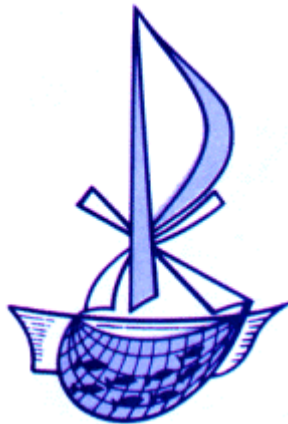


**DISCIPLINE
OF THE
PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



2013 EDITION

INDEX

Historical Preface	p. 1
Article of Incorporation of Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America (Pennsylvania)	p. 5
Articles of Incorporation (Rhode Island)	p. 6
Chapter 1 - General Principles and Doctrines	
General Principles - 100-105 -	p. 9
Doctrines - 110-121 -	p. 9-14
Statement on the Bible - 111 -	p. 9
Biblical Inerrancy - 112 -	p. 10
The Triune God - 113 -	p. 11
The Deity of Jesus Christ - 114 -	p. 11
The Deity and Personality of The Holy Spirit - 115 -	p. 12
Man - 116 -	p. 12
Redemption - 117 -	p. 13
Sanctification - 118 -	p. 13
The Second Coming - 119 -	p. 14
The Judgments - 120 -	p. 14
The Church - 121 -	p. 14
Chapter 2 - The Means of Grace	
Means of Grace - 200-202	p. 16-18
The Word - 201 -	p. 16
The Church - 201 A. -	p. 16
The Lord's Day - 201 B. -	p. 16
Prayer Meeting and Bible Studies - 201 C. -	p. 16
Praying in Jesus' Name - 201 D. -	p. 16
The Sacraments - 202 -	p. 17
Baptism - 202 A. -	p. 17
The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) - 202 B. -	p. 18

Chapter 3 - The Government of the Conference	
Government of the Conference - 300-308	p. 20-33
Statement of Limitations and Restrictions - 301 -	p. 20
Composition of the Conference - 302 -	p. 20
Officers of the Conference - 303 -	p. 21-25
Executive Council -	p. 21
District Superintendents -	p. 22
The President -	p. 22
The Vice-President -	p. 24
The General Secretary -	p. 24
The Treasurer -	p. 24
The Recording Secretary -	p. 25
District Superintendents -	p. 25
Order of Business: Conference Sessions - 304 -	p. 25
Definitions - 305 -	p. 26
The Financing of the Conference - 306 -	p. 27
Legislation - 307 -	p. 28
Conference Boards, Standing Committees, and Appointments- 308 -	p. 28-33

Chapter 4 - The Pastoral Ministry	
The Pastoral Ministry - 400-419	p. 34-43
Pastoral Candidates - 401 -	p. 34
Student Pastors - 402 -	p. 34
Elders - 403 -	p. 35
Conference Pastoral Supplies - 404 -	p. 35
Pastoral Transfers - 405 -	p. 36
Retired Pastors - 406 -	p. 36
Sabbatical - 407 -	p. 37
Deaconesses - 408 -	p. 37
Local Preachers - 409 -	p. 38
District Pastors or District Supply - 410 -	p. 38
Stationing of Pastors - 411 -	p. 39
Duties of Pastors - 412 -	p. 39
Salaries and Moving Expenses - 413 -	p. 40
Separation or Divorce of a Pastor - 414 -	p. 41
Severance of Relationship - 415 -	p. 41
Pastoral Misconduct - 416 -	p. 42
Special Ministries - 417 -	p. 42

Armed Forces Chaplain - 418 -	p. 42
Desiring to Return to the Pastorate - 419 -	p. 43

Chapter 5 - The District	
The District - 500-504 -	p. 44-46
The District Superintendent - 501 -	p. 44
District Meetings - 502 -	p. 45
District Conference - 503 -	p. 45
Pastoral Association - 504 -	p. 46

Chapter 6 - The Local Church	
The Local Church - 600-605	p. 47-58
The Quarterly Conference - 601 -	p. 47
Congregational Meetings - 602 -	p. 49
The Annual Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers and Pastoral Relations Committee -	p. 49
The Congregational Meeting for the Invitation of Pastor -	p. 51
Procedures for Invitation of an Ordained Elder -	p. 51
Procedures for Invitation of Pastor for Churches Served by Student Pastors or Conference Supplies -	p. 52
Procedures for Pastoral Invitation for a Circuit -	p. 53
Procedures for Pastoral Invitation when the Church Has no Pastor or Is Served by a District Supply -	p. 53
Procedure for an Elder to Respond to the Congregational Invitation -	p. 53
Procedure for an Elder who Will Not be Renewing his Contract -	p. 54
Procedure for Termination -	p. 54
Procedure for Candidating -	p. 54
Student Pastors -	p. 54
Pastoral Relations Committee - 603 -	p. 55
The Board of Trustees - 604 -	p. 56
Local Church Elders (optional) - 605 -	p. 56

Chapter 7 - Membership in a Local Church

Membership in a Local Church - 700-704 -	p. 59-61
Joining the Church - 701 -	p. 59
Test of Membership - 702 -	p. 60
Duties of Members - 703 -	p. 60
The Membership Roll - 704 -	p. 61

Chapter 8 - Social Concerns

Social Concerns - 800-804 -	p. 63-69
Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage - 801 -	p. 63
Social Concerns - 802 -	p. 67
Soliciting Fund - 803 -	p. 69
Debts - 804 -	p. 69

Chapter 9 - Administration of Discipline-Complaints and Appeals

Administration of Discipline- Complaints and Appeals - 900-928 -	p. 70-76
Statement of Faith and Practice - 901 -	p. 70
Definitions: Complaints and Appeals - 902-917 -	p. 70-73
Trial and Discipline - 918-919 -	p. 73
Procedures - 920-928 -	p. 73-76

HISTORICAL PREFACE

The religious fervor which spread over the English countryside under the leadership of John and Charles Wesley began to cool in the early 1800's. Two men, Hugh Bourne and William Clowes, local preachers in the Wesleyan Church, became zealous, consecrated men of God, interested in seeing their fellow workers converted and brought to Christ. Feeling the importance of prayer they constantly looked to God for guidance and longed for a day spent entirely in prayer and preaching. In 1806 Lorenzo Dow, an eccentric but mighty evangelist, from America, told of the amazing results in the great American Camp Meetings. So enthused were Bourne and Clowes that they arranged for "a whole day's meeting" on Mow Cop, a rough rugged mountain situated on the border between Staffordshire and Cheshire. The meeting was held May 31, 1807, beginning at 6 o'clock in the morning and continuing until 8:00 p.m. From four preaching stands the Gospel was proclaimed with unction and converting power to eagerly listening thousands, many of whom experienced the Joys of Salvation. Yet, even though Methodism had been founded by that great open-air preacher, John Wesley, the converts made that day were refused admittance into the Wesleyan Church. Also, the two men most responsible, Hugh Bourne and William Clowes, were reprimanded for having part in the meetings. When they continued to pursue their actions of holding open-air meetings they were dismissed from the church. Their answer to their objectors was, "It is better to obey God than man." Both Hugh Bourne and William Clowes waited patiently for two years for reinstatement in the Wesleyan Church. During this time they sought in vain a place in that fold for the sheep they had gathered from the wilds of sin. They were finally driven by necessity to the founding of a place for themselves and their new converts in the year 1810. The words of Bourne provide the evidence that this was not a schism for "we did not take one from them...but from providential circumstances...it now appeared to be the will of God that we, as a Camp Meeting Community, should form classes and take upon us the care of churches in the fear of God."

