (539:1d). A Commissioned or Licensed Minister so serving shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (cf. 440:3; 539:8, 11). (Cf. 800.)
Ordained Ministers, Commissioned Ministers, or Licensed Ministers may serve as educators in The Wesleyan Methodist Church and be appointed as follows:

1. When an Ordained Minister or Commissioned or Licensed Minister has been employed to serve in a ministerial capacity on the administrative Staff or Faculty of one of the Denominational Colleges of The Wesleyan Methodist Church the District Conference shall list the Minister as if it had so appointed the individual. An Ordained Minister so serving shall be placed upon the appointed list (cf. 539:1d) and shall be a voting Member of the District Conference (438:1). A Commissioned or Licensed Minister so serving shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:3).

2. An Ordained Minister or Commissioned or Licensed Minister may be employed in a ministerial capacity in a special Christian education program of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, subject to review by the District Board of Administration and appointment by the District Conference (473:26; 486:9). An Ordained Minister so appointed shall be placed upon the appointed list (539:1b). A Commissioned or Licensed Minister so serving shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (cf. 440:3; 539:8, 11).

Ordained Ministers without Appointment

1174. An Ordained Minister in active service outside The Wesleyan Methodist Church with the consent of the District Conference but who is not eligible for inclusion in 1170 or 1171, or an Ordained Minister who is not available for appointment, or an Ordained Minister employed by the National Board of Administration, or those elected or employed by the National Board of Administration, or those elected or employed by the District Conference to serve with an educational institution, or those elected by the District Conference to serve with the Board of Administration of a church-related organisation serving The Wesleyan Methodist Church, subject to review by the District Board of Administration and appointment by the District Conference (473:26; 486:9). An Ordained Minister so appointed shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (cf. 539:8, 11).

Administrators

1167. When an Ordained Minister has been elected by the National Conference as a National Official (711), or an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister has been elected or employed by the National Board of Administration, or those elected or employed by the Board of Directors of a National Subsidiary Corporation other than an Educational Institution, to serve the National Church in a ministerial capacity, or an Ordained Minister has been elected by the District Conference as District Superintendent or full-time Assistant District Superintendent, or an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister has been elected or employed for full-time service of the District in a ministerial capacity, the District Conference shall list the Ordained Minister as if it had so appointed the individual. An Ordained Minister serving in this manner shall be placed on the appointed list (cf. 539:1a, d), and a Licensed Minister so serving shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference and shall be listed under “Licensed Ministers, Other Appointments” (cf. 440:3; 539:11). Any Ordained Minister employed by the National Church in other than a ministerial capacity shall be placed on the list of Ordained Ministers without appointment (cf. 539:5).

Chaplains

1168. When an Ordained Minister has been approved by the Committee on Chaplains and commissioned by the government as a military chaplain, or employed as a full-time professional institutional chaplain, the District Conference shall list the chaplain as if it had so appointed the individual. An Ordained Minister serving in this capacity shall be placed on the appointed list (cf. 539:1e).

Ministers Engaged in Inter-Church Service

1169. An Ordained Minister employed in a ministerial capacity as an Officer in a church-related organisation serving The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or approved upon careful evaluation of the District Conference to serve with an Educational Institution, Evangelistic or Missionary Organisation not directly related to The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be appointed to Inter-Church service and shall be listed by the District as an appointed Ordained Minister (cf. 539:1f). A Commissioned or Licensed Minister so appointed shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference and shall be listed under “Other Appointments” (cf. 539:8, 11).

Ministers Engaged in Special Service

1170. An Ordained Minister in active service not otherwise provided for shall be appointed to special service, if such service is approved by the District Conference and shall be listed by the District as an appointed Ordained Minister (539:1e).

B. Other Assignments

Students

1171. The District Conference shall list Ordained Ministers and others pursuing ministerial studies in keeping with these regulations:

1. Ordained Minister on Educational Leave. An Ordained Minister without other appointment who enrolls in a Seminary or other Graduate School for advanced training for church service shall be listed as an “Ordained Minister on educational leave” (539:4). An Ordained Minister so appointed shall be a voting Member of the District Conference (438:1).

2. Ministerial Candidate. A Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, engaged in study in preparation for ordination, either by enrolling in an approved Denominational College (930-931) or Parmer College (950-952), and who meets all other qualifications (1110:1), may be appointed by the District Conference as a Ministerial Candidate (539:13; 1110:1). The Ministerial Candidate shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:4).

Reserve Ordained Minister

1172. An Ordained Minister on reserve is one available for appointment but left without one (539:3). The Ordained Minister on reserve shall be a voting Member of the District Conference (162:1; 438:1). If an Ordained Minister remains on reserve for two consecutive years without definite appointment, the Ordained Minister shall be automatically transferred to the list of Ordained Ministers without appointment (1174) unless continued on reserve by the District Conference (473:26e).

Retired Ministers

1173.

1. Ordained Ministers. An Ordained Minister who is retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, and who was on either the appointed list, on reserve, or on educational leave at the time of retirement or incapacitation, shall be placed on the retired list (539:2). A retired Ordained Minister shall be a voting Member of the District Conference (438:1).

2. Commissioned Ministers. A Commissioned Minister who is retired shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (438:3; 1117).

Ordained Ministers without Appointment

1174. An Ordained Minister in active service outside The Wesleyan Methodist Church with the consent of the District Conference but who is not eligible for inclusion in 1170 or 1171, or an Ordained Minister who is not available for appointment, or an Ordained
Minister who is not otherwise provided for in the appointed, reserve, educational leave, or retired lists shall be placed on the list of Ordained Ministers without appointment (539:5). An Ordained Minister without appointment shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:1).

Ministers in Process of Transfer from another Denomination

1175.

(1) **Ordained Ministers.** An Ordained Minister seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Methodist Church from another Denomination shall be listed by the District Conference for the first year and until all deficiencies in educational or service requirements are cared for as an Ordained Minister in process of transfer (cf. 539:6; 1128; 1150). An Ordained Minister in process of transfer shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:2).

(2) **Other Ministers.** A Commissioned or Licensed Minister or ordained deacon seeking to be received into The Wesleyan Methodist Church from another Denomination shall be listed by the District Conference for the first year and until all deficiencies in educational requirements are cared for as a Commissioned or Licensed Minister in process of transfer (cf. 1128). A Commissioned or Licensed Minister in process of transfer shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:3).
Chapter IV

LAY MINISTRIES

A. Lay Ministry under the Local Church

1178. Local Preacher. A Local Preacher is a Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church whom the Local Church Conference, or the Local Board of Administration if so delegated, has licensed to preach or serve (274:7), under the Pastor's direction and as opportunity affords (294:28).

1179. Granting a Local Preacher's Licence. A Covenant Member of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, who applies for a licence as a Local Preacher or who is presented as a candidate for such a licence by the Pastor shall be examined by the Local Board of Administration. If the Local Board of Administration is satisfied that the candidate shows promise of the proper gifts and usefulness, it shall recommend to the Local Church Conference the granting of a licence (316:19). When the Local Church Conference has approved such action (272:6; 274:7), the Pastor and Local Church Secretary shall issue the licence on the proper form (1826; cf. 294:28; 337:5).

1180. Renewing a Local Preacher's Licence. A Local Preacher's licence is effective for one year only, and authority to preach or serve under such a licence shall cease unless it is renewed annually by the Local Church Conference. The Local Church Conference may renew the licence if its holder has served satisfactorily under the Pastor's direction, if the Local Preacher's gifts and graces give promise of continued usefulness, and if the Local Preacher has completed one subject in the course of study for Lay Ministers (1152:4) during the year. A Local Preacher, who has completed all of the required subjects for a Lay Minister (1152:4), may continue as a Local Preacher, if the licence is renewed annually by the Local Church Conference.

1181. Duties of a Local Preacher. A person holding a Local Preacher's licence shall be responsible:

1. To undertake the course of study for Lay Ministers under the District Board of Ministerial Development, either by enrolling in an approved Denominational College (930-931) or Partner College (950-952). Any training taken outside The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be carefully evaluated by the District Board of Ministerial Development which shall determine to what extent it may be credited towards the prescribed course (1150).

2. To assist the Pastor as directed (294:28), preaching as often as opportunity affords, including the holding of services in neighbouring churches with the Pastor's approval or serving in other ways befiting the Local Preacher's gifts and local needs.

3. To report the progress of studies and the nature and extent of labours to the Pastor and Local Board of Administration as they shall require (316:4), and to the Local Church Conference annually (272:5; 274:5).

4. To serve as Supply Pastor (1159) when appointed by the District Board of Administration (486:29; 511:20), and when so employed to make reports as required by the District Superintendent and annually to the District Conference.

1182. Regulations for a Local Preacher.

1. A Local Preacher has no authority to solemnise marriages or to administer sacraments; nor any vote in the Local Board of Administration or in the District Conference, unless elected thereto.

2. A Local Preacher is amenable to the Local Church Conference, and the licence may be revoked for cause or when the best interests of the church so require, upon recommendation of the Local Board of Administration and by a majority vote of the Local Church Conference (274:7; 316:19).

3. A Local Preacher who transfers membership may also ask for a letter of standing as a Local Preacher (1827), and present it to the Pastor of the church to which transfer is sought for consideration by the Local Board of Administration there in issuing a new licence.

B. Lay Ministry under the District Conference

1187. Purpose of a Lay Minister. A Lay Minister is a lay person who is divinely led to serve the Church as a Director of Music, Director of Christian education, Youth Director, Song Evangelist, Chalk Artist, Children's Worker, Spouse in Ministry, Lay Evangelist, Social Worker, Supply Pastor or in some other special capacity, who has completed the Lay Minister's course of study, and who has been authorised to carry on such work by a District Conference.

1188. Preparation. A Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be commissioned by the District Conference as a Lay Minister after completion of the Lay Minister's course of study and other requirements in 1189. This study may be completed while serving as a Local Preacher (1179-1180), or may be completed while pursuing ordination when the maximum period of ten years as a Licensed Minister elapses (1113:3).

1189. Lay Minister. A Lay Minister may be commissioned by the District Conference provided that the worker has completed the course of study (1152:5) or its equivalent (1150), has served satisfactorily for at least two years, and has been recommended by the District Board of Ministerial Development after careful examination concerning Christian experience, gifts, calling, and experience in the particular field of service (537:5). The commissioning shall include the affirmative vote of the District Conference (473:29c), a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 1741 (cf. 546), and the issuance of a certificate signed by the National Superintendent, the District Superintendent, and the District Secretary (1847; cf. 511:23; 517:4; 743:22).

1. The commission shall be continuous until such time as the worker ceases to be active in the particular field of service and files the credential with the District Superintendent, or unless deprived of the commission by judicial process (1576-1580).

2. A Lay Minister who fails to file the annual service report (541) for two successive years, shall be notified by the District Board of Ministerial Development, and requested to report at the next session of the District Conference. A Lay Minister, who then fails to report, shall be declared withdrawn from the District, and the Lay Minister's name shall be so entered upon the minutes of the District Conference (cf. 537:8).

3. A person from another Denomination holding a Lay Minister's commission or its equivalent may be received into The Wesleyan Methodist Church subject to the regulations which govern the transfer of Ministers (486:34; 537:3; 1128).

1190. General Regulations for Lay Ministers. A Lay Minister shall be a Member of a Local Church within the District which authorises the service, and shall serve under the direction of the District. A Lay Minister shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:5), and shall report annually to the District Conference (537:7). A Lay Minister may be granted a letter of transfer or standing (1854-1856). A former Lay Minister's commission may be restored only in keeping with the provisions of 1136-1144.

C. Lay Ministry in Missionary Service
1191. A lay person who has been appointed by the National Board of Administration to service under the Department of World Missions (860-878), or under the Department of Evangelism and Church Growth (845-852), shall be commissioned by the District Conference (473:29:f) as a Lay Missionary. The commissioning shall include a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 1741 (cf. 546), and the issuance of a credential signed by the National Superintendent, the District Superintendent, and the District Secretary (1848; cf. 511:23; 517:4; 743:22). The commission shall be continuous with the period of service. The missionary shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:6). The missionary shall be amenable in keeping with the provisions of 880.
Chapter V

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

1195. Leadership Covenant. Leaders have a Biblical responsibility to set an example of Christian living (1 Tim 3:1 – 10; Tit 1:6-9). All Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed persons together with lay members of the District and National Boards of Administration and Ministerial Development, Auxiliary leaders and lay members of the Local Board of Administration shall agree to live in the spirit of, declare and defend the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles, Membership Commitments and Collective Conscience Statements.
PART VII – CONSTITUTIONS OF AUXILIARIES

Chapter I

NATIONAL AUXILIARY ORGANISATION

1201. Purpose. National Auxiliaries shall have advisory and resource functions rather than be representative organisations. The main area of Auxiliary activity is on the Local and District level.

A. National Director.

1202. National Auxiliary Director. The National Auxiliary Director may be either full-time or part-time. The Director shall be elected by the National Conference and amenable to the National Board of Administration. They shall abide by the regulations for all National Officers, including the requirement to be a Covenant Member of a Wesleyan Methodist Church. The Director shall be a non-voting Member of the National Conference (602:2).

1203. Duties of the National Director. The National Auxiliary Director shall provide motivation, training, and resources for the District and Local Auxiliary movement, directing any National Convention, and National Auxiliary projects or programs approved by the National Board of Administration. The Director shall Chair the National Advisory Council.

B. National Advisory Council

1204. Membership. The National Advisory Council shall be composed of the National Director as Chair, and the District Auxiliary Directors. Other co-opted Members may be selected by the Council or by the National Director.

1205. Duties. The Council shall serve as an advisory body to the National Director and the general Auxiliary movement on all levels, providing counsel, assistance, and direction. It shall co-ordinate joint District programs and all National level activities, including a National Convention (1207). All plans and proposals of the Advisory Council are subject to approval by the National Board of Administration (691:20). It may submit a nomination for National Director to the National Conference Nominating Committee.

1206. By-laws. The Council may provide by-laws for administration of the Auxiliary, providing for other Officers and regulations as need demands. The by-laws must be approved by the National Board of Administration.

C. National Convention

1207. The National Advisory Council may plan for a National Convention for the Auxiliary if it so desires. Such a Convention would likely take place only once every two or four years and should not take the place of District events.

D. National Auxiliaries

1208. Auxiliaries of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.
   (1) Wesleyan Men (1211ff)
   (2) Wesleyan Women (1236ff)
   (3) Wesleyan Youth (1271ff)
   (4) Young Adults International (1331ff)
Chapter II

WESLEYAN MEN

A. Constitution of Local Wesleyan Men

1211. Article 1. Name. The name of this Organisation shall be Wesleyan Men of _____ Wesleyan Methodist Church. (If the Chapter serves more than one Local Church, the name of the city or region may be used.)

1212. Article 2. Purpose. Wesleyan Men shall seek to extend the kingdom of God through the ministries of The Wesleyan Methodist Church through soul-winning, service, stewardship, and fellowship.

1213. Article 3. Relationship. The Local Chapter of Wesleyan Men shall function as a part of the Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall be subject to the supervision of the Pastor (294:16), and shall be amenable to the Local Board of Administration (316:3, 316:23). If the Chapter serves more than one Local Church, it shall be amenable to the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration (486:21; cf. 511:8).

1214. Article 4. Membership. Membership in Wesleyan Men shall be open to all men of good character.

1215. Article 5. Meetings

(1) The Chapter shall meet monthly for inspiration, instruction, business, and fellowship.
(2) The annual meeting for the election of Officers shall be held during the month preceding the close of the District fiscal year (473:18).


(1) Executive Officers. The Executive Officers of the Local Wesleyan Men shall be the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and Treasurer, who, together with the Pastor (294:18), shall constitute the Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee.
(2) Other Officers. Each Local Wesleyan Men may also have such other Officers and such Committees as it shall deem necessary, subject to the approval of the Local Board of Administration (316:23).
(3) Delegates. In addition to the Director of each Wesleyan Men Chapter, who is a Member of the District Wesleyan Men Convention by virtue of their office (1217:2; 1223:2), each Wesleyan Men Chapter shall be entitled to at least one Delegate to the District Wesleyan Men Convention. The District Wesleyan Men Convention may establish a system of multiple representation from larger Chapters.

(4) Qualifications. The Executive Officers and Delegates of the Local Wesleyan Men shall be laypersons and Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, except that the membership requirement may be waived in the case of a Developing Church. All Officers and Committee Members must be Members of the Local Wesleyan Men and in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) Election Procedure. Executive Officers, Delegates and such other Officers and Committee Members as the bylaws shall require, shall be elected by the Local Wesleyan Men at its annual business meeting (1215:2). Preceding the annual Wesleyan Men election, the Local Wesleyan Men shall elect, or the Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee shall appoint, a Nominating Committee consisting of three to five Members, over which the Pastor or their representative shall preside (294:18). The Nominating Committee shall select two or more nominations for the Local Wesleyan Men Director, to be approved by the Local Board of Administration and elected at the annual Wesleyan Men business meeting, provided that the Local Board of Administration may make such other nominations as desired. The Nominating Committee shall present nominations to the Local Wesleyan Men for all other Officers, Committee Members, and Delegates. Executive Officers shall be elected by ballot, and other Officers, Delegates, and Committee Members may be elected in any manner desired. In all cases, election shall be by majority vote of the Members of the Local Wesleyan Men present and voting. The election must be ratified by the Local Board of Administration before becoming final (316:23).

(6) Term of Service. Local Wesleyan Men Officers shall take office at the beginning of the District fiscal year (473:18), and shall serve until the end of the District fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(7) Amenability and Vacancies. All Officers and Committee Members of the Local Wesleyan Men shall be amenable for their official duties to the Local Board of Administration, and may be removed for cause or whenever the best interests of the church or the Local Wesleyan Men so require by a majority vote of the Local Board of Administration (316:25). The Local Board of Administration shall have authority to see that all vacancies are filled in the manner it deems best (316:26).


(1) Criteria. All Officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook, the constitution of Wesleyan Men, and the official Wesleyan Men Handbook authorised by the National Board of Administration and issued by the National Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (cf. 1216:1; 1225:6).

(2) Local Wesleyan Men Director. The Director shall co-operate with the District Wesleyan Men Director, exercise general leadership of the Local Wesleyan Men under the general oversight of the Pastor (294:16), preside over business meetings and meetings of the Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (1217:6), serve as an ex-officio Member of all Local Wesleyan Men Committees, report to each regular session of the Local Church Conference (272:2, 274:5) and to the Local Board of Administration as it shall order (316:4), and shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the District Wesleyan Men Convention (1223:2).

(3) Local Wesleyan Men Assistant Director. The Assistant Director shall assist the Director as the Director shall request, and shall assume the duties of the Director in case the Director is unable to serve.

(4) Local Wesleyan Men Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of Members, and shall record the minutes of all meetings, including those of the Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (1217:6).

(5) Local Wesleyan Men Treasurer.

a) Fiscal Procedures. The Treasurer shall receive, record, hold, and disburse all funds of the Chapter in keeping with the financial plans of the National and District Organisations of Wesleyan Men, and as ordered by the Chapter or its Executive Committee subject to the approval of the Local Board of Administration (316:23), remitting monthly all funds intended for the District or National Church to the District Wesleyan Men Treasurer (1225:5).

b) Reports. The Treasurer shall make a financial report to all regular meetings of the Chapter, to the Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee and to the monthly session of the Local Board of Administration as requested (316:4), and to all regular sessions of the Local Church Conference (272:3, 274:5). The Treasurer shall submit an annual statistical report of the Local Wesleyan Men to the District Wesleyan Men Convention and shall assist the Pastor and the Local Wesleyan Men Director as they shall request.
in the preparation of their reports. The books shall be submitted to the Local Church Auditing Committee annually (353), and as ordered by the Local Board of Administration (316:4).

(6) Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee. (1216:1). The Local Wesleyan Men Director shall be Chair ex-officio of the Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (1217:2), and the Local Wesleyan Men Secretary shall be Secretary ex-officio (1217:4). The Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee shall direct the affairs of the Local Wesleyan Men between business meetings of the Chapter, shall make recommendations to the Chapter, and shall appoint all Committee Members not elected by the Chapter. All plans and actions of the Local Wesleyan Men Executive Committee may be reviewed by the Local Board of Administration, which may veto any of the Committee’s plans or actions (316:23).

1218. Articles 8. Local Bylaws. The Local Wesleyan Men Chapter may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they do not conflict with The Handbook or other directives of the National Church and District, and provided they are approved by the Local Board of Administration (316:23), or in the case of a City or Regional Chapter, by the District Board of Administration (486:21).

B. Constitution of District Wesleyan Men

1220. Article 1. Name. All Local Wesleyan Men Chapters within the bounds of a District shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Men of the District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1221. Article 2. Purpose. The District Wesleyan Men shall carry out the basic purpose of Wesleyan Men (1212) within the bounds of the District, organising Chapters and securing their co-operation as an effective District Unit of Wesleyan Men.

1222. Article 3. Relationship. The District Wesleyan Men shall function as a part of the District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to which it belongs, shall be subject to the supervision of the District Superintendent (511:8), and shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration (486:21, 486:25:2).


(1) Purpose and Organisation. There shall be an annual District Wesleyan Men Convention in each District at such a time and place as the District Board of Administration shall approve (486:21), to receive reports (1225:1, 1225:4), to elect District Wesleyan Men Officers (1224:3), to make recommendations to the District Board of Administration and/or the National Wesleyan Men Executive Committee, to carry on all other business pertaining to the District Wesleyan Men, and to provide the Members of the Convention with a time of inspiration, fellowship, and Christian challenge. The National Director of Wesleyan Men shall preside over the District Wesleyan Men Convention when present, and when absent, the District Wesleyan Men Director shall preside (1225:2).

(2) Membership. The District Wesleyan Men Convention shall be composed of the District Superintendent (507:3), the District Wesleyan Men Officers (1225), the Directors of all Local Chapters (1217:2), and Delegates from the Local Chapters (1216:3). Delegates shall be Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and shall be elected by the Chapters at the annual meeting for the election of Officers (1215:2).

(3) Committees. There shall be a Nominating Committee as set forth in 1224:4. The District Wesleyan Men Convention may elect such other Committees as it may deem necessary, and shall define the duties of the same.

(4) Approval. All plans and actions of the District Wesleyan Men Convention shall be subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (486:21).


(1) Executive Officers. The Executive Officers shall be the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and Treasurer, who together with the District Superintendent (511:10) shall constitute the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee.

(2) Other Officers. Each District Wesleyan Men may also have such other Officers and standing Committees as the District Wesleyan Men Convention shall deem necessary.

(3) Qualifications. All Officers and Committees Members must be Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and wherever practicable, Members of a Local Chapter of Wesleyan Men within the District. Executive Officers shall be laypersons.

(4) Election Procedure. The Executive Officers of the District Wesleyan Men and such other Officers and Committee Members as the bylaws shall require shall be elected by the District Wesleyan Men Convention (1223:2). The District Wesleyan Men Convention shall elect or the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee, over which the District Superintendent or their representative shall preside. Preceding the District Wesleyan Men Convention, the Nominating Committee shall select two or more nominees for District Wesleyan Men Director, for approval by the District Board of Administration and election by the District Wesleyan Men Convention, provided that the District Board of Administration may make such other nominations as desired. The Nominating Committee shall present nominations to the District Wesleyan Men Convention for all other Officers and positions as requested (1223:2-3). Executive Officers shall be elected by ballot and other Officers may be elected in any manner desired. All offices and positions shall be filled by majority vote of the District Wesleyan Men Convention present and voting. The election must be ratified by the District Board of Administration before becoming final (486:21).

(5) Term of Office. District Wesleyan Men Officers shall assume office at the close of the District Convention at which they are elected and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(6) Amenity and Vacancies. All Officers and Committee Members of the District Wesleyan Men shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration, and may be removed for cause or when the best interests of the Wesleyan Men or the District so require by a majority vote of the District Board of Administration. The District Board of Administration shall fill all vacancies. (Cf. 486:25:2).


(1) Criteria. All Officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook, the constitution of Wesleyan Men and the official Handbook authorised by the National Board of Administration and issued by the National Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (cf. 1216:1).

(2) District Wesleyan Men Director. The Director shall be responsible to co-operate with the National Director of Wesleyan Men and the National Wesleyan Men Executive Committee; to exercise general leadership of the District Wesleyan Men under the general oversight of the District Superintendent (511:8); to preside over meetings of the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (1225:1); to preside over sessions of the District Wesleyan Men Convention except when the National Director of Wesleyan Men is present and presiding (1225:1); to seek to organise Chapters of Wesleyan Men so as to serve each Local Church, whether through Local Church Chapters, City, Metropolitan, County, Regional, or Zone Chapters; to visit the Local Chapters at time and funds shall permit; and to report annually to the District Conference (473:13) and to the District Wesleyan Men Convention, and at other times as ordered by the District Board of Administration (486:11). The District Wesleyan Men Director shall be a nonvoting Member of the District Conference (440:8) unless elected as a Lay Delegate by the Local Church.
(3) **District Wesleyan Men Assistant Director.** The Assistant Director shall assist the Director as the Director shall request and shall assume the duties of the Director in case the Director is unable to serve.

(4) **District Wesleyan Men Secretary.** The Secretary shall record the minutes of the District Wesleyan Men Convention (1223:1) and of the meetings of the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (1225:6) and shall perform such other duties as the District Wesleyan Men Convention shall determine.

(5) **District Wesleyan Men Treasurer.** The District Wesleyan Men Treasurer shall receive, record, and hold all funds remitted by Local Wesleyan Men Treasurers or raised by the District Wesleyan Men itself, forwarding specified funds and disbursing other funds in keeping with the financial plans of the National Wesleyan Men Executive Committee and the District Wesleyan Men Convention, and as directed by the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee. All funds intended for the National Church shall be transferred monthly to the District Treasurer so they can be forwarded to their intended destination (519:3). The District Wesleyan Men Treasurer shall report to the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee as required, to the District Board of Administration quarterly (486:11) and to the District Conference (473:13) and the District Wesleyan Men Convention (1223:1) annually. The books shall be submitted to the District Auditing Committee annually (521-522), and as ordered by the District Board of Administration (486:17).

(6) **District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee.** (1224:1). The District Wesleyan Men Director shall be Chair ex-officio of the District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee (1225:2), and the District Wesleyan Men Secretary shall be Secretary ex-officio (1225:4). The District Wesleyan Men Executive Committee shall direct the affairs of the District Wesleyan Men between the annual District Wesleyan Men Conventions, subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (486:21).

1226. **Article 7. District Bylaws.** The District Convention of Wesleyan Men may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, providing that they are in accord with *The Handbook*, the constitution and purpose of Wesleyan Men, and other directives of the National Church and District, and subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration (486:21).

C. Constitution of National Wesleyan Men

1228. The structure for National Wesleyan Men is set forth in Par.1201-1208.

D. Amendments to Wesleyan Men's Constitution

1235. The Local, District, or National constitutions of Wesleyan Men may be amended by majority vote of the National Conference at any regular or special session. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in the manner given in 636.
Chapter III

WESLEYAN WOMEN

A. Constitution of Local Wesleyan Women

1236. Article 1. Name. The name of this Organisation shall be Wesleyan Women of __________ Wesleyan Methodist Church. Local groups may choose to use any name approved by their Pastor and Local Board of Administration while still being recognized as a program of Wesleyan Women.

1237. Article 2. Purpose. (See Appendix A: A Handbook for Australian Wesleyan Women.)

1238. Article 3. Relationship. The Local Wesleyan Women's Ministry shall function as a part of the Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall be subject to the supervision and authority of the Pastor (294:16), and shall be amenable to the Local Board of Administration (316:3, 316:23).


(1) All Women's Ministries in the Local Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be recognized as being a part of Wesleyan Women.

(2) Any woman who is participating in a Local Women's Ministry will be recognized as a Member of Wesleyan Women.

(3) Any woman who is a regularly attending adherent of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be recognized as a Member of Wesleyan Women and eligible to hold non-executive office.

(4) Any woman received into covenant membership of The Wesleyan Methodist Church has full voting rights in Wesleyan Women, and is eligible to hold any office, including executive office.

1240. Article 5. Finance.

(1) Wesleyan Women groups shall assist with financing District and National bodies by payment of a Recommended Donation set by the National Executive unless otherwise exempted by the District or National Co-ordinator.

(2) Local Wesleyan Women's Ministry groups will be encouraged to participate in giving to approved projects of Wesleyan World Missions, Church Extension and Evangelism and other Local Church projects as approved by the Pastor and Local Board of Administration. All fund raising will be carried out in a manner that is in harmony with the doctrine and practices of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1241. Article 6. Meetings and Circles. Each Local group may organise as many circles as deemed necessary to carry out the desired ministry in the Local Church. A circle is a sub-group organised to target a specific ministry goal (e.g. Discipleship, Evangelism, Bible Study, Playgroup etc.). Circles shall meet as often as is required to maintain their ministry goals. However, corporate quarterly meetings should be held to evaluate the effectiveness of ministry, to attend to business and to dispense any funds collected. An annual meeting shall be held to elect any office bearers.

1242. Article 7. Local Wesleyan Women Officers.

(1) Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women shall be elected by the Local Church Annual Conference, from nomination approved by the Local Church Board.

(2) Executive Officers. In addition to the Co-ordinator (Chair) the Executive Officers of the Local Wesleyan Women shall be the Assistant Co-ordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, who together with the Local Pastor shall constitute the Local Wesleyan Women Executive Committee. Others may be elected if deemed necessary.

(3) Other Officers. Each Local Wesleyan Women’s group may elect a Prayer Secretary, a Librarian, Home Works Director, and such Officers and Committees as it deems necessary.

(4) Groups. Groups organised into ministry circles should appoint a leader (Chair), and a Secretary/Treasurer where needed. The Local Co-ordinator shall have access to all circle group activities and meetings.

(5) Delegates. In addition to the Local Co-ordinator each local group shall be entitled to elect one other Delegate to the District Convention. Wives of Ministers present, who are not elected Delegates, will be recognized as non-voting guests with a voice. The District Convention of Wesleyan Women may establish a system of multiple representation to accommodate larger groups.

(6) Qualifications. The Executive Officers, Delegates of the Local Wesleyan Women shall be Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and regular Members of the Local Wesleyan Women.

(7) Election Procedures. All Executive Officers, and Delegates, with the exception of the Co-ordinator, shall be elected by the Local Wesleyan Women at its annual business meeting (1241). There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of three to five Members elected by the Local Wesleyan Women, (or at the option of the Wesleyan Women, appointed by the Local Wesleyan Women Executive Committee). The Pastor or their representative shall Chair the Nominating Committee (294:18), which shall select two or more nominations for Local Wesleyan Women Co-ordinator, to be approved by the Local Board of Administration and elected by the Local Church Convention. However the Local Board of Administration may make other nominations. The Nominating Committee shall also present two or more nominations where possible for other Officers and Delegates. Election shall be by majority vote of Members present and voting. The election of the Local Wesleyan Women Executive Committee must be ratified by the Local Church Board of Administration before becoming final (316:23).

(8) Term of Office. The term of service shall be for twelve months or until their successors are elected and available.

(9) Amenability and Vacancies. All Officers shall be amenable for their duties to the Local Board of Administration and may be removed for cause or whenever the best interests of the Church or the Local Wesleyan Women's ministries so requires, by a majority vote of the Local Board of Administration. All vacancies shall be filled by the Local Board of Administration from nominations of the Wesleyan Women Executive.

1243. Article 8. Duties of Local Officers.

(1) Criteria. All Officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook, and the constitution of Wesleyan Women.

(2) Local Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women. To co-operate with the District Co-ordinator (under the oversight of the Pastor and Local Board of Administration), to preside over all meetings, act as ex-officio on all Wesleyan Women Committees and circle groups, to report to each Local Church Conference, and Local Board of Administration as required, and serve as Delegate to District Convention. To promote outreach ministries in the Local Church.

(3) Local Secretary to Wesleyan Women. Keep records of all meetings. Attend to correspondence as necessary. In the absence of a Librarian/Reading Course Secretary, to promote Reading Course. Promote Wesleyan Publications.
(4) Local Treasurer to Wesleyan Women. Receive, record, hold and disburse all funds of the local group in co-operation with District and National Wesleyan Women Treasurers. To serve on the Executive Committee. To make a quarterly report to the District Treasurer of Wesleyan Women and to the Local Board of Administration as required. To submit books to the Local Church auditor annually.

(5) Circle Group Leaders. Operate under the general oversight of the Local Executive. Where elected, Circle Secretary/Treasurers shall report directly to the Local Wesleyan Women Treasurer.

1245. Article 9. Local Bylaws. Local Wesleyan Women may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they do not conflict with The Handbook or other directives of the District and National Church, and provided they are approved by the Local Board of Administration.

B. Constitution of District Wesleyan Women

1247. Article 1. Name. All Local Wesleyan Women within the bounds of a District shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Women of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1248. Article 2. Purpose. The District Wesleyan Women shall carry out the basic purpose of Wesleyan Women (See Appendix A) securing their co-operation of local groups to form an effective District Unit.

1249. Article 3. Relationship. The District body shall function as a part of the District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to which it belongs, shall be subject to the supervision of the District Superintendent (511:8), shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration (486:21, 486:25b), and shall support the work of District church growth.


(1) Purpose and Organisation. There shall be an Annual Convention in each District, held at a time and place approved by the District Board of Administration (486:21), to receive reports (1252:1,2,4,5), to elect District Officers (1251:3), for fellowship, encouragement, inspiration and challenge as well as to attend to District business. When present the National Co-ordinator shall preside over meetings. In the absence of the National Co-ordinator, the District Co-ordinator shall preside.

(2) Membership. The District Convention shall comprise all District Officers, Zone Officers, (where applicable), Local Co-ordinators, and elected Delegates from local groups. Wives of Ministers present but not elected Delegates will be recognized as guests with a voice but no vote.

(3) Committees. The District Convention may elect such Committees as it may deem necessary to carry out specific duties.

(4) Approval. All plans and actions of the Convention shall be subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration.

1251. Article 5. District Wesleyan Women

(1) Executive Officers. Executive Officers of the District shall be the District Co-ordinator (Chair), Assistant Co-ordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, and home works Director, and overseas works Director, who together with the District Superintendent as an ex-officio Member (511:10), shall constitute the District Executive Council.

(2) Other Officers. Each District may elect a Prayer Secretary, and such other Officers and Committees as deemed necessary.

(3) Delegates. The Delegates to the National Convention shall be District Co-ordinator, and others as elected by majority vote, at the District Convention, (or recruited by the District Executive when it is possible to do so) with a minimum of five Delegates to represent each District, and to a maximum of one Delegate for each Local Church. Wives of Ministers present at the Convention who are not elected Delegates will be recognized as guests with a voice but no vote.

(4) Qualifications. All District Officers, Committee Members, and National Convention Delegates must be Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and actively involved in Wesleyan Women.

(5) Election Procedure. A Nominating Committee shall be elected by the District Wesleyan Women Convention or appointed by the Executive Council. Nominations for District Co-ordinator will be forwarded to the District Nominating Committee for election at the District Conference. All other Officers shall be elected by the District Convention of Wesleyan Women. Nominations may include those provided by the Nominating Committee, plus those nominated from the floor of the Convention. Executive Officers shall be elected by ballot and other Officers may be elected in any manner desired by the Convention. All positions shall be filled by majority vote of those present and voting. The election of the District Executive Committee must be ratified by the District Board of Administration.

(6) Term of Service. District Officers shall take office at the close of the District Convention at which elected. The initial term of District Co-ordinator shall be one year, and re-election thereafter shall be for a period of two years. All other Officers shall serve for one year.

(7) Amenability and Vacancies. All Officers and Committee Members of the District Wesleyan Women shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration, and may be removed for cause or when deemed in the best interests of Wesleyan Women or the District, by a majority vote of the District Board of Administration. The District Board of Administration shall fill vacancies from nominations by the District Executive Council. (486:25b).


(1) Criteria. All Officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook, the constitution of Wesleyan Women, and the official Handbook authorised by the National Board of Administration and issued by the National Executive of Wesleyan Women.