The growth was such that in February, 1812 in Tunstall the people took on the name of The Society of the Primitive Methodists. This name was accepted when John Crawford, who had been present in April, 1790 when John Wesley preached in the city of Chester, told how in the course of Wesley's remarks to the preachers present he reminded them of the need for preaching the Gospel. Then, lifting up his slender hands, while the tears flowed freely down his venerable face, he exclaimed, "and yet there is room! and yet there is room!" And then added, "and this was the way the primitive methodists did!" Hence, the resolution was carried that both the name and the conduct it represented, should be adopted; that like the primitive Methodists, the members of the community should continue to labor, and Primitive Methodists they would be called.

Due to a number of Primitive Methodist people migrating to America, it was felt that the work should be strengthened here. In 1829, the first missionaries arrived in Brooklyn, New York. They suffered many hardships and the societies they founded in New York City struggled against many difficulties and had but feeble growth. Elsewhere, in various parts of Pennsylvania the societies attained considerable strength. Up to 1840 the societies in the United States constituted a "Mission under the control and partial support of the British Conference." It was found however, that the conditions in the new world could not lend themselves to the customs and methods of the old, and as the British Conference insisted upon maintaining its old world methods and rules in America or withdraw its support, the Conference which met in New York, September 16, 1840—"Resolved, that we consider ourselves from this time, distinct from, and, unconnected with the English Conference."

In 1842 nine persons who had settled in the States of Illinois and Wisconsin, finding others who had formerly been identified with the Primitive Methodist Connexion, formed themselves into a Primitive Methodist Society. Their work was greatly blessed of God and spread to other parts. Societies multiplied and in 1844 these scattered Churches were formed into what has since been known as "the Western Conference."

Distance and some unfortunate problems led in 1872, the churches in Pennsylvania and New York which up to this time had been recognized as a District of the Western Conference to be formed into a distinct organization and named the Eastern Conference, with the first session being held in Plymouth, Pennsylvania, May, 1873.

Realizing the great need of a closer bond of unity between the Eastern and Western Conferences, representative visits were exchanged when the respective Conferences were in session. These visits resulted in the formation of a General Conference in September, 1889 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, composed of appointed delegates from each of the Conferences. The purpose was to formulate such laws as in its wisdom were necessary for the regulation of the churches and the more rapid and permanent advancement of the cause of God represented by Primitive Methodism in the United States. At this Conference a Discipline was adopted and the two sections of the Church became one organization.

In 1891 the Eastern Conference was divided and the new Conference was named the Pennsylvania Conference.

Organized Foreign Mission endeavor began in 1897 with the General Conference authorizing monies to be received and sent to the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society in England for a work in Africa. Mission vision continued to grow until in 1921 the Conference in session at Hazleton, Pennsylvania voted to begin a missionary ministry in Guatemala, Central America. In January, 1922 the first Primitive Methodist Church service was held in Guatemala. The work continued to expand until in June, 1983 the Primitive Methodist Church of Guatemala was established. The same general form of government, followed by the parent body in the United States, is used. This Conference has continued to grow throughout Guatemala. Included in its ministry is a hospital, school, clinics, youth camp and an intensive evangelistic outreach for the cause of Christ in Guatemala.

The need for the strengthening of the denominational work resulted in the union of the Western and Pennsylvania Conferences in 1927 and the Eastern Conference in 1948.

Recently churches have been started in new areas of the United States including the states of New Jersey and Florida under the direction of the National Mission Board.

The outreach for religious training in the denomination includes a Conference Center known as The Pocono Mountain Bible Conference and religious bookstores located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and Platteville, Wisconsin. The School of Theology, offering instruction by correspondence, provides theological training for both student ministers and those preparing for the ministry.

With a desire to combine all the resources of the denomination for a greater endeavor for the cause of Christ, the Annual and General Conferences were united in May, 1975. This action placed all the legislative as well as administrative power in the hands of one Conference rather than dividing it between the two bodies as was previously done. The name chosen was The Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America. The leadership of the Denomination is to be found in the office of a President.

Article of Incorporation of Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America (Pennsylvania)

- "1. The name of the Corporation is Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.
2. The location and post office address of the Corporation in this Commonwealth is 115 North Mill Street, St. Clair, Pennsylvania 17970.
3. The Corporation is incorporated under the Non-profit Corporation for purposes exclusively religious, charitable, literary and educational, no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and which does not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and in furtherance thereto the Corporation shall, inter alia; support and promote public worship and benevolences according to the faith and usages of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America as set forth in the Discipline of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.
The Corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise.
4. The term for which the Corporation is to exist is perpetual.
5. The Corporation is organized upon a non stock basis.
6. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any of the Corporation's members, directors, officers, or other private individuals, except that the Corporation shall be expressly authorized and empowered to pay reasonable

compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 3. The private property of the members shall not be subject to the payment of corporate debts to any extent whatever.

7. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of, shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas having jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."

Articles of Incorporation (Rhode Island)

"1. The name of the Corporation is Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.

2. The location of the Corporation in this State is Providence, Rhode Island.

3. The Corporation is incorporated under the Non-Business Corporation Law of the State of Rhode Island for the following purposes:

The Corporation shall be organized and operated as a

non-business corporation for purposes exclusively religious, charitable, literary and educational, no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and which does not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and in furtherance thereto the Corporation shall, inter alia; support and promote public worship and benevolences according to the faith and usages of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America as set forth in the Discipline of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.

The Corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise.

4. The term for which the Corporation is to exist is perpetual.

5. The Corporation is organized upon a non stock basis.

6. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any of the Corporation's members, directors, officers, or other private individuals, except that the Corporation shall be expressly authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 3. The private property of the members shall not be subject to the payment of corporate debts to any extent whatever.

7. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time

qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of, shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas having jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."

CHAPTER ONE OF THE DISCIPLINE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND DOCTRINES

NOTE: This book of Discipline shall, for all intents and purposes, be considered the by-laws of the Corporation. Any business section of this Discipline which is contrary to state or Federal law shall be superseded by state or Federal law.

100 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

101 The Primitive Methodist Church is a community of Evangelical Christians, united for mutual help in the perfecting of Christian character; for promoting vital Christianity in the earth; and aiding in extending the kingdom of Christ throughout the world.

102 We acknowledge the right of Christian people to associate themselves in denominations, and formulate such polity for their government as they deem agreeable to the Word of God.

103 We recognize in our church one order of ministry — Elder. We recognize equal representation of ministry and laity to the Conference.

104 All persons shall have the right of private interpretation in spiritual matters, and shall have equal right to express interpretations which do not violate the Word of God or the rights of others.

105 No minister or member will teach doctrines which are contrary to the stated doctrines of the Primitive Methodist Church.

110 DOCTRINES

111 We believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God (1). We believe it to be Divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit (2). We further believe that its declarations are final (3). And that it is the only true rule of faith and practice (4).

- (1) I Peter 1:23; Luke 24:27,44; Deut. 8:3; I Peter 1:25.
- (2) II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21.
- (3) Matthew 24:34; I Peter 1:25; Psalm 119:89.
- (4) Acts 17:10-12; Isaiah 34:16; Romans 10:17; I Thess. 2:13.

112 BIBLICAL INERRANCY

We believe that the scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are, in their original autographs, wholly and verbally given by God and are therefore free from error or fault. Furthermore, the Bible is without error in all of its teachings. This is true no less when it speaks about creation, science, geography or world history, than when it reveals the condition of man and God's plan of salvation. While the Bible is not specifically a textbook on science, history, mathematics or geography, we are convinced that whatever statements it makes within the scope of any of these subjects is without error.

This doctrine of inerrancy is verified by:

1. The character of God - Psalm 119:160; Hebrews 6:17,18.
2. The testimony of Jesus Christ - John 17:17. 101.2
3. The witness of the Apostles.
 - Paul (II Timothy 3:16)
 - Peter (II Peter 1:21)
4. The convictions of the Church Fathers - from Irenaeus to Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, etc.
5. The results of modern scholarship
 - archaeological findings and the research done on discoveries like the Dead Sea Scrolls only confirm the position of inerrancy always held by the evangelical church.

We believe the Bible teaches the following doctrines:

113 THE TRIUNE GOD:

We believe that God exists in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three Persons, one God (1). We believe He is self-existent, infinite, personal, unchangeable and eternal in His being (2). He is perfect in holiness, love, justice, goodness, wisdom and truth (3). He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent (4). He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, visible and invisible (5).

1. Matthew 28:18-20; II Cor. 13:14; Deut. 6:4; John 10:30.
2. Exodus 3:11-18; Psalm 90:1-2; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:12; Psalm 22:3.
3. Exodus 34:6; Deut. 32:4; Isa. 6:3; Isa. 57:15; Psalm 103:8; I Timothy 1:17; II Peter 3:9; I John 4:8-16.
4. Job 42:2; Matthew 19:26; Mark 10:27; Jer. 23:23-24; Jer. 17:19; Matthew 18:20; Matthew 28:18-20.
5. Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:3; II Peter 3:5-7.

114 THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST:

We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ (1); in His eternity (2); in His incarnation by the virgin birth (3); thus uniting perfect man and perfect God in one body (4). We believe also in His sinless life (5); in His vicarious death (6); and bodily resurrection from the dead (7); in His ascension to the right hand of the Father (8). We further believe in His present ministry of advocacy (9); and His coming again in power and glory (10).

1. John 1:1; John 1:18; Isa. 9:6; John 5:18; John 8:58; John 6:51-52; John 17:5.
2. Micah 5:2; John 1:18; John 3:16.
3. Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; I Timothy 3:16; Isa. 7:14.
4. Acts 2:22; Heb. 2:14-18; I Cor. 8:6; I John 5:7; John 10:30.
5. I Peter 3:18; II Cor. 5:21; Isaiah 53:6.
6. I Peter 2:24; Rom. 5:8; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 5:6; II Cor. 5:15; I Timothy 2:6; Heb. 2:9.
7. I Cor. 15:20; Luke 24:1-7; Matt. 28:1-10; Rom. 1:4; Phil. 3:10; Rom. 8:11.

8. Heb. 1:3; Acts 1:9-10; Luke 24:51; Acts 7:56.
9. John 17; I John 2:1-2; Heb. 4:15.
10. I Thess. 4:13-18; John 14:1-6; I Cor. 15:51-58; Titus 2:13; II Peter 1:16; Acts 1:11.

115 THE DEITY AND PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe the Holy Spirit to be the third Person of the blessed Trinity. He is eternally God (1). His office work is to reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (2). We believe the Holy Spirit to be a Person (3), Who regenerates (4), sanctifies (5), empowers (6), teaches (7), guides (8), and comforts (9). He is at work in the world as a witness to Christ (10), as the builder of the Church (11), and as the indweller of the brethren (12).

1. Matt. 28:18-20; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:26; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 12:8-11; Matt. 10:20; Romans 8:9; I Cor. 2:13.
2. John 16:7-11; John 15:26; Heb. 9:14.
3. Acts 13:2; John 16:13-14.
4. John 3:5; Titus 3:5.
5. I Thess. 5:23; Acts 13:2.
6. Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49.
7. John 14:26; John 15:26.
8. John 16:13; I John 2:20,24
9. John 14:16; John 14:26; John 15:26.
10. John 16:13; Acts 1:8; Matt. 3:16-17; Luke 3:22.
11. Acts 2; Matthew 16:13-18; Eph. 2:19-22.
12. Galatians 2:20; I Cor. 6:19-20.

116 MAN:

We believe that man was created by the direct act of God, in His image, possessing personality (1) and the right of choice. In his original state man enjoyed fellowship with God (2). We further believe that man chose not to remain in the happy state in which God created him; being tempted by Satan, he became disobedient

(3), and incurred upon himself and his posterity the sentence that sin deserved (4). We further believe that man in his natural state cannot please God (5).

1. Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7.
2. Genesis 3:9.
3. Genesis 3:1-6.
4. I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 6:23; Genesis 3:14-19; Ezekiel 18:4.
5. John 3:6; John 3:36; I John 5:12; Rom. 3:20; Rom. 8:7-8.

117 REDEMPTION:

We believe that God has provided redemption for all men through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross (1). We further believe that since man cannot save himself, God has provided the perfect offering for sin in Christ (2).

1. John 1:29,35-36; John 10:11,15; Heb. 9:28; Romans 5:8.
2. I Peter 3:18; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; I Peter 1:23; Luke 19:8-10.