(2) District Co-ordinator. The District Co-ordinator shall be responsible to co-operate with the National Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women and the National Executive Council; to exercise leadership under the general oversight of the District Superintendent (511:8); to preside over meetings of the District Executive Council (1251:1); to preside over sessions of the District Wesleyan Women Convention (except where the National Co-ordinator or their representative is present and presiding 1250:1; to seek to encourage and assist Local Co-ordinators and groups in the District and to report annually to the District Conference (473:13) and the District Wesleyan Women Convention (1250:1), and at other times as ordered by the District Board of Administration (486:11). By virtue of the office, the District Co-ordinator shall be a Member of the National Executive Council of Wesleyan Women and a non-voting Member the District Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (440:8) unless a voting Member in some other right. The Co-ordinator will also assume the responsibility to promote and encourage outreach.

(3) Assistant District Co-ordinator. The Assistant District Co-ordinator shall support, encourage and assist as requested by the Co-ordinator and shall assume leadership if for any reason the Co-ordinator is unable to fulfill their duties. If a District Prayer Secretary is not elected, the Assistant District Co-ordinator shall promote a ministry of prayer.

(4) District Secretary of Wesleyan Women. The District Secretary shall record the minutes of the District Convention (1250:1) and meetings of the District Executive Council (1251:1), shall serve on the District Executive Council and shall attend to other matters as
instructed by the District Executive Council. In the absence of a Librarian/Reading Course Secretary, the District Secretary will promote the Reading Course and other Wesleyan Publications.

(5) District Treasurer of Wesleyan Women. The District Treasurer shall receive, record and disperse all funds forwarded by Local Treasurers and those raised by the District. The District Treasurer of Wesleyan Women shall forward allocated funds to the National Treasurer and serve on the District Executive Council. The District Treasurer of Wesleyan Women shall report to the District Executive Council, District Convention (1250:1) and the National Executive of Wesleyan Women. The District Treasurer of Wesleyan Women shall report to the District Board of Administration as requested and the books shall be submitted to the District Auditor annually.

(6) District Works Directors.
  a) Home Works Director. The District Home Works Director will promote Home Missions Works (including Co-Labourer’s projects) and projects that help meet the needs of its workers.
  b) Overseas Works Director. The District Overseas’ Works Director will promote Wesleyan World Missions and projects that help meet the needs of its workers.

1253. Article 7. District Bylaws. The District Convention of Wesleyan Women may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they are in accord with The Handbook, the Constitution and purpose of Wesleyan Women subject to the approval of the District Board of Administration.

1256. The National structure for Wesleyan Women is set forth in Par. 1201-1208

C. Constitution of National Wesleyan Women

1258. The National Structure for Wesleyan Women is set forth in Par. 1201-1208.

D. Amendments to Wesleyan Women Constitutions

1260. The Local, District, or National constitutions of Wesleyan Women may be amended by majority vote of the National Conference at any regular or special session. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in the manner given in 636.
Chapter IV

WESLEYAN YOUTH

A. Constitution of Local Wesleyan Youth

1271. Article 1. Name. The name of the Organisation shall be Wesleyan Youth of ________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, or a Local Wesleyan Youth may select its own name and logo for local identification purposes.

1272. Article 2. Mission. The mission of Wesleyan Youth is to glorify God through evangelising, nurturing, and equipping youth to be spiritual leaders committed to lifelong service to Christ and His church. Wesleyan Youth ministry shall be characterized by an effective organisation of youth committed to active sharing of their faith, personal and collective study of God's Word, edifying the body of Christ through the use of spiritual gifts, positive Christian fellowship, and service to their family, church, community, and the world.

1273. Article 3. Organisation. A Local Wesleyan Youth shall be considered an organised Wesleyan Youth if it:"n
   (1) Has an Adult Youth Leader.
   (2) Has a Wesleyan Youth President and Secretary/Treasurer.
   (3) Meets regularly.
   (4) Has registered with the National Department of Youth in the case where there are no qualified youth to serve as Officers, the Local Board of Administration may grant an exemption on the election of Youth Officers and register them as an official Wesleyan Youth with the District Director of Youth.

1274. Article 4. Relationship. The Local Wesleyan Youth shall be a ministry of the Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall be subject to the supervision of the Pastor (294:16), in all actions shall be amenable to the Local Board of Administration (316:3, 316:23), and shall be under the direction of the Local Board of Christian Education (363:2) when such exists.

1275. Article 5. Membership. Any youth completing primary school (or age twelve) through age nineteen (or high school graduation), who is in any way touched by the Local Church ministries and who desires to participate in the meetings and activities of Wesleyan Youth shall be listed by the Local Wesleyan Youth Secretary-Treasurer as a Member of the Local Wesleyan Youth. (At the discretion of the Adult Youth Leader and Pastor, it is permissible for twelve year olds to attend from halfway through their final primary year for the purpose of generating interest and commitment prior to high school).


   (1) Regular Meetings. The Local Wesleyan Youth shall hold meetings and activities which will help it to fulfill the mission of Wesleyan Youth (1272).
   (2) Annual Business Meetings. The Local Wesleyan Youth shall hold an annual business meeting at a time set by the local Wesleyan Youth Executive Committee for the election of Officers and Delegates to the District Wesleyan Youth Convention (1280:3g), and other necessary business (cf. 1280:2b).
   (3) Special Business Meetings. The Local Wesleyan Youth Executive Committee may call such other special business meetings as it deems necessary, for planning, evaluation, and business, subject to the approval of the Pastor (294:16).

1280. Article 7. Officers.

   (1) Qualifications.
   a) Adult Youth Leader. The Adult Leader shall be a Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and live a life which will inspire youth to holy living.
   b) Local Wesleyan Youth President. The Local Wesleyan Youth President shall be a Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church or a Christian youth who is in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and a Member of the Local Wesleyan Youth.
   c) Other Wesleyan Youth Officers. The Local Wesleyan Youth Secretary-Treasurer and any Wesleyan Youth Officers the Local Wesleyan Youth chooses to elect shall be Christian youth who are Members of the Local Wesleyan Youth and in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.
   d) Adult Youth Staff. If the Adult Youth Leader chooses to recruit additional Adult Staff, they shall be persons who live a life which will inspire youth to holy living and are in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, approved by the Pastor.

   (2) Elections.
   a) Adult Youth Leader. The Adult Youth Leader shall be elected by the Local Board of Administration (316:22), considering input from local youth.
   b) Wesleyan Youth Officers. The Local Wesleyan Youth President, Wesleyan Youth Secretary, Treasurer, other Officers, and Delegates to the District Wesleyan Youth Convention shall be elected by the Local Wesleyan Youth under the direction of the Adult Youth Leader. These elections are subject to ratification by the Local Board of Administration.

   (3) Duties of Officers.
   a) Adult Youth Leader. The Adult Youth Leader is the primary spiritual and administrative head of the Local Wesleyan Youth and shall seek to lead the youth in fulfilling the mission of Wesleyan Youth (1272), overseeing the activities and programs of the Local Wesleyan Youth, and leading by spiritual example. The Adult Youth Leader shall serve as the Chair of the annual business meeting and any special business meetings. The adult leader shall work in co-operation with and be amenable to the Pastor and Local Board of Administration.
   b) Local Wesleyan Youth President. The Local Wesleyan Youth President shall co-operate with the Adult Youth Leader in implementing the mission of Wesleyan Youth (1272), seeking to lead by spiritual example.
   c) Local Wesleyan Youth Secretary-Treasurer. The Local Wesleyan Youth Secretary-Treasurer, in co-operation with the Adult Youth Leader, shall be responsible for written correspondence, membership records, minutes, statistical and financial records, and annual reports. The office of Secretary-Treasurer may be divided into two positions by the Executive Youth Council.
   d) Other Officers. Each Local Wesleyan Youth may elect other Officers, such as Directors of evangelism, fellowship, service projects, and others as needed to fulfill the mission of Wesleyan Youth (1272).
   e) Adult Youth Staff. The Adult Youth Leader, in consultation with the Pastor, may recruit other adult Staff to help carry out the ministry of Wesleyan Youth (cf. 1280:1d).
   f) The Local Wesleyan Youth Executive Committee. The Local Wesleyan Youth Executive Committee shall be composed of the Adult Youth Leader as Chair, Local Wesleyan Youth President, Local Wesleyan Youth Secretary-Treasurer, and the Pastor as an
ex-officio Member. All actions of the Executive Youth Council shall be subject to the review of the Local Board of Administration (316:23). The Executive Youth Council may also include other adult Staff or other Local Wesleyan Youth Officers (1280:3).

g) Delegates. In addition to the Local Adult Youth Leader and Local Wesleyan Youth President who are Members of the District Wesleyan Youth Convention by virtue of their offices, each organised Local Wesleyan Youth shall be entitled to two youth Delegates to the District Wesleyan Youth Convention (1300:3). In addition, each organised Local Wesleyan Youth whose average attendance is 20 or more shall be entitled to an additional adult and youth Delegate. For each additional 15 youth in regular attendance above this amount a further adult and teen may be added.

(4) Term of Service. Local Wesleyan Youth Officers shall take office at the beginning of the Local Wesleyan Youth year and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. A shorter term of service may be adopted by action of the Local Wesleyan Youth Executive Committee.

(5) Vacancies. All Officers of the Local Wesleyan Youth shall be amenable for their official duties to the Local Board of Administration and may be removed whenever the best interests of the church or the Local Wesleyan Youth so require by a majority vote of the Local Board of Administration (316:25). The Local Board of Administration shall have authority to see that all vacancies are filled in the manner it deems best (316:26).

1282. Article 8. Age-Level Divisions. The Local Wesleyan Youth Executive Committee may approve the organisation of the Local Wesleyan Youth into two or more separate age-level divisions.

1284. Article 9. Bylaws. The Local Wesleyan Youth may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they do not conflict with The Handbook or other directives of the National Church or District, and provided they are approved by the Local Board of Administration (316:23).

B. Constitution of District Wesleyan Youth

1290. Article 1. Name. All Local Wesleyan Youth Organisations within the bounds of a District shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Youth of the District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1292. Article 2. Purpose. The purpose of the District Wesleyan Youth is to carry out the mission of Wesleyan Youth (1272) on the District level and to train Local Wesleyan Youth leaders for effective ministry to youth.

1294. Article 3. Relationship. The District Wesleyan Youth shall be a ministry of the District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to which it belongs, operating for the benefit of Local Wesleyan Youth Organisations, subject to the supervision of the District Superintendent, coordinating its programs with the District Board of Christian Education, being amenable to the District Board of Administration.


(1) District Wesleyan Youth Cabinet. The District Wesleyan Youth Cabinet shall be composed of the District Wesleyan Youth Director as Chair, the District Wesleyan Youth Treasurer, two teen Members, two or more Members appointed by the District Wesleyan Youth Director, and the District Superintendent.

a) District Wesleyan Youth Director. The District Wesleyan Youth Director is elected by the District Wesleyan Youth Convention from nominations put forward by the Nominating Committee and approved by the District Board of Administration (1300:4a). The initial election shall be for a term of one year, and re-election thereafter shall be for a term of two years. Total years of service as District Wesleyan Youth Director shall not exceed seven years.

b) District Wesleyan Youth Treasurer. The District Wesleyan Youth Treasurer shall be elected by the District Wesleyan Youth Convention for a term of one year.

c) Teen Members. There shall be two teen Members elected by the District Wesleyan Youth Convention for a term of one year.

d) Appointed Members. The District Wesleyan Youth Director, in consultation with the District Superintendent, shall appoint two or more additional Members for a one-year term within thirty days after the District Wesleyan Youth Convention, subject to ratification by the District Board of Administration.

e) District Superintendent. The District Superintendent shall be an ex-officio Member of the Cabinet (511:10).

(2) Qualifications. All Cabinet Members must be Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District (with the exception of the teen Members who must be Christian teens in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and Members of a Local Wesleyan Youth in that District) and have a burden and vision for youth ministry.

1298. Article 5. Duties of District Wesleyan Youth Leaders.

(1) Criteria. Cabinet Members shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook, and the directives of the District Board of Administration or its Executive Board.

(2) Duties of the District Wesleyan Youth Director.

a) To exercise leadership by coordinating and directing the ministry of District Wesleyan Youth.

b) To appoint two or more Members to the District Wesleyan Youth Cabinet within 30 days after the District Wesleyan Youth Convention (cf. 1296:1).

c) To appoint a Chair pro tem of the Wesleyan Youth Cabinet to serve in their absence.

d) To assign such responsibility to Cabinet Members as are needed to carry out the purpose of District Wesleyan Youth (cf. 1292).

e) To preside over meetings of the District Wesleyan Youth Cabinet.

f) To serve as an ex-officio Member of all District Wesleyan Youth Committees.

g) To preside over sessions of the Cabinet Wesleyan Youth Convention, except when the National Wesleyan Youth Director or their designated representative is present and presiding.

h) To supervise the recruiting and equipping of local youth leaders in co-operation with Pastors and Local Boards of Administration, seeking to organise Local Wesleyan Youth groups in every church.
D. Amendments to Wesleyan Youth Constitutions

1327. The Local or District constitutions of Wesleyan Youth may be amended by majority vote of the National Conference at any regular or special session. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in the manner given in 636.
Chapter V

YOUNG ADULTS INTERNATIONAL

A. Constitution of Local Young Adults International

1331. Article 1. Name. The name of this Organisation shall be Young Adults International of The Wesleyan Methodist Church or such name as the Local Young Adults International Chapter may select.

1332. Article 2. Mission. The purpose of Young Adults International is to encourage Members to adopt an obedient Christian lifestyle, to mobilise Members for active involvement in Christian mission both locally and worldwide, and to provide opportunities for fellowship in the body of Christ.

1333. Article 3. Organisation. A Local Young Adults International shall be considered an organised Chapter if it has a Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, meets regularly, and is registered with the National Department of Youth.

1334. Article 4. Relationship. The Local Young Adults International shall be a ministry of the Local Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall be subject to the supervision of the Pastor (294:16), in all actions shall be amenable to the Local Board of Administration (316:3, 316:25, 316:26, 316:28), and shall be under the direction of the Local Board of Christian Education (363:1).

1335. Article 5. Membership. Any young adult of post high school status up to and including age thirty and who desires to participate in the meetings and activities of Young Adults International shall be listed as a Member of this Organisation. An adult over age thirty who has been elected to lead a Local Chapter or is a District or National Director of Young Adults International shall also be listed as a Member.


1. Strategy Meetings. Strategy meetings of the Local Young Adults International shall be held monthly to develop plans for personal and group ministry projects, to encourage and support one another prayerfully in accomplishment of ministry projects, to review ministry projects, and to establish accountability for accomplishment of purpose.

2. Annual Business Meeting. The Local Young Adults International shall hold an annual business meeting at a time set by the Young Adults International Executive Committee for the election of Officers and a Delegate, and other necessary business.

3. Additional meetings may be held as necessary for the accomplishment of its purpose.

1341. Article 7. Officers.

1. Executive Officers. The Executive Officers of the Local Young Adults International shall be the Chair of the Local Chapter and a Secretary-Treasurer, who together with the Pastor as an ex-officio Member (294:18) shall constitute the Local Young Adults International Executive Committee (1343:4).

2. Other Officers. Each Local Young Adults International shall select other Officers and Committees as it deems necessary, such as a Singles Co-ordinator, College Age Co-ordinator, Young-Marrieds Co-ordinator, or a Prison Ministries Co-ordinator.

3. Delegates. In addition to the Local Young Adults International Chair who is a Member of the District Young Adults International Convention by virtue of their office, each organised Local Young Adults International Chapter shall be entitled to one Delegate to the District Young Adults International Convention (1333; 1357:2).

4. Qualifications. The Local Young Adults International Chair shall be a Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and if necessary, may be over thirty years of age.

5. Election Procedure. The Local Young Adults International Chair, Local Young Adults International Secretary-Treasurer, and the Delegate to the District Young Adults International Convention shall be elected by the Local Young Adults International at its annual business meeting (1339:2). Preceding the annual Young Adults International election, the Local Young Adults International shall elect, or the Local Young Adults International Executive Committee shall appoint, a Nominating Committee consisting of three Members. The Pastor or their representative shall preside over the Nominating Committee (294:18). The Nominating Committee shall present nomination(s) for Local Young Adults International Chair to the Local Board of Administration for its approval prior to the election. The Nominating Committee shall then present to the annual business meeting the nomination(s) for Local Young Adults International Chair, Local Young Adults International Secretary-Treasurer, Delegate to District Young Adults International Convention, and all other Officers of the Local Young Adults International. All Officers and the Delegate shall be elected by a majority vote of the Members of the Local Young Adults International present and voting. All elections other than that of the Local Young Adults International Chair must be ratified by the Local Board of Administration before becoming final.

6. Term of Service. Local Young Adults International Officers shall take office at the beginning of the District fiscal year and shall serve until the end of the District fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified (473:17).

7. Amenability and Vacancies. All Officers of the Local Young Adults International shall be amenable for their official duties to the Local Board of Administration and may be removed whenever the best interests of the church or the Local Young Adults International so require by a majority vote of the Local Board of Administration (316:25). The Local Board of Administration shall have authority to fill all vacancies in the manner it deems best (316:26).


1. Criteria. All Officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook and the constitution of Young Adults International.

2. Local Young Adults International Chair. The Local Young Adults International Chair shall exemplify an obedient Christian life-style including involvement in Christian mission, exercise general leadership of the Local Young Adults International under the general oversight of the Pastor (294:16) and the Local Board of Administration (316:4), preside over all business meetings of the Local Young Adults International and all meetings of the Local Young Adults International Executive Committee. The Local Young Adults International Chair shall Young Adults International Convention if they represent an organised Local Young Adults International Chapter (1333; 1357:2).

3. Local Young Adults International Secretary-Treasurer. The Local Young Adults International Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for membership records, minutes, statistical and financial records, and annual reports, including those of the Local Young Adults International Executive Committee.

4. Local Young Adults International Executive Committee. The Local Young Adults International Executive Committee shall be composed of the Local Young Adults International Chair who shall be Chair ex-officio, the Local Young Adults International Secretary-Treasurer, and the Pastor as an ex-officio Member (1341:1). All actions of the Local Young Adults International Executive Committee...
Committee shall be subject to the review of the Local Board of Administration. The Local Young Adults International Executive Committee may also include other Local Young Adults International Officers.

1345. Article 9. Bylaws. The Local Young Adults International may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary provided that they do not conflict with The Handbook or other directives of the National Church and District and provided they are approved by the Local Board of Christian Education (563:1) and the Local Board of Administration (516:23).

B. Constitution of District Young Adults International

1350. Article 1. Name. All Local Young Adults International Organisations within the bounds of a District shall be known collectively as Young Adults International of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1352. Article 2. Purpose. The District Young Adults International shall carry out the mission of Young Adults International (1332), seeking to establish and motivate Local Chapters, to train Local Young Adults International Officers, and to mobilize young adults for ministry projects.

1354. Article 3. Relationship. The District Young Adults International shall be a ministry of the District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to which it belongs, shall be subject to the supervision of the District Superintendent (511:8), shall be amenable in all actions to the District Board of Administration (486:22, 486:25b), and shall be under the direction of the District Board of Christian Education (576:1).


(1) Purpose and Organisation. There shall be an annual District Young Adults International Convention, held at such time as the District Board of Administration shall approve (486:22) to elect District Young Adults International Officers, to receive reports, to train Local Officers, to commission young adults involved in ministry projects, and to recognize participants who have completed service in ministry projects. The District Young Adults International Director shall preside over the District Young Adults International Convention unless the National Director of Young Adults International or their representative is present and presides.

(2) Membership. The annual Young Adults International District Convention shall be composed of the District Superintendent (507:3), the District Young Adults International Officers, Local Young Adults International Chairmen from each organised Chapter, and one Delegate named by each Local Chapter.

(3) Committees. There shall be a Nominating Committee as set forth in 1359:4. The District Young Adults International Convention may elect other Committees as it deems necessary and shall define their duties.

(4) Approval. All plans and actions of the District Young Adults International Convention shall be subject to the review and co-ordination of the District Board of Christian Education (576:1) and the approval of the District Board of Administration (486:22).

1359. Article 5. District Young Adults International Officers.

(1) Executive Officers. The Executive Officers of the District Young Adults International shall be the District Young Adults International Director, District Young Adults International Finance Chair, and the District Young Adults International Projects Chair. These Officers together with the District Superintendent (511:10) shall constitute the District Young Adults International Executive Committee (1361:5).

(2) Other Officers. Each District Young Adults International may have such other Officers and Committees as the District Young Adults International Convention shall deem necessary.

(3) Qualifications. All District Young Adults International Officers and Committee Members must be Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the District in which they serve. If necessary, Executive Officers of the District Young Adults International must be over thirty years of age.

(4) Election Procedure. The District Young Adults International Director, and any other Officers and Committee Members as the bylaws shall require, shall be elected by the annual District Young Adults International Convention. The District Young Adults International Convention shall select, and the District Young Adults International Executive Committee shall appoint, a Nominating Committee over which the District Superintendent or their representative shall preside (511:10). The Nominating Committee shall present nomination(s) for the office of District Young Adults International Director to the District Board of Administration for their approval, or additional nominations, prior to the District Young Adults International Convention (486:22). The Nominating Committee shall then present the nomination(s) for District Young Adults International Director and other Officers to the annual District Young Adults International Convention. Executive Officers shall be elected by ballot and other Officers elected in any manner desired. All elections other than that of the District Young Adults International Director must be ratified by the District Board of Administration before becoming final.

(5) Terms of Office. District Young Adults International Officers shall take office at the beginning of the District fiscal year and shall serve until the end of the District fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified (473:18).

(6) Amenability and Vacancies. All District Young Adults International Officers and Committee Members shall be amenable to the District Board of Administration, and may be removed by majority vote of the District Board of Administration when the best interest of Young Adults International or the District so requires. The District Board of Administration shall fill all vacancies.


(1) Criteria. All Officers of District Young Adults International shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook, the constitution of Young Adults International, and the official Handbook authorised by the National Board of Administration and issued by the National Department of Youth.

(2) District Young Adults International Director. The District Young Adults International Director shall be responsible to co-operate with the National Young Adults International Director; to exercise general leadership of the District Young Adults International under the general oversight of the District Superintendent (511:8); to preside over the District Young Adults International Executive Committee meetings; to preside over the District Young Adults International Convention, except when the National Young Adults International Director or their representative is presiding; to appoint one Member of the Young Adults International Executive Committee to serve as secretary of the Committee and the District Young Adults International Convention; to report annually to the District Conference (473:13), the District Young Adults International Convention, and at other times as ordered by the District Board of Administration (486:11); to organise Local Young Adults International Chapters; and to equip Local Young Adults International Chairmen in co-operation with Pastors and Local Boards of Administration. The District Young Adults International Director shall be a voting Member of the District Conference (440:8), unless they are a voting Member by some other right.

(3) District Young Adults International Projects Chair. The District Young Adults International Projects Chair shall be responsible to organise ministry projects on the District level, to recruit young adults to participate, and to assist Local Young Adults International Chapters in organising ministry projects in co-operation with Pastors and Local Boards of Administration.
(4) **District Young Adults International Finance Chair.** The District Young Adults International Finance Chair shall receive, record, hold, and disburse all moneys remitted by the Local Young Adults International Chapters or raised by the District Young Adults International.

(5) **District Young Adults International Executive Committee.** The District Young Adults International Director shall be the Chair ex-officio of the District Young Adults International Executive Committee (1359:1). The District Young Adults International Executive Committee shall direct the ministry of District Young Adults International between the annual District Young Adults International Conventions and shall appoint others to direct specific ministries of District Young Adults International as necessary.

1364. Article 7. Bylaws. The District Young Adults International may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they are in accord with *The Handbook*, the constitution and purpose of Young Adults International, and other directives of the National Church and District. Such bylaws are subject to the review and co-ordination of the District Board of Christian Education (576:1) and the approval of the District Board of Administration (486:22).

C. Constitution of National Young Adults International

1367. The National structure for Young Adults International is set forth in Par. 1201-1208.

D. Amendments to Young Adults International Constitutions

1369. The constitution of Young Adults International of The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be amended by majority vote of the National Conference at any regular or special session. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in the manner given in 636.
Chapter VI

CLUB SOLO MINISTRIES

Constitution of Club Solo Ministries

1371. Article 1. Name. The name of this Organisation shall be Club Solo Ministries, a ministry of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

1372. Article 2. Mission. Club Solo’s purpose is to meet the social, spiritual, and recreational needs of Christian single adults. Club Solo seeks to fulfill its purpose by: affirming the value of singles (whether divorced, widowed or never married); creating opportunities for Christian singles to meet together; fostering an atmosphere where the focus is on friendships, not “match-making”; providing an environment which is openly Christian and honouring to God; and teaching and instructing from The Word of God. Although this is a ministry sponsored by The Wesleyan Methodist Church, its ministry reach is interdenominational and is not seen as an alternative to Local Church fellowship, but as a compliment to the Local Church.

1373. Article 3. Organisation. Club Solo Ministries shall have a nationally appointed Director who is a Covenant Member and will act as Chair, and three other Covenant Members who shall meet at least for an Annual General Meeting.

1374. Article 4. Relationship. Club Solo shall be a ministry of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and shall be subject to the supervision of the National Board of Administration.

1375. Article 5. Membership. Any single adult who has never married, is widowed, divorced, or has been separated for at least twelve months may be involved with Club Solo Ministries.


(1) Sub Committee Meetings. Club Solo Ministries Subcommittee shall meet regularly as required to set goals, develop plans for personal and group ministry projects, encourage and support one another prayerfully in the accomplishment of ministry projects, review ministry projects, establish accountability for the accomplishment of its purpose, and appoint necessary personnel who are responsible for records, minutes, statistical and financial records in accordance with The Handbook.

(2) Annual Business Meeting. Club Solo Ministries Officers shall hold an Annual General Meeting at the time set by the Director and shall receive reports from the Director, Treasurer and shall discuss any other necessary matters of business.

1377. Article 7. Officers.

(1) Executive Officers. The Executive Officers of Club Solo shall be the National Director, and three other Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(2) Other Officers. The National Director has authority to co-opt onto a Subcommittee those believed necessary to run Club Solo's camps, activities and/or seminars who are professing Christians and who respect The Wesleyan Methodist Church's Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and matters related to church governance.

(3) Delegates. The National Director of Club Solo shall be the sole Delegate to the National Conference with an alternate Delegate, who is a Covenant Member, to be elected by the Executive Committee if the Director is not able to attend.

(4) Qualifications. The National Director of Club Solo shall be a Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia and hold membership in a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) Election Procedure. The National Director shall be elected by the National Conference every four years. If the National Director resigns, leaves or is asked to leave then the National Board of Administration will appoint an interim National Director until one can be appointed at the National Conference. The three Committee Members who are Covenant Members shall be nominated by the Director and appointed by the National Board of Administration.

(6) Term of Service. The National Director shall be elected for a period of four years.

(7) Amenity and Vacancies. All Officers of Club Solo shall be amenable for their official duties to the National Board of Administration and may be removed whenever the best interests of the church so require by a majority vote of the National Board of Administration (691:25).


(1) Criteria. All Officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with The Handbook and the constitution of Club Solo Ministries.

(2) Director. The appointed Director is to:

a) Meet Club Solo's purposes pastorally by:
   - Seeking God's leadership in all aspects of the ministry;
   - Providing sound Christian teaching both personally and via the engagement of suitable speakers for camps etc;
   - Interceding in prayer for the ministry, activities, singles, and Committee Members;
   - Offering pastoral support to singles and to Committee Members;
   - Providing ordained services such as marriages and funerals where requested;
   - Being available for informal counselling, and where appropriate, referring people onto professional counsellors.

b) Meet Club Solo's purposes administratively by:
   - Directing the ministry of Club Solo;
   - Managing and overseeing all Club Solo activities or by delegating the same;
   - Setting a calendar of activities for the year;
   - Operating the ministry so that it generates sufficient finances to cover its expenses;
   - Directing Club Solo towards growth and improvement in all areas;
   - Utilising the skills and expertise of the Committee Members;
   - Appointing suitable Staff (paid or voluntary) to the Committee, activities, etc.

c) Meet Club Solo's purposes publicly by:
   - Advertising and promoting the ministry to Christians wherever possible;
   - Arranging advertising of Club Solo's activities;
   - Offering Club Solo's ministry to church Pastors;
   - Keeping in contact with other singles’ groups to offer them support, and to let singles know of these ministries; and
   - Travel to other activities and camps to help promote Club Solo and ministry to Christian singles in general.

d) Meet Club Solo's denominationally by:
   - Communicate regularly with the Committee and be open to receiving feedback;
- Present a report to the National Board of Administration on a six month basis and at National Conference.

1379. Article 9. Club Solo Small Groups.

(1) **Definition.** From time to time, small groups emerge who wish to meet on a regular basis under the banner of Club Solo. Club Solo is pleased to support these groups, and to assist potential small group leaders conditioned on the following guidelines:

(2) **Leadership.** They shall demonstrate Godly, Christian maturity and lifestyle – either single or married and shall be appointed by the Director under the authority of the Club Solo Ministries Committee, and shall be accountable to this Committee. The Director/Committee shall request letters of reference from the person’s Pastor to satisfy their suitability for leadership under Club Solo Ministries and also provide a current police check statement accordingly in each state.

(3) **Program.** The program is to be set by the appointed leader(s) and it is required that the Director of Club Solo Ministries is given notice of events and meetings organised to ratify conformity to the main activities and ministry of Club Solo Ministries. No alcohol is permitted during group functions as all activities are to be “dry”. All efforts are to be made by the leaders to provide a safe environment for singles to meet. The purpose of the meetings is to be followed as per the “Mission” of Club Solo Ministries (Article 2).

1380. Article 10. Bylaws. Club Solo Ministries may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they are in accord with *The Handbook*, the constitution and purpose of Club Solo Ministries, and other directives of the National Board of Administration. Such bylaws are subject to the review and approval of the National Board of Administration.

1381. Article 11. Dissolution of Club Solo

(1) Should Club Solo cease its ministry, the National Director and the National Board of Administration shall ensure that all Club Solo debts are paid.

(2) The National Board of Administration will distribute all remaining Club Solo assets to similar ministries at its discretion.
PART VIII – CORPORATIONS

Chapter I

LOCAL CHURCH CORPORATIONS

A. Authorisation

1385. A Local Church within an Established District may be incorporated (cf. 274:14) when so authorised by the District Board of Administration (486:30), and when in the opinion of the District Board of Administration it is deemed necessary for the issuing of bonds, the securing of commercial loans, or some other special reason. A Local Church within a Pioneer District or Provisional District may be incorporated when so recommended by the National Superintendent and authorised by the National Board of Administration.

1386. The articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a Local Church shall be according to the standard provisions in 1388, any other pertinent requirements of The Handbook, the requirements of local laws as advised by competent legal authority, and shall be approved in writing by the authorising District Board of Administration or Official (1385).


1388. The standard provisions for the incorporation of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church are as follows, provided that whenever such standard provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent necessary to conform with such local laws (1467).

(1) The name of the Corporation shall be “_________ (name or place) Wesleyan Methodist Church.”

(2) The primary purposes for which the Corporation is formed shall be religious, benevolent, charitable, and educational in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in its Handbook (cf. 75-76, 101; 691:14), and shall not be for the pecuniary gain or profit to the Members thereof, and especially, to purchase, hold in trust for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, manage, encumber, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Corporation; to acquire or erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, the use and occupancy of its Ministers, Christian education, and other purposes in keeping with the doctrines and principles of The Wesleyan Methodist Church; to receive, manage, and hold in trust for Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character that may be given, bequeathed, or conveyed to the Local Church or to the Trustees of the Local Church as such, and to administer the same and income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustee, or testator; provided that any and all of the foregoing purposes shall be carried out in conformity with the provisions of The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as legislated and declared from time to time (cf. 1393).

(3) The Corporation shall be subject to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, its duly elected Officials, and its rules and regulations as set forth in its Handbook from time to time and as otherwise legislated and declared in keeping with said Handbook.

(4) The bylaws of the Corporation shall include The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as legislated and declared from time to time; and no other bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of said Handbook (1386).

(5) The term for which the Corporation is to exist is perpetual.

(6) The Members of the Corporation shall be the incumbent Members of the Local Board of Administration, or such other body or persons as directed by the District Board of Administration, or in the case of Pioneer or Provisional Districts - the National Board of Administration shall appoint the Members. All voting Members of the Corporation shall be Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(7) The Directors of the Corporation shall be elected from the Local Board of Administration with the Pastor, Secretary, and Treasurer ex-officio Directors. Other Directors deemed necessary shall be elected from the Local Board, who shall carry out the directions of the Local Church Conference (274:14) and the Local Board of Administration (316:27) as set forth in The Handbook. A Member of the Board of Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Corporation.

(8) If the Corporation shall be dissolved or become inactive, or whenever the Board of Directors (1388:7) shall cease to function or cease to be amenable to The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in the Judiciary (1558; 1581-1582), any or all assets of the Corporation shall inure to the District of which the Local Church is a Member, and the District Board of Administration shall be authorised and empowered to carry on the function of said Board of Directors (486:30, 486:33).

C. Ownership

1391. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments made of any property, real, personal, or mixed, to or for an incorporated Local Church shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust for the use and benefit of such Local Church and The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and subject to The Handbook, regulations, and appointments of said Church as from time to time legislated and declared. Every instrument or conveyance of real property shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1481 (cf. 1496) and shall be approved by the District Superintendent as being in conformity with the requirements of The Handbook (511:11).

D. Acquisition, Sale, Transfer, or Mortgage of Property

1393. An incorporated Local Church shall acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer, or otherwise dispose of real property subject to the following authorisation and conditions:

(1) A resolution authorising the proposed action shall be recommended by the Local Board of Administration (316:31) and passed by the Local Church Conference (274:13) in corporate session, or such other corporate body as local laws may require and as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Local Church Corporation, with the Members thereof acting in their capacity as Members of the corporate body, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at any regular or special session duly called for such purpose (263:1-2; 265:1), provided that notice of such intended action shall be given to the Covenant Members of the Local Church through announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be at least one week prior to the meeting at which the action shall be
presented, and in the church bulletin, when such is available (cf. 265:1), and through such other notice as may be required by local laws or by the bylaws of the Local Church Corporation.

(2) The District Building Committee shall study the proposal of the Local Church whenever the purchase of property, the construction or remodelling of buildings, or other work of the Committee is involved as set forth in 523, and shall give its written recommendation to the District Board of Administration and the Local Church.

(3) The written approval of the District Board of Administration as stated in 486:30 shall be necessary and shall be affixed to the written instrument involved.

(4) The resolution by the District Board of Administration in respect of an Established District, or the National Board of Administration (or its nominee) in respect of a Provisional or Pioneer District, authorising such proposed action shall direct and authorise the Corporation’s Board of Directors (1388:7) to take all necessary steps to carry out the action so authorised, and to cause to be executed, as hereinafter provided, any necessary contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other written instrument.

(5) The Board of Directors of the Local Church Corporation (1388:7) shall take such action and adopt such resolutions as may be necessary or required to carry out the proposal as approved, provided that such shall be in conformity with The Handbook as stated in 511:11 and shall see that permanent legal and property records are properly stored as required in 1511.

E. Other Regulations

1395. An incorporated Local Church and/or its Board of Directors (1388:7) may not divert property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and is subject to other regulations concerning Local Church property as set forth in The Handbook in 1465-1485, 1498-1515, and any other pertinent provisions.

1397. The proceeds from the sale of any real property by an incorporated Local Church shall only be used for the purchase or improvement of property for that Local Church, unless otherwise authorised by the District Board of Administration as set forth in 1500-1503 (cf. 486:30), or in the case of a Pioneer or Provisional District, the National Board of Administration.
Chapter II

DISTRICT CHURCH CORPORATIONS

A. Authorisation

1401. Except where prohibited by state or provincial law, the District Conference of each Established District shall be incorporated or shall cause a Corporation to be formed and maintained (473:21; 1432) such as will enable it to receive, hold in trust, encumber, sell, transfer, and otherwise dispose of District property and such local property as may be held by the District (cf. 1491-1494; 1503-1510; 1513-1515), and to facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs in such manner as may be directed by the District Conference (473:21) from time to time and according to The Handbook (1480). In places where such incorporation is prohibited by law, or where the law requires the property to be held by Trustees, the legal affairs of the District shall be administered as set forth in 1524-1529.