We believe that man is justified in the sight of God by faith, and that true, genuine faith produces regeneration, also called the new birth (1).

We further believe that Godly sorrow for sin (repentance) will produce reformation of character (2).

1. Romans 3:24; Romans 5:1; John 3:3.
2. Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30; Matthew 3:8.

118 SANCTIFICATION:

We believe that sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart (1), setting apart or consecrating for a task (2), producing holiness in the life (3).

1. I Thess. 3:13; I Thess. 5:23; I Peter 1:2; II Thess. 2:13.
2. Acts 15:8-9; I Thess. 5:23-24.
3. John 17:17,19; Eph. 5:26; Acts 15:8-9; II Cor. 7:1.

119 THE SECOND COMING:

We believe that Jesus Christ will come again to the earth to reign

(1). We believe that it will be pre-millennial, visible and redemptive (2). This is the great source of motivation for purification (3), and inspiration for Christian service (4).

1. Matthew 24:44; II Timothy 4:1; Acts 1:11.
2. Romans 8:18-23; I Timothy 6:14-16.
3. I John 3:1-3.
4. Romans 13:11-14.

120 THE JUDGMENTS:

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of both the just and the unjust (1); the just first (2) to the seat of Christ for reward of works (3), and entrance into heaven, and the unbeliever to the Great White Throne for judgment of sin (4) and banishment from the presence of God forever (hell).

1. John 5:28-29; II Timothy 4:1.
2. Revelation 20:5-6.
3. I Cor. 3:10-15; II John 8; Rev. 3:11; James 1:12; Rev. 2:10.
4. Revelation 20:11-15.

121 THE CHURCH:

We believe the Church to be instituted of God (1). It is the body of which Christ is the head (2). It is composed of believers by faith in Christ as Savior (3), irrespective of race or color (4).

The Primitive Methodist Church is a congregation of believers joined together for mutual fellowship (5), and the worship of God (6).

1. Matthew 16:13-18; Eph. 2:18-22; I Cor. 3:11.
2. Col. 1:18; I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph 2:19-22.
3. II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:6-8; John 3:3-5.

4. Gal. 6:14-15; Acts 10:34; Acts 15:6-11; Romans 10:13.

5. Acts 2:41-47; I John 1:7.

6. John 4:24; Phil. 3:3; I Peter 2:9.

CHAPTER TWO OF THE DISCIPLINE

200 MEANS OF GRACE

While the Holy Spirit can and does operate directly upon the soul of the sinner, He does largely bind Himself to certain means in the communication of His grace. In the strictest sense there are but two means of grace: The preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments. These two may never dissociate from Christ, the operation of the Holy Spirit or the ministry of the Church. (Acts 2:41-47)

201 THE WORD

The Bible is the primary means employed by the Holy Spirit in the conversion of sinners, the extension of the church and the edification and growth of the saints. It is as the word of God is preached and taught in our churches, our homes and communities, etc. that is employed by the Holy Spirit as a means of grace. (Hebrews 4:12, Romans 1:16, Ephesians 6:17)

A. The Church

The church is not to be considered a means of grace alongside the Word and the Sacrament, since she does not communicate grace except through these. Her power and effectiveness is found in her faithfulness to the preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments. (Matthew 28:19)

B. The Lord's Day

The Primitive Methodist Church strongly advocates the observance of the Lord's Day as a day of rest and worship.

C. Prayer Meeting and Bible Studies

The members of our churches are urged to participate in Prayer Meetings and Bible Study classes to promote spiritual growth.

D. Praying in Jesus' Name

Inasmuch as Jesus Christ said, "Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive and your joy will

be made complete", we as the Primitive Methodist Church in the USA believe that we should pray in Jesus' Name.

202 THE SACRAMENTS

Primitive Methodists hold to two sacraments; namely, Baptism and Holy Communion. These sacraments are signs and symbols of God's grace and good will towards us.

We believe that the two sacraments are pledges and pictures of God's grace and of the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. They are ceremonies which have been instituted and ordained by God. It is therefore incumbent upon every child of God to keep them.

While the Word can and does exist and function apart from the sacraments, the sacraments have no function apart from the Word of God. In other words, the Word of God must accompany the sacrament.

A. Baptism

Definition: Baptism is an outward sacred rite signifying an inward purity accomplished by Christ's atonement, administered by the use of water to professing believers or to their children in obedience to the Holy Scriptures in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

1. Use of Water - Acts 8:38
2. Preaching of the Word - Acts 2:38
3. Command of God - Matthew 28:19-20
4. Infant Baptism: Children of believing parents, parent, or guardian are suitable candidates for baptism. As infant baptism includes an act of dedication whereby believers by sacred oath consign the child to God, it contemplates (1) a course of religious training, (2) that those presenting children for baptism are to bring them up in fear and love of God, and (3) that they are to be solemnly admonished to a faithful performance of these things.
5. Believer's Baptism: Persons who have not previously been baptized, upon repentance of sin and confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, are suitable candidates for baptism.

6. Re-Baptism: We discourage and do not require or demand the re-baptism of those baptized in infancy who belong to our church or desire to join, but if an individual would request the rite of baptism, we leave this to the freedom of the conscience of the individual, and our Pastors are free to perform the rite of baptism in such cases.

7. Mode: The ordinance of baptism may be administered either by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling, to those who request it, either for themselves or their children.

8. We reject as unscriptural the doctrine that baptism produces regeneration (salvation).

9. Infant Dedication Without Water: Although a Primitive Methodist pastor is required to baptize an infant of a believer, if a parent or guardian requests a dedication without water, a pastor is permitted to participate, provided the local Quarterly Conference agrees with the practice.

B. The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)

Definition: The Lord's Supper is the memorial of our redemption through the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ, for through this supper we show forth the Lord's death till He comes. It is also the symbol of the soul of the believer feeding on Christ. It is the sign of the communion we have with one another as members of the body of Christ. (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:20-30)

1. While we do not limit the partaking of the bread and cup to those who are members of our local churches, we do warn that such participation is an act of faith and therefore limited to those who are by saving faith united to Jesus Christ. (Those who discern the body and blood of Christ. I Corinthians 11:29)

2. We reject the doctrine of transubstantiation: that is, that the substance of bread and wine are changed into the very body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper. We likewise reject that doctrine which affirms the physical presence of Christ's body and blood to be by, with and under the elements of bread and wine (consubstantiation).

3. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at such times as set by the Quarterly Conference. It is the requirement of the Primitive Methodist Church to use only unfermented wine. Both the cup and the bread are to be offered and neither denied to any of Christ's people.