1402. A Pioneer or Provisional District may be incorporated when so recommended by the National Superintendent and authorised by the National Board of Administration (691:14) or its Executive Board, and such incorporation shall be according to the standard provisions for an Established District (1404).

1403. The articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation of a District, and any amendments thereto, shall be according to the standard provisions in 1404 and any other pertinent requirements as set forth in The Handbook, and shall be subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration (691:14).

B. Standard Provisions

1404. The standard provisions for the incorporation of a District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be as listed herewith, provided that when such standard provisions shall conflict with local laws under which the incorporation is effected, said standard provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent required by the local laws (1467):

1. The name of the Corporation shall be: “The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, ___________ District” (official District name).

2. The primary purposes for which the Corporation is formed shall be religious, benevolent, charitable, and educational in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in its Handbook (cf. 75-76; 101), and shall not be for the pecuniary gain of the Members thereof, and especially shall be to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Corporation; provided that all such property shall be held in trust, in the corporate name, for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1405; to acquire or erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, the use and occupancy of its Ministers, Christian education, and other activities that are in harmony with the doctrines and purposes of The Wesleyan Methodist Church; to receive and hold in trust for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real, personal, or mixed, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to the District, or to the District Board of Trustees as such, for any purpose consistent with the purposes of the Corporation, and to administer the same in accordance with the direction of the donor, trustor, or testator; and in addition to have all other powers as are expressly or impliedly given to said Corporation by the laws under which it is incorporated when such do not contravene the provisions of The Handbook.

3. The Corporation shall be subject to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, its duly elected Officials, and its rules and regulations as set forth in The Handbook as legislated and declared from time to time and as otherwise directed by the National Conference and the National Board of Administration (691:14); and shall not have authority to divert property from the ownership or use of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and its duly elected Officials (cf. 1528-1529).

4. The bylaws of the Corporation shall include The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as legislated and declared from time to time, and no bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of said Handbook (1403).

5. The term for which the Corporation is to exist is perpetual.

6. The Members of the Corporation shall be the incumbent Members of the District Board of Administration, or in the case of Pioneer or Provisional Districts, the National Board of Administration, or such other body as local laws may require, provided that all voting Members of the corporate body shall be Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

7. The Directors of the Corporation shall be elected from the District Board of Administration with the District Superintendent, District Secretary, and District Treasurer ex-officio Directors. Other Directors deemed necessary shall be elected from the District Board of Administration. In the case of Pioneer or Provisional Districts, the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the National Board of Administration. A Director shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Corporation.

8. The Board of Directors of the District Corporation (486:13) shall exercise its corporate powers under the direction of the District Conference (473:21; 486:13), and in the interim of its sessions, the District Board of Administration. Directors of incorporated Pioneer and Provisional Districts are under the direction of the National Board of Administration. The District Board of Administration of an incorporated District (District Board of Administration in case of Pioneer or Provisional District) may authorise and direct the District Corporation to guarantee in writing any note, mortgage, contract, or any other evidence of indebtedness, of any Local Church of said District.

9. The Board of Directors (1404:7) shall be authorised and empowered to institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in the name of the District Corporation to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the bounds of the District, including all matters relating to property and the rights to property, whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, for all property held by the District Corporation and all property held by Local Churches, Circuits, or other Agencies within the bounds of the District.

10. In the event the Corporation shall be dissolved, or become inactive, or whenever the Board of Directors (1404:7) shall cease to function, any and all assets of the Corporation shall inure to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia (1411), and the National Board of Administration, in the name of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, shall carry on the functions of the Corporation and exercise its corporate powers and shall be authorised to institute any necessary legal or equitable actions to preserve the interests and rights of the District and of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (691:38).

C. Ownership
1405. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers and assignments made of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for an incorporated District shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust for the use and benefit of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and of such District and subject to The Handbook, regulations, and appointments of said Church, as from time to time legislated and declared. Every instrument or conveyance of real property shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1481 (cf. 160:6).

D. Other Regulations

1406. The Members (1404:6) and/or Board of Directors (1404:7) of a District Corporation shall not have authority to divert any property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and its duly elected Officials, and said Members and/or Board of Directors are subject to the regulations concerning property held by a District as set forth in The Handbook (cf. 1528-1529; 1597).

E. Present Corporations

1407. The South Queensland District presently maintains “The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia in Queensland” as the District Property Trust.
Chapter III

NATIONAL CHURCH CORPORATIONS

A. Purpose and Authorisation

1411. The National Conference may cause a Corporation to be formed and maintained for The Wesleyan Methodist Church such as will enable it to receive, own, encumber, sell, transfer, and otherwise dispose of property, the purpose of floating bonds, securing of commercial loans, or other special purpose, such as will facilitate the management of its legal and corporate affairs as may be required from time to time. Such incorporation shall be authorised by the National Conference or, when not in session, the National Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote of all its Members except as otherwise restricted by the National Conference (691:14). The articles of incorporation and bylaws for the incorporation, and any amendments thereto, shall be according to the standard provisions in 1412 and any other pertinent requirements as set forth in The Handbook, and shall be subject to the approval of the National Conference, or when it is not in session, the National Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote of all its Members (691:14).

B. Standard Provisions

1412. The standard provisions for incorporation are as follows, provided that whenever such standard provisions shall conflict with local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be deemed to be modified to the extent necessary to conform to such local laws (1467).

1. The primary purposes for which the Corporation is formed shall be religious, benevolent, charitable, and educational in keeping with the purposes of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in its Handbook (cf. 75:76; 101; 691:14), and shall not be for the pecuniary gain of the Members thereof, and especially shall be to acquire, purchase, manage, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Corporation; provided that all such property shall be held in trust, in the corporate name, for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1413; to acquire or erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, the use and occupancy of its Ministers, Christian education, and other activities that are in harmony with the doctrines and purposes of The Wesleyan Methodist Church; to receive and hold in trust for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real, personal, or mixed, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to the National Church, or to the National Board of Trustees as such, for any purpose consistent with the purposes of the Corporation, and to administer the same in accordance with the direction of the donor, trustor, or testator; and in addition to have all other powers as are expressly or impliedly given to said Corporation by the laws under which it is incorporated when such do not contravene the provisions of The Handbook.

2. The Corporation shall be subject to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, its duly elected Officials, and its rules and regulations as set forth in The Handbook as legislated and declared from time to time and as otherwise directed by the National Conference (650:3) and the National Board of Administration (691:14); and shall not have authority to divert property from the ownership or use of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and its duly elected Officials (cf. 1528-1529).

3. The bylaws of the Corporation shall include The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as legislated and declared from time to time, and no bylaws shall be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of said Handbook (1403).

4. The term for which the Corporation is to exist is perpetual.

5. The National Board of Administration, duly constituted as required by The Handbook (601-708), shall be and constitute the Members of such Corporation. The corporate powers, business, and other affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised, conducted, and controlled by its Board of Directors in accord with its articles of incorporation and bylaws, The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as from time to time amended, and any other directives of the National Conference (691:14), and the laws of the Commonwealth and various states (1467).

6. The Directors of the Corporation shall be elected from the National Board of Administration with the National Superintendent, National Secretary, and National Treasurer ex-officio Directors. Other Directors deemed necessary shall be elected from the National Board of Administration. A Director shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall be authorised to appoint Committees from among its own Members and to delegate its corporate powers to such Committees as it may deem wise in the interim of its sessions, all as may be permitted by the Corporation laws.

7. The Board of Directors of a National Corporation (691:13) shall exercise its corporate powers under the direction of the National Conference (691:13), and in the interim of its sessions, the National Board of Administration. The National Board of Administration shall be amenable to the National Conference (cf. 1533).

8. The Board of Directors (1412:6) shall be authorised and empowered to institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in the name of the Corporation to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Methodist Church within the bounds of the National Church, including all matters relating to property and the rights to property, whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, for all property held by the Corporation and all property held by Local Churches, Circuits, or other Agencies within the bounds of the National Church.

9. In the event the Corporation shall be dissolved, or become inactive, or whenever the Board of Directors (1412:6) shall cease to function, any and all assets of the Corporation shall inure to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia (1411), and the National Board of Administration, in the name of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, shall carry on the functions of the Corporation and exercise its corporate powers and shall be authorised to institute any necessary legal or equitable actions to preserve the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (691:15).

C. Ownership

1413. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers and assignments made of any property, real, personal or mixed, to or for an Incorporated National entity shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust for the use and benefit of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and subject to The Handbook, regulations, and appointments of said Church, as from time to time legislated and declared. Every instrument or conveyance of real property shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1481 (cf. 1606).
D. Other Regulations

1414. The Members (1412:5) and/or Board of Directors (1412:6) of a National Corporation shall not have authority to divert any property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and its duly elected Officials, and said Members and/or Board of Directors are subject to the regulations concerning property held by a National Corporation as set forth in The Handbook (cf. 1533; 1597).

E. Present Corporations

1416. The Wesleyan Methodist Church presently maintains “The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia Property Trust Limited.”

F. Donations, Bequests, Devises

1417. Corporations of The Wesleyan Methodist Church may receive and hold in trust by donation, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or otherwise, any property, real, personal, or mixed, in any state in the Commonwealth of Australia or any other country, in behalf of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or any of its subsidiary interests, for any benevolent, charitable, religious, or educational purpose, and to administer the same and the income there from in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator, and in the interests of the National Department, Office, Institution, Agency, Society, or other body contemplated by such donors, trustors, or testators, the whole to be under the direction of and amenable to the National Conference (650:9-11). The Board of Directors shall have power, with the advice of competent investment counsel, to invest, reinvest, buy, sell, transfer, and convey any and all funds and properties which it may hold in trust, subject always to the terms of the legacy, devise, or donation, and shall, whenever it is necessary to do so, determine the use or uses of each such fund or trust which shall correspond with the general intentions of the donor, trustor, or testator.

G. Power of Intervention

1420. The National Board of Administration as the Board of Directors shall be authorised and empowered to intervene and institute all necessary legal and equitable actions in the name of any Corporation of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to protect the interests and rights of The Wesleyan Methodist Church anywhere, including all matters relating to property and rights to property, whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, or where held in trust for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (691:15; 1404:2; 1480; 1513; 1528-1529).

1423. Whenever any group of Ministers or Members shall put themselves in an attitude of insubordination or disobedience to The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1558, the National Board of Administration shall be empowered to institute and carry out disciplinary proceedings as set forth in the Judiciary (1581-1583; 1597-1598) and other pertinent provisions of The Handbook, and, when deemed necessary, may authorise a National Superintendent or other National Official(s) to request an affirmation of loyalty and reorganise the District or other Unit involved as set forth in the Judiciary (1582-1583; 1597-1598). Whenever such insubordination occurs in a Local Church, the National Board of Administration shall intervene only when the District Officials or District Board of Administration over the Local Church shall fail or refuse to act.

H. Amendments

1426. The articles of incorporation for a Corporation of The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be amended by the National Conference by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special session or, when not in session, the National Board of Administration by a two-thirds majority vote of all its Members except as otherwise restricted by the National Conference (691:14).
Chapter IV

SUBSIDIARY AND AFFILIATE CORPORATIONS AND ADJUNCT ENTITIES

A. Authorisation of Subsidiary Corporations

1431. The National Conference may authorise the incorporation of any Agency, Institution (for matters relative to a National Educational Institution, cf. 925), Board, Organisation, or similar body as a Subsidiary Corporation of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and shall approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws and any amendments thereto (650:10). The National Board of Administration shall carry out the directions of the National Conference regarding such Subsidiary Corporations, assign each one to the proper commission and the supervision of the National Superintendent (691:14); and, in the interim of National Conference sessions, may authorise such an incorporation by a two-thirds majority vote of all its Members, and may approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws and any amendments thereto for any Subsidiary Corporation except as otherwise restricted by the National Conference (691:14).

B. Subsidiary Corporations

1432. Definition. Those corporate Units of The Wesleyan Methodist Church which are intrinsic to the priority mission of the Church are known as Subsidiary Corporations. These include the following:

(1) Districts (cf. 1401-1406) Local Churches, whether incorporated or unincorporated (cf. 1385-1397), are Units of the related District and subject to the authority of said District as set forth in in The Handbook. (cf. 486:26-38; 511:12-21; 1490-1515).

(2) National Educational Institutions (cf. 925)

(3) Wesleyan Investment Foundation Limited. The Wesleyan Investment Foundation Limited is a not-for-profit Corporation. The membership of the company will be the National Board of Administration, duly constituted as required by The Handbook (676-708). It is governed by a Board of Directors, with the National Secretary as recording secretary, the National Treasurer, and at least three other Members elected by the National Board of Administration (691:21). The Board of Directors shall administer all matters pertaining to the Wesleyan Investment Foundation Limited in accord with The Handbook (1476), its articles of incorporation and bylaws, and is amenable to the National Board of Administration.

(4) Other corporate Units may be designated as Subsidiary Corporations by the National Conference or a two-thirds vote of all Members of the National Board of Administration.

C. Basic Provisions of Subsidiary Corporations

1433. The articles of incorporation or charter for the incorporation of any Agency, Institution (other than a District, cf. 401-596, or a National Educational Institution, cf. 925, Board, Organisation, or similar body as a Subsidiary Corporation, 1431; 1432-4), now established or hereafter created, and its bylaws, shall be in accord with the following basic provisions, provided that whenever such basic provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be modified to the extent required by local laws (1467):

(1) The purposes of the Subsidiary Corporation shall be in keeping with the religious, charitable, benevolent, and educational purposes of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and consistent with its doctrines and principles as stated in The Handbook (cf. 75-76; 101; 806; 920); and pecuniary profit shall not accrue to the Members of the Corporation.

(2) The bylaws of the Corporation shall include The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as amended from time to time (1476); and no bylaws may be adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of The Handbook or contrary to local laws as stated in 1467. The bylaws, and any amendments thereto, shall be subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration, who shall also have the right to initiate any such bylaws or amendments, provided they do not contravene any action of the National Conference (691:14; cf. 1458:1a).

(3) The National Board of Administration shall be and constitute the Board of Directors or shall elect the Members of the Board of Directors as required by the Constitution except where prohibited by local laws (172:1; 691:20; 1467), and shall have the authority to remove for cause any Member thereof (691:25:2).

(4) All Members of the Board of Directors and all principal Officers shall be Covenant Members or Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) A Member of the Board of Directors may not be held personally liable for any debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Corporation.

(6) All fiscal operations shall be under Board control, with budget, investment, and cash control by a Board of Directors of no less than seven Members.

(7) The National Board of Administration shall be authorised to direct an annual audit of all assets, records, and other affairs of the Corporation, and at any other time as it shall deem necessary (691:19), and all records shall be open to the National Superintendent having supervision over the Corporation (743:4) and to any other representative the National Board of Administration shall appoint for such a purpose.

(8) The Board of Directors shall make a complete and faithful report of finances and other activities to the National Board of Administration at any time as shall be required by such National Board (691:20).

(9) An official copy of the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the financial reports shall be forwarded to the National Secretary of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for permanent filing as requested (755:5).

(10) The bylaws shall establish proper safeguards for the borrowing or loaning of funds, and it shall be required that there will be adequate security by full mortgage protection or the like whenever there is an investment in property.

(11) All property whether real, personal or mixed shall be held in trust for the use and benefit of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 1481.

D. Affiliate Corporations

1435. Definition. An Affiliate Corporation may be formed and exist when a Subsidiary Corporation (cf. 1432) of The Wesleyan Methodist Church seeks to develop responses to social, humanitarian, or community needs which can best be achieved by a separate legal entity. This may be for the purpose of carrying on specific religious, benevolent, charitable, or educational activities apart from the usual activities of the Subsidiary Corporation, such as, but not limited to, the operation of nursing homes, retirement centres, special
educational or recreational activities and the like. When the organisation and operation of such a ministry is desired, it shall be incorporated apart from the Subsidiary Corporation and termed an Affiliate Corporation.

E. Basic Provisions of Affiliate Corporations

1436. The articles of incorporation or charter for the incorporation of any Affiliate Corporation hereafter created (other than by an Educational Institution, cf. 925; 1433), and its bylaws, shall be in accord with the following basic provisions, provided that, whenever such basic provisions shall conflict with the local laws under which the incorporation is effected, such provisions shall be modified to the extent required by local laws:

(1) The principal purpose of an Affiliate Corporation shall be to augment one or more of the religious, charitable, benevolent, or educational purposes of the Subsidiary Corporation with which it is affiliated, and pecuniary profit shall not accrue to the Members of the Affiliate Corporation.

(2) The bylaws of the Affiliate Corporation shall be in accord with the bylaws of the Subsidiary Corporation with which it is affiliated, as amended from time to time, and no bylaw may be adopted by the Affiliate Corporation that is inconsistent with the provisions of the charter or bylaws of such Subsidiary Corporation or contrary to local, state, or federal laws governing the Affiliate Corporation. The bylaws and any amendments thereto, shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the subject Subsidiary Corporation, and the concurrence in writing of the supervising National Superintendent of The Wesleyan Methodist Church after the receipt of competent legal counsel (743:5).

(3) The Board of Directors of the Subsidiary Corporation shall be and constitute, or shall elect, the Members of the Board of Directors of the Affiliate Corporation, and shall be and constitute the membership of such Corporation, except where prohibited by local laws, and shall have the authority to remove for cause any Member.

(4) All Members of the Board of Directors and principal Officers of the Affiliate Corporation shall be Covenant Members or Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) Except where liability is allowed by law, a Member of the Board of Directors of the Affiliate Corporation may not be held personally liable for any debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Corporation.

(6) All fiscal operations, including budget, investment, and cash control, shall be under the control of a Board of Directors of not less than seven Members.

(7) The Board of Directors of the Affiliate Corporation, other Governing Board, or the supervising National Superintendent, shall be authorized to direct an annual audit of all assets, records, or other affairs of the Corporation, and at any other time as is deemed necessary, and all records shall be open to the supervising National Superintendent and to any other representative of the Board of Directors of the Subsidiary Corporation shall appoint for such a purpose (743:5).

(8) The Board of Directors of the Affiliate Corporation shall make a complete and faithful report of finances and other activities annually, and at any other time as shall be required, to the Board of Directors of the Subsidiary Corporation with which it is affiliated.

(9) An official copy of the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the financial reports shall be forwarded to the Chair and the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Subsidiary Corporation for permanent filing and to the supervising National Superintendent (743:5).

(10) The bylaws of the Affiliate Corporation shall establish proper safeguards for fiscal soundness, legal requirements, integrity of purpose, and protection of the assets of the Corporation.

(11) All property of the Affiliate Corporation, whether real, personal, or mixed, shall, in the event of the liquidation or dissolution of such Corporation, devolve upon and pass to The Wesleyan Methodist Church or one of its Subsidiary Corporations.

F. Adjunct Entities

1437. Definition. An adjunct entity may exist when an entity heretofore has been developed in response to social, humanitarian, or community needs for the purpose of carrying on activities which are apart from the usual activities of a Subsidiary Corporation, such as, but not limited to, the operation of nursing homes, retirement centres, special educational or recreational activities, and the like. In all cases, the Governing Body of the subject Subsidiary Corporation shall use its best efforts on a continuing basis to cause the adjunct entity to meet the following conditions:

(1) The relationship between the adjunct entity and any Subsidiary Corporation, Affiliate Corporation, or The Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall only be described and shown as “related through common religious heritage” rather than by use of name or such words as “Agent,” “Agency,” “Subsidiary,” or “Affiliate.”

(2) All financial responsibility arising from conduct of any activities of the adjunct entity shall be that solely of the adjunct entity, and no such responsibility shall fall upon any Subsidiary Corporation, Affiliate Corporation, The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or any Member or former Member of the Governing Body thereof.

(3) No Subsidiary Corporation shall directly or indirectly elect, approve nominations for, or confirm elections or selections of, Members of the Board of Directors or other Governing Body of any adjunct entity.

(4) The real, personal, or mixed property of the adjunct entity shall not be held in trust for a Subsidiary Corporation, an Affiliate Corporation, or The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(5) The adjunct entity shall, to the satisfaction of the subject Subsidiary Corporation or Affiliate Corporation, and the supervising National Superintendent, take all necessary and other reasonable measures to avoid creating the impression to the public, or any part thereof, that its existence or operation is in any fashion sponsored, controlled, or operated by the Subsidiary Corporation, an Affiliate Corporation, or The Wesleyan Methodist Church (743:5).

1438. Restriction. Except as expressly permitted by paragraphs 1432, 1433, 1435, or 1436, no two or more Members of any Board of Directors of The Wesleyan Methodist Church Corporations, or of the Board of Directors or other Governing Body of any Subsidiary Corporation, or Affiliate Corporation, whether acting individually or severally, shall directly or indirectly form or become Members of any Corporation, Association, Partnership, or other legal entity which promotes, sponsors, encourages, or in any manner engages in any activity which directly or indirectly purports to be sponsored or operated in any manner by or in the name of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or any Subsidiary or Affiliate Corporation. Provided, however, that nothing contained in this paragraph 1438 or elsewhere in this Chapter IV of Part VIII of The Handbook is intended to prohibit the formation or operation of one or more Private Foundations or Supporting Organisations which benefit The Wesleyan Methodist Church.
Chapter V

SUPERANNUATION FUND

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia Superannuation Fund

1440. Purpose. The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall maintain and conduct a superannuation fund known as The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia Superannuation Fund for the benefit of its Ministers and other persons as defined in the Trust Deed dated 13th May, 1987 (as amended) (cf. 1450).

1441. Government. All matters pertaining to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia Superannuation Fund shall be administered by a Trustee who shall govern The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia Superannuation Fund in accord with The Handbook (1476) and the Trust Deed (as amended). The Trustee is amenable to and appointed by the National Board of Administration.

1445. Membership.

(1) Those eligible for membership in the Fund shall be:
   a) Ordained and Commissioned or Licensed Ministers of the Church.
   b) Commissioned lay missionaries serving The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1192).
   c) Such other persons or groups of persons as may be declared eligible from time to time by the Trustee, subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration.

(2) All persons so eligible for membership shall ipso facto be Members of the Fund.

1451. Assessment. There shall be paid on behalf of each eligible Member an amount calculated using the annual percentage set for superannuation by the National Conference, (or when not in session, by the National Board of Administration by a two third majority). The base pastoral support package figure on which calculations are made shall be the minimum for a married couple as recommended by the National Board of Administration. This minimum shall include an allowance for housing. If the pastoral support package exceeds that recommended by the National Board of Administration, payment shall be made at the recommended percentage rate, on the actual support package provided. Such payments are to be made during the Member's active service, and shall be fully vested to the Member's benefit immediately upon deposit with the fund.

1452. Method of Payment.

(1) The Church, the Districts, the Local Churches, and all Boards, Agencies, Auxiliary Organisations, or Institutions of the Church, Districts, or of the Local Churches, employing Members of the Fund, shall pay to the Fund on behalf of each Member, such assessments as is stipulated in 1451. No payment as such shall be required of Members, except in the case of Evangelists employed outside the Denomination, as hereinafter provided in 1452:2.

(2) Any Unit of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1452:1 when employing in evangelistic work the services of an Evangelist or lay worker who is a Member of the Fund, shall pay to the Fund, on behalf of such Member, such percentage of the amount paid to said Evangelist as set forth in 1451.

(3) Any Evangelist of The Wesleyan Methodist Church who takes employment as such outside the Church may pay into the Fund such percentage of gross cash earnings as set forth in 1451.

(4) All such payments shall be remitted quarterly to the Fund, by the salary-paying Organisation of each Member, the remittances related to any financial year shall be payable not later than the close of such year in order that the salary upon which remittances are payable may be used for benefit purposes.

1453. Continuous or Resumed Service. In the event a retired Member continues or resumes active service in the Church or in the ministry, the salary-paying Organisation shall pay on their behalf an amount equal to the percentage assessment of all salaries paid to such a Member.


(1) Administration.
   a) The Fund shall be operated and administered by the Trustee in accordance with the Trust Deed and The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as from time to time amended, and may adopt such additional rules and regulations as are in harmony therewith as deemed necessary from time to time.
   b) The National Treasurer shall be the custodian of funds for the Fund (cf. 76:1), and shall hold and disburse such funds as directed by the Trustee and its designated Officer.
   c) The Trustee shall employ such Officers as it may deem necessary.
   d) The Trustee may delegate its duties and powers in respect to the administration of the Fund to its Committees, Officers, and Agents. The actions and decisions of any such Committee, Officer, or Agent, within the scope of the duties and powers so delegated shall be deemed the action or decision of the Trustee, but shall be subject to review by the Trustee in disputed cases. The Trustee shall have final authority over its Committees, Officers, and Agents in such cases.

(2) Appeals. The Trustee's construction and interpretation of any of these provisions and such rules and regulations in harmony therewith adopted by the Trustee shall be binding on all parties, except that an appeal therefrom may be taken by an interested party to the National Board and its decision be final. (CF. 1458:2.)

(3) Liability. The funds and assets of the Fund shall be and become liable to Members and other beneficiaries hereunder for the payment and discharge of their superannuation claims in the manner and to the extent provided above, but in no event shall any liability accrue against the Church for benefits or other claims arising out of the establishment, maintenance, conduct, and operation of the Fund. Nor shall the funds and assets of the Church, or of its Boards or Agencies, other than the funds and assets of the Fund become subject to, or liable for, any such claim or other liability. No action shall ever be maintainable in any court of law or equity against the Church to enforce such asserted claim or liability.

(4) Investments. All moneys of the Fund shall be invested only upon the approval of the Trustee.

(5) Reports. The Trustee shall report annually, or more often if requested, to the National Board or its Executive Board, in the manner which the National Board specifies (691:20; 1433:7), and to each session of the National Conference (691:9; 1433:6).

(6) Audits. The National Board may direct an audit annually, or at any time it shall deem necessary, of all funds and records for the Fund (691:19; 1433:6).
PART IX – PROPERTY

Chapter I

GENERAL REGULATIONS

A. Application

1465. The general regulations set forth in this Chapter shall be binding on all Trustees and their governing bodies of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, whether Local, District, or National Church, including all Institutions, Subsidiary Corporations, and similar bodies, unless otherwise stated in The Handbook or in the articles of incorporation and bylaws governing such Trustees.

B. Local Laws

1467. All provisions of The Handbook relating to property, both real and personal, and relating to the formation and operation of any Corporation, are conditioned upon their being in conformity with the local laws (1477) of the country, state, territory, or other like political unit within the geographical bounds of which the property is situate; and in the event of conflict therewith, said provisions of The Handbook shall be modified to the extent required to conform with any such local laws. This regulation, however, shall not be construed to give the consent of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to deprivation of its property without due process of law, or to the regulation of its affairs by statute where such regulation violates the constitutional right of freedom of religion, separation of church and state, or the rights of the Church to maintain its polity.

C. Requirements

1468. Trustees should be a duly incorporated body formed by The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia to hold properties in terms of 1385, 1401, 1411.

1469. Where a Trustee is an individual, a Trustee must be a Covenant Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. Whenever a Trustee ceases to be a Member of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for any reason, their office as Trustee shall be declared vacant and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term in the manner provided in The Handbook.

1470. All Trustees shall administer their duties in accord with The Handbook as from time to time amended, as directed by the Governing Body to which they are amenable, and subject to local laws as set forth in 1467. Whenever a Trustee refuses to carry out properly given orders and instructions and submit to the authority to which they are amenable, they may be removed from office and a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term as provided for in The Handbook.

1471. A Board of Trustees shall have and hold in trust for the use and benefit of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church any and all property committed to it; shall see that titles are good; that deeds and titles contain the required trust clause as set forth in 1481; that they are promptly recorded; that abstracts and all other legal papers are properly stored and secured; and shall perform such other duties as are required of them in The Handbook or by the Governing Body to which they are amenable, and in the case of incorporated bodies, as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws or charter of the Corporation.

D. Restrictions

1472. A Trustee or Board of Trustees and/or its Governing Body may not divert property from the ownership and use of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1474. A Board of Trustees shall not normally accept a deed which contains a clause by which the land conveyed may revert to the original grantor, their heirs or assigns.

E. Terms

1476. “The Handbook” shall always refer to The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as from time to time legislated and declared (78-97; 100; 185; 650:1; 743:27).

1477. “Local laws,” whenever used in The Handbook with respect to property or any other legal matters, shall be construed to mean the laws of the country, territory, state, or other like political unit within which the property is located.

F. Trust Clause and Release Therefrom

1480. All property, whether real, personal, or mixed, acquired by any Local Church, Circuit, District, Institution, Agency, or other similar body of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall be held in trust for The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and shall contain the trust clause as set forth in 1481 (cf. 1606). The absence of the trust clause in the evidence of the title or other written instruments, regardless of whether such absence is due to mistake, inadvertence, or wilful omission, shall in no way exclude a Local Church, Circuit, District, Institution, Agency, or similar body, whether incorporated or unincorporated, from or relieve it of its responsibility to The Wesleyan Methodist Church and subjection to the authority of said Church, and such property can only be sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of in accord with the provisions of The Handbook, concerning the sale, transfer, or encumbrance of property.

(1) For property in Pioneer Districts see 218; 1490; 1520; 1533; cf. 1411-1423; 1465-1485.
(2) For property in Provisional Districts see 411:13; 416:1; 3; 1490; 1521-1523; cf. 1411-1423; 1465-1485.
(3) For Local property in Established Districts see 205:4; 209:4; 213:5; 274:13-14; 294:24-25; 316:27-31; 348:351; 421:3; 473:21; 22; 486:13-14; 30; 511:1; 523; 528:529; 1385:1397; 1401-1406; 1465-1485; 1491-1515; cf. 1420-1423; 1524-1529.
(4) For District property in Established Districts see 421:3; 473:21; 22; 486:13-14; 486:30; 511:1; 523; 528:529; 1401-1406; 1420-1423; 1465-1485; 1524-1529.
(5) For National Church property see 1411-1426; 1465-1485; 1531-1535; cf. 198.
(6) For property of a National Educational Institution see 1465-1485; cf. 936-937; 1420-1423.

(7) For property of a Subsidiary Corporation, Board, or Institution, other than a National Educational Institution see 1431-1437; 1465-1485; cf. 1420-1423.

1481. Trust clause: All titles, deeds, and other written instruments for the conveyance of property to or for The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1480 shall contain the following trust clause:

“In trust for the use and benefit of the ministry and Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, subject to The Handbook, regulations, and appointments of said Church as from time to time legislated and declared.”

1483. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing the foregoing trust clause in 1481 may be sold in conformity with the provisions of The Handbook, and when such provisions have been complied with, the real property so sold or conveyed shall be released from the foregoing trust clause, and the Trustees enabled to give a good and sufficient deed (cf. 1496:1).

1485. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing the foregoing trust clause in 1481 may be mortgaged or otherwise encumbered in conformity with the provisions of The Handbook, and when such provisions have been compiled with, the foregoing trust clause shall be subordinated to the mortgage lien (cf. 1496:2).
Chapter II

LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY

A. Developing Church Property

1490. Pioneer District and Provisional District. Developing Churches within the bounds of a Pioneer District or Provisional District shall be under the jurisdiction of the National Board of Administration in 1520 and 1521-1523 or the Board, Commission or Department it delegates its powers to in respect of the District.

1491. District. The regulations concerning property for a Developing Church within the bounds of an Established District are:

1) The District Board of Administration shall be vested with power and authority to purchase, manage, sell, encumber, transfer, and dispose of any and all property of a Developing Church, whether real, personal, or mixed (205:4; 486:13-14), and shall direct the Pastor and the Local Advisory Council concerning the same in keeping with The Handbook (486:1,30).

2) The Pastor and Local Advisory Council of a Developing Church shall be responsible to supervise, control, and maintain the property under their care as directed by the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration (205:3-4; 486:1, 30).

3) All property of a Developing Church shall be held by the District in trust for the use and benefit of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as required in 160:6 and shall contain the trust clause as given in 1481 (cf. 1405; 1480-1485; 1524).

4) Whenever a Developing Church has been organised as an Established Church (209-210), the District Board of Trustees may transfer the property to the Local Board of Trustees as set forth in 1494, provided that the property is free of debt.

1492. Reclassification. Whenever an Established Church is reclassified as a Developing Church as set forth in 209:5; 473:24; and 486:27, the office of the Members of the Local Board of Administration and the Local Board of Trustees shall thereupon cease (351:5) and the District Board of Administration shall be responsible for the property as set forth in 1491:1-3 (cf. 205). Whenever the property of such a church has been held by the Local Trustees, it shall be conveyed or transferred to the District to be held as set forth in 1524 (cf. 351:5).

B. Church Property

Ownership

1494. Local property within an Established District shall be held by the District, except as decided upon by the District Conference where local circumstances dictate use of Local Trustees (cf. 473:21-22). The District is to hold Local property (cf. 160:5) as set forth in 1405 or 1524. In those Districts where the Local Churches are to hold their own property, all grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments now owned or hereafter acquired of any property, real, personal, or mixed, to or for any unincorporated Local Church, or any Organisation, Board, or similar body connected thereto, shall be held by and/or conveyed to its duly elected Board of Trustees, and to their successors in office and their assigns, as the Board of Trustees of such Local Church, in trust for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, subject to its Handbook, regulations, and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 1481 (cf. 1480; 1483). An omission of the name of any or all of the Trustees shall not render any instrument invalid. (The regulations for an incorporated Local Church are set forth in 1385-1397.)

Trust Clause and Release Therefrom

1496. All written instruments of conveyance by which property is held or hereafter acquired by any Local Church, whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall contain the trust clause in 1481, and release therefrom shall be as follows:

1) Whenever the real property of a Local Church acquired by a conveyance containing the trust clause as set forth in 1481 is sold in conformity with the provisions of The Handbook (1498-1500), the written approval of the District Board of Administration (1498:3) shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from the trust clause (cf. 1483).

2) Whenever the real property of a Local Church, acquired by a conveyance containing the trust clause in 1481, is mortgaged or encumbered as provided for in The Handbook (1498-1500), the written approval of the District Board of Administration for such mortgage or encumbrance (1498:3) shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the trust clause thereto (cf. 1485).

Acquisition, Sale, Mortgage, and Transfer of Property

1498. An unincorporated Local Church within an Established District may acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer, or otherwise dispose of real property in accord with the following authorisation and conditions:

1) A resolution authorising such action shall be recommended by the Local Board of Administration (316:31), and passed by the Local Church Conference (274:13) by a majority of those present and voting, at any regular or special session duly called for such purpose, provided that notice of the intended action shall be given to the Local Church Members by announcement from the pulpit in two regular services, the first of which shall be not less than one week before the date of the session of the Local Church Conference at which the proposal shall be considered, and that notice shall also be given at least one week in advance in the church bulletin, when such is available, and that such other notice shall be given as may be required by local laws (cf. 265:1).

2) The proposal shall be studied by the District Building Committee whenever it involves the purchase of property, the construction or remodelling of buildings, or other work as set forth in 523 and the written recommendation of the District Building Committee shall be forwarded to the District Board of Administration and the Local Church.

3) The District Board of Administration, after receiving the recommendation of the District Building Committee shall approve the proposal of the Local Church in writing and such approval shall be affixed to the written instrument involved (486:30).

4) The resolution authorising such action shall direct that any contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other necessary written instrument be executed by the District Corporation (1401). In the case of Local Trustees, on behalf of the church by the proper Officers of the Local Board of Trustees, who thereupon shall be duly authorised to carry out the directions of the District Board of Administration in keeping with the requirements of The Handbook (cf. 348-351; 1465-1485; 1500); and any written instrument so executed shall be binding and effective as the action of the church. The Chair of the Local Board of Trustees, or other designated Trustee, shall submit all written instruments of conveyance and title for the acquisition of property to the District Superintendent for approval as to their conformity with The Handbook as stated in 511:11 and shall see that permanent legal and property records are properly stored as set forth in 1511.
1500. The proceeds from the sale of any real property of a Local Church whether incorporated or unincorporated, shall be used for the purchase or improvement of property for that Local Church, unless otherwise authorised by the District Board of Administration (486:30). In the event of a situation where two or more Local Churches have merged, proceeds from the sale of such property shall be used by the merged church unless otherwise authorised by the District Board of Administration. Whenever a Local Church does not wish to reinvest the money received as stated herewith, the money shall be forwarded to the District Treasurer and shall be used for the purchase of property for a Local Church, the construction of other churches or parsonages within the bounds of the District, for District property, or for the planting of new churches, as decided upon by the District Conference or the District Board of Administration, provided that all debts against such property being sold shall first be paid.