CHAPTER THREE OF THE DISCIPLINE

300 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

301 STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

A. The Conference shall make rules or regulations for the Primitive Methodist Church under the following limitations and restrictions:

B. The Conference shall not revoke, or alter, the doctrines contrary to those presently existing, except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Conference.

C. The Conference shall not alter any rule of government which would change either the law of equal Pastoral and lay representation, or the system of itinerancy.

D. The Conference shall not have the power to deprive its Pastors or members of the right of trial, or the right of appeal as prescribed by the Discipline.

E. Any change in the aforesaid restrictions must be made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Conference.

302 COMPOSITION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference shall be composed of the Pastors (Elders, Student Pastors and Conference Pastoral Supplies), and one lay delegate from each church. Every church is permitted to send a delegate to Conference, however, a circuit may elect one delegate to represent the circuit. No person shall be elected a delegate or alternate who has not been a member of that local Primitive Methodist church for at least two years, unless the church is less than two years old.

All active Pastors shall be required to attend the Conference sessions unless excused by the President and any member of the Conference leaving without permission of the President shall forfeit his traveling expenses. Missionaries, retired Pastors, and those persons serving as special appointments of the Conference

shall have all the rights of the Conference sessions. Only Pastors and delegates have a voice and a vote, but any member of the Primitive Methodist Church has a voice in Conference sessions.

A church that has not met its Conference obligations must have Conference approval to be seated.

The delegates elected for the Annual Conference sessions of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America shall also be the delegates for the General Conference sessions of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.

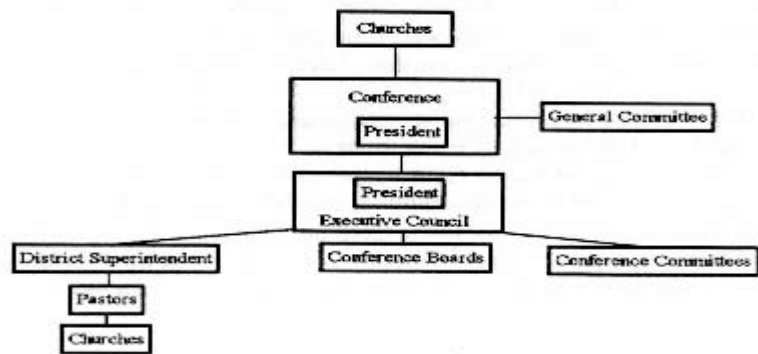
303 OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

The executive officers of the Conference shall be: the President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Recording Secretary and the Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by ballot. In addition to executive officers, an assistant Recording Secretary shall be elected.

No Student Pastor shall be eligible to hold any of the above offices.

Tenure of Office: The terms of the Conference President and the Vice-President shall be four years with a two-term consecutive limit. The terms of the General Secretary, the Recording Secretaries and the Treasurer shall be four years with no limit.

Executive Council: The Executive Officers shall compose the Executive Council of Conference. This Council shall carry out the directives and policies of Conference. They shall oversee and be responsible for the administration and well being of the Conference. Their relationship to Conference shall be as per the diagram.



District Superintendents: The District Superintendents are Conference officers, and shall represent the conference within their respective district as per the diagram.

Conference boards and committees shall be accountable to the Executive Council for the purpose of coordinating the total program of Conference.

A. THE PRESIDENT

Qualifications: The nominee must have a minimum of 15 years as an ordained Pastor in our Conference before being eligible. The nominees are to be considered on the basis of ability, not seniority. The nominee must receive the majority of all votes cast.

Election: The President shall be elected by the Conference for a four-year term. The election shall be held at the Conference one year before the scheduled term of office shall begin.

Vacancy in the office of President: In the event of the vacancy of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties and powers of the leadership of the denomination, but not assume the office of President. In such an event, the Vice-President shall become the Acting President until the next Conference sessions. All pastors and churches will be notified by the General Secretary through the District Superintendents.

The Acting President may assume the office of President at the next Conference or call for the election of a new President if he chooses not to give up pastoring his church. If an election is held,

the Vice-President (Acting President) shall continue as Acting President until the elected President assumes the office of President.

Duties: The President shall preside over all sessions of the Conference and all meetings of the General Committee. He shall have charge of the ordination service and shall arrange a service of consecration for deaconesses. He shall be an ex officio member of all Conference boards and committees.

The President shall have oversight of all denominational interests, with authority to visit the churches, and to call to the attention of proper Conference officials any violation of Discipline or Conference directives, and/or to give rulings or interpretations of the same. He shall have the privilege of visiting the Churches to promote the Conference programs and secure information from Churches and Pastors for promotional use.

The President shall represent the Conference at meetings with other organizations and in other areas which may lead to the promotion of the Denomination. He shall represent us to other denominations and to the public in general. He shall publicize, promote and implement Conference and Board approved policies, decisions and programs. He shall explore and promote new endeavors in conjunction with all boards.

Along with the General Secretary, he is authorized to sign all official documents, including the purchasing and selling of properties.

The President shall assist the District Superintendents and all Conference officers in Church, District and Conference affairs.

The President shall be amenable to the Conference and its laws in relation to the character and conduct of this office.

The President of the Conference may suspend from office, after due consultation with duly authorized officials of the Conference, any individual against whom serious charges are made, following the guidelines of Chapter 9.

Administration: The expenses of his office shall be paid by the Conference.

B. THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The qualifications for office are the same as those of the Presidency.

Duties: The Vice-President shall render any service to, and carry out any duties assigned by the President. In the event of the vacancy of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of that office. In such an event, the Vice-President shall become the Acting President until the next Conference sessions.

C. THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary must be (1) a Pastor ordained as a Primitive Methodist Pastor at least 5 years, or (2) a layperson who has been an active adult Member of the Primitive Methodist Church for at least 10 years.

Duties: The General Secretary shall keep a record of the Pastors and churches, and all Conference proceedings.

He shall sign, with the President, all authorized letters and documents. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Conference except as otherwise provided (e.g., the corresponding secretary).

Prior to each Conference he shall prepare an agenda for the Conference sessions, a copy of which shall be given to each of the executive officers. He shall call the roll at the beginning of the Conference sessions. He shall serve as the chairman of the Stationing Committee, and shall present to the Committee a list of stations open and Pastors seeking appointments. In the event of an emergency due to the vacancy of the offices of the President and the Vice-President of the Conference, the Secretary shall call a session of the General Committee to fill the vacancy.

D. THE TREASURER

The Conference Treasurer shall be a current, active member of a Primitive Methodist Church for at least 10 years and possess accounting skills.

Duties: The Conference Treasurer shall be responsible for the receiving and recording of all designated funds, and shall disburse them upon receipt of proper notification. He shall be

required to make an annual report to the Conference, and shall prepare his books for an annual audit.