Abandoned Church Property

1503. When the property of a Local Church is no longer used, a Local Church may be declared by the District Board of Administration as discontinued or abandoned (486:27) and the title shall thereupon vest in the District Corporation (1401), or in the District Board of Trustees in the case of an unincorporated District (1528). The District Board of Administration shall have the authority to order the sale of said property and to appropriate the proceeds for the purchase of property for a Local Church, the construction of churches or parsonages within the bounds of the District, or for District property. The actions of the District Board of Administration shall be reported to the next session of the District Conference. Any bequests, devises, gift annuities, or other benefits to a Local Church that accrue or become available after said church has been discontinued shall become the property of the District Corporation (1401), or, in the case of an unincorporated District, shall become the property of the District Board of Trustees (1528).

Circuit Property

1505. The organisation and government for a Circuit within an Established District are set forth in 212-216. The regulations concerning the acquisition, purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other disposition of Circuit property within an Established District shall be the same as for Local Church property within the District as set forth in 1494 and 1498:1-4. The proceeds from the sale of Circuit property shall also be disposed of in the same manner as the proceeds from the sale of Local Church property as set forth in 1500-1503. The Circuit Board of Trustees shall carry out such duties concerning Circuit property as are required of a Local Board of Trustees (cf. 348-351) and shall be subject to the general regulations as set forth in 1465-1485.

1510. Whenever the discontinuance of a Circuit shall be ordered by the District Conference, or whenever a Local Church is separated from a Circuit and established as a separate pastoral charge (473:25), the District Conference shall also order the sale or disposition of Circuit property, for which a recommendation shall be received from the District Board of Administration (cf. 486:9c). Each Local Church shall be entitled to receive its just share of the property in which it has invested funds; and the amount of such value and just share shall be determined by the District Board of Administration or a special Committee appointed for that purpose.

Property Records

1511. All deeds, titles, and other legal or property records of each Developing Church, Established Church, or Circuit within the bounds of the District shall be placed in the custody of the District Superintendent (511:11) who shall be responsible for their preservation and permanent filing as directed by the District Board of Administration (486:15). The District Superintendent may authorise a Local Church to retain such records when deemed necessary, in which case a certified or true copy shall be kept in the District files.

Rights to Property

1513. The District Board of Administration, in the name of the District Corporation (1401; cf. 1528), shall have the right to intervene or to institute any legal or equitable actions as may be deemed necessary against a Local Church or Circuit within the bounds of the District to preserve the rights and interests of the District and The Wesleyan Methodist Church, in all matters relating to property and the rights to property within the bounds of the District, as set forth in the Judiciary (1581-1582) and as otherwise provided for in The Handbook. The National Board of Administration, in the name of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall also have the right to intervene and protect the rights and interests of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in 1420-1423.

1515. No Local Church may vote to withdraw as a body from The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or in any way sever its relation thereto, and no Local Church Conference and/or Local Board of Administration and/or Local Board of Trustees can divert property from The Wesleyan Methodist Church (351:3; 1472). If any Local Church violates or in any way attempts to circumvent these provisions, then all right, title and interest in and to all real property of such Local Church shall thereupon immediately vest in the District Corporation or its nominee (1401); and all such property shall be vacated immediately by the offending party or parties. The District Conference or, in the interim, the District Board of Administration shall have authority to deny the use of any such property to the offending party or parties and to order the immediate eviction of any such party or parties who do not comply therewith.
Chapter III

DISTRICT CHURCH PROPERTY

A. Pioneer District Property

1520. The regulations concerning property within the bounds of a Pioneer District shall be set forth in the Policy of the National Board of Administration in accord with the following:

(1) The authority for the purchase, sale, encumbrance, transfer, or other disposal of real property within a Pioneer District (whether Local or District) shall be vested in the National Board of Administration or its delegated Board, Commission or Department (cf. 691:29, 1521-3).

(2) All property shall be held by and/or conveyed to a Corporation maintained by the National Board of Administration and shall be National Church property (1533), except when otherwise required by local laws or otherwise directed by the National Board of Administration (cf. 691:29), in which case it shall be held in trust for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and shall contain the appropriate trust clause as set forth in 1481 (cf. 1480-1485).

(3) The Superintendent and any other workers of the Pioneer District shall supervise, control, and maintain the property under their care in accord with The Handbook, the Policy of the National Board of Administration, and other directives, and as supervised by the National Superintendent (743:13).

(4) All legal and property records shall be in the custody of the National Treasurer unless otherwise directed by the National Board of Administration, in which case certified or true copies shall be filed with the National Treasurer (755:6).

B. Provisional District Property

1521. The regulations concerning property within the bounds of a Provisional District shall be the same as for an Established District, with the exception that the official actions of a Provisional District are subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration (cf. 410-416), and that no property within a Provisional District may be received, transferred, bought, leased or sold without the written permission of the National Superintendent, and with the further exception that the National Board of Administration may give special directions as deemed necessary (cf. 691:30). Until such time as the District is incorporated all properties shall be held by and/or conveyed to a Corporation maintained by the National Board of Administration or a Corporation to which this responsibility is delegated.

1523. A Provisional District may be incorporated when so recommended by the National Superintendent (743:14) and authorised by the National Board of Administration (691:31) as set forth in 1401-1406.

C. Established District Property

Ownership

1524. Ownership of property within an Established District will rest in a Corporation under 1401-1406.

Management and Control

1525. The District Board of Administration shall have the following duties and powers concerning the District property and such Local property as may be held by the District (1491; 1494):

(1) To carry out the directions of the District Conference (473:21; 486:13), and, in the interim of its sessions, to have power to act on its own resolution to acquire, purchase, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, rent, lease, and convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the purpose of the District and so to order the District Corporation (1401 ff), provided that in transactions concerning real property used for District purposes such as a District parsonage, headquarters, or campground, the District Board of Administration shall consult with the National Superintendent (743:24), and further provided that said District Board of Administration shall be subject to the general regulations concerning property as set forth in 1465-1485.

(2) To carry out the directions of the District Conference (473:21; 486:13), and, in the interim of its sessions, to direct the District Corporation (1401 ff) concerning any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to the District, or to the District Corporation as such, for any benevolent, charitable, or religious purpose, and to direct the District Corporation in the administration of such in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator, and in the interest of the Church, Institution, Organisation, or Agency contemplated by such donor, trustor, or testator.

(3) To superintend, control, and maintain all District property.

(4) To receive a report from the District Building Committee as set forth in 523 and to approve in writing the proposal of a Local Church to acquire, purchase, encumber, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of real property as set forth in 1393-1397 and 1498-1500.

(5) To act in regard to the disposition of the proceeds from the sale of Local Church or Circuit property as set forth in 1500, and the discontinuance or disposal of abandoned property as set forth in 1503.

(6) To intervene and institute all necessary legal and equitable actions to safeguard and protect the rights and interests of the District and of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, including all matters relating to the property and rights to property, including any property held by a Local Church, Circuit, or other Organisation within the District, whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, or where held in trust for the benefit and use of the Members and Ministers of the District and The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1513-1515).

(7) To direct the District Superintendent in the care and preservation of all legal and property records for the Local Churches and the District (1511).

(8) Where the total liabilities of a District (Local and District) exceed 33% of the total assets the requirements of a Provisional District will come into force (1521).

D. Rights to Property

1528. A District, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that has been placed under discipline in accord with the procedures set forth in the Judiciary (1558; 1592-1596), and each Local Church within that District, shall be suspended from the right to acquire, purchase, sell, mortgage, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any real property without the approval of the National Superintendent or
National Official appointed to have charge of the District (1595). Whenever a District is reorganised as set forth in 1597, the Members and Ministers affirming loyalty to The Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be and constitute the District and shall have the right to control and manage all District property as set forth in The Handbook.

1529. No District Conference may vote to withdraw as a body from The Wesleyan Methodist Church or in any way sever its relation thereto, and no District Board and/or Committee and/or Board of Trustees can divert property from The Wesleyan Methodist Church (1471-1472). Provided, however, that no sale, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, lease, conveyance, or other alienation of property, in whole or in part, whether such property is real, personal, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the District, and when undertaken in accordance with the provisions and requirements of The Handbook, shall constitute a “diversion” of such property from The Wesleyan Methodist Church. If a District Conference violates or in any way attempts to circumvent these provisions, then all right, title and interest in and to all District real property shall thereupon immediately vest in The Wesleyan Methodist Church Corporation (1411-1426). The National Conference or, in the interim, the National Board of Administration shall have the authority to deny the use of any such property to the offending party or parties and to order the immediate eviction of any such party or parties who do not comply therewith from such property.

E. Loan Guarantees

1530. The District Board of Administration may authorise and direct the District Corporation to guarantee in writing any note, mortgage, contract, or any other evidence of indebtedness, of any Local Church of said District. (1524)
Chapter IV

NATIONAL CHURCH PROPERTY

A. Incorporation

1531. The National Conference shall cause a Corporation to be formed and maintained through which it shall acquire, sell, manage, encumber, transfer, and otherwise dispose of National Church property (1411-1423; cf. 650:11), Pioneer and Provisional District (Local and District properties) properties (1490, 1402) and properties of Established Districts who elect to use this Corporation (1520,1401).

B. Ownership

1533. All grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments now owned or hereafter made of any property, real, personal, or mixed, to or for The Wesleyan Methodist Church, or any National Office, Department, Institution, Agency, or Organisation connected thereto, with the exception of those that are separately incorporated (cf. 650:11; 1431), shall be held by and/or conveyed to The Wesleyan Methodist Church in its corporate name, for the use and benefit of the Members and Ministers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, subject to its Handbook, regulations, and appointments as from time to time legislated and declared (cf. 1476).

C. Suggested Forms for Bequests and Devises

1535. The National Treasurer (761) shall be available for special advice and instruction for those who desire to make wills, donations, or bequests to The Wesleyan Methodist Church or any of its various ministries (cf. 198).

(1) Form for Bequests of Money or Personal Property. I give, devise, and bequeath to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, the sum of ____________ dollars, (or if personal property, notes, bonds, etc., describe the same); to be used and appropriated by that body to religious, benevolent, missionary, or educational purposes (or, if desired, state the specific purpose); and the receipt of the Treasurer of the said church shall be a full and sufficient discharge of my executor for the same.

(2) Form for a Devise of Land. I give, devise, and bequeath to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia Property Trust Limited, a Corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Victoria, the following described lands and premises, viz: (full description of land); to have and to hold the same with the privilege or appurtenances unto said Corporation (state a specific purpose if desired), its successors and assigns forever; and the receipt of the Secretary of said Corporation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of my executor for the same.

(3) Form for a Devise of Residuary Estate or Any Part Thereof. I give, devise, and bequeath to The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, all (or some specific part of) the rest, residue, or remainder of my estate, real or personal to said Corporation (state specific purpose if desired), its successors and assigns forever; and the receipt of the Secretary of said church shall be a full and sufficient discharge of my executor for the same.

(4) Suggested forms for other types of donations and delayed gift giving are available from the National Treasurer.
PART X – JUDICIARY

Chapter I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. Meaning and Purpose of Church Discipline

1540. The Church has the responsibility to provide a holy and harmonious environment that fosters Christlike conduct and relationships. The purpose of church discipline is the vindication of the truth, the preservation of the integrity of the body, the restoration and salvation of the guilty, the reconciliation of members, and the warning of the careless.

B. The Administration of Church Discipline

1541. In order that the purposes of the church may be realized, discipline in The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia shall be administered in accord with the following principles:

1) A prayerful and Christlike spirit shall be maintained at all times by all parties.
   1 Cor. 13:4-7; Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:2.
2) Every effort shall be made to bring back to the Lord any who have wandered from Him. See 1 Thess. 5:14; Jude 22-23.
3) A sincere and reasonable effort shall be made to resolve an accusation or to deal with an offending person, in keeping with scriptural admonitions. (Matt. 18:15-18; Gal. 6:1-2; James 5:16, 19-20.)
4) Each accusation and all proceedings shall receive prompt and careful attention by the proper authorities.
5) Any offending person shall be dealt with kindly, yet faithfully, according to the seriousness of the offense and as provided for in The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia and The National Church Policy for Church Discipline and Ministerial Restoration.

C. Conflict Resolution

1542. Conflict Resolution. The person having the grievance shall be first required to follow the Lord’s directions in Matthew 18:15–17:

1) Go to the person and point out the issue, just between the two of you.
2) If unresolved, the person having the grievance shall seek counsel from the official having jurisdiction (pastor, district superintendent, national superintendent) relative to the redemptive steps to be taken. (See 1 Cor. 6:1-8.)
3) If the personal grievance remains unresolved, or affects the body of believers, the official having jurisdiction or a designated representative shall privately inquire, and, if necessary, instruct and admonish an offending person. If there is an acknowledgment of the fault and correction is made, the matter shall be considered closed.
4) If the grievance continues, the official in charge shall provide intervention. If the conflict remains unresolved, and if the matter rises to the level of a fair and impartial hearing of charges pending, procedures shall be followed according to The National Church Policy for Church Discipline and Ministerial Restoration.
Chapter VIII

NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

A. Membership

1640. Members. The National Board of Review shall consist of 7 Members, 4 of whom shall be Ordained Ministers and 3 of whom shall be laypersons who are Covenant Members of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1. Their term of office shall be four years. They shall serve from close of the session of the National Conference at which they are elected until their successors are elected and qualified.

2. A Member of the Board of Review may not at the same time be a Member of the National Board of Administration.

3. The National Conference shall elect by ballot and by majority vote the Members of the Board of Review, from two or more nominations for each Member of the Board of Review presented by the Nominating Committee and additional nominations from the floor of the National Conference.

4. A Member of the Board of Review shall be disqualified for a particular case, when they are personally interested or involved in the case, closely related to any parties involved, or has been active for or against either party in the matter heard and determined by the Board of Review. Any Member of the Board of Review may be challenged for such reasons or for other reasons, and the allowance of such challenge shall be decided by the remaining Members of the Board of Review. Whenever a Member is disqualified, the Chair shall appoint an alternate for the hearing of the particular case (1642) and shall maintain the membership of the Board of four Ordained Ministers and three laypersons.

1641. Alternatives. The National Conference shall elect, by ballot and by majority vote, from the nominees remaining after the election of the Members of the Board of Review (1640:3), four Ordained Ministers and three laypersons to serve as alternate Members of the Board of review, with the same qualifications (1640:2) and term of office (1640:1) as the Members.

1642. Vacancies. A vacancy in the membership of the Board of Review shall be filled by an alternate, who shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Review in the order of election and in such a manner as to maintain the representation of Ordained Ministers and laypersons as is stated in 1640. Whenever a vacancy occurs between National Conference sessions, an alternate shall be appointed to serve until the close of the next National Conference. An alternate shall also be appointed to serve for a particular case whenever a Member of the Board of Review is disqualified (1640:8), or for a temporary vacancy created by the absence of a Member at the session of the Board of Review held during the National Conference.

B. Sessions

1643. Regular Sessions. The Board of Review shall meet at the time and place of the National Conference and shall continue in session until the adjournment of that body. If the National Conference is not held annually, the Board shall meet in yearly session at a time and place of its own choosing, unless the Chair of the Board shall certify in writing to all Members that there is no business for the Board to consider.

1645. Special Sessions. The Board of Review shall meet at other times and places of its own choosing as deemed necessary, or as requested by the National Board of Administration or its Executive Board.

C. Organisation and Procedure

1647. Organisation and procedure for the Board of review shall be:

1. Organisation. The Board of Review shall organise itself and shall elect, from among its own Members, a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and such other Officers as considered necessary.

2. Procedure. The Board of Review shall decide on its own methods and rules of procedure and shall adopt such bylaws as considered necessary, provided such do not go beyond, ignore or go around any provisions of The Handbook. All parties shall file their briefs and arguments and shall present evidence under such rules as the Board of Review shall adopt from time to time.

3. Quorum. Five Members shall constitute a quorum. A decision of the Board of Review on the constitutionality of an act by the National Conference shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all Members of the Board, and on all other matters a majority vote of all Members of the Board shall be sufficient.

1648. Records. The Board of Review shall see that complete and accurate minutes are kept of all proceedings, testimonies, evidence, documents, and findings, certified copies of which shall be forwarded promptly after each session to the National Secretary.

1649. Notification. After each session of the Board of Review, an official summary of the Board’s decisions on points of Church Law or interpretations of The Handbook, as prepared by the Secretary and attested by the Chair, shall be published and distributed to all Pastors and missionaries. A decision of the Board of Review which is not overruled by the National Conference shall be incorporated in The Handbook.

1650. Finances. Expense allowance for Members of the Board of Review shall be the same as for Members of the National Board of Administration, when the Members of the Board of Review are engaged in official business, and payment therefore shall be by the National Treasurer. The party making appeal shall be responsible for the expenses involved in attending to the appeal.

D. Duties and Powers

1651. The jurisdiction and duties of the Board of Review are provided for herewith.

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the National Conference, upon the appeal of the National Board of Administration or one-fifth of the Members of the National Conference. An act of the National Conference that is declared as unconstitutional by the Board of Review shall be null and void.

2. To judge the constitutionality of any proposed legislation to be acted upon by the National Conference, when the National Conference shall so request, by a majority vote, and to notify the National Conference when the National Conference shall so request, by majority vote, and to notify the National Conference immediately of such judgement.

3. To hear and determine appeal from a ruling of the National Board of Administration on a point of church law, an interpretation of The Handbook, or the validity of an action by a District.
(4) To hear and determine an appeal concerning the legality of any action by any National Church Board upon appeal of one-third of the Members thereof or by request of the National Superintendent.

(5) To have jurisdiction over the issues arising between a District and the National Conference, or in the interim National Conference sessions, between a District and the National Board of Administration, as follows:

a) To hear and determine a complaint by a District against the National Conference provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a two-thirds vote of the District Conference.

b) To hear and determine a complaint by a District against the National Board of Administration in between National Conference sessions, provided that such a complaint shall be sustained by a majority vote of the District Conference or by a two-thirds vote of the District Board of Administration and further provided that the subject of the complaint concerns the District by which it is presented.

c) To hear and determine any charges against a District alleging an offence as stated in 1558 provided that such charges are brought by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration; to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused District; and, if necessary to recommend to the National Conference, or if between National Conference sessions, to the National Board of Administration the placing of the District under discipline.

(6) To have jurisdiction over any complaints between Districts, to hear and determine such complaints or charges, provided that such are sustained by a two-thirds vote of the District Conference presenting the complaint.

(7) To hear and determine any appeal from the judgement of a District Judicial Committee or District Board of Appeal.

(8) To hear and determine such cases as shall be referred to it by the National Conference or the National Board of Administration or National Superintendent.

E. Appeals

1653. A decision of the Board of Review shall be final until overruled by the National Conference by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. An appeal may be presented to the National Conference by either party involved in the judgement. The National Conference may hear and determine such appeals or may create a special Judicial Committee to hear the appeals and present its recommendations to the National Conference for final determination.
PART XI – THE RITUAL

Chapter I

AIDS TO WORSHIP

1660. The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal,
the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

1661. The Lord's Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
for Thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

* All Scripture references in the Rituals are taken from the NIV UK version, except for the Lord's Prayer, which is provided in its traditional Protestant form, from the 1928 Anglican Book of Common Prayer. See copyright information on title page.

1662. Scriptural Benedictions
(1) May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen (II Cor. 13:14).
(2) The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace (Num. 6:24-26).
(3) Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified (Acts 20:32).
(4) May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 15:5-6).
(5) Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:7).
(6) May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thess. 5:23).
(7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding... guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).
(8) Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Eph. 3:20-21).
(9) Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you (II Thess. 3:16).
(10) Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen (I Tim. 1:17).
(11) May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen (Heb. 13:20-21).
(12) To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen (Jude 24-25).
(13) To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen (Rev. 1:5-6).
Chapter II

BAPTISM

1665. Throughout the rituals of baptism and dedication, whenever a word may change form due to the sex or number of persons to whom the ritual is being administered, that word is printed in the plural form in italics to alert the Minister to the need to use the appropriate form.

1666. Dedication of Infants

When the parents, guardians, or other sponsors have presented themselves with their children before the Minister, the Minister shall say:

Dear friends, you have brought these children whom God has given you to be dedicated to God and to His service. By this act you therefore signify your faith in the Christian religion, and also your desire that your children shall receive the benefits of consecration to God, and of the prayers of the Church, and may early learn to know and follow the will of God; and therefore may live a Christian life and enter into everlasting life in the kingdom of God.

For this to happen, it will be your duty as parents to teach these children early the fear of the Lord; to watch over their education, that they may not be led astray by false teachings or doctrines, to direct their minds to the Holy Scriptures as expressing the will and authority of God for all people, and to direct their feet to the sanctuary, to restrain them from evil associates and habits; and, as much as you are able, to bring them up in the Lord’s discipline and instruction. Will you endeavour to do so, by the help of the Lord?

Response: We will.

The Minister shall read the following Scripture lesson:

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them (Mark 10:13-16).

The Minister shall ask the parents or guardians the name of each child to be dedicated, take each child individually, lay a hand on each child’s head and say:

__________, on behalf of your parents and of this congregation, I dedicate you to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(1) Option for Godparents

The Minister may address the following question to the godparents, if present:

__________, as godparents of __________, I commend to your love and care these children whom we have today dedicated to God and His service. Recognising your special relationship to this family and these children, will you endeavour to live in a manner which honours this dedication, nurturing them in faith to eternal life? Furthermore, should circumstances arise in which the parents are unable to fulfil the vows they have just made, will you take responsibility for the spiritual welfare of these children?

Response: We will.

(2) Option for Congregation

The Minister shall have the congregation stand:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I commend to your love and care these children whom we have today dedicated to God and His service. Will you endeavour to so live that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God the Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ? Will you live your lives so that these children will be surrounded by steadfast love, established in the faith, and nurtured in the way of eternal life? If so, say “We will.”

Response: We will.

(3) All Options

The Minister may pray:

Our loving Heavenly Father, we now dedicate these children to you, praying that they may be endued with heavenly virtues, taught by the Holy Spirit, nourished by your Word, kept by divine grace, and everlastingly rewarded through your eternal mercies. Grant these parents grace and wisdom and strength that they may understand the greatness of their responsibility, and may be enabled to lead these children by precept and example in the narrow way of life; that both parents and children may come to your everlasting kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1667. Baptism of Infants

When the parents, guardians or other sponsors have presented themselves with their children before the Minister, the Minister shall say:

Dear friends, you have brought these children whom God has given you to be baptised, thereby signifying your own commitment of faith in Christ and the assurance you hold that the grace of God is even now at work in their lives. Because these children are now brought by you, it will be your duty as parents to teach them as soon as they are able to learn, the nature and meaning of this sacrament. In order to testify to your faith and to your desire to nurture your children within this faith, please respond to these questions.

Do you bring your children for baptism as a sign of the grace of God that is extended even now to your children through the atoning work of Christ and declares them to be a part of the family of God? And,

Do you promise with the help of God to bring your children up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord, to pray with them and to make every effort to so order your own life that you will not cause these little ones to stumble? And,

Do you intend to encourage your children, as soon as they are able to comprehend the significance, to acknowledge personally their own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve God faithfully in the fellowship of His Church?

Response: We do, God being our helper.

The Minister shall ask the parents or guardians the name of each child, take each child and baptise each child saying:

__________, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Minister may pray:
Our loving Heavenly Father, we pray that these children may be endued with heavenly virtues, taught by the Holy Spirit, nourished by your Word, kept by divine grace, and everlastinglly rewarded through your eternal mercies. Grant these parents grace and wisdom and strength that they may understand the greatness of their responsibility, and may be enabled to lead these children by precept and example in the narrow way of life; that both parents and children may come to your everlasting kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1668. Baptism of Believers

When the candidates for baptism have presented themselves before the Minister the Minister shall say:

Dear friends, in keeping with the example of Jesus, you have presented yourselves this day that you might receive the sacrament of baptism. Baptism is not itself the door to salvation, but rather is an outward sign of the new birth which God has wrought in your heart. It proclaims to all the world that you have taken Christ Jesus as the Lord of your lives, and that it is your purpose always to obey Him. In order that we may hear your testimony of what God has done for you, and that we may know that you understand the significance of the step you are taking, we ask you these questions:

Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? That Jesus Christ the Son suffered in your place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all people at the last day? And do you believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God? That by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith?

Response: All this I steadfastly believe.

Do you intend by this act to testify to all the world that you are a Christian and will be a loyal follower of Christ?

Response: I do.

The Minister shall ask each candidate to state their name, and shall immerse the candidate in water, or if so desired, sprinkle or pour water, saying:

__________ __________, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When all candidates have been baptised, the Minister may pray:

Our Heavenly Father, the Author of life eternal, we ask that you continue the work of grace which you have begun in these lives. Watch over your children, protect them from sin and wrong, and hold them fast in the way of righteousness. Grant them that greater baptism of the Holy Spirit which frees from carnal affections, and cause every Christian grace and virtue to grow in these disciples. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

1669. Affirmation of Parental Vows

Persons who were baptised as infants, upon coming to maturity and being converted, and desiring to make personal the vows earlier taken on their behalf by their parents, may do so by publicly answering the questions in the ritual of baptism as given above and as directed by the Pastor.
Chapter III

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

1670. When candidates for membership have been approved for reception as given in 227-245, the Pastor shall appoint a time during a regular worship service for their public reception, and shall preside over the service of reception, or appoint a representative to preside. In those churches in which the Local Churches must vote on the reception of Covenant Members, such vote should be taken at a meeting prior to the service of reception.

1671. The paragraphs 1677-1678 Covenant Questions and Declaration of Purpose have the authority of statutory law. The paragraphs must be followed as prescribed, except that Covenant Questions may be addressed during membership preparation classes and omitted during the service of reception if a shortened service is desired.

1672. The service of reception may begin with a time of worship and the administration of the sacrament of baptism to any who have not previously received it.

1674. Introductory Remarks

Minister: Dear friends, the privileges and blessings which we have within the fellowship of the Church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. Christ so loved the Church that He gave himself for it, sanctifying himself that the Church might be sanctified. He chose to speak of himself as the Head of the Church and of the Church as His body; and again He spoke of himself as the husband and of the Church as His bride. As Christ gave himself unselfishly, He asked the Church to share its glorious relationship with all humanity, sending it into the world to preach the Scriptures, to save the lost, to administer the sacraments, to maintain Christian fellowship and discipline, and to build each other up until He comes again. All of us, whatever our age or position, stand in need of Christ's Church and of those means of grace which it alone makes available.

It is in keeping with Christ's commission to the Church, that we meet together now. There are some among us who testify to having been received already into the spiritual fellowship of the Universal Church, and who come now to be received into the official and visible fellowship of this Local Unit of the body of Christ.

Proceed to the relevant membership section.

1676. Reception of Covenant Members

The Minister shall call those who are being received as Covenant Members.

These persons standing before you have come, to enter into a covenant as Members in full relationship with The Wesleyan Methodist Church, with all of the accompanying rights, privileges, and responsibilities. They testify to having been born again. They have received the sacrament of baptism, have been instructed in and have accepted the doctrines and polity of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and have been approved by vote as manifesting in spirit and practice God’s work of grace within their hearts.

If a shortened service is desired, and the candidates have previously been asked the membership covenant questions and have responded appropriately, the presiding Minister may add the statement: "They have each responded appropriately to the membership covenant questions as required by The Handbook." - omitting 1677 and moving to 1678 Declaration of Purpose paragraph. If the covenant questions have not been addressed previously, or if a public response to the questions is desired, the Covenant Questions paragraph shall be asked as prescribed.

1677. Covenant Questions

Minister: We now propose, in the fear of God, to question these persons as to their experience, faith, and purpose that you may know that they are proper persons to be admitted into this church.

Dear friends you have come seeking union with this local body of Christian believers. We rejoice that you have chosen to undertake the privileges and the responsibilities of membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church. Before you are fully admitted, you should here publicly and individually make your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose, by answering the following questions:

Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? That Jesus died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He comes again. All of us, whatever our age or position, stand in need of Christ's Church and of those means of grace which it alone makes available.

Do you recognize your obligation to God and the Church, and do you purpose to contribute your resources as the Lord has prospered you for the support of the gospel as the Church fulfills its mission in the world?

Candidate: I do.

Minister: Do you recognize your obligation to God and the Church, and do you purpose to contribute your resources as the Lord has prospered you for the support of the gospel as the Church fulfills its mission in the world?

Candidate: I do.

1678. Declaration of Purpose

Minister: By coming before us today you indicate your purpose to publicly confess the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to be your God and the object of your highest love. You accept the Lord Jesus to be your Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit to be your Sanctifier, Comforter, and Guide. You joyfully dedicate yourself to God that within the everlasting covenant of His grace you might be used in His service to glorify and honour Him. And you promise to hold to Him as the highest good of your life; that you will give diligent attention to the commandments and principles of His Word; that you will seek the honour and advancement of His kingdom; and that forsaking all ungodliness and worldly desires, you will live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

You also purpose to join yourself to this church, submitting yourself to its principles of government; and by walking in love and fellowship with all its Members, seek its peace, purity, and growth in grace.
Do you thus freely and sincerely devote yourself to be the Lord’s within the fellowship of this church?
Candidate: I do.

Proceed to Response of the Congregation.

1679. Reception from Other Denominations
Minister: There are those who have found Christ in some other branch of His Church, but who now desire to transfer their membership to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and who present themselves for reception as Covenant Members by transfer. To them we address these questions:
Dear friends, in transferring your covenant relation to this branch of Christ’s Church, you again renew your vows of church fellowship. Relying upon the grace of God, you promise to walk in all His commandments and ordinances, and to seek His service as your highest joy. You promise to submit to the fellowship of The Wesleyan Methodist Church; to strive earnestly for its peace, purity, and growth in grace and to walk with all its Members in love and Christian faithfulness. Do you sincerely devote yourself to be the Lord’s and do you hereby renew your covenant with the Church of Jesus Christ by joining yourself to this fellowship of believers?
Candidate: I do.

Minister: Do you cordially accept our Membership Commitments and Elementary Principles as biblical guidelines for your conduct, and do you accept the authority of The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in matters of church government?
Candidate: I do.

Minister: Do you recognise your obligation to God and the Church, and do you purpose to contribute your resources as the Lord has prospered you for the support of the gospel as the Church fulfils its mission in the world?
Candidate: I do.

Proceed to Response of the Congregation.

1680. Reception of Community Members
Minister: The Church of Jesus Christ is intended by its Head and Master for all who know Him as Saviour and who love and serve Him as Lord. Those who are converted to Christ but who do not feel free to assume the responsibility of covenant membership, yet demonstrate willingness to be discipled in the faith and instructed in Wesleyan Methodist convictions may be received as Community Members. For these, the church has provided the category of community membership, that they may enjoy its pastoral care and spiritual nurture, and that they may grow in grace and participate as partners in the life of the Local Church. These come now that they may be questioned and received as their experience makes fitting.
To you who have been converted to Christ, who desire to study and grow in spiritual maturity, and who have here presented yourself for reception as a Community Member, we address these questions:
Minister: Does the Lord now forgive your sins?
Candidate: Yes, He does.

Minister: Is it your purpose to grow spiritually, to participate in the discipleship program of the church, to become acquainted with the Scriptures and The Handbook of our church, and to be open to God’s leading at the proper time into covenant membership?
Candidate: Yes, it is.

1685. Response of the Congregation
Minister: I invite the Members of the church to now join me in welcoming these new ones to our fellowship, assuring them of our love, of our prayers, of our care over them in days to come. Do you, the Members of this church, receive these to our communion and fellowship as beloved brothers and sisters and promise to walk with them in love, to instruct, counsel, admonish, and cherish them and to watch over them, with all long-suffering, gentleness, and love.
Congregation: We do.

1686. Prayer
Minister: O God of the Church, we thank you for the blessing of Christian fellowship, for joining together in one body all those who truly believe in Jesus Christ, your Son. We thank you for these who this day are becoming a part of this Local Church, this branch of Christ’s body. Grant to them the grace and strength they shall need to fulfil their vows, and bind our hearts together in your holy love, that we may aid each other and that together we may share your gospel with the world for which Christ died. In His name we pray. Amen.

1688. Right Hand of Fellowship
Minister: And now, on behalf of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and of this local congregation, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship, welcoming you as Members with us in the service of Christ.

Benediction: Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Eph. 3:20-21).
Chapter IV

THE LORD'S SUPPER

A. General Directions

1690. The Lord's Supper shall usually be observed in each Local Wesleyan Methodist Church monthly (1:28; 29:6).

1692. It is expected that Wesleyan Methodist Ministers shall carefully admonish the people that only those who are in right relations with God and with their neighbours should come to the Lord's Table, and that others should come only if in so doing they are expressing repentance and seeking forgiveness.

1693. Only unfermented grape juice shall be used in observing the Lord's Supper.

1694. The officiating Minister may enlist the assistance of other Ministers, persons preparing for the ministry, or lay persons for the distribution of the elements.
B. Order of the Lord's Supper – As Part of a Service

1695. The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The Minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; Rom. 5:1-2, 6-12, 18-21; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-29; Eph. 1:3-12; 2:1-10, 12-22; 5:1-21; Heb. 9:11-17, 22-28; 1 Peter 1:18-23; 2:21-25; 3:18.

The congregation shall sing a suitable song or a hymn, such as one of the following: “Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed,” “Man of Sorrows, What a Name,” “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” “Arise, My Soul, Arise,” “My Faith Looks Up to Thee,” “Rock of Ages,” “There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood.”

The Minister may preach a sermon on some phase of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards the congregation may sing another song or a hymn such as one of those listed above. Then the Minister shall direct the people as to the plan for distribution of the elements of the Supper, directing them to come and kneel at the altar, to be served while seated, or to receive the elements at designated stations by intinction; using this invitation:

You who are walking in fellowship with God and are in love and harmony with your neighbours; and you who do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from this time in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and meekly make your humble confession to Almighty God.

The Minister shall remove the cloth, folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the Minister shall pray the prayer of consecration:

God of grace and mercy, we thank you that you have always loved us and provided for our redemption. We thank you for your Son who died to save us, and for your Spirit who invites us to draw near. Guide us now as we commemorate the suffering of our Lord. Help us to remember the cost of our salvation. Help us to commune with you and with each other. And so consecrate the bread and wine which are here prepared, that as we partake of them we may receive the spiritual benefits of Christ's broken body and shed blood. In His name we pray. Amen.

The Minister shall read the following Scripture passage:

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.” (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

The Minister may first partake of the bread and then distribute it to the people, or alternatively, partake of the bread together with the congregation after distribution, saying:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this remembering that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Minister may partake of the cup and then distribute it to the people, or alternatively, partake of the cup together with the congregation after distribution, saying:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this remembering that Christ’s blood was shed for you, and be thankful. After all have partaken, that which remains of the consecrated elements shall be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then let the Minister pronounce the benediction:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
C. Order of the Lord's Supper – As an Entire Service

1697. The elements of the Lord's Supper shall be placed upon a table and covered with a white linen cloth. The Minister shall address the congregation saying:

Call to Worship

The Lord Jesus himself instituted the holy sacrament we call the Lord's Supper, giving it to the disciples as a means of remembering Him until He comes again and as a seal of the new covenant between God and humanity. This service is therefore a time of special sacredness and we can only be properly prepared by giving our hearts and minds to reverent worship and by being freed of all things contrary to the divine nature and purpose. Therefore let us bow in a period of silent prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and bring us into conformity with the holy God we serve.

The Minister shall allow sufficient time for each person to prepare for the service, and then shall pray:

Invocation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Songs

The congregation shall sing a suitable song or a hymn, such as one of the following: "Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed," "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Arie, My Soul, Arie," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," "Rock of Ages," "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood."

Scripture Readings

The Minister shall read a Scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Isa. 53; Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; Rom. 5:1-2, 6-12, 18-21; I Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-29; Eph. 1:3-12; 2:1-10, 12-22; Heb. 9:11-17, 22-28; I Peter 1:18-23; 2:21-25.