E. THE RECORDING SECRETARY

The Recording Secretary must be (1) a Pastor ordained as a Primitive Methodist Pastor at least 5 years, or (2) a layperson who has been an active adult Member of the Primitive Methodist Church for at least 10 years.

Duties: The Recording Secretary shall record all the proceedings of Conference.

Conference shall elect an Assistant Recording Secretary who will be amenable to the Recording Secretary and shall have computer/typing skills.

F. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

See [Chapter 5, item 501](#).

304 ORDER OF BUSINESS: CONFERENCE SESSIONS

- A. Election of Officers
- B. Appointment of a Stationing Committee, General Committee, and all other appointments.
- C. Adoption of the Conference program.
- D. Receive and act upon all District, board and committee reports.
- E. Grant permission to local churches to mortgage or sell church property.
- F. Set a time for the Executive Session.
- G. Set a time for the Preachers' Pension Fund meeting.
- H. Arrange an ordination service.
- I. Elect or appoint treasurers to receive moneys for all Conference designated funds.
- J. Arrange for a memorial service one every four years for deceased Pastors and wives.
- K. All other business.
- L. Set the dates of the Conference Year, the fiscal year, and set the time and place for the next Conference sessions.

305 DEFINITIONS

A. Stationing Committee

The Stationing Committee shall be composed of the General Secretary (chairman), the District Superintendents, one layperson from each District and one layperson-at-large. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of National Missions and the President of the School of Theology shall be advisory members. No Pastor seeking a charge, and no lay delegate whose church is seeking a Pastor shall be eligible for membership on this committee.

The purpose of the Stationing Committee is to appoint ordained Elders, Student Pastors and Conference Pastoral Supplies. The Committee shall submit its report, which on being read, shall be referred back to the Committee without comment. If any objections exist they may be made to the Committee, and not to the Conference. When each appointment has been made, the report shall be presented to the Conference. The final reading of the report shall be incontestable and binding. When deemed necessary, the Committee may recommend to the Conference the uniting of two or more churches to form a circuit.

B. The General Committee

The General Committee shall be considered the Board of Directors of both the Pennsylvania and Rhode Island corporations.

The Committee shall be authorized to transact the business of the Conference between its annual sessions.

The membership shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, the District Superintendents, and an equal number of laypersons and /or Pastors.

The Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, grant permission to local Trustee Boards, in conjunction with the Conference Trustee Board when necessary, to buy, sell or mortgage property. Any church doing substantial structural change to any property must notify the District Superintendent and the Conference Trustee Board.

C. Sale or mortgage of church property

Permission shall be granted by the Conference of General Committee for the sale or mortgage of church property. Then the President and General Secretary will be authorized to sign the final papers and the Conference seal shall be affixed.

D. The Executive Session

All Pastors are to be present at this session unless officially excused by the President. (Pastoral candidates are not to attend the Executive Sessions).

Purpose: The Executive Sessions is to handle matters of Pastoral character and conduct. It is to be the "Church" according to, and only after the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ has been followed to the letter, Matthew 18:15-17. Unresolved issues shall be presented to the President in writing prior to the Executive Session. Matters of deep conviction about doctrine, policy, trends, attitudes, etc., will be referred to the Executive Session for consideration. The Executive Session is to address any matters of Pastoral misconduct directed to it from the Conference that Conference might deem appropriate for consideration.

Policy: The decisions of the Executive Session are the final word and are binding upon all members. Whenever the Executive Session seeks the endorsement of the Conference, such matters or issues will be voted upon without debate by the Conference.

E. The Ordination Service

The President of the Conference and the faculty of the School of Theology shall arrange this service. The ordinand(s) shall be furnished with a properly signed and sealed certificate of ordination. The ordinand(s) shall have the privilege of selecting the Primitive Methodist Pastor who shall deliver the ordination sermon.

306 THE FINANCING OF THE CONFERENCE

All moneys necessary for the conduct of the Conference shall be apportioned to the churches. Such apportionments shall be

obligatory. The amount of the assessments and its division to the various funds shall be determined by the Conference.

307 LEGISLATION

Legislation sanctioned by the Quarterly Conference or the Board of Elders of the local church shall be presented to the District Conference, which in turn shall pass it on, with or without approval, to the Conference. Legislation may also originate from the floor of either the District Conference of the Conference.

All legislation, in reference to chapter 1 (General Principles and Doctrines) and Chapter 2 (Means of Grace) must be presented to the Conference one year prior to voting and referred to the Legislation Committee for study, recommendation and presentation following Conference (See 301B)

All legislation, in reference to chapters three through nine, including appendix, must be presented to Conference and referred to the Legislation Committee for study, recommendation and presentation to the current Conference.

All items of legislation once passed, are not to be altered nor rescinded for a period of two years.

The committee of five shall be elected to serve continually with the incumbent President. The Committee shall receive items of legislation from the Conference, and shall meet at the current Conference Session and/or at a designated time during the year to review items and prepare recommendations.

Duties: To determine if the item of legislation is in conflict with established policy and practice. To edit legislation presented to the committee, making it suitable for final presentation. The committee may not alter the content or intent of the legislation presented to it.

308 CONFERENCE BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENTS

If at all feasible, all boards shall have equal representation of lay and clergy members. The following qualifications shall be considered for members of boards: spirituality, availability, desirability, and suitability.

All Conference Boards shall be elected on a bi-annual basis with one-third of boards retiring every two years; a single term to run for six years. (Exceptions will be noted.) Officers of recognized funds and committees shall be elected for six-year terms. (Exceptions will be noted.)

No person shall serve on more than two boards at the same time, or hold more than one executive office at the same time. (Exceptions: ex-officio positions and where noted otherwise.) When a vacancy exists on any Board, that Board may fill the vacancy on a temporary basis until the next Conference.

A. School of Theology and Examining Board: (See [Appendix 1](#))

The Board shall consist of no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) members. The officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Registrar, Librarian and Treasurer of the Student Loan Fund and Summer School of Theology.

The purpose of the Board is to examine all candidates for our Pastoral ministry, and to guide them in their pursuit of Elders orders. The Board examines for the purpose of making recommendations to Conference and to aid the candidates. The Board shall manage the Conference level educational institutions.

The faculty of the School of Theology shall be the Conference Examining Committee. The Examining Committee shall meet with all candidates for the Pastoral ministry, the mission field and the office of Deaconess. The Committee shall confer annually with Student Pastors, Conference Pastoral Supplies, and those seeking ordination as Elders. The Committee shall examine the

above in relation to doctrine, the general progress of his ministry, general health, and any other areas deemed necessary.