Prayer

The Minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer or use the following:

Almighty God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge that in thy sight all our righteous acts are like filthy rags, Outside of Christ we are sinners, and it is only through His atonement that we are forgiven and cleansed. Whatever there is of purity and virtue in our hearts or in our lives is the product of your grace. We come today to remember once again how Christ obtained our salvation. And as we do, we ask that the Holy Spirit shall search our hearts. If we have committed any act which is displeasing to you, or neglected any duty which would have honoured you, reveal it and forgive, we pray. Or if there is any tendency to disobedience, to love of the world, or to the exaltation of self, reveal it and cleanse it from our hearts, we pray. You have told us that if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Our hope, our trust, our righteousness are in Him alone. Have mercy upon us for His sake, and grant that, as we receive this bread and cup, in memory of Christ's death and suffering, in communion with Him, we may serve and please you in newness of life and purity of heart, for ever and ever, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon, Songs, Instructions

The Minister may preach a sermon on some phase of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards the congregation may sing another song or a hymn such as one of those listed above. Then the Minister shall direct the people as to the plan for distribution of the elements of the Supper, directing them to come and kneel at the altar, to be served while seated, or to receive the elements at designated stations by intimation; using this invitation:

Invitation

You who are walking in fellowship with God, and are in love and harmony with your neighbours; and you who do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from this time in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and meekly (kneeling) make your humble confession to Almighty God.

If all are in place, the Minister shall remove the cloth, folding it neatly, and laying it to one side. Then the Minister shall pray the prayer of consecration:

Consecration of Bread and Cup

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of mercy gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption: we ask you to accept our praise. We thank you for your love, for the gift of your Son, for the sacrifice He made on our behalf, for the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing of our hearts, for the present witness of your Holy Spirit to our hearts that we are your children. Grant that, as we receive this bread and cup, in memory of Christ's death and suffering, in communion with you and with your children, we may be made partners of His body and blood; who, on the night that He was betrayed, took bread;

Here the Minister may take the plate of bread in hand.

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and, said, Take, eat; this is my body which is for you do this in memory of me. In the same way, after supper He took the cup;

Here the Minister may take in hand the cup, or the tray of individual cups.

gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins; do this whenever you drink it, in memory of me. Amen.

Distribution of Bread and Cup

The Minister shall direct the distribution of the elements, either first partaking, then serving others who may be assisting, and then serving the people; or directing first the distribution of the bread with all holding their portion until the time for simultaneous participation, and then the distribution of the cup in the same manner. In either instance, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the cup the following shall be read:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this remembering that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your heart, by faith, with thanksgiving.

And to the cup, either before or during the distribution, or immediately before the simultaneous partaking of the cup, the following shall be read:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this remembering that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

After all have partaken, let that which remains of the consecrated elements be returned to the table, and covered with the white linen cloth. Then the Minister and congregation may join in the Lord's Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
for Thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

Benediction
The Minister shall conclude the service with the benediction:
May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
Chapter V

MARRIAGE

General Directions

1700. The “Vows” are approved as rites of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and are required to be used by Ministers as written (1702). The other elements of the marriage service have considerable flexibility, including the Statement of Intent (1701:1, 2). For a shorter ceremony or for a wedding which is part of a worship service, various elements may be deleted, but the Vows shall be retained.

Marriage Ceremony

1701. At the day and time appointed for the wedding, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand of the woman, the Minister shall say:

Dear friends, we are gathered together in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honourable estate, instituted of God, and signifying to us the mystical union which exists between Christ and His Church. It is not therefore to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this estate these two persons come now to be joined.

The Minister shall ask:
Who gives this woman to be married to this man?
The father of the woman, or whoever gives her in marriage, shall respond:
Response: I do (or: Her mother and I). (Or, both sets of parents may stand and give their blessing.)

Speaking to the persons to be married, the Minister shall say:
I charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows are faithfully kept, as God’s Word demands, and if you steadfastly endeavour to do the will of your heavenly Father, God will bless your marriage, will grant you fulfilment in it, and will establish your home in peace.

Choose one of the following options for the Statement of Intent.

(1) Statement of Intent: Traditional Option

The Minister shall address the man by his full name, and ask:
____________ do you take ____________ to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honour, and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

The Minister shall address the woman by her full name, and ask:
____________ do you take ____________ to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honour, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

(2) Statement of Intent: Contemporary Option

The Minister shall address the man by his first name, and ask:
____________ do you take ____________ to be your wife? Do you commit yourself to her, to be responsible in your marriage relationship, to give yourself to her in love and life, to invite her fully into your life so that she can know who you are, to cherish her above all others, and to respect her individuality by encouraging her to be herself and to grow to be the woman that God intends?

Response: I do.

The Minister shall address the woman by her first name, and ask:
____________ do you take ____________ to be your husband? Do you commit yourself to him, to be responsible in your marriage relationship, to give yourself to him in love and life, to invite him fully into your life so that he can know who you are, to cherish him above all others, and to respect his individuality by encouraging him to be himself and to grow to be the man that God intends?

Response: I do.

This concludes the Statement of Intent options.

(3) Musical Item or Reading

Here may be inserted a suitable song, musical item, poem or Bible reading such as: Gen. 2:18-24; Excl. 4:7-12; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a; Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:12-14.

1702. Vows

The Minister shall then cause the man and woman to join right hands and shall cause the man and then the woman, using their given names, to repeat the wedding vows:
I, ____________, take you, ____________, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God’s holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.
I, ____________, take you, ____________, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God’s holy law; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

This concludes the vows.

A suitable song, musical item, poem or Bible reading may be inserted at this time.

1703. Options

Then choose one or more of the following options before proceeding to the concluding section.

(1) Option I: General
The Minister shall say:
By seeking the ministry of the Church, you have expressed your conviction that marriage is more than a legal contract, but rather it is a bond of union sealed in heaven. From this time forward you shall no longer be two but one. Your paths will be united; your responsibilities will increase, but your strength and your joys will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest in your relations with one another and with God Who has witnessed and sealed this covenant. Let us pray.

Proceed to prayer and the remainder of the service.

(2) Option 2: Ring Ceremony
The Minister shall say to the groom:
What token do you give as a symbol of your affection and of your sincerity and fidelity?
The ring shall be handed to the Minister by the best man, and the groom shall say: A ring.
The Minister shall pass the ring to the groom, who shall place it on the bride’s finger, repeating after the Minister: This ring I give you, in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.
If the bride has a ring for the groom, the same words may be repeated, beginning with the Minister’s question.
Proceed to prayer and the remainder of the service.

(3) Option 3: Bible Ceremony
The Minister shall say:
What token of your love do you bring?
The groom shall answer, handing the Bible to the Minister:
The Holy Bible.
The Minister shall take the Bible and say:
You have given me the Holy Bible as a token of your love. The Bible is God’s message to humanity and His constant reminder of His divine love for us all. In the Old Testament we find a classic statement of love, fittingly adaptable to this service:

Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me (Ruth 1:16-17).

And in the Gospels are the words of the Saviour himself:

But at the beginning of creation God “made them male and female.” “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate (Mark 10:6-9).

You may rest assured that Christ himself is present today to seal your vows and to will that nothing but death be allowed to sever this holy bond.

The couple shall be directed to kneel.
In token of your mutual assent to this union, please kneel, and join your right hands, and lay them upon this Holy Book.
Proceed to prayer and the remainder of the service.

(4) Option 4: Candle Lighting Ceremony
Three candles should be ready on a table - a lighted candle on each side of an unlighted one. The groom and the bride shall each take a lighted candle. Then the Minister shall say:

You now enter into that holy estate of matrimony which is the deepest mystery of human experience and a type of Christ’s love for the Church. Your lighted candles are symbols of your individual lives, each with its own personality and interests. Marriage is an act of loving surrender. You no longer go your separate ways. As you bring the flames of your separate candles together,

The couple shall light the centre candle with the lighted candles.

To light the candle of a larger, fuller life, your lives are fused as one. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). Now each of you must blow out your individual candles,
The groom and bride shall blow out their individual candles.
Representing your individual life for the sake of the light which represents your lives together. In giving up, you receive. In losing your own identity, you take on the identity of the other. Through this act, you find the fullness of life and purpose in living. In the home you are establishing, let the flame of true love burn brightly, and the love of God’s light shine undiminished.
Proceed to prayer and the remainder of the service.

(5) Option 5: Communion Ceremony
The Minister shall say:

The Psalms declare, “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain” (Ps. 127:1). Knowing that these two desire Christ to be the foundation of their home, and that their union with one another shall also be a union with Him, it is fitting that this spiritual commitment be evidenced by their sharing communion together.

The Minister shall have the couple kneel, and shall say:
The Lord Jesus, the same night on which He was betrayed, took bread: and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “Take and eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
The Minister shall serve the bread to the couple, saying:
To light the candle of a larger, fuller life, your lives are fused as one. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). Now each of you must blow out your individual candles,
The groom and bride shall blow out their individual candles.

And in the Gospels are the words of the Saviour himself:

But at the beginning of creation God “made them male and female.” “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate (Mark 10:6-9).

You may rest assured that Christ himself is present today to seal your vows and to will that nothing but death be allowed to sever this holy bond.

The couple shall be directed to kneel.
In token of your mutual assent to this union, please kneel, and join your right hands, and lay them upon this Holy Book.
Proceed to prayer and the remainder of the service.

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Three candles should be ready on a table - a lighted candle on each side of an unlighted one. The groom and the bride shall each take a lighted candle. Then the Minister shall say:

You now enter into that holy estate of matrimony which is the deepest mystery of human experience and a type of Christ’s love for the Church. Your lighted candles are symbols of your individual lives, each with its own personality and interests. Marriage is an act of loving surrender. You no longer go your separate ways. As you bring the flames of your separate candles together,

The couple shall light the centre candle with the lighted candles.

To light the candle of a larger, fuller life, your lives are fused as one. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). Now each of you must blow out your individual candles,
The groom and bride shall blow out their individual candles.
Representing your individual life for the sake of the light which represents your lives together. In giving up, you receive. In losing your own identity, you take on the identity of the other. Through this act, you find the fullness of life and purpose in living. In the home you are establishing, let the flame of true love burn brightly, and the love of God’s light shine undiminished.
Proceed to prayer and the remainder of the service.

(5) Option 5: Communion Ceremony
The Minister shall say:

The Psalms declare, “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain” (Ps. 127:1). Knowing that these two desire Christ to be the foundation of their home, and that their union with one another shall also be a union with Him, it is fitting that this spiritual commitment be evidenced by their sharing communion together.

The Minister shall have the couple kneel, and shall say:
The Lord Jesus, the same night on which He was betrayed, took bread: and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “Take and eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
The Minister shall serve the bread to the couple, saying:
Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your heart, by faith with thanksgiving.
After the same manner He also took the cup, when He had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes again.

The Minister shall serve the juice to the couple, saying:
Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

Conclusion to Options

1704. Conclusion.
The Minister shall offer the following prayer, or an extemporaneous prayer closing with the Lord’s Prayer.
O eternal God, creator and preserver of all humanity, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of life everlasting, let your blessing descend and rest upon these your children, whom we bless in your name. Bless this marriage and make it to them the source of abundant and enduring good. Look graciously upon them that they may love, honour, and cherish each other. May their mutual affection never know change, doubt, nor decay. Direct and strengthen them in the discharge of all their duties. Bless the home which they establish. Teach them to order their household wisely and well, and to regard all their possessions as your gifts to be employed in your service. May
they so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If the couple has been kneeling, they should stand at this time.

Options at this time include:
- Bible or other readings
- Words of encouragement

Pronouncement
The Minister shall cause the man and woman to join right hands and placing their hand on top of theirs shall say:
Forasmuch, as ____________ and ____________ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, and this company, and thereby have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands; [and by giving and receiving rings]; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let not humanity separate. Amen.

The Minister shall give this blessing:
God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. The Lord mercifully with His favour look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that you may live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

The bride and groom may be invited to kiss at this time.

Signing of the Register
The bridal party should move to a suitable place to sign the register and other legal documents. Special music should be provided during this time. After signing, the bride and groom, followed by the bridal party, should form a column centre stage for the introduction of the couple and the recessional.

Introduction and Recessional
The Minister shall invite the guests to stand, and introduce the newly married couple:
I now present to you Mr. and Mrs. ____________

There shall follow the recessional. The Minister should give attention to collecting the documentation, placing the marriage certificate into the envelope, and posting the legal forms as required.
Chapter VI

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

1705. A typical funeral service
(1) At the House, Church, or Funeral Chapel:
   - Organ Prelude
   - Opening Sentence of Scripture
   - Song or Music
   - Scripture Reading
   - Prayer
   - Eulogy
   - Scripture Reading
   - Sermon
   - Prayer
   - Organ Postlude

   Poetry may be used instead of the scripture readings or in connection with one of the readings or the sermon. Additional songs may be added.

(2) At the Graveside:
   - Scripture Reading
   - Committal
   - Prayer
   - Benediction

(3) Secret Society or Fraternal Order:
   - The family of the deceased shall have the right to include a Secret Society, a fraternal order or a military honour in the funeral ceremony. The Minister should confer with the family, giving them the opportunity to include or exclude these elements in the service and then ensure that the funeral director is aware of the family's desire.
   - If the family does desire a Secret Society or fraternal order to be involved in the funeral, the Minister should not withdraw the church's services. However, the Minister should have a clear understanding with the fraternal order's representatives and the funeral director as to the sequence of their respective parts. The Minister's part and the fraternal order's part will not overlap but will be quite distinct and separate.

A. At the House, Church, or Chapel

1706. The Minister may give a brief welcome and directions, such as:
   Family and friends of __________ __________, we are here today to remember our departed loved one. Out of respect for those who are griefing, I would ask you to turn off all mobile phones (or similar devices) for the duration of this service. This memorial service will be followed by a graveside service / afternoon tea / refreshments at ____________. You are now invited to take a moment of silent reflection upon the life of this loved one.

   The Minister shall allow a brief period of silence.

Opening Sentences
The Minister shall open the service with an opening sentence, such as one of the following:
   I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes - I and not another (Job 19:25-27a).
   God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging (Ps. 46:1-3).
   Jesus said to her “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26a).
   Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble, with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (II Cor. 1:3-4).
   For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (II Cor. 4:17-18).
   For I am already being poured out like a drink offering; and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing (II Tim. 4:6-8).

Song
A suitable song or a hymn shall be sung, or played. Then the Minister shall read a scripture lesson, such as one of the following:

Scripture Readings
   Psalm 1: Blessed is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.
   Psalm 23: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 39:4-7: Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each person’s life is but a breath. Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth not knowing who will get it. But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

Psalm 90:1-2, 4, 9b-10, 12: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God… For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night… We finish our years with a moan. The length of our days is seventy years — or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away… Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Romans 8:18, 22-23, 28, 31-39: I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 51-52, 54-58: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the first-fruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him. Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of humanity, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Revelation 7:9-17: After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes — who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered “Sir, you know:” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, ‘they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Arranged Reading for the Funeral of a Christian:

The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.

Now we who have believed enter that rest. Therefore, let us enter by faith into that rest promised us, so that no one of you will stumble through sin like this one. For the gospel that has been preached by me is confirmed among you all. (Ex. 33:14; Matt. 11:29; Isa. 32:17-18; Dan. 12:13; Ps. 37:7; 116:7; Heb. 4:3; Rev. 14:13)

Prayer

The Minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer or use one of the following:

Our heavenly Father, we are glad that we can pause at the beginning of this memorial service to breathe to you a prayer for strength and guidance. We consider our acts today to be acts of worship, for in them we express our simple faith and trust in you. We ask for
strength where we are weak, courage where we are afraid, light where there is darkness, and faith where there is uncertainty. May your Spirit be with us each moment and make this a triumphant experience. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

O God of life, as we have learned to do in all our experiences, we come to you in the hour of death. We know that you love us, and that you can turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us now to wait before you with reverent and submissive hearts. Make this a time of opening our eyes and our understanding, and a time of admonition to our hearts and souls. Bless those who feel this sorrow most keenly, and cause the bonds of Christian love to bind us closer together, so that we may share with them that spiritual strength and that faith in God which is ours through the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

O Lord our God, we ask that you apply the words of your Scriptures and the thoughts of the message to our hearts this day. Speak to us the guidance and direction that you know we need. Help us to imitate the virtues of this one taken from us, and to avoid the errors. Prepare us in this life for the moment of death and for the victory which is possible beyond death through Jesus Christ our Lord. In His name we pray. Amen.

Our Father, we thank you today for the hope of the resurrection which is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The darkest hour of the individual life is the experience of death, but the glorious gospel has reached even to this and turned it into the most beautiful and hopeful of all. We pray for these who feel this separation most deeply. Grant them your strength and presence day by day. When the hours grow dark and loneliness and fears attack, come to them and give them light and joy and peace. Help all of us to walk more closely to your truth and to serve you more diligently. And we shall give you the praise in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Eulogy
A summary of the life of the departed shall be read. This may be accompanied by the use of photographs, music, or testimonies, with the prior approval from the family.

Scripture Reading

Message and Prayer
The Minister shall preach a funeral message. The service may be closed with an extemporaneous prayer, and the following benediction:

Benediction
May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with us now and evermore. Amen.

B. Crematorium Option

1707. Where the chapel service is followed by crematorium committal, the Minister may proceed to a Bible reading from the Graveside section if desired, and then, as the casket is removed from site, shall read a committal and the benediction.

C. At the Graveside

1708. Scripture Readings
The Minister shall stand at the head of the burial plot and read a brief scripture lesson, such as one of the following:
Psalm 121: I will lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.
John 14:6-11: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.”

Committals
The Minister shall read one of the following:
Shorter Form: And now, we commit this body to its resting place; and we commit the spirit, O our Father, together with every sacred interest of our hearts, into your keeping; praying that you will deal graciously and mercifully with each of us, until we too shall come to you in glory, through the riches of grace in Jesus our Lord.

Traditional Form: Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased loved one, we therefore commit the body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty, the Minister shall read a brief scripture lesson, such as one of the following:
Psalm 121: I will lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.
John 14:6-11: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.”

Revelation 21:1-5 (suitable for graveside or crematorium): Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Prayer and Benediction

The Minister may offer a brief extemporaneous prayer, and conclude with the following benediction:

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen (Heb. 13:20-21).
Chapter VII
ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

A. Regulations

1711. That portion of the ritual of ordination entitled, “Examination of Candidates,” has the authority of statutory law, and must be followed as prescribed.

1712. The ordination and commissioning services shall be planned by the Council of Ordination (546; 1119:6) and shall be presided over by the National Superintendent or, in the National Superintendent’s absence, by the District Superintendent (511:23). The Superintendent shall be assisted in the various parts of the service and in the act of ordination by the Council of Ordination.

1713. Kneeling for the laying on of hands by the Council of Ordination is a solemn ceremony reserved for ordination and commissioning only. Prayer shall be offered for Lay Workers, but this shall not include the laying on of hands.

B. The Ordination of Ministers

1715. Call to Worship

The appointed Minister shall commence the service with a Call to Worship, such as Isa. 52:7; I Cor. 1:21-24; II Cor. 4:5-6.

Song

The congregation shall join in singing a suitable song or a hymn.

Sermon

The National Superintendent or the Minister appointed shall preach the ordination sermon (cf. 743:22).

Invocation

The Minister appointed shall give the invocation:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit has appointed Ordained Ministers in the Church, grant us your presence in this service given to the ordination of these Ministers. Mercifully look upon these your servants, now called to this office, fill them with the truth of your doctrine, and grant them innocence of life, so that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve you in this office, to the glory of your name and the edification of your Church. We pray this through our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

1716. Presentation of Candidates

We call Upon the District Superintendent to present the candidates for ordination.

The District Superintendent or the appointed representative shall have those to be ordained stand and shall present them, individually, to the National Superintendent, saying:

I present ___________ ____________ to be ordained as a Minister in The Wesleyan Methodist Church and in the Church Universal.

Acceptance of Candidates

The National Superintendent shall say to the people:

Dear friends, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain as Ministers. For, after due examination, we find that they are truly called to this function and ministry, and that they are qualified for the same.

The appointed Members of the Council of Ordination shall read the Epistle and the Gospel:

1717. The Epistle

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of His power. Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach… the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 3:7-9; 4:11-13).

1718. The Gospel

Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd” (John 10:7-16).

1719. The Charge

The National Superintendent or other appointed Minister shall address the candidates, giving the charge:

Dear Servants of God:

You have heard, both in your private examination by the District Board of Ministerial Development and in the Word of God something of the importance of the ministry to which you are called. You are under-shepherds of the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, called to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord’s family, to bring the lost into the fold, and to bring each person to the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Remember always the greatness of this responsibility and give yourself without reservation to the ministry to which God has called you. We charge you to pray daily for divine guidance and strength so that by your study of the Scriptures and your own personal growth and development you may both model the ideal of Christ and lead your people to live in keeping with His example and instructions.

1720. Examination of Candidates

The National Superintendent shall administer the examination to candidates:
This assembled congregation represents the Church of Jesus Christ everywhere as it witnesses your responses to the inquiries we shall make of you. In this way we shall understand your mind and your will in these things, and you may also be moved to greater faithfulness in doing your duties.

Question: Is it your sincere conviction that you have been called of God to the office and work of a Minister, and are you persuaded that you ought to fulfill that call by serving as an Ordained Minister in The Wesleyan Methodist Church and among God's people everywhere?
Answer: That is my sincere conviction.

Question: Do you believe the Holy Scriptures are the fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, containing sufficiently all doctrine necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Christ Jesus? Are you determined to instruct people from the Scriptures in order that they may be born again in Christ, become committed to holy living, and be prepared to serve for building up the Christian community in this present age?
Answer: All of this I believe, and accept as my duty.

Question: Do you cordially accept our Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments, and agree to declare and defend them? And do you recognize your responsibility and cheerfully accept your obligation to promote and support The Wesleyan Methodist Church and all Institutions and ministries approved by The Wesleyan Methodist Church?
Answer: Yes I do.

Question: Will you with diligence minister the doctrines, sacraments, and disciplines of Christ, being always ready to challenge strange doctrine which is contrary to God's Word wherever it may arise?
Answer: I will, as God enables me.

Question: Do you intend to make reading of the Word and effectual prayer your earnest pursuit, and will you seek to make your lifestyle and family government exemplary so far as is possible for you?
Answer: Yes, the Lord being my helper.

Question: Believing that accountability and acceptance of authority is God's design for His Church, will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may place over you in the doing of your work?
Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

1724. Option: Covenant with Candidate's Spouse
If so desired, Members of the Council of Ordination may call the spouses of the candidates to come and stand beside them, and shall address them saying:

It is the teaching of Scripture that a spouse shall be a loving companion in the ministry of a mate. You have witnessed the examination of your marriage partner in which commitment to the work and responsibilities of ministry has been stated. Your participation in God's purposes for ministry through your marriage partner is important also. You will be needed to share in prayer, to extend love and compassion to all, to carry forward the example of marriage harmony and family wholesomeness. As the companion of your loved one who is now entering the ranks of the Ordained Ministers in the Church, will you dedicate yourself to complement and embrace that ministry as God enables you?
Answer: I will, by God's grace.

1726. The candidates for ordination or for validation of ordination from another Denomination shall kneel, with their spouses standing behind the kneeling candidates. The National Superintendent and the Council of Ordination shall lay their hands severally upon each one, and the National Superintendent shall say, according to the following two options:

(1) Option 1: Act of Ordination
______, having previously been ordained in another branch of the Church Universal, we now set you apart as an Ordained Minister within The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(2) Option 2: Act of Validation
______, as we lay our hands upon you we ask the Lord to give the unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit needed for your service as an Ordained Minister in the Church. May God's anointing enable you to be a faithful exponent of His Word, and an instrument for His holy sacraments, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

National Superintendent shall say, __________ take authority to preach the Word of God, to administer the holy sacraments, and to perform the duties of an Ordained Minister in the Church.

1727. End of Options: Prayer for Enduement
The National Superintendent or other appointed Minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer or use the following:

Our Father, we ask you to send upon these your servants your heavenly blessings: that they may be clothed with righteousness, and to receive what they shall deliver out of your holy Word, and that in all our words and deeds we may seek your glory, and the increase of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and empower us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1728. Right Hand of Fellowship
The newly ordained/validated Ministers shall then arise, and the National Superintendent and the Members of the Council of Ordination shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming the newly Ordained Ministers to the work and labours of the ministry. Then the presiding Minister may direct the other Ministers who are present, followed by family members and the congregation, to file by and greet the newly Ordained Ministers. The service may be closed with the following benediction:

1729. Benediction
May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen! (Heb. 13:20-21)
Chapter VIII

COMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS

1733. The service. The commissioning service shall be planned by the Council of Ordination (546; 1119:6) and shall be presided over by the National Superintendent or, in the National Superintendent’s absence, by the District Superintendent (511:23). The Superintendent shall be assisted in the various parts of the service by the Council of Ordination (1711-1713).

Sermon
A sermon or address may be given.

 Invocation
The Minister appointed shall give an extemporaneous invocation.

Scripture Reading
The Minister appointed shall read a Scripture lesson, such as I Tim. 6:3-16; II Tim. 1:6-14; 2:1-16; 3:1-16, 22-26; 4:1-8; Tit. 2:11-15; 3:3-9.

1734. Presentation of Candidates
The District Superintendent shall bring the candidates and present them to the National Superintendent individually, saying:

I present __________ __________ to be commissioned as a Minister in The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The National Superintendent shall say to the people:
Dear friends, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to commission as Ministers. For, after due examination, we find that they are truly called to this function and ministry, and that they are qualified for the same.

1735. The Charge
The National Superintendent or other appointed Minister shall address the candidates, giving them this charge:

Dear Servants of God:
You have heard, both in your private examination by the District Board of Ministerial Development and in the Word of God, something of the importance of the ministry to which you are called. You are under-shepherds of the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, called to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord’s family, to bring the lost into the fold, to bring each person to the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Remember always the greatness of this responsibility and give yourself without reservation to the ministry to which God has called you. We charge you to pray daily for divine guidance and strengthening so that by your study of the Scriptures and your own personal growth and development you may both model the ideal of Christ and lead your people to live in keeping with His example and instructions.

1736. Examination of Candidates
The National Superintendent shall administer the examination to the candidates:

Question: Is it your sincere conviction that you have been called of God to serve as a Commissioned Minister in The Wesleyan Methodist Church?
Answer: That is my sincere conviction.

Question: Do you believe the Holy Scriptures are the fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, and that they contain sufficiently all doctrine necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Christ Jesus? Are you determined to instruct people from the Scriptures in order that they may be born again in Christ, become committed to holy living, and be prepared to serve for building up the Christian community in this present age?
Answer: All of this I believe and accept as my duty.

Question: Do you cordially accept our Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments, and agree to declare and defend them? And do you recognise your responsibility and cheerfully accept your obligation to promote and support The Wesleyan Methodist Church and all Institutions and ministries approved by The Wesleyan Methodist Church?
Answer: Yes I do.

Question: Will you with diligence minister the doctrines, sacraments, and disciplines of Christ, being always ready to challenge strange doctrine which is contrary to God’s Word wherever it may arise?
Answer: I will, as God enables me.

Question: Do you intend to make reading of the Word and effectual prayer your earnest pursuit, and will you seek to make your lifestyle and family government exemplary so far as is possible for you?
Answer: Yes, the Lord being my helper

Question: Believing that accountability and acceptance of authority is God’s design for His Church, will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may place over you in your work?
Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

1737. Covenant with Candidates’ Spouses
If so desired, the spouses of the candidates shall be directed to come and stand beside the candidates, and the appointed Minister shall address them saying:

It is the teaching of Scripture that a spouse shall be a loving companion in the ministry of a mate. You have witnessed the examination of your marriage partner in which commitment to the work and responsibilities of ministry has been stated. Your participation in God’s purposes for ministry through your marriage partner is important also. You will be needed to share in prayer, to extend love and compassion to all, to carry forward the example of marriage harmony and family wholesomeness. As the companion of your loved one who is now entering the ranks of the Commissioned Ministers in the Church, will you dedicate yourself to compliance in God’s purposes for ministry through your marriage partner?

Answer: I will by God’s grace.

1738. Act of Commissioning
The candidates for commissioning shall kneel, with their spouses standing behind the kneeling candidates. The National Superintendent and the Council of Ordination shall lay their hands severally upon each one, and the National Superintendent shall say:

__________________________, as we lay our hands upon you we ask the Lord to give the unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit needed for your service as a Commissioned Minister in the Church. May God’s anointing enable you to be a faithful exponent of His Word, and an instrument for His holy sacraments, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!
take authority to preach the Word of God, to administer the sacraments, and to perform the duties of a Commissioned Minister in the Church.

1739. Prayer of Enduement

The appointed Minister shall pray an extemporaneous prayer for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon each candidate.

Right Hand of Fellowship

The newly Commissioned Ministers shall then arise, and the National Superintendent and the Members of the Council of Ordination shall extend to each the right hand of fellowship, welcoming them to the work and labours of the ministry. Then the presiding Minister may direct the congregation to file by and greet the newly Commissioned Ministers or the service shall be closed with the following benediction:

Benediction

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen! (Heb. 13:20-21)
Chapter IX

COMMISSIONING OF LAY WORKERS

1740. The commissioning service shall be presided over by the National Superintendent when present (743:22), or if not, by the District Superintendent (511:23). This ritual is adaptable for use in commissioning any type of lay worker, including lay workers, such as Director of Music, Director of Christian Education, Youth Director, Song Evanglist, Children's Worker, Spouse in Ministry; including Lay Missionaries, such as doctors, nurses, teachers, spouses of Ordained Missionaries, office workers; and including any other Lay Worker commissioned by a District Conference.

1741. The service.

The presiding Minister or other appointed Minister shall give a sermon or address declaring the need and function of lay workers.

Invocation

The presiding Minister or other appointed Minister shall give an extemporaneous invocation.

Scripture Reading

The presiding Minister or other appointed Minister shall read a scripture lesson, such as one of the following: Acts 2:41-44 and 6:1-8; Rom. 12:4-15; 1 Cor. 12:4-12.

1742. Presentation of Candidates

The District Superintendent shall present the candidates individually to the National Superintendent, saying:

I present ___________ to you to be commissioned as a Lay Minister.

The National Superintendent shall address the congregation, saying:

Dear Friends, these are they whom we purpose this day to commission as Lay Ministers in The Wesleyan Methodist Church. After inquiry and examination, we discover that they have met the stated requirements of the Church, and we believe them to be worthy and proper persons for this service.

1743. Address to Candidates

The National Superintendent shall address the candidates, saying:

Dear Friends, we rejoice that in the providence of God a door of usefulness has been opened to you in the service of the Church. It is with infinite wisdom that God has provided diversities of gifts for His workers, distributing and administering them according to His good pleasure through the Holy Spirit. It is with joy that we have watched God's will revealed in your lives, and your own resolve grow firm to use your gifts for His glory. Turning aside from worldly interests and pursuits, you are devoting yourselves to the Lord's work, and to being a helper in the ministry. You will be pouring out of your talent, your time, your possessions, your strength, and your very selves in a living sacrifice to Christ. You have not entered upon this solemn responsibility lightly, and doubtless already in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of your heart you have consecrated yourselves to this service. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the Church.

1744. Questioning of Candidates

The National Superintendent shall question the candidates:

Question: Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and the providence of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this service?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you, in the presence of God and of this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of a Lay Minister in The Wesleyan Methodist Church?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you accept the Bible as God’s Word, and will you make it a lamp to your feet, and a light to your path?

Answer: I accept it, and will walk in its light.

Question: Will you be diligent in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and in such other devotions as will help you to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Answer: I will.

Question: Will you cheerfully accept the direction of those whom the Church may place over you in the doing of your work?

Answer: I will cheerfully do so.

1745. Consecration of Candidates

The National Superintendent or other appointed Minister shall pray extemporaneously or use the following:

Our Father, who called Stephen, Philip, and other laypersons into the service of your Church, look upon these ones now set apart for service as Lay Ministers. Give such understanding of your holy gospel, such firmness of Christian purpose, such diligence in service, and such beauty of life in Christ that they may be to all whom they teach or serve a worthy revelation of the meaning and power of the Christian life. May they so order their time and nourish their minds and hearts that they may constantly grow in grace and in human righteousness in the sanctuary of your heart you have consecrated yourselves to this service. What you have done alone with God, you do now formally and publicly in the presence of the Church.

1746. Act of Commissioning

The National Superintendent shall address the candidates, saying:

May the Spirit of the living God descend upon you and abide with you always. May His holy anointing impart to you the grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

1747. Song

The congregation shall join in singing a suitable song or a hymn.

Benediction

The presiding Minister or other appointed Minister shall pronounce the benediction:
The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
Chapter X

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

A. General Regulations

1761. The installation ceremonies provided here shall normally be used as a part of some general service of worship, and in most instances the other parts of the service, such as songs, scripture readings, and prayers, will need to be supplied, being chosen in such a manner as to give the entire service unity and dignity.

B. Installation of a Pastor

1764. The District Superintendent or their representative shall precede over the installation of a Pastor (511:23). The presiding Minister or other appointed Minister may read a scripture lesson such as John 15:4-8, and may deliver an appropriate message. They shall follow the invocation:

O Lord, you have made known your will that we should pray for you to send forth labourers into your harvest. We earnestly ask you to send forth into the world true teachers and ministers of your Word, and to enlighten their minds with the knowledge of your truth, that they may faithfully make known the whole counsel of God which leads to salvation, to the glory of your name and the saving of souls; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The District Superintendent shall address the congregation, saying:

Dear fellow Minister, the duties of your holy office are clearly set forth in the Word of God. As an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are first of all to preach both Law and Gospel, according to the Holy Scriptures and defined in The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. This you are to do without the addition of private opinion, as the apostle admonishes. The Apostle Peter instructs you that you should speak; you should do it as one speaking the very words of God (I Peter 4:11).

Whatever is contrary to sound doctrine shall be refuted with gentleness and restraint. The Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy requires that the Lord's servant must not quarrel; but instead, must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose you, must be gently instructed (II Tom. 2:24-25).

Those who are committed to your pastoral care are to be diligently admonished to walk in the commandments of the Lord blamelessly. The external affairs are to be warned with the fidelity which the Word of the Lord demands of faithful Pastors, as the Prophet Ezekiel was instructed, “I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me” (Ezek. 3:17).

You are also to be the steward of the holy sacraments, which you are to administer to the comfort of troubled souls.

In view of the Saviour's gracious words, “Let the little children come to me” (Mark 10:14), the children and youth of the church must in a special sense be the object of your pastoral instruction and care.

The measure of faithfulness with which you are to seek the erring is set forth in the Holy Scriptures in the words of the Apostle Paul who said, “I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31).

The example of holy men and women of God will impel you to pray diligently for your people and to be a pattern for them in faith and good works.

Do you therefore earnestly purpose to fulfil these duties, and thus be able in this life to answer before The Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Church Universal, and in the life to come to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ?

**Answer:** Yes, I do so purpose, by the help of God.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction... Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry” (II Tim. 4:1-2, 5).

1765. Covenant with Pastor's spouse

It is the teaching of Scripture that a spouse shall be a loving companion in the ministry of a mate. You have witnessed the examination of your marriage partner in which commitment to the work and responsibilities of ministry has been stated. Your participation in God’s purposes for ministry through your marriage partner is important also. You will be needed to share in prayer, to extend love and compassion to all, to carry forward the example of marriage harmony and family wholesomeness. As the companion of your loved one who is now being installed as the Pastor of this church, will you dedicate yourself to complement and embrace that ministry as God enables you?

**Answer:** I will by God's grace.

The congregation shall rise, and the District Superintendent shall address them, saying:

And now, dear Friends, I admonish you to receive as your Pastor the Reverend __________, whom God has given you. Accept the Word of God as preached by God’s messenger to you, whether it be for your comfort, your admonition, or your instruction, even as Christ has said, “Consider carefully how you listen” (Luke 8:18).

Use all diligence that your children receive instruction in the Christian faith and are present with you in the services at God’s house, in accordance with the counsel of the Apostle Paul to Christian parents to bring children up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Pray for your Pastor that the ministry offered in this place may tend to the salvation of many souls, and that through abiding faith, you and your Pastor, may be saved.

Honour and esteem the one who is to minister to your souls. As the Apostle Paul exhorts, “respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord, and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other” (I Thess. 5:12-13).

Do you now, as becomes a Christian Church, accept these obligations?

**Answer:** Yes, by the help of God.

The District Superintendent shall address the Pastor, saying:
C. Installation of Local Church Officers

1768. This installation may be held during a Sunday morning service or other appropriate service just prior to the time when the newly elected Officers shall assume their duties. The congregation may join in singing a suitable song. The Pastor may read a scripture lesson such as Acts 2:41-44 and 6:3-8. Depending upon the number of Officers involved, the Pastor may wish to read something concerning their duties from the Handbook. At the proper time, the Pastor shall call the newly elected Officers before the congregation, and shall address them, saying:

Dear Friends, it is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles that when the early Church was growing and the number of disciples was multiplying, and the duties of the Church so increased, and so became diversified, that the Church called its Members together and chose those of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to assist in the administering of the affairs of the Church; and that the Officers thus chosen by the Church were set before the apostles, who laid hands on them and prayed, thus setting them apart in the presence of the Church to the duties of their honourable office.

In like manner this church, having first sought the guidance of the Divine Spirit, has chosen you to similar offices to be associated with those already in office and with the Pastor before whom you have now come for public consecration.

Therefore, we, the Pastor and the people of this church, call upon you to hear and join in this pledge of trust to Christ and His Church.

1769. The Officers’ Pledge

Trust in Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, do you humbly promise Him and His Church that you will be faithful to the extent of your ability to all known duties and responsibilities assigned to you as an Officer of this church? Will you endeavour to be regular in your attendance, cheerful in your service, wholehearted in your giving, open-minded in your planning, patient in the face of trials, persistent in the face of difficulty, and Christlike in your faithfulness to His service? Will you promote Christian fellowship among the church Members by your own lifestyle and example and will you spread the message of full salvation in your local community and beyond? Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer: I do.

The Pastor shall address the congregation, asking them to stand, and saying:

We, the Pastor and Officers of this church, call upon the Members and friends of this church to hear and join in this pledge of loyalty to those called of God and elected by the church as its leaders.

1770. The Church’s Pledge

Having chosen these Officers to guide you in the administration of the church, do you, its Members and friends, now pledge your loyalty to its work and promise your consideration of the plans and your friendly co-operation in the service suggested to you? Do you acknowledge your duty and declare your determination to pray for all of your leaders and to share with them in the glorious responsibility of spreading the good news, thus hastening the coming of Christ. Do you cheerfully and yet solemnly accept the obligations of this pledge?

Answer: We do.

The Pastor and people shall offer prayer on the Officers’ behalf.

D. Installation of a District Superintendent

1772. The National Superintendent or their representative shall be in charge of installing the District Superintendent upon the adjournment of the District Conference in which the election has occurred (450; 743:13). The newly elected District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, Secretary, and Treasurer, the remaining Members of the District Board of Administration, and such other District Officers as are desired, shall be called to stand before the National Superintendent.

(1) Option I: For a Newly Elected District Superintendent

The National Superintendent shall first address the District Superintendent, saying:

District Superintendent ____________, today you stand before us along with the other duly elected Officers of the District. You have been prayerfully selected by this District Conference to serve as leader of the _____________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. It is in you that the Ministers and Members of the various churches within the bounds of this District are vesting their confidence and trust. Yours is indeed a position of significant honour and responsibility, and it is only as God is with you that you will be able to fill it.

In counselling, may He grant needed grace; in decisions, may He impart of His wisdom; in labours, may your hope be His all-sufficient strength; in administration’s numerous phases, may He be your “very present help.” The support and co-operation of this body are assured you in the days that lie ahead. Together may you build a District that knows its best days spiritually, numerically, and materially as well.
And now, that we may hear publicly your intentions to accept this charge with proper regard for all that it involves, we ask you in the presence of God and of these witnesses, do you accept the office of Superintendent of the ________ District, and do you solemnly covenant to discharge your duties to God, to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and to all the Members of this District, according to The Handbook and in the fear of God?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

(2) Option 2: For a Continuing District Superintendent
When the District Superintendent is under a continuing call, the National Superintendent shall require the District Superintendent to affirm an ongoing commitment through this question:

District Superintendent __________________________ as the continuing Superintendent of the ____________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church you are hereby invited to reaffirm your calling and your commitment to serve Christ through leadership of this District alongside your newly elected leadership team. Will you give your energies afresh to spiritual and numerical growth in this District, will you seek God in prayer; will you preach the Word of God with boldness; will you undertake the various administrative tasks with diligence; will you persistently encourage church planting; will humbly serve as an under-shepherd of Jesus Christ? If you are ready to reaffirm your dedication to these duties, you shall answer, “I will, God being my helper.”

Answer: I will, God being my helper.

(3) Both Options: The Pledge of the District Officers
The National Superintendent shall address the assembled District Officers, saying:

Assistant District Superintendent, District Secretary, District Treasurer, Members-at-large of the District Board of Administration and other District Officers, you have been elected to stand alongside the District Superintendent in leading and caring for the Ministers and Members of the ____________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. May you know God’s wisdom and grace in fulfilling your various assignments.

Do you now, as Officers representing this District, covenant to support the District Superintendent, and to discharge your several duties to God, to The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and to all the Members of this District, according to The Handbook and in the fear of God?

Answer: We do, God being our helper.

The National Superintendent shall address the District Superintendent and the District Officers, saying:

District Superintendent and District Officers, as representative of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, I charge you with the responsibilities of your office and declare you to be formally installed as Superintendent and the District Officers of the ________ District, entitled to the rights and privileges pertaining to your office.

The National Superintendent shall lead in prayer.

E. Installation of National Officials

1774. The National Superintendent.

In the parts of the service prior to the installation, a scripture lesson such as I Cor. 12:14-28 shall be read. Then the newly elected National Superintendent, the Members of the National Board of Administration, the Principal of the Bible Colleges and the leaders of the National Auxiliaries shall be asked to stand before the congregation. The person appointed to preside over the service shall be responsible for giving the various charges, and shall address the congregation, saying:

According to Acts, Chapter 6, the Holy Spirit led the first-century Church to select persons for positions of service according to gifts bestowed upon them. So the Holy Spirit has led The Wesleyan Methodist Church to choose persons believed to be blameless in heart as well as in life, possessing in good measure the qualifications for the offices to which they are called. We now come to set these persons apart as National Officials and Members of the National Board of Administration.

The presiding Minister shall address the National Superintendent, saying:

Rev. __________ __________, the Church has called you to its most honored and responsible place of leadership, to the office of National Superintendent. This high office is one of great importance and dignity, imposing weighty responsibilities and demanding earnest, arduous, and self-sacrificing labour. In assuming your duties, you become a steward over the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church.

You have been chosen for the office of National Superintendent because the Church recognises in you the leadership abilities to carry spiritual and administrative authority in humility that is born of love. Further, you exemplify the high standard for Christian leadership set forth in the Word of God by Paul in the first chapter of his epistle to Titus, when he said, “Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, they must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather they must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. They must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that they can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it” (Titus 1:7-9).

Do you accept the office of National Superintendent, and promise that you will faithfully and loyally sustain it and labour in it, as laid down in The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church?

Answer: I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to this high office, and you have declared your willingness to accept it and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your duties as a National Superintendent, you are hereby set apart to this service in the Church. May faith, courage, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity be in you and abound, so that you shall be fruitful in your leadership of the Church. Amen.

1775. The National Board and National Officials.

The presiding Minister shall address the Members of the National Board of Administration, saying:

Having carefully considered the responsibilities and obligations of service as a Member of the National Board of Administration as set forth in The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, will you, with just appreciation of these responsibilities and obligations, accept this service to which you are called?

Answer: I will.

Will you promise that, always seeking divine help, you will faithfully serve as a Member of the National Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, assisting to govern and direct its affairs in a manner which will make for peace, purity, and spiritual growth throughout the Denomination?

Answer: I will.

Forasmuch as you have been chosen and have declared your willingness to accept the service to which you have been elected, you are hereby formally recognised as the National Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church. May you always be worthy
of the honour and trust conferred upon you by the Church. And may God, by whose providence you have been set apart to this service, grant that “the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Amen.

The presiding Minister shall address those others elected as National Officials, saying:
The Church is served by National Officials, some elected by this National Conference, and some appointed by the National Board of Administration. The Wesleyan Methodist Church has honoured you by electing you to stand with the National Superintendent as the National Officials of the Church. These are highly esteemed places of leadership. In assuming these offices, you become the recipients of respect and deference from faithful Wesleyan Methodists around the nation.

Your service in these offices will require duties which cannot be faithfully performed without self-denial and self-sacrifice. You must spend and be spent for the Church in the spirit of joyful service. Your election to this office is evidence of the confidence the Church has in you as Christian leaders. May your leadership always inspire such confidence, to the glory of God.

Do you accept the office to which the Church has elected you, and do you promise to discharge your duties as God may help you?

**Answer:** I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to these high offices, and you have declared your willingness to accept them and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your several duties, you are now set apart to this service in the Church.

May you be strong to do God’s will and have great joy in your labours. Amen.

**1776. The Conference and concluding remarks.**

The presiding Minister shall address the congregation, saying:

Have you, Members and representatives of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, seeking the guidance of divine wisdom, chosen the persons who now stand before you to take charge of your denominational activities and interests as National Officials and Members of the National Board of Administration?

**Answer:** We have.

Will you pledge to honour, encourage, and co-operate with them in all things consistent with the will of God, and will you zealously aid them in the discharge of their official duties?

**Answer:** We will.

The presiding Minister shall address the National Superintendent, the National Board of Administration, and other National Officials saying:

Take to yourselves the office to which you have been called, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The presiding Minister shall pray:

O Lord, we ask that you set apart your servants to the work to which you have called them by the voice of the Church.

Endue them with heavenly vision. Grant to them your grace that they may serve you well, being full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, administering the work of their office in the fear of the Lord.

Equip these Officers for their respective duties and enable them to be faithful in all things, so that when the Great Shepherd shall appear, each may receive a crown of glory that does not fade away.

Through Christ we bring this petition. Amen.

**F. Installation of a National Superintendent Emeritus**

**1777. Conferring of Status of National Superintendent Emeritus.**

Then the National Superintendent shall call the National Superintendent Emeritus elect and shall say:

In the early Church, the Scriptures record that many people were recognized according to gifts bestowed upon them. So we, The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, have chosen to recognize persons believed to be blameless in heart as well as in life.

Then the National Superintendent shall address the National Superintendent Emeritus elect, saying:

Will the National Superintendent Emeritus elect please stand?

Rev. _______, the Church has called you to the position of National Superintendent Emeritus. This office is one of dignity, recognizing the way in which you have served the Church in accepting responsibilities and giving arduous and self-sacrificing labour. Further, you exemplify the high standard for Christian values set forth in the Word of God, as one who is “blameless- not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain” and as one who “can encourage others by sound doctrine” (Titus 1:7,9).

Do you accept the office of National Superintendent Emeritus, and promise that you will faithfully endeavour to support and encourage the National Superintendent and the Officers of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia at all levels?

**Answer:** I do.

Inasmuch as the Church has elected you to this high office, and you have declared your willingness to accept it and your sincere purpose to discharge faithfully your duties as a National Superintendent Emeritus, you are hereby set apart to this service in the Church. May faith, courage, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity be in you and abound, so that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in your continuing role in the Church. Amen.

**G. Installation of a College Principal**

**1779. When an official installation for a College Principal is required.** The National Superintendent, Chair of the Board of Managers, or other appointed Official shall address the Principal, saying:

Principal _______, you have been chosen as the leader of _________ College. The Wesleyan Methodist Church is placing under your guidance and leadership not only the College property and the loyal faculty which serves therein, but also the sons and daughters from our homes who are to be nurtured in the Christian tradition.

As Principal of _________ College, yours is both a priceless heritage and a grave responsibility. You are to be the one to whom all institutional personnel are responsible. It will be your task to interpret the College program to the Faculty, the student body, the College Board, the constituency, and the general public. The heritage, the doctrines and the ideals of The Wesleyan Methodist Church will be projected to succeeding generations only as you dedicate yourself to their preservation in the present.
You have been called to this important task because we have confidence in your leadership, in your ability, in your Christian integrity and in your consecration to the sacred task before you. We pledge to you our co-operation, our financial support, and our prayers for the days which are ahead.

By the authority vested in me as National Superintendent / Chair of the Board of Managers of ____________ College, I hereby place in your hands the official seal of the Institution as the insignia of your authority and declare you formally installed as Principal of ____________ College.
Chapter XI

PROPERTY DEDICATION CEREMONIES

A. Dedication of a Church Building

1781. Order of service

Call to Worship

The Pastor or other appointed Minister shall give the call to worship:
Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name” (Ps. 100:2-4).

Invocation

The Pastor or other appointed Minister may pray an extemporaneous invocation or use the following:
O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delights in the assembling of your people in the sanctuary; receive us graciously as we come into your house, and grant, that peace and prosperity may be found within its walls, that the glory of God may be its light, and that we may be satisfied with the goodness of your house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Songs

The congregation shall join in singing a suitable song or a hymn.

Scripture Readings

The Pastor or other appointed Minister shall read a scripture lesson, such as one of the following: II Chron. 6:1-2, 18-21, 40-42; 7:1-4; Ps. 24; Ps. 84; Heb. 10:19-25.

Sermon

The District Superintendent or other appointed Minister may be asked to deliver a message on the nature and task of the Church.

Offering

It is much to be desired that all money required for the erection and completion of a house in which to worship God shall be fully provided before the day of dedication; but where this is not done, appeals may be made either just before or following the sermon. No building shall be dedicated to God until approved as financially secure and properly deeded as specified in the Handbook.

Presentation of Building for Dedication

The District Superintendent or their representative shall stand at the pulpit facing the Trustees of the church. The Chair of the Trustees shall address the District Superintendent, saying:
On behalf of the Trustees, the Members, and this congregation, I present this building to be dedicated to God as a place of worship and of service in His kingdom.

Acceptance of Building for Dedication

The District Superintendent shall respond, saying:
Dear Friends, for centuries people have constructed buildings for the public worship of God. We rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of people to build this house in this place to the glory of His name. I now accept this building, to be known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church, to dedicate it, and to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all people. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

Litanies of Dedication

The District Superintendent shall cause the congregation to stand and to join in the responsive litanies of dedication:
Leader: To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by His grace, to the honour of His Son, who loved us and gave himself for us; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;
People: We dedicate this house.
Leader: For the worship of God in prayer and praise; for the preaching of the everlasting gospel; for the celebration of the holy sacraments;
People: We dedicate this house.
Leader: For the comfort of all who mourn; for strength to those who are tempted; for light to those who seek the way;
People: We dedicate this house.
Leader: For the hallowing of family life; for teaching and guiding the young; for perfecting of the saints;
People: We dedicate this house.
Leader: For conversion of sinners; for the sanctification of believers; for the promotion of righteousness; for the extension of the kingdom of God;
People: We dedicate this house.
Leader: In the unity of the faith; in the bond of Christian brotherhood; in charity and goodwill to all;
People: We dedicate this house.
Leader: In gratitude for the labours of all who love and serve this church; in loving remembrance of those who have finished their course; in the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;
People: We dedicate this house.

All: We now, the people of this church and congregation, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

The District Superintendent shall pray:
Almighty God, we are not worthy to offer you anything belonging to us. We humbly acknowledge that "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.” Yet we ask that in your great goodness, you would accept the dedication of this place to your service. Prosper this undertaking. Receive the prayers and intercessions of all your servants who shall call upon you in this house. Give them grace to serve you with reverence and godly fear. Anoint them with a solemn awareness of your divine majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness. May they always approach your sanctuary with humility and devotion. May they always come before you with clean thoughts and pure hearts, with bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified. May they always perform a service acceptable to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Song
The congregation shall join in singing a suitable song or a hymn.

Benediction
An appointed Minister shall pronounce the benediction:

May you, O Lord our God, make this house your abiding place from this day forth, and let your Ministers be clothed with salvation, let your saints rejoice in goodness all their days, as the blessings of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest and abide upon them. Amen.

B. Dedication of a Parsonage

1786. Order of service.
At the time appointed for the dedication service, an appropriate song may be sung by the congregation or by a soloist or choir. Then the Pastor or other appointed Minister shall give an extemporaneous prayer. Then the Pastor or other appointed Minister shall give a scripture reading, such as I Cor. 9:7-10, 13-14. Then the District Superintendent or their representative shall address the congregation, saying:

The Scriptures clearly teach that as Aaron was divinely appointed to the priesthood, even so today men and women are called to the ministry for the purpose of preaching the Word and otherwise giving aid and comfort to the spiritually needy. In the same divine program it is also “commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel” (I Cor. 9:14). Providing a house for the Pastor is recognition of the Minister’s high office and great value to the church. More than this though, this parsonage stands in testimony to the central role of Church of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

The Members of the Local Board of Administration of the church shall come and stand before the District Superintendent, and the Chair shall address the District Superintendent, saying:

On behalf of the Members of this congregation, I present this house to be dedicated to God as the home for the person whom He has appointed to Pastor this people.

The District Superintendent may give an appropriate discourse, commending the people for providing this house and charging the Pastor to live here in the fear of God and as a faithful servant of the people. Then the District Superintendent shall offer a prayer of dedication, such as the following:

O most gracious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer you anything belonging to us. Yet we ask that you accept the dedication of this home to your service, and that you prosper this our undertaking.

Grant that whoever shall dwell in this house shall be yielded and dedicated to your service as “vessels sanctified for the Master’s use, prepared for every good work,” that their ministry shall bring a blessing to all they meet.

Grant, O Lord, that whoever shall enter this home of your servants shall be made both to perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that all who come to this home for spiritual counsel and comfort, shall be made both to perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfill the same.

Grant, O Lord, that whoever shall be joined together in the holy estate of matrimony in this home may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant made between them, and may remain in perfect love together all of their lives.

Grant, O Lord, that at the family altar of this home, when prayer and thanksgiving are offered, that they may receive from your hand such things as are necessary. Also, that as your servants study and search your Word, that divine guidance for life and duty may be given according to your will.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The District Superintendent shall address the congregation, saying:

I now declare this house duly set apart as the residence of the Pastor of the ____________ Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The District Superintendent or other appointed Minister shall pronounce the benediction:

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

C. Dedication of a Memorial Gift

1790. Order of service.
At an appropriate time in a worship service, the Minister and people shall stand, and the Minister shall say:

We ask ____________ now to present the memorial.

The person making the presentation shall say:

In memory of ____________ we present this memorial gift to this church, to be dedicated to the glory and praise of God.

The designated Official shall then respond:

We accept this gift as a sacred trust, and shall guard it reverently, in honour of the faithful and devoted life to whose memory it is given.

The Minister, or some other designated person, shall offer a prayer of dedication such as the following:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without whom no words or works of ours have meaning, but who accept the gifts of our hands as tokens of our devotion: grant your blessing upon us as we dedicate this gift to your glory. We thank you for the memory of your servant and for the desire to set apart this gift for your kingdom. May this memorial, which we now dedicate, be an enduring witness before your people. May our lives, likewise, be consecrated to your service in that holy temple, the Church. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

D. A Ground-Breaking Service for a Church

1791. Order of service.
At the appointed time, the congregation shall assemble at the site set apart for the new church building.

Call to Worship
Come, let us sing for joy to the LOR D; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. For the LOR D is the great God, the great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him (Ps. 95:1, 3-4).

Song of Praise
Words of Introduction
Scripture Reading
Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built His house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish person who built His house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash (Matt. 7:24-27).

Prayer
Here an offering may be received and a song heard.

Responsive Reading (or Regular Reading)
Minister: The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
People: for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.
Minister: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place?
People: The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.
Minister: They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God His Saviour.
People: Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
Minister: Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
People: Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
Minister: Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
All: Who is He, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty - He is the King of glory. (Ps. 24)

Message
Ground Breaking:
The Minister shall declare in words such as these:
To the glory of God, in the presence of this congregation, I now request that ground be broken for the ____________ Church.
Upon you, as Members of this congregation, rests the responsibility and privilege to cause a church to rise here which shall be devoted to the honour and worship of Almighty God our Father, and to the glory of His blessed Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
As the first shovelful of earth is turned, the Minister shall say:
In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - we break this ground. Amen.
Following this, other selected persons may turn over one or more shovelfuls of earth as a part of the ceremony without repeating the words above.

Song
Prayer of Benediction
PART XII – FORMS

Chapter I

CHURCH LETTERS

A. Transfer of Church Membership

1801. Letter sent by a church granting transfer to another Wesleyan Methodist Church (cf. 243-245).
To the Pastor and Secretary of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church.
This certifies that ______________ is a ______________ Member in good standing in the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, and being desirous of transferring membership to your church, is hereby transferred and commended to your care and fellowship.

By authority and in behalf of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of ________, A.D. ________.

________________________
Pastor

________________________
Secretary

The Member’s relationship at the church granting the letter continues until the member is duly received by the church to which they are being transferred.

(*Insert the proper term, namely Covenant or Community.)

1802. Letter of acknowledgement sent by the receiving church (cf. 243).
To the Pastor and Secretary of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church.
This certifies that ______________, for whom you issued a letter of transfer dated the ______ day of __________, A.D. ________, has been duly received by the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church on the ______ day of __________, A.D. ________, and we send you this acknowledgement in order that you may complete your record of this transfer.

________________________
Pastor

________________________
Secretary

1803. Notice sent to a Member being transferred.
We have on this date, the ______ day of __________, A.D. ________, issued a letter of transfer of your membership to the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, commending you to its care and fellowship. May the Lord bless you in your new relationship.

________________________
Pastor

________________________
Secretary

B. Recommendation to Another Denomination

1804. Letter given to a Member desiring to transfer to another Denomination (cf. 249).
This certifies that ______________, the bearer, has been up to this date an acceptable ______________ Member of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, and being desirous of removing from said church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

By authority and in behalf of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of ________, A.D. ________.

________________________
Pastor

________________________
Secretary

It is understood that this letter of recommendation terminates the bearer’s membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church immediately.

(*Insert the proper term, namely Covenant or Community.)

C. Withdrawal from the Denomination

1805. Letter given to Member desiring to withdraw from The Wesleyan Methodist Church (cf. 250; 1616).
This certifies that ______________, the bearer, has been up to this date a ______________ Member of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, and being desirous of withdrawing from said Church, is hereby declared to be withdrawn.

By authority and in behalf of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of ________, A.D. ________.

________________________
Pastor

________________________
Secretary

It is understood that this letter of withdrawal terminates the bearer’s membership in The Wesleyan Methodist Church immediately.

(*Insert the proper term, namely Covenant or Community.)
Chapter II

SERVICE CREDENTIALS

A. Ministerial Credentials

1826. Local Preacher's Licence (cf. 1179)

This certifies that ________________, having been duly examined concerning __________ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby licensed according to the usage of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as a Local Preacher, for one year, provided that __________ spirit, practice, and teachings are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

By order and in behalf of the Local Church Conference of ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, this _____ day of __________, A.D. __________.

Pastor                                         Secretary

(This licence may be renewed annually, and when so renewed, notation shall be made on the reverse side of this form of the date on which such renewal was ordered, and the same shall be attested by the signature of the Pastor and the Local Church Secretary.)

1837. Local Preacher's Licence of Standing (cf. 1182:2)

This certifies that ______________ has been up to this date a Local Preacher in good standing in the __________________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, and being desirous of transferring __________ membership from this church, is granted this letter of standing to recommend ______________ to whomsoever it may concern as a person worthy of consideration for a licence as a Local Preacher.

By the authority and in behalf of the __________________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, this _____ day of __________, A.D. __________.

Pastor                                         Secretary

1838. Certificate of Authorisation as a Supply Pastor (cf. 1159)

This certifies that ______________ has been appointed on a temporary basis as a Supply Pastor of the ______________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, and is hereby authorised to fill its pulpit, to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation, and to perform such other duties as shall be authorised by the District Superintendent.

By the authority and in behalf of the ______________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this _____ day of __________, A.D. __________.

District Superintendent                     District Secretary

1839. District Licence (cf. 1110:1, 1110:2, 1110:6b; 1112:8)

This certifies that ______________, having been duly examined concerning __________ gifts, graces, and usefulness, and being deemed qualified for such service, is hereby made __________ according to the usage of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, for one year, provided that __________ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

By order and in behalf of the District Conference of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this _____ day of __________, A.D. __________.

(*Insert the term: Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate. This licence may be renewed annually; with notation made on the reverse side of this form and attested by the signature of the District Superintendent and the District Secretary.)

1835. Commission Certificate for a Minister (cf. 1117:1)

This certifies that ______________, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the __________ District Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of hands and prayer, to service as a Commissioned Minister in The Wesleyan Methodist Church so long as __________ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and ______________ is hereby empowered and fully authorised to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to solemnise matrimony, and to feed the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God’s heritage, but as being an example to the same.

By the order and in behalf of the District Conference of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this _____ day of __________, A.D. __________.

National Superintendent                     District Superintendent                     District Secretary

This certifies that __________, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, and having been duly elected by the __________ District Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, has been set apart this day, by the laying on of hands and prayer, to the office and work of an Ordained Minister in The Wesleyan Methodist Church so long as _______ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and _______ is hereby empowered and fully authorized to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to solemnise marriage, and to feel the flock of Christ, taking oversight thereof, not as lord over God’s heritage, but as being an example to the same.

By order and in behalf of the District Conference of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. __________.

National Superintendent    District Superintendent      District Secretary

1837. Certificate of Transfer from Another Denomination (cf. 1126).

This certifies that the __________ District Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, having examined the credentials of __________, a(n) __________* of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and having received other testimonials of _______ graces, gifts, and usefulness, and being satisfied that __________ is a person worthy and well qualified for such a ministry, has this day accepted and recognized __________ in due form as a(n) __________* in The Wesleyan Methodist Church, entitled to exercise under its authority all the functions pertaining to a(n) __________* so long as _______ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

By order and in behalf of the District Conference of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. __________.

National Superintendent    District Superintendent      District Secretary

(*Insert the term: Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, or Licensed Minister.)

1839. Evangelist’s Certificate (cf. 1163).

This certifies that __________, a (n) __________* of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, having been appointed by the District to the work of evangelism and being recommended by that District as a person qualified for such service to the Church at large, is hereby authorised to exercise the ministry of an Evangelist for one year from the date hereto affixed and is recommended to all whom it may concern for employment as an Evangelist.

By order and in behalf of the District Conference of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. __________.

National Director of Evangelism and Church Growth

(*Insert the term: Ordained Minister or Commissioned Minister. This certificate may be renewed annually, with notation made on the reverse side of this form and attested by the signature of the District Superintendent and the District Secretary.)

B. Lay Minister’s Credentials

1847. Lay Minister’s Commission (cf. 1189).

This certifies that __________ has this day been consecrated according to the usage of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to service as a Commissioned Lay Minister, having been judged worthy and well qualified for such service, and this commission shall recommend __________ to all whom it may concern as a proper person to do the work of a(n) __________* so long as _______ spirit, practice, and ministry are in keeping with the Scriptures and The Handbook of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and _______ continues to be actively engaged in such work.

By order and in behalf of the District Conference of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. __________.

National Superintendent    District Superintendent      District Secretary

(*Insert the term: such as Director of Music, Director of Christian Education, Youth Director, Song Evangelist, Chalk Artist, Children’s Worker, Spouse in Ministry, Lay Evangelist, or Social Worker.)

1848. Lay Missionary’s Commission (cf. 1192).

This certifies that __________ has been appointed by the National Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Methodist Church to service as a Lay Missionary under the direction of the National Department of __________*, that __________ has been consecrated to such service by the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and that this commission shall remain in effect throughout _______ period of service under such appointment and direction as listed on the reverse side of this commission.

By order and in behalf of the District Conference of the __________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. __________.

National Superintendent    District Superintendent      District Secretary
On reverse side:

**TERMS OF SERVICE**

From _________________ To _________________

___________________________
National Superintendent

C. General Credentials

1851. **Course of Study Certificate** (cf. 1112:2; 1113:1; 1119:2; 1150; 1151; 1189).

This certifies that ____________, has completed the Course of Study for _______* authorised in *The Handbook* of The Wesleyan Methodist Church and provided by the National Board of Administration, or the equivalent of said Course, having satisfactorily passed examination in each subject.

By order and in behalf of the District Conference of the ___________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. ________.

___________________________
National Director of Education and Ministry

(*Insert the name of the particular Course of Study, namely that of Lay Minister, Pre-Ordination, Ministers of Music, Ministers of Christian Education, Lay Workers, Directors of Music, Directors of Christian Education, Evangelistic Singers, Chalk Artists, Children’s Workers, Spouses in Ministry, Lay Evangelists, or Social Workers.*)

1852. **Recommendation for District Licence** (cf. 1110:1, 1110:2; 1112:3; 1179; 1188)

This certifies that _____________, a Covenant Member in good standing of the __________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, is hereby recommended by _______ Local Church Conference to the _______ District Conference of The Wesleyan Methodist Church as having the graces, gifts, usefulness, and other qualifications necessary for District authorisation to serve as a _______*.

By order and in behalf of the Local Church Conference of the ___________ Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. ________.

________________________
Pastor

________________________
Secretary

(*Insert the proper term: Ministerial Candidate, Licensed Minister, or Lay Minister. If Lay Minister, add the particular type of service, such as Lay Minister - Director of Music, Director of Christian Education, Youth Director, Song Evangelist, Chalk Artist, Children’s Worker, Spouse in Ministry, Lay Evangelist, or Social Worker.*)

1853. **Pocket Certificate of Standing** (cf. 1110:6b; 1116:1; 1117:3b; 1123:1)

This certifies that ____________ was, on this ______ day of ___________, A.D. ________, a(n) __________* in good standing of the ___________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

________________________
District Secretary

Valid only for one year, and only when signed by the Secretary.

(*Insert the terms: Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, or Lay Minister.*)

1854. **District Letter of Transfer** (cf. 1127:1; 1190)

To the Superintendent of the ______________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

This certifies that ____________ is a(n) __________* in good standing in the ______________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and, having requested a transfer, is hereby transferred and recommended to your District, subject to the action of said District.

By the authority and in behalf of the ______________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. ________.

________________________
District Superintendent

The person for whom the letter is granted shall continue as a Member of the District granting the letter until the District receiving the letter replies on form 1855.

(*Insert the term: appointed Ordained Minister, Ordained Minister on reserve, Ordained Minister on educational leave, retired Ordained Minister, Ordained Minister without appointment, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, or Lay Minister. If Lay Minister, add the particular type of service, such as Lay Minister - Director of Music, Director of Christian Education, Youth Director, Song Evangelist, Chalk Artist, Children’s Worker, Spouse in Ministry, Lay Evangelist, or Social Worker. If the person being transferred is a Licensed Minister, or Lay Minister, the transfer is not valid unless accompanied by a properly attested statement of standing in the course of study and service record in the District.*)

1855. **Acknowledgement of District Letter of Transfer** (cf. 1127:1; 1190)
To the Superintendent of the ________________________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

This certifies that _______________, for whom you issued a letter of transfer as a(n) _______________* dated the ______ day of _______________, A.D. ________, has been duly enrolled by the District as a(n) ________________*, the transfer having been completed on the ______ day of __________, A.D. ________, and we send you this acknowledgement in order that you may complete your record of the transfer.

By the authority and in behalf of the _________________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. ________.

____________________________________
District Superintendent

(*Insert the term: appointed Ordained Minister, Ordained Minister on reserve, Ordained Minister on educational leave, retired Ordained Minister, Ordained Minister without appointment, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, Lay Minister. If Lay Minister, add the particular type of service, such as Lay Minister- Director of Music, Director of Christian Education, Youth Director, Song Evangelist, Chalk Artist, Children’s Worker, Spouse in Ministry, Lay Evangelist, or Social Worker.)

1856. District Letter of Standing (cf. 1127; 1190).

This certifies that _______________ has been up to this date a(n) _______________* in good standing in the ______________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and being desirous of removing from The Wesleyan Methodist Church, is hereby released and cordially recommended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this letter may be presented.

By the authority and in behalf of __________________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, this ______ day of __________, A.D. ________.

____________________________________
District Superintendent

It is understood that this letter terminates immediately any relationship the bearer may have had to The Wesleyan Methodist Church as a Minister.

(*Insert the term: Ordained Minister, Commissioned Minister, Licensed Minister, Ministerial Candidate, or Lay Minister. If Lay Minister, add the particular type of service, such as Lay Minister- Director of Music, Director of Christian Education, Youth Director, Song Evangelist, Chalk Artist, Children’s Worker, Spouse in Ministry, Lay Evangelist, or Social Worker.)
Chapter III

AFFILIATE CHURCHES

1860. Sample of Agreement Between a District and an Affiliate Church

No two church affiliations will be characterized by identical circumstances. The District Board of Administration may modify the following sample agreement to reflect levels of monetary support from the Affiliate Church or other mutual agreements which detail commitments to a developing unified ministry.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church
And Affiliate Church
Articles of Agreement
_________________________________ Church
and
The ____________________________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church

PREAMBLE

The ___________________________ Church, an independent congregation of the Wesleyan tradition (hereafter referred to as church) and the ________________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church (hereafter referred to as District), upon the signing of these Articles of Agreement do establish and commit to an affiliate relationship between church and District.

Objective

It is the objective of church and District, as co-labourers, to advance the Kingdom of Christ through the encouragement of fellowship, co-operation in varied ministries of evangelism, discipleship and education and a sharing of denominational benefits by making available literature, publications and personnel.

ARTICLE I - STATEMENT OF FAITH

Both the church and the District affirm the foundation for such affiliate relationship lies in the mutual embrace of and commitment to the following Statement of Faith:

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

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE II - GOVERNANCE

During the time period the church and District retain the Affiliate Church relationships, the District Superintendent shall be expected to make periodic visits and provide such counsel as the church's Pastor and Board may welcome. The District Board of Administration shall annually review the on-going relationship. The church shall establish its own organisational by-laws and shall be exempt from the property trust clause established for congregations holding full relationships to the Denomination. During the period of affiliate relationship, the church may choose to advertise with such language as “a congregation of the Wesleyan tradition” or “affiliated with The Wesleyan Methodist Church,” but may not assume/use the name The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The Affiliate Church may send the (senior) Pastor and one Lay Delegate to the annual District Conference to enjoy voice but not vote, unless the right to vote rests with them by some other office.

ARTICLE III - ADVANCEMENT

Advancement to full relationship is possible. While no commitment to such is implied by the church or the District in affixing signatures to these Articles of Agreement, mutual approval by both entities can result in the church coming into full relationship with the District and The Wesleyan Methodist Church with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

ARTICLE IV - CONTINUANCE

Subject to annual review by the District Board of Administration, the affiliate relationship may be renewed up to five years by said District Board of Administration. If the Affiliate Church has not begun a process leading to acceptance as an Established Church by the end of the fifth year, renewal of the affiliate status shall that year and each successive year require the recommendation of the District Board of Administration and an approving vote of the District Conference. A change in pastoral leadership in the church shall automatically give rise to a review of the relationship and, to renew affiliate status, shall require the consent of the District Superintendent and the ratifying vote of a majority of the District Board of Administration. The relationship may be terminated at any time by either the vote of the District Board of Administration or the ruling body of the church.

AGREEMENT
Sustained by the mutual belief that God in His providence has led together the people of the _________________ Church and the _________________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, and upon the voted authority of the church’s ruling body and the District Board of Administration, the authorised Officials herewith affix their signatures to duplicate copies of these Articles of Agreement, thereby evidencing establishment of an affiliate relationship between church and District.

The__________________ District of The Wesleyan Methodist Church:

___________________________________
District Superintendent

___________________________________
Assistant District Superintendent

___________________________________
District Secretary

The________________________ Church:

___________________________________
Pastor

___________________________________
Board Chair/Vice-Chair

___________________________________
Secretary
APPENDICES

Appendix A

STANDING RULES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia

1. STATISTICAL YEAR:
   National Conference Statistical year will end on June 30th.

2. TREASURERS BOOKS:
   All books throughout the Districts will close on June 30th.

3. STATISTICAL REPORTS:
   District Statisticians to have reports in the hands of the National Statistician by the 30th September.

4. CREDENTIALS:
   The names of all Delegates to the National Conference are to be in the hands of the National Secretary within 14 days of their election.

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY:
   The National Superintendent will list the Orders of the Day at the first meeting of the National Conference Session.