B. Preachers' Pension Fund and Insurance Board (See [Appendix 2](#))

The Board shall consist of nine (9) members. Officers shall be elected by the Board.

The purpose of the Board is to act as the Board of Trustees of the Preachers' Pension Fund that provides pensions and insurance for its members.

C. Primitive Methodist Investment Foundation (See [Appendix 3](#))

The Foundation shall consist of at least seven (7) members elected to serve three (3) years.

The purpose of the Foundation is to promote and support the religious, missionary and charitable activities of the Primitive Methodist Church in the USA by establishing an investment fund to make moneys available for such religious, missionary and charitable purposes, to furnish aid and assistance by gift, donation, loan or otherwise, as the directors may deem advisable.

Because of the unique functions of the Investment Foundation, and since the responsibility of handling the investments of many people requires the members of this Board to have special knowledge in the fields of finance and banking, the members of this Board will be considered as exceptions to article 308, paragraph 2, and not be limited in the numbers of terms to which they may serve on this Board.

D. Conference Trustee Board (See [Appendix 4](#))

The Board shall consist of at least seven (7) members elected by Conference for six (6) years.

The purpose of the Board is to administer and manage the business, property and affairs of Conference entrusted to it.

E. Pocono Mountain Bible Conference (See [Appendix 5](#))

The Board shall consist of no less than five (5) and no more than nine (9) members elected by Conference.

The purpose of the Board is to administer a program of camping, retreats and other programs, and to be a resource of activities and facilities for the Conference and its churches within the framework of a Christian environment.

F. International Mission Board (See [Appendix 6](#))

The Board shall consist of no less than twelve (12) members elected by Conference; one (1) lay person and one (1) Pastor for each District if possible. The Board shall elect its own officers.

The purpose of the Board is to aid in the implementation of the Great Commission in whatever ways possible; to oversee the deputation and sending of missionaries under various agencies (including our own); to provide mission goals and vision for our conference; to encourage our missionaries in their calling.

G. National Mission Board (See [Appendix 7](#))

The Board shall consist of at least ten (10) and no more than fifteen (15) members elected by Conference. Conference shall elect a Director and a Treasurer. Board shall elect all other officers.

The purpose of the Board is to produce a missionary outreach within the USA including the establishment of new congregations, appointment of personnel, surveying new areas, and other ministries among our churches.

H. Commission of Archives (See [Appendix 8](#))

The Commission shall consist of at least five (5) members, one (1) from each District, elected for a four (4) year term. A chairman and secretary-treasurer shall be elected from within the members.

The purpose of the Commission is to gather and preserve the historic records and archives of the Primitive Methodist Church.

I. Budget Committee

A committee of three, including the Conference Treasurer, shall be appointed annually by the Conference President. The committee shall prepare a budget for approval by the Annual Conference.

J. Complaints and Appeals

A committee of three shall be elected to receive and act upon all complaints and appeals.

K. Legislation Committee

A committee of five shall be elected to serve concurrently with the incumbent President. The Committee shall receive items of legislation from the Conference, and shall meet at the **current Conference Session and/or at** a designated time during the year to review items and prepare recommendations.

Duties: To determine if the item of legislation is in conflict with established policy and practice. To edit legislation presented to the committee, making it suitable for final presentation. The committee may not alter the content or intent of the legislation presented to it.

L. Timekeeper

A timekeeper shall be appointed to call for prayer as deemed necessary.

M. Tellers

Shall be appointed to distribute, collect and count ballots, to distribute materials as needed and to collect Conference offerings.

N. Special Appointments

Representatives may be made to any organization Conference deems necessary.

O. Corresponding Secretary

A corresponding secretary shall be elected to write correspondence as directed by the Conference.

P. Hispanic Coordinator

He shall be an Ordained Elder, He shall be an active member of a Primitive Methodist Church, He shall be appointed by the President, He shall have official oversight of all the Hispanic Churches in the Conference. The Conference Hispanic Coordinator shall be an advisor for new church missions. He shall report to the Executive Council.

Q. Panel for Churches Under 20

When a local congregation falls below 20, the conference shall place the church under the care of a panel made up of representatives from the local church, the National Mission Board, the Conference Trustee Board, the District Superintendent and the Executive Council. This panel will work together to decide the best course for the future of the church, which may include restarting, circuiting, merger, or to be left alone. This panel will review annually the condition and prospects of the church until deemed unnecessary.

CHAPTER FOUR OF THE DISCIPLINE

(The Pastoral Ministry)

400 THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

401 PASTORAL CANDIDATES

Candidates for our Pastoral ministry who are members of a Primitive Methodist Church must have the recommendation of his Quarterly Conference and the District Conference. His name shall be submitted to the Conference and then referred to the Examining Committee of the School of Theology.

Candidates who are not members of a Primitive Methodist Church shall be examined, prior to the Annual Conference sessions, by a committee made up of members of the School of Theology. His name shall be submitted to the Conference and then referred to the Examining Committee of the School of Theology.

All Candidates shall be required to study the curriculum as prescribed by the School of Theology. Every candidate shall be required to abstain from the use of tobacco and all alcoholic beverages and from using drugs for other than proper medical purposes.

402 STUDENT PASTORS

A three-fourths vote of the Conference shall be required to admit a candidate to the Student Ministry. A student Pastor shall be amenable to the Examining Committee and shall meet as required with the Committee. He shall be required to attend the Summer School of Theology and fulfill all requirements as directed by the School of Theology. The length of his Student Ministry shall be determined by the School of Theology.

Upon completion of his Student Ministry, he may apply for ordination as an Elder. Conference will not recognize as valid the ordination of any student for our ministry by any other denomination or group during the term of his Student Ministry.

403 ELDERS

An Elder shall have met all the requirements of the School of Theology and the Conference, and shall have received the rite of ordination. He shall have the full rights and privileges of the Conference and shall be entitled to participate in the system of itinerancy.

404 CONFERENCE PASTORAL SUPPLIES

Licensed Pastor

The licensed pastor is a man who is licensed by Conference to execute the pastoral ministry in a specific local church assigned by the stationing committee. His primary office is to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Christian Scriptures. He is authorized to preside over Quarterly Conference or the Board of Elders, perform marriage in accordance with local and state laws, baptize and present communion.

To apply for this position applicants must:

Provide evidence of High School graduation.

Complete the Application prepared by the School of Theology which shall include appropriate background screening.

1. Be examined by the local church and District (or School of Theology) wishing to present the man for licensing. Examination shall include a statement of call to preach the gospel and a basic understanding of the Bible in content, teachings, and rational life application.

2. Have a positive two thirds vote of the District, and be included in the District's business for Conference.

3. At Conference he will be examined by the School of Theology which will present their recommendation to the Conference body.