6. REPORTS:
   Reports of National Officers are to be presented before the election of new Officers.

7. MEMORIALS:
   All memorial to be submitted to the National Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting of the National Board of Administration meeting as the Committee on Memorials. Copies of the memorials and the Committee’s responses are to be sent to all Delegates to the National Conference at least 21 days prior to the National Conference.

8. ANNUAL LEAVE:
   Ministers and National full-time workers shall be granted a minimum of four weeks annual leave.

9. PASTORS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
   All full-time employees of the Local Church who are studying under the District Board of Ministerial Development are to be allowed the equivalent of one day per week for study to a maximum of five days at a time.

10. SPECIAL PROMOTIONS AND OFFERINGS: (910)
   Each church shall present the works and needs of Ministerial Education Fund, Wesleyan World Missions and Evangelism and Church Growth through a special annual service of same. Recommended times for these are: Evangelism and Church Growth – March; Ministerial Education Fund – May; Wesleyan World Missions – November.

11. MINISTERIAL REQUIREMENTS:
   All Ministers shall be required, in conjunction with their annual service report, to sign the following declaration of commitment:

   I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures are the fully inspired and inerrant written Word of God, and that they contain sufficiently all doctrine required for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. I am determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to my charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation but that which I shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the scriptures.

   I cordially accept our Articles of Religion and General Rules, and agree to declare and defend them. I further acknowledge my obligation to promote the Institutions established and approved by The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

12. MINUTES COMMITTEE:
   The report of the Minutes Committee for the final day of Conference shall be made to the organising session of the National Board of Administration.

13. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF PROPERTY:
   In fulfillment of Handbook paragraph 1500, all proceeds from the sale of real property in the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, whether by a Local, District, National or incorporated body, shall be invested in the Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd immediately upon receipt of payment and held by the Foundation until disbursement is approved by the relevant authority to service loans or to purchase new property.

14. LONG SERVICE LEAVE:
   All Australian Pastors will be entitled to ten weeks long service leave after the completion of ten years service, with a pro-rata service period of seven years if the service period is terminated. All churches are to remit one week’s salary (including benefits) each year to the Long Service Leave Provision account for their Pastor/Employees. These funds are to be directed to the National Treasurer, made payable to the Wesleyan Investment Foundation Ltd.
**Appendix B**

-Established by the National Wesleyan Women's Conference-

**A HANDBOOK FOR AUSTRALIAN WESLEYAN WOMEN**

**Statement of Purpose**

“The purpose of Wesleyan Women is to encourage and empower women to make a difference in their church and community for the glory of God.”

Our **Core Values** to achieve our Purpose are:

- Evangelism – leading our family, friends and neighbours to Christ.
- Discipleship – encouraging study of God’s Word; teaching women to follow Christ and be built up in their faith.
- Fellowship – building healthy, caring relationships among women in the Local Church.
- Ministry and Service – encouraging women to develop their gifts and talents, using them for service and ministry to build up the Church and meet the needs of others.
- Giving – supporting missions and projects, abroad and at home.

**Motto:** Serving God – Serving others

This Handbook has been revised in order to provide you with a useful tool for ministry in the context of The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

**Wesleyan Women in the Local Church**

The Local Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women is the key person to successful women’s ministries in the Local Church. The minimum requirement to commence Wesleyan Women is to have one woman with the desire to minister to other women who can fill this position. Ideally, the Local Co-ordinator will be a Covenant Member, however with the approval of the Pastor/Local Board of Administration may be a Community Member. The Local Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women is elected by the Local Church Conference (Annual meeting). The Local Co-ordinator may be nominated by the members of the Local Wesleyan Women, but the nomination must be approved by the Local Board of Administration. The period of service is 12 months.

Local churches may develop any meaningful ministry that embraces the Statement of Purpose and Core Values of Wesleyan Women. This gives freedom to pursue those ministries that are relevant to the “giftedness” of the women in the Local Church, and their sense of burden for the needs of that church and community.

**Membership.** All women who participate in any of the activities of the Local Church are recognised as belonging to Wesleyan Women and as such have a voice in decision making at the local level of Wesleyan Women. Ministry Team (previously Executive – Treasurer, Secretary, etc) positions are optional and need only be created as the need arises. Possible Ministry Team positions are Assistant Co-ordinator, Secretary, Treasurer and Ministry Circle Leaders.

**Local Church Ministry Team Positions**

**Local Co-ordinator:** Elected by the Local Church Conference, gives leadership and oversight of all Wesleyan Women’s activities in the Local Church. The Local Co-ordinator will work in consultation with the Pastor and in co-operation with the District Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women. The Local Co-ordinator represents the local church at the District Women’s Convention. This is the minimum requirement for recognition of a Local Wesleyan Women’s group. All other positions are appointed as the need arises to fulfill effective and meaningful ministry. Any local group with any type of ministry to women, no matter how small, should elect a Local Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women.

**Additional Optional Positions**

**Assistant Co-ordinator:** Elected by the women of the Local Church, and will give assistance to the Co-ordinator wherever needed. The Assistant Co-ordinator will also fulfill the duties of the Co-ordinator at such a time as the Co-ordinator is unable to fulfill their duties and will serve on the Local Ministry Team.

**Secretary:** Will keep records of Wesleyan Women, minutes of all meetings, attend to correspondence and promote the Women in Touch magazine. The Secretary will serve on the Local Ministry Team.

**Treasurer:** Keeps all records of monies raised and distributed, sends reports to the District Treasurer of Wesleyan Women as requested, organises an annual audit and encourages payment of the recommended donation to support District work. The Treasurer will serve on the Local Ministry Team.

**Other Positions:** A local group may elect other Members to the Ministry Team as the need is felt, to effectively carry out local ministries. Leaders of ministry circles should be appointed after seeking pastoral approval and should report directly to the Local Co-ordinator of Wesleyan Women, and to the Pastor and the Local Church as requested. These positions are not necessarily part of the Local Ministry Team.

**Delegates to District Convention**

Each local group should elect one other woman, either Covenant or Community Member, to accompany the Local Co-ordinator to the District Women’s Convention as a voting Delegate. In the event that the Local Co-ordinator is unable to attend, an elected substitute may be sent (Covenant/Community Member) to represent the local church. Wives of Pastors present are guests of the Convention (unless elected as a Delegate) and will have a voice but no vote.

**Recommended Donation**

Each local group shall support the District work by paying the annual recommended donation as set by the National Ministry Team. This may be collected, in the first quarter of the year, by individual donation or by holding a function specifically designed to raise the amount.
Local groups may be as creative as they like in raising their recommended donation, as long as they stay within the Handbook guide-lines for fund raising. We encourage groups to enthusiastically embrace this method of securing District funds.

**Wesleyan Women in the District**

**Ministry Team Positions**

**District Co-ordinator:** In co-operation with the National Co-ordinator, National Ministry Team and under the oversight of the District Superintendent of The Wesleyan Methodist Church, the District Co-ordinator will offer leadership, support and guidance to Wesleyan Women in the District. The District Co-ordinator will take a special interest in promoting outreach functions and ministries and will preside over the District Ministry Team meetings and represent the District on the National Ministry Team. The District Co-ordinator will report to the District Conference and serve as a non-voting Delegate (unless voting by some other criteria) and will report as often as requested to the District Board of Administration.

The District Co-ordinator is nominated from the District Women’s Nominating Committee (This may be the District Ministry Team). Their nomination is referred to the District Nominating Committee. The District Co-ordinator is then elected by the District Conference. The District Co-ordinator may use available District funds to cover travelling and administrative costs and Conference fees as needed to fulfil the duties of the role.

With the assistance of the District Ministry Team, the District Co-ordinator will plan the District Women’s Convention in consultation with the National Co-ordinator.

When a current District Co-ordinator is not re-elected to the position, that person will not serve on the District Ministry Team for a period of 12 months.

**Assistant District Co-ordinator:** The Assistant District Co-ordinator shall be elected by the District Women’s Convention and will assist the Co-ordinator, filling in for the District Co-ordinator when they are unable to fulfil their duties. The Assistant District Co-ordinator shall promote prayer ministry in the absence of a District Prayer Secretary and shall serve on the District Ministry Team.

**District Secretary:** Shall be elected by the District Women’s Convention and will keep all minutes and records of the District Women's Convention and all District Ministry Team meetings. The district secretary shall attend to all correspondence, promote the Women in Touch magazine and shall serve on the District Ministry Team.

**District Treasurer:** Shall be elected by the District Women’s Convention and will keep records of and disperse all monies received from Local Treasurers. The District Treasurer for Wesleyan Women shall report to the District Convention and the District Ministry Team, report to the District Board of Administration as requested and the books shall be submitted for audit annually. The District Treasurer for Wesleyan Women will serve on the District Ministry Team.

**Additional Optional Positions**

**Zone Co-ordinator:** Shall be elected by the District Women’s Convention. In co-operation with the District Co-ordinator and District Ministry Team shall offer leadership, support and guidance to the local groups of Wesleyan Women within the Zone. The Zone Co-ordinator will take special interest in promoting and planning at least one Zone function during the Conference year. (Making sure to advise the District office of the planned dates for any such events to prevent clashes in the calendar.) The Zone Co-ordinator will maintain some contact with the Local Co-ordinators in the zone for the purpose of encouragement and planning. The Zone Co-ordinator will report to the District Co-ordinator when asked to do so, prior to each Convention. The Zone Co-ordinator will make every effort to attend the District Convention as a non-voting Delegate (unless voting by some other criteria). The District Co-ordinator may request the Zone Co-ordinator to serve on the District Ministry Team.

**District Works Co-ordinators:**

(a) **Home Works Co-ordinator:** Shall be elected by the District Women’s Convention to promote Home Missions Works (including Co-Labourer’s projects) and projects that help meet the needs of its workers.

(b) **Overseas Works Co-ordinator:** Shall be elected by the District Women’s Convention to promote Wesleyan World Missions and projects that help meet the needs of its workers.

These are usually non ministry team positions.

**Wesleyan Women in the National Church**

**National Co-ordinator:** Nominations for the National Co-ordinator shall be forwarded from the Districts to the National Nominating Committee, but elected by the National Conference. The National Co-ordinator will be directly accountable to the National Superintendent and the National Board of Administration. The National Co-ordinator shall give leadership to Wesleyan Women in general but with particular focus on District Co-ordinators and the National Ministry Team. The National Co-ordinator shall give special interest to developing resources, providing motivation and training to Wesleyan Women.

The National Co-ordinator may use available funds to cover travelling and administrative costs of the ministry. If sufficient funds are available, the National Co-ordinator shall represent Wesleyan Women at the General Convention in U.S.A.

**National Women’s Convention:** The National Co-ordinator shall be responsible to organise the National Convention, in co-operation with the National Ministry Team. A National Convention may be held once during the term of the Conference. Delegates for this Convention will consist of a minimum of five from each District with a maximum of one from each Local Church but not exceeding 30 Delegates from each District. These Delegates will be elected at the District Women’s Convention.
National Ministry Team: The Ministry Team shall comprise of the District Co-ordinators and the National Co-ordinator as the Chair. Other Officers may be appointed by the National Ministry Team or the National Co-ordinator as deemed necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the ministry.

The National Ministry Team shall meet at least once during the Conference term, and may meet more often as deemed necessary to effectively carry out the ministry.

Assistant National Co-ordinator: Will be selected from the District Co-ordinators and appointed by the National Ministry Team. The Assistant National Co-ordinator will support and assist the National Co-ordinator in discharging their duties, and when necessary will stand in for the National Co-ordinator.

National Treasurer: A National Treasurer will be appointed by the National Ministry Team to keep all records in relation to receipt of and disbursement of monies. The National Treasurer will present the books for auditing annually. The National Treasurer is a non-voting Member of the Ministry Team.

Editor of Women in Touch Magazine: Will be appointed by the National Ministry Team and reports to the National Co-ordinator and the National Ministry Team as requested. The net profits from Women In Touch Magazine will be used to support the National Office of Wesleyan Women.

Women in Touch Magazine Treasurer: Will be appointed by the National Ministry Team to keep all records in relation to the production and sale of the magazine, will report to the Editor and the National Ministry Team as requested and present the books for auditing annually.

Project Boomerang: Some years ago, Australian Wesleyan Women sent Rev Kay Fulcher to attend and speak at the Solomon Islands Women’s Convention at their invitation. Australian Wesleyan Women has also brought women from the Solomon Islands to Australia for SPC04, SPC08 and SPC12. Both Kay’s trip to the Solomon Islands and the Solomon Island women’s trips to Australia have had many positive results. It is likely, in future years that we will again be invited to send a speaker to the Solomon Islands Women’s Conventions and to help bring Delegates to South Pacific Conventions.

To try and plan for these times, the National Ministry Team decided to establish a fund to which Australian Wesleyan Women can contribute to from time to time as they feel led. It will be called ‘Project Boomerang’ and will be held by our National Treasurer.

Conclusion: We trust this HANDBOOK is the help it is intended to be. Should you need any further assistance, please talk to your Local, District or National Co-ordinator, as the need may be.

Details of current Directors can be found in Local and District Personnel directories; details of District and National Wesleyan Women office bearers can be found on the inside cover of the Women In Touch Magazine.

Be assured that the District and National Ministry Teams are ready to encourage, help and support Local Wesleyan Women. God’s richest blessing as you seek to serve God and the Church through Wesleyan Women.
Appendix C

STANDARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
- Established by the National Board of Administration -

1. PREAMBLE

ES-10. To carry out the basic principles and purposes for the ownership and control of Wesleyan Methodist Educational Institutions as outlined in the Handbook of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia in paragraphs 920 to 937, the National Board of Administration has set forth certain standards which are intended to serve as broad guidelines for the operation of the Educational Institutions. The Educational Institutions are under the authority of the National Board of Administration, the National Conference and the Handbook of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, and as such, the Standards for Educational Institutions cannot be interpreted to contradict a direction given by these higher bodies.

ES-15. The structuring of the control of Wesleyan Methodist Educational Institutions shall be such as to perpetuate these Institutions as a responsible arm of the total ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

ES-16. The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia is known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church (W.M.C.). In this document reference to the Wesleyan Methodist Church is to the Australian Church, and reference to the Wesleyan Church is to the North American or worldwide Church.

ES-17. In these Educational Standards, unless otherwise is explicitly stated:

“NBA” means the National Board of Administration of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia;
“Standards” means the Standards for Educational Institutions;
“Board” means Board of Managers of the various Institutions;
“a college” means any one of the various authorised training colleges;
“authorised” means by authorisation of the NBA;
“Handbook” and “The Handbook” means The Handbook of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia

2. POSITION STATEMENTS ON EDUCATION

A. Denominational Relationships

(1) Governance of Wesleyan Methodist Higher Education

ES-80. In Australia, the National Conference defines certain broad patterns of governance, elects the Boards of the various Institutions, and then delegates all further power to the National Board of Administration. The National Board of Administration in turn approves the Standards for Educational Institutions. The Boards are so constituted with powers so defined as to provide for the integration of the Institutions and the Denomination.

(2) Commitment to Wesleyan Methodist Doctrines and Practice

ES-90. The Wesleyan Methodist Church believes that God has revealed in His Son and in the Scriptures what people need to know about the nature of God, the destiny of humanity, the plan of salvation, the mission of the universal church, and God’s plan for the end times. In so doing, He has revealed certain moral absolutes, which never change, whatever the shifts in human philosophies or social attitudes. The Wesleyan Methodist Church attempts to state its understanding of God’s revealed will in its Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles. These relate to doctrines, personal lifestyle, and religious practices to which the Church and its Members are committed. Since the Church believes in the integration of its Institutions of higher learning with the total denominational life, it requires that its Institutions be committed to its understanding in doctrines, lifestyle, and practices. Administrators, Faculty, and Staff are asked to express this commitment both formally and practically. Students are asked to conform their conduct to the statements relative to lifestyle and practices.

B. Philosophical Bases

(1) Wholeness of Truth

ES-140. The Wesleyan Methodist Church believes that God is the source of truth, and therefore truth is whole and internally consistent with itself. While absolute truth is known only to God, He has revealed redeeming aspects of truth in His Son and in His written Word. And He has created men and women with the capacity to understand truth, to pursue it, to apprehend portions, and to relate them in such a way as to progress toward valid conclusions. All aspects of truth are not equal in importance, for truth which helps people to know God takes precedence ultimately over truth about more minute and temporary creatures God has also made. But all truth is God’s truth and has importance as God’s creation and as God’s gift to humanity. The God who has revealed Himself in His Word has also revealed Himself in His world (Psalm 19). While people can worship God as they struggle with the mysterious truth of the Trinity, they can also worship God as they think their thoughts after Him in analysing a bit of the world He has made. So when a person pursues truth within the framework of God’s will, that pursuit is a sacred act.

(2) Integration of Faith, Learning, and Life

ES-170. The Wesleyan Methodist Church, in its Institutions of higher learning, is committed to the integration of faith, learning, and living. Since truth is one and whole, truth that converts the soul does not ultimately conflict with aspects of truth that develop the mind and enhance the quality of life. Faith is not the rival of learning, nor learning the enemy of faith. For the Christian, they are partners, complementary. Faith gives purpose to learning, and learning contributes to faith. Faith worships while learning and learning achieves its full potential only when believing. Conflicts are perceived only when faith is imperfect or learning is inaccurate or incomplete.

(3) Commitment to Excellence

ES-250. The Wesleyan Methodist Church believes that the cleansing of a person’s inner nature is possible through the grace of God. Such a belief makes it especially appropriate that the Church commit itself to excellence in the educational process. Through such a commitment, the Church seeks to produce whole and holy persons. It seeks also to challenge administrators, Faculty, and Staff to set and achieve the highest goals. With such a commitment, the Church seeks to influence every aspect of institutional and denominational life.
Institution forwarded to the National Director of Education and the Ministry to provide subsidies for Ministerial Candidates. The College Board of Managers, which conforms to the National Board of Administration including the adoption and revision of such Institutional documents or amendments if it finds it conforms to the provisions of The Handbook and the Standards for Educational Institutions (cf. Handbook 925:3).

The respective Constitutions shall incorporate the words of ES-310 directly into its articles and shall require the College Boards to observe the Standards for Educational Institutions.


(2) The Bylaws and any amendments proposed by the Boards must be approved by the National Board of Administration (cf. Handbook 925:5; ES-401).

(3) The Bylaws should contain basic regulations for Board operation but avoid specific data that is subject to change such as dates of meetings,

(4) The Bylaws for the Institutions are set forth in ES-416ff.

ES-296. Administrative Policies. The Administrative Policy of the respective Colleges provides the detailed operational policy and standards for the College. Such policy may be set forth in numerous documents such as The College Prospectus, The Student Handbook, The Faculty and Staff Handbook, and other documents that the regular operation of the College may require.

(1) Administrative Policy is formed and approved by the Administrative Committee of the College, and ratified by the College Board.

(2) Administrative Policy must conform to The Handbook, the Standards for Educational Institutions, the Bylaws of the College Board, and the Constitution of the respective College.

ES-299. Basic Principles for Educational Institutions. (Based on Handbook 920:1-3) The Educational Institutions of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be governed in harmony with these principles:

(1) All Institutions, in fulfilling the mission of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, shall seek to produce Christian workers and committed laity for the church of Jesus Christ.

(2) The Church and its Institutions shall work in the closest harmony. In its legislative assemblies, the Church defines its faith. In its classrooms, the Church studies, expounds and defends its faith. In the congregation, the Church worships its Lord and proclaims its faith. To safeguard the doctrinal purity of the Church, it shall be required that all Schools maintain and promote the doctrinal position of the Church as set forth in its Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles. Any person employed on the administrative Staff or Faculty of an Educational Institution of the Wesleyan Methodist Church must affirm adherence to the doctrine of entire sanctification and other doctrines of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in the Articles of Religion.

(3) In establishing its Educational Institutions, and in guiding their life and work, the Wesleyan Methodist Church seeks to provide the highest possible quality of Christian education for its own people and other people who wish to study under its auspices without regard to race, national origin, or sex.

ES-300. (Based on Handbook 925:1-5) The authority on all matters of operation rests with the National Conference. In practice this shall function as follows:

(1) The National Board of Administration has authority, by two thirds vote of all its Members, to establish or dissolve an Educational Institution.

(2) The National Board of Administration has authority, by two thirds vote of all its Members, to enter into a co-operative agreement with other persons/groups of like theological and behavioural commitment in the ownership, operation or networking of Educational Institutions.

(3) The National Board of Administration has authority to provide for and deal with all matters pertaining to charters and bylaws, including the adoption and revision of such Standards for Educational Institutions as it shall deem to be wise.

(4) The National Board of Administration has authority to provide for Boards of Control.

(5) The National Board of Administration is not empowered or authorised to contravene, override or set aside a decision of a College Board of Managers, which conforms to the National Board of Administration Standards for Educational Institutions.

ES-315. Each Wesleyan Methodist Local Church shall receive offerings for ministerial training annually. The offerings will be forwarded to the National Director of Education and the Ministry to provide subsidies for Ministerial Candidates. The Educational Institution shall review its student enrolment annually to determine which students are eligible for the denominational subsidy, and to advise ineligible students of the requirements for subsidy.

Other appeals from Denominational Colleges and approved by the National Board of Administration shall be presented to Local Churches, with proceeds sent directly to the Institutions.

H. Long-Range Planning
ES-326. The College shall involve itself in appropriate long-range planning. As such plans are developed; reports of the same shall be furnished to the National Board of Administration by the College Board.

I. Accreditation

ES-328. Quality education is essential to our existence. A critical element in the achievement of such excellence is the objective evaluation of Wesleyan Methodist Educational Institutions and programs by external Agencies. Therefore, it is required that each Educational Institution seek the highest accreditation appropriate to each of its programs.

J. Curriculum

ES-332. The College shall offer subjects that best meet its stated purpose and goals. The Church allows freedom to the Institution to offer subjects that meet the needs of students and comply with Christian standards.

ES-333. It is expected that the College offer the ministerial subjects that lead to ordination in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The requirements for this course of study are set forth by the Department of Education and the Ministry.

ES-334. The College shall require of all students the completion of Bible and Christian Belief subjects in order to graduate.

K. Complaints and Compliance

ES-344. Any complaint against the College for failure to comply with Standards for Educational Institutions including the Constitution and the Bylaws as set forth in this document shall be filed with the National Superintendent who shall seek an amicable solution to the problem and may make recommendations for the reconciliation of the contested issues.

4. COLLEGE BOARD

A. Duties and Powers

ES-401. The College may be governed by a Board elected by the National Conference as hereinafter set forth. This Board shall have full legal powers to govern, to manage, and to control the Institution, subject to its Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws under which the Institution is incorporated with all subsequent amendments shall be subject to the approval of the National Board of Administration (Handbook #691:1; cf. 925:5). The Constitution shall make the Board responsible for the observance of the Standards for Educational Institutions.

ES-402. Further details relative to the duties and powers of the Board may be found in the Bylaws for the Board, set forth in ES-416ff.

B. Election

ES-406. The Constitution and/or Bylaws shall provide for the management of the Institution in the following manner:

1. The Board shall consist of Members elected in compliance with ES-423.

2. Each voting Member shall be a Covenant Member of some Local Wesleyan Methodist Church. No Member of the Institution’s Staff or Faculty, except the Principal, may be a voting Member of the Board of the Institution served.

C. Responsibilities of Members of a College Board

ES-411. Every Member shall recognize the solemn responsibilities that are theirs and be prepared to commit themselves to the following:

1. To become familiar with the major responsibilities of a governing Board of a Wesleyan Methodist Educational Institution and with the way the Institution functions, and to conduct themselves accordingly.

2. To support and promote the accomplishment of the objectives to which the Institution that they represent has been committed by the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

3. To prepare for, attend, and actively participate in Board meetings and Committee meetings and assignments.

4. To serve as a constructive channel of communication between the Institution and a significant component of its supporting constituency.

5. To contribute to the accomplishment of the Institution’s mission out of the gifts, wisdom, knowledge, and skills with which God has equipped them.

6. To contribute financially to the support of the Institution on an annual basis as able, and to assist in identifying other sources of support and in securing gifts from such sources.

ES-412. Each Member elected by the National Conference shall sign the following commitment in accepting election and shall be considered qualified to assume Board responsibilities when such a signed statement has been forwarded to the National Board of Administration of the Wesleyan Methodist Church:

Having been elected to the College Board of __________, I ______________ signify my willingness to serve. As a Member of the Board I will endeavor to strengthen the ties between the College and the Wesleyan Methodist Church. I will seek by the help of God to become actively involved in advancing the educational mission of the College by promoting its spiritual welfare by assisting in securing adequate financial support, by seeking to promote and interpret the purposes and program of the College to the Church, its youth and other constituencies, by attending Board meetings and by accepting such other responsibilities as the Board may see fit to place upon me.

Date __________ Name _________________________

ES-413. Whenever a Member is absent from the meetings of the Board, and from related responsibilities for eighteen months without reasons deemed justifiable by the Chair of the Board, the Chair of the Board shall recommend to the National Board of Administration that the individual's Board membership be declared vacant and the vacancy filled in the proper manner.

D. Bylaws for the College Board

ES-416. In order to expedite the administration of the College in fulfillment of its purposes with orderliness and clarity of responsibility pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation of the College and the provision of The Handbook of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the following Bylaws are adopted. These Bylaws constitute the provisions for the administration of the College by its Board under the Standards for Educational Institutions of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as approved by the National Board of Administration and as authorised by The Handbook of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Article I: Relationship to the Wesleyan Methodist Church
ES-417. **Board.** The Members of the Board shall be elected by the National Conference in accord with the provisions of Article II. The Board shall report to the National Conference whenever it is in session and to the National Board of Administration biannually and at other times when requested by the National Superintendent.

ES-418. **Bylaws.** The Bylaws and subsequent amendments shall be approved by the National Board of Administration before becoming effective.

ES-419. **Property.** Title to the property of the College shall be held by the Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust Ltd., for the use and benefit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, subject to the requirement that the Board may not at any time sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets without the express approval of the National Board of Administration or National Conference.

ES-420. **General Regulations.** The Board shall be responsible for observance of the Standards for Educational Institutions of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as approved by the National Board of Administration.

**Article II: Board**

ES-421. **Number.** The voting Members of the Board shall consist of the National Superintendent, the College Principal, and five other Members with at least three ministerial and two lay members, with consideration for representation from across as many Districts as possible.

ES-422. **Special Consideration.** Each voting Member of the Board shall be a Covenant Member in good standing of a Local Wesleyan Methodist Church.

ES-423. **Election.** The Members of the Board shall be elected by the National Conference from nominations brought by the Nominating Committee. The nominations are to reflect expertise in the proper administration of the College, including experience in administration of tertiary institutions, managerial and financial expertise, and awareness of the educational needs of the Denomination.

ES-424. **Term.** The term of Members-at-Large shall be for the term of the National Conference from the rise of Conference at which they are elected, with re-election permissible. Each Board Member shall continue in office until a successor is elected and qualified, unless the Member's responsibilities are terminated by conditions defined under ES-425.

ES-425. **Vacancies.** A vacancy in one or more of the positions on the Board shall occur by non-acceptance, death, disqualification, or resignation. Vacancies may be filled for the unexpired term by the National Board of Administration, giving due regard to the requirements of ES-423.

ES-426. **Acceptance.** The qualification of a Board Member is complete when the Member-elect has signified in writing acceptance of the responsibility and personal endorsement of the Institution's Statement of Faith upon a standard form provided by the National Board of Administration.

**Article III: Organisation**

ES-427. **Organising Session.** At its first meeting following the session of the National Conference at which Board Members are elected, the Board shall elect its own Officers and Standing Committees.

ES-428. **Officers of the Association.**

1. The Officers of the Association shall be the Chair and Secretary of the Board, together with the Principal of the College.

2. The Chair and Secretary of the Board shall be elected by the Board for a term of two years, with said term to begin at the rise of the meeting at which they are elected. The Principal of the College shall be elected by the National Conference for a four-year term, the beginning of which shall be determined by National Conference. The College Board and the National Board of Administration may submit nominations for the position of Principal, with the source of such nominations indicated to the Conference.

3. The Chair shall issue the call for regular and special meetings, preside over the regular and special meetings of the Board and meetings of the Executive Committee, appoint temporary Officers or Committees not otherwise provided, sign documents as required by law or at the direction of the Board, and otherwise perform the customary duties of a Chair.

4. The Secretary shall notify all Members of meetings, attend all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee, preserve in books of the association true minutes of the proceedings of all such meetings, and other duties as may be delegated.

5. The Principal of the College shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the association and shall see that the Bylaws, the Standards for Educational Institutions of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. The Principal shall be an ex-officio Member of all Standing Committees of the Board and shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of the President of an association. The Principal shall also keep be custodian of the seal of the association and shall have authority to affix to notices required by statute, bylaws, or resolution.

ES-429. **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the National Superintendent, the College Principal, the Chair of the Board and the Secretary of the Board. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act for the Board on matters arising between meetings of the Board to the extent authorised by the Board. All Executive Committee actions shall be reviewed by the next meeting of the Board.

ES-430. **Standing or Special Committees.** The Board may from time to time designate from its membership such Standing or Special Committees as it may deem advisable for advancing its work. The power of such Committees shall be limited to the provisions of the authorising resolution.

**Article IV: Meetings**

ES-433. **Place of Meeting.** All meetings of the Board shall be held on a campus of the College except that by resolution of the Board or the Executive Committee another place may be so designated. Committee meetings may be held at any place designated by the Chair.

ES-434. **Regular Meetings.** The Board shall meet at least twice each year, the day and time to be designated by the Board at a preceding meeting or by the Executive Committee. At these times the Board shall hear and adopt reports from the Principal and other persons requested by the Principal.

ES-435. **Special Meetings.** A meeting of the Board may be called any time upon proper notice by the Chair, or by petition of four Members of the Board.

ES-436. **Proper Notice.** Proper notice for the special meeting of the Board shall consist of a letter or form sent by Australia Post, fax or Email at least fourteen days before the scheduled time of meeting, provided that receipt of electronic mail is acknowledged by Board Members.
Principle I. Promoting Good Will and Accuracy

ES-459. In Philippians 4:8 the Apostle Paul commands “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report (goodwill)....think on these things.”

ES-460. Board Members have a special opportunity and obligation to follow the precepts of this verse by checking carefully any information they hear about the College before passing it on to another individual. This is especially important when critical and negative information is received. In such cases, even if such information proves to be accurate, the ethical and Christian response is to share this information only with those Officers of the Board of Administration who have responsibility to deal appropriately with offenders or to correct ongoing problems.

Principle II. Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

ES-461. A fundamental principle of ethics requires that any person who exercises discretionary authority on behalf of a Wesleyan Methodist College will not use this authority for personal benefit. Therefore, Board decisions must not be motivated by a desire for personal gain or for the benefit of others with whom there are family, business, or other ties. Any with existing or potential financial or
family conflicts of interest which might impair or reasonably appear to impair such Member’s independent, unbiased judgement in the discharge of responsibilities to the College will disclose such conflict or potential conflict and refrain from participating in the discussion and decisions about such items.

**Principle III. Respecting Privileged Information**

ES-462. In discharging fiduciary and personnel responsibilities, Board Members often receive confidential and privileged information. Concern for the persons and processes that are involved in such confidential deliberations requires that information obtained and discussed in such settings not be disclosed to others.

**Principle IV. Providing Positive Role Models**

ES-463. Worthy methods must be used in striving to reach noble goals. Having means that are consistent with ends requires that Board Members serve as positive role models in their personal lives as well as in the collective work of the Board. Private and corporate actions must therefore be governed by, and be consistent with, an historic Wesleyan understanding of Scriptures with its emphasis upon a deep commitment to right relationships with God and fellow believers based upon forgiveness and purity; a profound respect for persons which recognises the dignity and worth of individuals; a high regard for ideas which promotes intellectual rigour and academic integrity; a careful stewardship which combines scrupulous personal honesty and responsibility with a sensitive social conscience.

**Principle V. Maintaining the Corporate Nature of the Board**

ES-464. Board Members must always remember and frequently remind the various College constituencies that the Board exercises its power only when it acts as a corporate body. Thus, Board Members must be very cautious in expressing policies and administrative actions inasmuch as such statements are easily and often confused with official Board policy.

5. PERSONNEL

A. General Principles

ES-501. (From Handbook, 920:2) To safeguard the doctrinal purity of the Church, it shall be required that all Institutions maintain and promote the doctrinal position of the Church as set forth in its Articles of Religion, Membership Commitments, and Elementary Principles. Any person employed on the administrative Staff or Faculty of an Educational Institution of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as set forth in the Articles of Religion.

ES-502. Key words and terms used in these standards are understood to mean as follows:

1. **Administrative Staff.** The Principal and other administrators with faculty rank as defined by the Institution’s faculty policies (see Faculty and Staff Handbook).

2. **Faculty.** The full-time Members of the Institution’s teaching personnel as defined by the Institution’s faculty policies. (Faculty may also include administrators of faculty rank.)

3. **Part-time Faculty.** A Member of the Institution’s teaching personnel assigned to less than full-time status as defined by the Institution’s faculty policies.

4. **Full Agreement.** Acceptance in good faith of the Articles of Religion of the Wesleyan Methodist Church with fidelity in teaching and example in the fulfilment of their principles.

5. **Sincere Respect.** Appreciation for and supportive of the doctrines (Articles of Religion) and practices of the Wesleyan Methodist Church so that no teaching prevents their free expression or is contrary to them other than in deliberations for orderly change.


B. Administrators

ES-506. The Principal shall be:


2. An individual of Christian stature and integrity.

3. A person with such qualities of leadership and educational experience as are commonly deemed necessary to carry out effectively the responsibilities of this office.

4. The only employee of the Institution to sit as a voting Member on the Board, whose membership and attendance shall terminate when the office is vacated.

5. The sole Executive Officer directly responsible to the Board. All others are subordinate to the Principal through whom they are responsible to the Board.

6. Responsible for reporting to each meeting of the College Board and to the National Conference when in session.

7. The Principal’s Job Description shall include:

   a) General supervision of the Institution under the direction of the College Board. The Principal shall perform such duties as usually attend this office.

   b) Chair of the Administrative Committee of the Institution.

   c) Authority to engage necessary workers and to make such purchases of supplies or equipment as may be required by the Institution.

   d) General Pastoral oversight of the Faculty, Staff, and students.

   e) General supervision of Field Education for all students, with responsibilities delegated to other Faculty as deemed necessary.

ES-507. Other Administrative Officers.

1. Each full-time administrator reporting to the Principal shall be a Covenant Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, fully committed to the doctrines and practices of the Church, and shall be marked by Christian maturity, integrity, leadership ability, and educational experience normally deemed necessary to carry out all responsibilities.

2. Other administrative personnel shall be in full agreement with and have sincere respect for the doctrines and practices of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and shall be marked by Christian maturity, integrity, leadership ability, and experience normally deemed necessary to carry out the assigned responsibilities.
C. Faculty

ES-511. The Heads of all Divisions or Departments shall be Covenant Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. At least two-thirds of the Faculty shall be Covenant Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, except when approval for a variation has been granted by the College Board. Non-Wesleyan Members shall respect and uphold the doctrines and practices of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

ES-512. Faculty Members should be encouraged to participate in professional organisations that are related to their specific disciplines.

ES-513. The Board shall create administrative channels by which Faculty Members may have a proper voice in the formulation of Institutional policy and policies.

ES-514. Administrators shall not solicit the services of a Faculty Member of another Wesleyan Methodist Institution without first consulting that administration unless the Faculty Member has taken the initiative to express an interest in the other Institution, or the Faculty Member has already indicated an intention to terminate services at the present Institution. The administration of the College concerned shall be made aware of such negotiations at the earliest possible time.

D. Support Personnel

ES-521. Support professional and technical supervisory personnel are those with administrative duties who do not report to the Principal or have faculty status.

(1) They shall be qualified persons of Christian character.
(2) They shall be in full agreement with and have sincere respect for the doctrines and practices of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.
(3) They shall at all times comply with the purposes and objectives of the Institution.

ES-522. Support Staff members are those persons who perform duties in support of the academic and/or administrative functions of the Institution.

(1) They shall be qualified persons of Christian character.
(2) They shall have sincere respect for the doctrines and practices of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.
(3) They shall at all times comply with the purposes and objectives of the Institution.

E. Faculty and Staff Commitment

ES-527. In order for the Faculty and Staff commitment to be firm, it is required that the following statement—should be placed in the contract or other employment document of each employee:

I have read the College Statement of Faith, the Articles of Religion, the Membership Commitments, the Elementary Principles, and the Collective Conscience Statements of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia. I agree to respect and uphold these doctrines and practices and will conduct myself in harmony with them and be supportive of them in the course of my employment at the College.

ES-528. Each employee at the College at the time of employment will be supplied with a copy of the Articles of Religion, the Membership Commitments, Elementary Principles, and the Collective Conscience Statements of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

ES-530. When two Members of the same family are employed by the Institution, they shall not both be Members of the same Committee. This does not apply to Faculty and Staff meetings. Other precautions, pertaining to the often delicate situation of employment of family members, need to be taken into consideration using wisdom and discretion in these cases.

F. Faculty and Staff Handbook

ES-540. Other matters concerning the responsibilities and privileges of Administrators, Faculty and Staff are contained in the Faculty and Staff Handbook.

6. STUDENTS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Enrolment Policy

ES-601. Enrolment in Wesleyan Methodist Educational Institutions shall be open to all students of good moral character who are in agreement with the general objectives of the Institution concerned; in no case shall admission be denied because of race, colour or sex.

B. Relationship to Christ, the Church, and Society

ES-606. Each Educational Institution is responsible to create and maintain such an atmosphere, and to provide such guidance and Christian fellowship as to present each student with the claims of Christ and the possibilities of the fullness of a life of Christian holiness and vocation.

ES-607. Appreciation for the Wesleyan Methodist Church, its mission and message shall be consistently encouraged. The Institution shall help the Wesleyan Methodist student to understand the heritage and potential of fellowship and shall help the non-Wesleyan Methodist to have the fairest and fullest knowledge of the sponsoring church and its ministry.

ES-608. Each student shall be challenged to full-time service to Christ and the Church whether in ministerial or lay vocations. The importance of “lay ministry” in the secular market place is also an emphasis.

ES-609. Wesleyan Methodist Educational Institutions shall seek to develop in each student a Christian sensitivity to social problems and to encourage each one, as a Christian, to find appropriate solutions (see Handbook 187).

ES-610. All statements and/or policies governing student life shall be consistent with the principles of the Essentials of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and in particular with the Membership Commitments which are set forth in 132-136 of The Handbook.

ES-611. With reference to matters dealing with students and institutional life, the Board and administration shall seek to implement effective means of involving responsible student leaders in planning institutional policies and programs.

C. Wesleyan Methodist Students

ES-616. Each Institution shall maintain policies of student recruitment relating to Local Churches which shall provide for the enrolment of the maximum number of qualified Wesleyan Methodist students.

ES-617. It is recommended that where applicable the qualified Wesleyan Methodist students be given priority consideration in the assignment of student aid, providing that such aid is also justified by other applicable criteria.
ES-618. Admission and financial aid programs where applicable should be administered to encourage those who are preparing for full-time Christian service.

D. Student Handbook

ES-619. Other guidelines, regulations, responsibilities, and privileges of students are contained in the Student Handbook.
Appendix D

CHARTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
As Revised by the International Conference, January 28, 2012

IC-6500. Preamble. There shall be an International Conference of The Wesleyan Church for the purpose of promoting worldwide holiness evangelism in keeping with the mission of The Wesleyan Church, coordinating the activities of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, addressing global concerns, promoting closer fellowship and mutual understanding, and providing a means for joint planning and cooperative action among all Units and General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall consist of those bodies which have originated in or which have joined with The Wesleyan Church and that adhere to the Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and other provisions of its Charter. Provision may also be made for Associate Members to be received which have not originated in or joined with The Wesleyan Church, but which are in harmony with The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.

IC-6502. Organization and Governance. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall function through its quadrennial sessions composed of representatives from each General Conference, each Established National/Regional Conference and Mission Units functioning under a General Conference Missions Department. The number of representatives from each Unit shall be determined according to the number of Members, with due regard to the principle of lay representation. In the interim of International Conference sessions, it shall function through the International Board. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall be organized and governed in accord with its Charter.

IC-6504. Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

IC-6505. Article 2. Purpose. The International Conference shall give spiritual and ecclesiastical oversight to The Wesleyan Church worldwide by:
   (1) Providing a forum for the development of a global vision, strategy, and coordination of Wesleyan ministries around the world.
   (2) Speaking to the global issues affecting the International Church, including evangelism, education and compassion ministries.
   (3) Providing time for celebration, worship, and world recognition of the advancement and challenges of the International Church.
   (4) Granting approval for an Established National/Regional Conference to move to full General Conference status.
   (5) Granting approval for Mission Units or National/Regional Church Conferences to advance to Established National/Regional Conference status.

IC-6510. Article 3. Membership. A. Membership Categories
   (1) The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church shall make provision for Full Members and Associate Members.
   (2) Full Members. Full Members shall be as follows:
      (a) They shall consist of those bodies which have originated in or which have joined The Wesleyan Church which adhere to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church and subscribe to the Charter and other provisions of The International Conference.
      (b) A church body which has not originated in but wishes to join The Wesleyan Church, if it is deemed by The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church to qualify for full standing as a General Conference and if it agrees to adhere to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, may be received by majority vote of The International Conference.
      (c) A church body which has not originated in but wishes to join The Wesleyan Church, if it is deemed by The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church not to qualify for General Conference status, may be directed by The International Conference or the International Board to join a Mission or a General Conference.
   (3) Associate Members. Associate Members shall consist of church bodies of comparable General Conference status which have not originated in or joined The Wesleyan Church. An Associate Member shall be in harmony with The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, shall subscribe to other provisions of The International Conference and shall be received by majority vote of The International Conference. Associate Members shall have a voice but no vote at the International Conference.
   (4) Full and Associate Members shall meet the financial obligations of membership as determined by The International Conference. Failure to pay membership assessment will put membership status on probation. Members who are on probation will receive no assistance on expenses for The International Conference but will have a voice and no vote.

B. Membership Status
IC-6515. There shall be three ranks of membership: General Conferences, Established National/Regional Conferences, and Mission Units.
   (1) A General Conference is a body that has full authority over the Church in its assigned territory, in keeping with the provisions of The International Conference. A General Conference has the right to manage its own internal governance, including revising its Discipline, as long as it does not violate The Essentials.
   (2) An Established National/Regional Conference is a body which has originated in or joined one of the General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church and which has been authorized by its General Conference and approved by The International Conference to have a defined autonomy on the grounds that the following requirements have been satisfied:
      (a) An effective church organization on the Local, District, and/or National/Regional levels.
      (b) Effective programs for the nurture and training of Members, new converts, children, young people, and lay workers.
      (c) An effective program for ministerial training.
      (d) Evidence of responsible stewardship of life and possessions, including the proper management of funds and the provision for the support of its own Pastors, workers, and Officers.
      (e) A defined and operational program of evangelism, church planting, and cross-cultural mission outreach.
      (f) The existence of a functioning property-holding body, or more than one such body if required by local laws.
      (g) Agreement to adhere to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.
      (h) A Discipline as approved by the founding General Conference.
(i) An Established National/Regional Conference has “defined autonomy,” the right to manage its own internal governance which includes revising its Discipline, with the exception of Membership Requirements, as long as it does not violate The Essentials. An Established National/Regional Conference remains in relationship with the General Conference that founded it, the General Superintendent of the founding Conference has a continuing role as mentor/coach and participation in the National/Regional Conference. Proposed changes in the Membership Requirements of an Established National/Regional Conference must be approved by the International Board. An Established National/Regional Conference may be advanced to the status of a General Conference by The International Conference, upon authorization from the originating/initiating General Conference.

(3) Mission Units shall be bodies such as National or Regional Multi-District Conferences, Established Districts, Provisional Districts, or Pioneer Districts functioning under a Missions Department of a General Conference. Church governance and policy is administered through the Discipline provisions of said General Conference.

IC-6516. Criteria for Advancement to Established National/Regional Conference Status. In addition to the recommendation of the supervising General Conference to the International Board, the following is a checklist of documentation that must accompany any application for advancement of a Mission Unit or other body to Established National/Regional Conference status. It is to be understood that these criteria will be used for a comprehensive review and composite evaluation of each application. Therefore, it is the overall strength that is being assessed rather than a rigid focus on each criterion. An applicant may request an exception on a specific requirement for cause.

1. Effective church organization on Local, District and/or National/Regional levels demonstrated by:
   (a) An organized District or National structure
   (b) A minimum of 40 fully organized or Established Local Churches (not counting preaching points or missions)
   (c) A minimum of 2,000 Covenant/Full Members
   (d) Sufficient number of Ordained Ministers to support District and/or National/Regional levels of administration
   (e) A process for collection of Local Church statistical data
2. Effective program of discipleship and membership training demonstrated by:
   (a) Curricula for discipleship, lay leadership and membership training systems that reflect commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology
   (b) Active delivery systems for discipleship, lay leadership and membership training
3. Effective program of ministerial education demonstrated by:
   (a) An approved curriculum or standards for ministerial education leading to ordination and reflecting commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology
   (b) A delivery system for ministerial education, such as a Bible School, Theological Institute, College, University or Seminary; a program of ministerial education conducted in cooperation with another Denomination or consortium; a non-residential ministerial training program; a properly supervised correspondence or Internet-based training program
4. Evidence of responsible stewardship demonstrated by:
   (a) A self-supporting system for financing the District and/or National/Regional administration
   (b) Properly approved annual budgets for District and/or National/Regional administration
   (c) Annually audited financial reports for District and/or National/Regional Conferences
5. Defined and operational programs of evangelism, church planting, and cross-cultural mission outreach demonstrated by:
   (a) An operational cross-cultural outreach strategy (if feasible)
   (b) A process for annual reporting of conversions and baptisms
   (c) An on-going strategy and track record of church planting
6. Functioning property-holding body(ies) per local laws demonstrated by:
   (a) Directory information providing the legal name(s) of each such body
   (b) A copy of by-laws or official registration(s) identifying each such body
7. Adherence to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, demonstrated by a covenant of adherence to The Essentials signed by all the Members of the highest governing Board of the National/Regional entity
   (8) A Discipline approved by the supervising General Conference

IC-6517. Criteria for Advancement to General Conference Status. An Established National/Regional Conference may appeal to the International Conference to be advanced to General Conference status, provided the following conditions have been met and a checklist of documentation accompany any application for such advancement. It is understood that these criteria will be used for a comprehensive review and composite evaluation of each application. Therefore, it is the overall strength that is being assessed rather than a rigid focus on each criterion. An applicant may request an exception on a specific requirement for cause.

1. Effective church organization on Local, District and General levels is demonstrated by:
   (a) An organized District and General Conference structure.
   (b) A minimum of 200 fully organized or Established Churches (not counting preaching points or Missions).
   (c) A minimum of 15,000 Covenant/Full Members.
   (d) Sufficient number of Ordained Ministers to support District and General Conference levels of administration.
2. Effective program of discipleship, membership training, and leadership development demonstrated by:
   (a) Curricula for discipleship, lay leadership, membership-training systems that reflect commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology.
   (b) Active delivery systems for discipleship, lay leadership and membership training.
3. Effective program of ministerial education demonstrated by:
   (a) An accredited Bible or Liberal Arts College.
   (b) An approved curriculum and standards for ministerial education leading to ordination and reflecting commitment to Wesleyan-Arminian theology.
4. Evidence of responsible stewardship demonstrated by:
   (a) A self-supporting system for financing each of the Districts and the General Conference administration.
   (b) Properly approved annual budgets for each District and the General Conference administration.
   (c) A General Conference Budget Committee.
   (d) Annual externally audited financial reports for the Districts and for the General Conference.
5. Defined and operational programs of evangelism, church planting, education, spiritual formation, cross-cultural mission outreach demonstrated by:
   a) An operational cross-cultural outreach strategy.
   b) A ministry in other countries beyond the nation or region defined by the General Conference.
   c) A process for annual reporting of conversions and baptisms.
   d) An on-going strategy and record of accomplishment of church planting.

6. Functioning property holding body(ies) per local, area, and national laws, demonstrated by:
   a) Directory information providing the legal name(s) of each such body.
   b) A copy of by-laws or official registration(s) identifying each such body.

7. Adherence to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church, demonstrated by a covenant of adherence to The Essentials signed by all the Members of the Governing Body of the General Conference.

8. A Discipline that has been approved by the originating General Conference with required subsequent approvals by the International Conference.

***************
This marks the start of THE ESSENTIALS


(1) Statement of Definition and Purpose. The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church consist of an historic statement of faith and practice. Each General Conference of The Wesleyan Church must subscribe to the Essentials. While each General Conference is free to express its beliefs and practices in the terms most meaningful to its immediate mission and culture, it shall not in its constitution, articles of religion, or discipline contravene or contradict any provision of the Essentials.

(2) Statement of Faith: Articles of Religion

1. Faith in the Holy Trinity

IC-6530. We believe in the one living and true God, both holy and loving, eternal, unlimited in power, wisdom, and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things. Within this unity there are three persons of one essential nature, power and eternity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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

2. The Father

IC-6540. We believe the Father is the Source of all that exists, whether of matter or spirit. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, He made man, male and female, in His image. By intention He relates to people as Father, thereby forever declaring His goodwill toward them. In love, He both seeks and receives penitent sinners.

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

3. The Son of God

IC-6550. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. He died on the cross and was buried, to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for all human transgressions, and to reconcile us to God.

   Luke 1:35; 2:30; 1 John 1:1-2; 4:24; 16:13; 17:3; Acts 5:3-4; 17:24-25; 1 Cor. 8:4, 6; Eph. 2:18; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:16-17; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 1:8; 1 John 5:20.

4. The Holy Spirit

IC-6560. We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is of the same essential nature, majesty, and glory, as the Father and the Son, truly God and truly man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. He died on the cross and was buried, to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for all human transgressions, and to reconcile us to God.

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

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

IC-6570. We believe that the books of the Old and New Testaments constitute the Holy Scriptures. They are the inspired and infallibly written Word of God, fully inerrant in their original manuscripts and superior to all human authority, and have been transmitted to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine. We believe that they contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man or woman that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. Both in the Old and New Testaments life is offered ultimately through Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and humanity. The New Testament teaches Christians how to fulfill the moral principles of the Old Testament, calling for loving obedience to God made possible by the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit.

The canonical books of the Old Testament are:


The canonical books of the New Testament are:

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

6. God’s Purpose for Humanity

IC-6580. We believe that the two great commandments which require us to love the Lord our God with all the heart, and our neighbours as ourselves, summarise the divine law as it is revealed in the Scriptures. They are the perfect measure and norm of human duty, both for the ordering and directing of families and nations, and all other social bodies, and for individual acts, by which we are required to acknowledge God as our only Supreme Ruler, and all persons as created by Him, equal in all natural rights. Therefore all persons should so order all their individual, social and political acts as to give to God entire and absolute obedience, and to assure to all the enjoyment of every natural right, as well as to promote the fulfilment of each in the possession and exercise of such rights.


7. Marriage and the Family

IC-6590. We believe that every person is created in the image of God, that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, fellowship, subordination of the self to the larger whole, and fulfilment. God’s Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing the truth that that relationship is of one God with one people. Therefore God’s plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship.

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

8. Personal Choice

IC-6600. We believe that humanity’s creation in the image of God included ability to choose between right and wrong. Thus individuals were made morally responsible for their choices. But since the fall of Adam, people are unable in their own strength to do the right. This is due to original sin, which is not simply the following of Adam’s example, but rather the corruption of the nature of each mortal, and is reproduced naturally in Adam’s descendants. Because of it, humans are very far gone from original righteousness, and by nature are continually inclined to evil. They cannot of themselves even call upon God or exercise faith for salvation. But through Jesus Christ the prevenient grace of God makes possible what humans in self effort cannot do. It is bestowed freely upon all, enabling all who will to turn and be saved.

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

9. The Atonement

IC-6610. We believe that Christ’s offering of himself, once and for all, through His sufferings and meritorious death on the cross, provides the perfect redemption and atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual. There is no other ground of salvation from sin but that alone. This atonement is sufficient for every individual of Adam’s race. It is unconditionally effective in the salvation of those mentally incompetent from birth, of those converted persons who have become mentally incompetent, and of children under the age of accountability. But it is effective for the salvation of those who reach the age of accountability only when they repent and exercise faith in Christ.


10. Repentance and Faith

IC-6620. We believe that for men and women to appropriate what God’s prevenient grace has made possible, they must voluntarily respond in repentance and faith. The ability comes from God, but the act is the individual’s. Repentance is prompted by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. It involves a wilful change of mind that renounces sin and longs for righteousness, a godly sorrow for and a confession of past sins, proper restitution for wrongdoings, and a resolution to reform the life. Repentance is the precondition for saving faith, and without it saving faith is impossible. Faith, in turn, is the only condition of salvation. It begins in the agreement of the mind and the consent of the will to the truth of the gospel, but issues in a complete reliance by the whole person in the saving ability of Jesus Christ and a complete trusting of oneself to Him as Saviour and Lord. Saving faith is expressed in a public acknowledgement of His Lordship and an identification with His church.


11. Justification, Regeneration and Adoption

IC-6630. We believe that when one repents of personal sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, that at the same moment that person is justified, regenerated, adopted into the family of God, and assured of personal salvation through the witness of the Spirit. We believe that we are accounted righteous before God only on the basis of the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, being justified by faith alone, and not on the basis of our own works. We believe that regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the pardoned sinner becomes a child of God. This new life is received through faith in Jesus Christ, and by it the regenerate are delivered from the power of sin which reigns over all the unregenerate, so that they love God and through grace serve Him with the will and affections of the heart, receiving the Spirit of Adoption.

Justification: Hab. 2:4; Acts 13:38-39; 15:11; 16:31; Rom. 1:17; 2:8, 22; 4:5-7; Gal. 3:16-18; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil 3:9; Heb. 10:38. Regeneration: John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-8, 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:5, 10, 19; 4:24; Col. 3:10; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:1. Adoption: Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5, 7, Eph. 1:5. Witness of the Spirit: Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 2:3; 3:14, 18-19.

12. Good Works

IC-6640. We believe that although good works cannot save us from our sins or from God’s judgement, they are the fruit of faith and follow after regeneration. Therefore they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and by them a living faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.
13. Sin After Regeneration

IC-6650. We believe that after we have experienced regeneration, it is possible to fall into sin, for in this life there is no such height or strength of holiness from which it is impossible to fall. But by the grace of God one who has fallen into sin may by true repentance and faith find forgiveness and restoration.

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

IC-6655. We believe that sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is separated from sin unto God and is enabled to love God with all the heart and to walk in all His holy commandments blameless. Sanctification is initiated at the moment of justification and regeneration. From that moment there is a gradual or progressive sanctification as the believer walks with God and daily grows in grace and in a more perfect obedience to God. This prepares for the crisis of entire sanctification which is wrought instantaneously when believers present themselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, through faith in Jesus Christ, being effected by the baptism with the Holy Spirit who cleanses the heart from all inbred sin. The crisis of entire sanctification perfects the believer in love and empowers that person for effective service. It is followed by lifelong growth in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The life of holiness continues through faith in the sanctifying blood of Christ and evidences itself by loving obedience to God's revealed will.

Gen. 17:1; Deut. 30:6; Ps. 130:8; Isa. 61:6-8; Ezek. 36:25-29; Matt. 5:8, 48; Luke 1:74-75; 3:16-17; 24:49; John 17:1-26; Acts 1:4-5; 8:21-4; 15:8-9; 26:18; Rom. 8:3-4; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:13, 24; 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 3:10, 12-13; 4:3-7; 8:5-23-24; 2 Thess. 2:13; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 10:14; 12:14; 13:12; James 3:17-18; 4:8; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 1:7; 9:3-8; 4:17-18; Jude 24.

14. The Gifts of the Spirit

IC-6670. We believe that the Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit himself, and He is to be desired more than the gifts of the Spirit which He in His wise counsel bestows upon individual Members of the Church to enable them properly to fulfill their function as Members of the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit, although not always identifiable with natural abilities, function through them for the edification of the whole church. These gifts are to be exercised in love under the administration of the Lord of the church, not through human volition. The relative value of the gifts of the Spirit is to be tested by their usefulness in the church and not by the ecstasy produced in the ones receiving them.


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

IC-6680. We believe that the Christian church is the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ, who is the founder and only Head of the church. The church includes both those believers who have gone to be with the Lord and those who remain on the earth, having renounced the world, the flesh and the devil, and having dedicated themselves to the work which Christ committed unto His church until He comes. The church on earth is to teach the pure Word of God, properly administer the sacraments according to Christ's instructions, and live in obedience to all that Christ commands. A Local Church is a body of believers formally organised on gospel principles, meeting regularly for the purposes of evangelism, nurture, fellowship and worship. The Wesleyan Church is a Denomination consisting of those Members within District Conferences and Local Churches who, as Members of the body of Christ, hold the faith set forth in these Articles of Religion and acknowledge the ecclesiastical authority of its governing bodies.


16. The Church

IC-6690. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of the church commanded by Christ and ordained as a means of grace when received through faith. They are tokens of our profession of Christian faith and signs of God's gracious ministry toward us. By them, He works within us to quicken, strengthen and confirm our faith.

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


IC-6700. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death and of our hope in His victorious return, as well as a sign of the love that Christians have for each other. To such as receive it humbly, with a proper spirit and by faith, the Lord's Supper is a means through which God communicates grace to the heart.


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

IC-6705. We believe that the certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelisation of the world. At His return He will fulfill all prophesies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil.


18. The Second Coming of Christ

IC-6710. We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead of all people—of the just unto the resurrection of life, and of the unjust unto the resurrection of damnation. The resurrection of the righteous dead will occur at Christ's Second Coming, and the resurrection of the wicked will occur at a later time. The resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of the resurrection of those who are in Christ. The raised body will be a spiritual body, but the person will be whole and identifiable.

20. The Judgement of All Persons

IC-6715. We believe that the Scriptures reveal God as the Judge of all and the acts of His judgement are based on His omniscience and eternal justice. His administration of judgement will culminate in the final meeting of all persons before His throne of great majesty and power, where records will be examined and final rewards and punishments will be administered.


21. Destiny

IC-6720. We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach that there is a conscious personal existence after death. The final destiny of each person is determined by God’s grace and that person’s response, evidenced inevitably by a moral character which results from that individual’s personal and volitional choices and not from any arbitrary decree of God. Heaven with its eternal glory and the blessedness of Christ’s presence is the final abode of those who choose the salvation which God provides through Jesus Christ, but hell with its everlasting misery and separation from God is the final abode of those who neglect this great salvation.


(3) Statement of Practice.

IC-6725.
(a) Identification with the church. To be identified with an organized church is the blessed privilege and sacred duty of all who are saved from their sins, and are seeking completeness in Christ Jesus. From the church’s beginnings in the New Testament age, it has been understood that such identification involves the putting off of the old patterns of conduct and the putting on of the mind of Christ, and a unity of witness and worship.

(b) Biblical principles. In maintaining the Christian concept of a transformed life, The Wesleyan Church intends to relate timeless biblical principles to the conditions of contemporary society in such a way as to respect the integrity of the individual believer, yet maintain the purity of the church and the effectiveness of its witness. This is done in the conviction that there is validity in the concept of the collective Christian conscience as illuminated and guided by the Holy Spirit. While variations in culture may require variations in which the transformed life is evident or demonstrated, each General Conference of The Wesleyan Church will be expected to adopt guidelines for its Members providing for such evidence and demonstration in conformity with biblical principles.

(c) Worship and language. The Wesleyan Church believes in the miraculous use of languages and the interpretation of languages in its biblical and historical setting. But it is contrary to the Word of God to teach that speaking in an unknown tongue or the gift of tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit or of that entire sanctification which the baptism accomplishes; therefore, only a language readily understood by the congregation is to be used in public worship. The Wesleyan Church believes that the use of an ecstatic prayer language has no clear scriptural sanction, or any pattern of established historical usage in the Church; therefore, the use of such a prayer language shall not be promoted among us.

(4) Statement of Relationship.

IC-6730. The unity of The Wesleyan Church worldwide shall be recognized and maintained in the following:

(a) The right of a Member or Minister to transfer from one Unit (General Conference, Established National/Regional Conference, Regional/National church) to any other such Unit of The Wesleyan Church worldwide, with the understanding that consideration must be given to differences in requirements for licensing and ordination of Ministers as provided for in the various disciplines of Units worldwide.

(b) The right of a Member or Minister to election to office in any Unit (as defined in Article 4:4a) of The Wesleyan Church worldwide provided that the qualifications of said office are met, with the understanding that the right to hold such office shall be subject to the transfer of church membership to the Unit within which the election occurs and subject to The Discipline governing that Unit.

(c) The right of any Member body which has not reached the status of a fully established General Conference to participate with full or partial powers through its duly elected representatives in the respective General Conference to which it relates.

(This concludes The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church)

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IC-6735. Article 5. International Conference. The International Conference shall be comprised of Delegates from Wesleyan General Conferences and Established National/Regional Conferences on a ratio of one ministerial and one lay representative for every 7,000 Covenant/Full Members or major portion thereof, up to a maximum of 20 Delegates from any General Conference. Established National/Regional Conferences not at the above numerical levels of organization shall be represented at the International Conference by the Minister holding the highest Established National/Regional Church office and one lay member provided that all membership and financial obligations have been met. Mission Units under the supervision of a Wesleyan General Conference that have not yet attained Established National/Regional Conference status with more than 2,000 Covenant/Full Members shall have one ministerial and one lay representative with votes. Mission Units with less than 2,000 but more than 200 Full Members shall have one ministerial or Lay Delegate with a vote. Mission Units under any General Conference which have less than 200 Members may be represented at the International Conference by one National ministerial or lay representative with voice but no vote. Associate Members shall have one representative at the International Conference with voice but no vote. Members of the International Board are voting Members of the International Conference.

IC-6740. Article 6. Officers.

(1) The Officers of the International Conference shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Members of the International Board of General Superintendents shall serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the International Conference. The General Director of Global Partners shall serve as Treasurer of the International Conference. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary shall be elected by the International Conference from among its own Members. The Officers shall take office at the adjournment of the International
Conference session electing them and shall continue in office until the adjournment of the next regular session or until their successors are elected.

(2) The person elected to the office of Chair shall not serve successive terms.
(3) A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the International Board.
(4) An Executive Secretary may be authorized by the International Board, which shall outline the duties.
(5) The International Conference may create and fill other offices as needed.
(6) The International Board shall be responsible for overseeing the budget for the International Conference and for planning all necessary details for convening and conducting the International Conference, including meeting notices, meeting site selection, travel instructions for representatives and other logistics of the meeting.

IC-6743. Article 7. Meetings and Agenda. The International Conference shall meet quadrennially. If practicable, it shall be held in conjunction with a meeting of one of the General Conferences. It shall be the responsibility of the International Board of the International Conference to arrange for its meeting, considering the cost of travel, entertainment and the general interests of the International Wesleyan Church and its Associate Members. The International Board shall establish the agenda for the International Conference.

IC-6745. Article 8. Powers and Duties. With full respect for the authority of the Member General Conferences and Established National/Regional Conferences, the powers and duties of the International Conference shall be:

(1) To promote evangelism ministries around the world.
(2) To stimulate the deeper spiritual life of Wesleyans worldwide.
(3) To promote Wesleyan doctrines as set forth in The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church.
(4) To conduct a study of world trends and opportunities with a view to release position statements and securing united Wesleyan action.
(5) To further mutual understanding of cultural, economic, political, and linguistic factors affecting the progress of the gospel.
(6) To receive reports from Member Conferences and other bodies, to evaluate the same and to make recommendations to the appropriate bodies.
(7) To receive proposed amendments to the Essentials and direct the process for General Conferences to vote on proposed changes and report the results to the Member Conferences (cf. 6765:1). Established National/Regional Conferences and Mission Units may only submit recommended amendments to The Essentials through their initiating/supervising General Conference, which must also endorse the proposal.
(8) To review Member bodies to maintain compliance with The Essentials.
(9) To approve advancement to General Conference status of an Established National/Regional Conference upon authorization of its initiating/supervising General Conference or to revoke by a two-thirds vote the status of an Established National/Regional Conference that no longer meets the agreed requirements and to refer it back to its initiating/supervising General Conference as a Mission Unit.
(10) To approve advancement of a Mission Unit to an Established National/Regional Conference status upon authorization of its initiating/supervising General Conference.
(11) To consider the special needs common to Member bodies, to study and develop position statements on issues of global, moral and social concerns, and make recommendations regarding the same to the appropriate bodies through their respective General Conference Officers.
(12) To receive and to process new applications for membership.
(13) To organize area fellowships where geographic situation, mutual interest, and need for spiritual counsel and encouragement make it advisable.

IC-6746. Resolutions and Voting. All legislative proposals intended for consideration by the International Conference, including proposed amendments to the International Charter, shall be designated as “resolutions.” Resolutions may be submitted by any General Conference, the General Board (or equivalent Chief Governing Body) of a Member General Conference, an Established National/Regional Conference, the Chief Governing Body of a Mission Unit entitled to voting representation at the International Conference, the International Board, the International Board of General Superintendents, or any three Members of the International Conference. Unless otherwise required by the International Charter, a majority of those Members present and voting at the International Conference shall be sufficient to adopt any resolution or other motion.

IC-6750. Article 9. International Board of The Wesleyan Church.

(1) Meetings and Agenda. The International Board shall meet in an organizing meeting immediately following the International Conference and then again just prior to the next International Conference. The Chair of the International Conference shall be the Chair of the International Board. In case of emergency, exigency or special circumstances, the Chair shall have authority to call additional meetings of the International Board in consultation with the International Board of General Superintendents. The International Board may meet by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means. The Chair shall establish the agenda for all meetings of the International Board.
(2) Membership. Membership of the International Board shall be comprised of seven persons, consisting of one General Superintendent from each General Conference (one of whom shall be elected as Chair and another as Vice-Chair of the International Board and the International Conference), a Treasurer (who shall be the General Director of Global Partners), a Secretary, and two Members-at-Large to be elected by the International Conference from among any of its Members who do not reside in the North American, Philippines, or the Caribbean General Conference.
(3) Purpose. The purpose of the International Board shall be to fulfill the interim functions, duties, and powers of the International Conference.
(4) Quorum and Voting. Unless otherwise required by the International Charter, a majority vote of all eligible Members of the International Board shall be sufficient to approve any motion.
(5) Duties and Powers. The International Board shall have full authority to act on behalf of the International Board Conference in the interim of its sessions. It shall fulfill special assignments and transact any and all business referred to it by the International Conference, exercising all the normal duties and powers of the International Conference, except that the International Board may not conduct any business requiring more than a majority vote of the International Conference nor amend any Standing Rules of the International Conference. The International Board shall set the agenda for the International Conference. It may meet in person or by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means. The International Board shall meet at the call of the Chair and the agenda shall be set by the Chair.
IC-6755. Article 10. Finance. The General Conferences and Established National/Regional Conferences shall assume financial responsibility for sending Delegates to the International Conference. Travel expenses for all General Conference, Established National/Regional Conference and Mission Unit representatives to the International Conference are to be paid by the individual bodies. Hotel and meal costs on-site for all International Conference representatives are to be paid by the International Conference. The cost of travel, lodging and meals for International Board Members attending International Board meetings will be paid by the International Conference.

IC-6760. Article 11. International Board of General Superintendents. The International Board of General Superintendents shall be comprised of all the General Superintendents of those world Units which have achieved General Conference status. The International Board of General Superintendents shall meet at least once per quadrennium, select their own Chair, and have provision for additional meetings should the International Board of General Superintendents deem necessary. The International Board of General Superintendents may meet by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means. The Chair of the International Board of General Superintendents shall prepare the agenda for its meetings. The purpose of the International Board of General Superintendents is for communication, fellowship, and deepening relationships between senior leaders of the International Church as it relates to the Wesleyan strategy for worldwide evangelism and discipleship.

IC-6763. Article 12. International Board of Appeals. The International Board of General Superintendents shall serve as the International Board of Appeals. Its duties shall be:

1. To hear and determine any appeals from actions of any fully established General Conference as to its adherence to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church. If the International Board of Appeals shall find a General Conference in violation of The Essentials, that General Conference shall be expected to rescind the violating action. If it does not, the International Board of Appeals shall report its findings and the response to the International Board which shall have authority to expel the erring General Conference. At the discretion of the International Board of General Superintendents, it may provide for the reorganization of the loyal elements of The Wesleyan Church within the area of that General Conference and for the declaration that the other Ministers and Members are withdrawn from The Wesleyan Church.
2. To review the adherence of Associate Members to the conditions of Associate membership and recommend to the International Board the termination of their membership if violation of these conditions persist.
3. To adjudicate any problem that may arise between General Conferences involving boundaries or other matters of comity.
4. The International Board of Appeals shall meet on a regular basis in conjunction with meetings of the International Board of General Superintendents. A special meeting may be called by the Chair. The International Board of Appeals may meet by means of telephone or video conferencing, internet conferencing or other technologically-enabled means.


1. Amendments to The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church in Article 4 must be approved by a two-thirds aggregate vote of all General Conferences who are Members of the International Conference (cf. 6745:8).
2. The Charter of the International Conference, other than The Essentials in Article 4, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the International Conference.
3. All amendments are subject to review by the International Board of Appeals.
4. The International Board of Appeals shall supervise the referendum voting on amendments.

IC-6770. Article 14. We Speak with One Voice. The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church in Article 4 constitute the central beliefs and core values of the International Conference and must be embraced, supported and, when necessary, defended by all of its Members. However, there is a colourful tapestry of cultural, historic and geographic distinctions among Members of the International Conference in terms of administrative structures, behavioural expectations and unique customs. Such diversity is a blessing to be celebrated, and confidence should be preserved in the maturity and capacity of each autonomous General Conference (cf. 6515:1) and each established National/Regional Conference (in keeping with its “defined autonomy” as provided in 6515:2) to determine matters related to its own cultural practices, preferences and customs. Each session of the International Conference may consider specific matters that emerge from time to time as critical issues that transcend culture, customs or preferences, and on which all Members of the International Conference must stand together, so as to speak with one voice in regard to such issues. The following statements represent the collective conscience of the International Conference of The Wesleyan Church on such issues and may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all Delegates present and voting at any session of the International Conference. Any Member body of the International Conference is authorized to propose amendments or additions to these statements, which shall be presented to the International Conference if recommended by the International Board.

1. We Speak with One Voice on _____.

(Space reserved.)
Appendix E

STANDING RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Of The Wesleyan Church

- As amended January 28-29, 2012 -

SR-1. The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church Central Office. The International Conference files and records shall be stored at the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church World Headquarters, under the supervision of the Board of General Superintendents, until a central office is established at another location.

SR-2. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the International Conference shall coincide with the calendar year. The Treasurer’s quadrennial report shall be from the previous four years, ending December 31 of the last full year.

SR-3. Nominating Committee for Election of Officers. The International Board shall serve as the Nominating Committee for the Officers of the International Conference and the International Board.

SR-4. Officers - The Officers of the International Conference shall be: Chair (one of the General Superintendents), Vice-Chair (one of the General Superintendents), Treasurer (the North American General Conference General Director of Global Partners), and Secretary.

SR-5. International Conference Committee Structures. Committees may be appointed by the International Board or by the Chair (and ratified by the International Board) to serve during the International Conference or until their duties are completed.

SR-6. Finance Committee. The International Board shall serve as the Finance Committee until a Standing Finance Committee is appointed. The duties of the Finance Committee shall be:

(a) To serve as an Audit Committee until an external audit is called for.
(b) To consider a budget to be presented to the International Board.

SR-7. Charter Revisions. The International Board shall serve as the Charter Revision Committee, which shall review and report on any proposed changes to the Charter of the International Conference.

SR-8. Communications. The International Board shall provide for communications with Member bodies on behalf of the International Conference.

SR-9. International Conference Delegate Election. It is requested that each Member body send the highest-ranking Minister as a Delegate to the International Conference. It is recommended that additional Delegates be elected not later than one year in advance of the date of the International Conference and certified notice of the name(s) of the Delegate(s) shall be sent promptly thereafter to the Chair and the Secretary of the International Conference.

SR-10. Installation of Officers. There shall be an installation ceremony at the conclusion of the International Conference planned and implemented by the IBGS. The outgoing Chair or other person selected by the IBGS shall preside.

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