4. Conference must vote in a two thirds majority to accept a man into the preparatory course for licensing.

5. No man will be licensed without a minimum of two years probation in the Student Minister program.

The program will include the Elders course of study with thesis, attendance at Summer School of Theology, and a two thirds majority vote of the School faculty and also a two thirds vote by the Conference body upon completion of the course.

Upon completion and two thirds vote he shall be licensed with a document including the signature of the General Secretary and the President of Conference.

Conference must renew the license at each at each National Conference upon recommendation by his Church, District and School of Theology or it will become invalid.

405 PASTORAL TRANSFERS

A properly credentialed Pastor transferring from another denomination shall be received in the same standing he held in said denomination, upon presentation of his credentials, recommendation of the Examining Committee and a three-fourth (3/4's) vote of the Conference. He will serve a two year probationary period before being received as an Elder and received into the itinerant system. Previous ordination of Pastoral Transfers shall be publicly recognized without the laying on of hands. A proper certificate of standing shall be presented to him.

406 RETIRED PASTORS

A retired Pastor is (1) one who is unable, because of infirmity, to serve a church, or (2) one who has chosen to remove his name from the itinerant system. Retired Pastors in good standing shall have all the rights and privileges of Pastors in full-time work in all official meetings and deliberative bodies, and shall be subject to the same disciplinary regulations as other members. A retired Pastor may be employed by the District, Conference, or Conference Boards.

407 SABBATICAL

Is a Pastor under leave of absence from the active Primitive Methodist pastorate. A Pastor may be on sabbatical because of ill health or personal reasons. Any Pastor may apply for a Sabbatical. His status shall be reviewed annually with a limit of three years. Any Pastor desiring to return to the active pastorate must be examined by the School of Theology and appear at Conference to be stationed by the Conference Stationing Committee. (refer to 419)

408 DEACONESSES

A Deaconess is a woman who, led by the Holy Spirit, gives herself to Christian service under the authority of the church. She must be a member of the denomination for at least two years and exhibit the qualities needful to this office. A woman desiring to become a Deaconess must be recommended by the Quarterly Conference. She must enroll in the School of Theology and complete the prescribed course. Upon approval of the Examining Committee and the Conference she shall be licensed as a Deaconess. A service of consecration without the laying on of hands, shall be arranged by the President of the Conference in the church where the Deaconess will serve. Duties of the Deaconess shall be to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of those to whom she shall be directed. Her office shall be under the jurisdiction of the Pastor and the Quarterly Conference, and she shall report to them as required. Any and all financial arrangements will be made through the local church. Upon written notice, the Conference shall release any person desiring to retire from this office. All Deaconesses shall be members of the Quarterly Conference.

Upon the transfer of membership of a local church Deaconess, she shall retain her title and license, but her privilege to serve that church shall be contingent upon the approval of the church's Quarterly Conference in which she will hold membership.

409 LOCAL PREACHERS

A man applying for a local Preacher's license shall be examined by a committee of three appointed by the Quarterly Conference. The Pastor of the church shall be a member of this committee. The finding of the committee shall be presented to the Quarterly Conference for action. Upon approval of the Quarterly Conference, the candidate shall enroll in the School of Theology, and upon completion of the prescribed course shall be presented with a certificate from the School of Theology.

All accredited Local Preachers shall have, with the consent of the local Pastor, authority to baptize, administer the Lord's Supper and conduct funeral services. All accredited Local Preachers are eligible to serve as Conference Pastoral Supplies when so appointed by the Conference.

No person using tobacco, intoxicating beverages or narcotics shall be considered as a candidate.

410 DISTRICT PASTORS OR DISTRICT SUPPLY

A. District Pastors

A District Pastor is a Primitive Methodist retired Elder who is employed by the District Superintendent to fill a vacancy with the approval of the local church and the District.

B. District Supply

A District Supply is one who is employed by the District Superintendent to fill a vacancy with the approval of the local church and the District. He shall not have the rights of the pastoral ministry (i.e. the administration of the sacraments and the performances of marriages) unless he carries a recognized license or certificate of ordination. The District Superintendent has the authority to grant approval to a District Supply to serve communion in extenuating circumstances. The District Supply shall be directly responsible to the District Superintendent for his conduct and his tenure.

411 STATIONING OF PASTORS

Ordained Elders are elected by local congregations, and the election is approved by the Conference Stationing Committee. Elders who have not accepted a call, Student Pastors and Conference Pastoral Supplies shall be appointed by the Conference Stationing Committee. A Pastoral Transfer shall be required to accept appointment to his first pastorate by the Conference Stationing Committee. Appointments by the Conference are binding for two years.

Vacancies occurring during the pastoral year are filled under the direction of the District Superintendent in whose District the vacancy occurs.

412 DUTIES OF PASTORS

Pastors shall begin their new pastorates on the first Sunday in the month of June. Upon assuming his pastorate, the Pastor shall familiarize himself with the membership and the spiritual and financial condition of the church. In all cases the spiritual interests and oversight of all departments of his pastorate shall be under his direction. The Pastor is the chairman of the Quarterly Conference and all congregational meetings except the meeting called for the invitation of Pastor.

It shall be the duty of Pastors to preach Christ crucified and risen from the dead for our sins; to talk with the members about their spiritual relationship to the Lord; to see that relief and help is given when needed; to strengthen and support those who are discouraged and experiencing temptations; to exhort those who have become cold and indifferent; to take advantage of opportunities to strengthen and instruct all in faith, grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ; to visit the sick and to model the doctrine they preach by a well-ordered and exemplary life. Their business should be to lead as many souls to Christ as possible and to continue to disciple the believer. To this goal they should give themselves unreservedly. They should be faithful in these efforts until our Lord shall come. He shall see that the required training courses for membership are organized. He shall equip the saints for works of ministry.

413 SALARIES AND MOVING EXPENSES

Salaries: The amount of money established as the base salary does not include fringe benefits. The Conference shall set the minimum salaries for all levels of the pastoral ministry, and shall have authority to direct payment of unpaid salary. The salary year shall run concurrently with the pastoral year, beginning the first Sunday in June. The Pastor's salaries shall be paid from local church funds. No claim may be made upon any funds of the Conference or Conference boards for payment of a Pastor's salary. Exception: this rule shall not apply to appropriations made by the National Mission Board [or by the Conference.]

If a church fails to pay the salary promised to its pastor, before taking legal proceedings, the case shall be presented to the District Conference. If either the Pastor or the church is not satisfied with the decision of the District Conference, an appeal shall be made to the Conference.

A Pastor leaving a church shall follow the above rule before initiating legal action to recover unpaid salary. Violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action by the Conference.

Fringe benefits definition: Fringe benefits shall be considered additions over and above the base salary established by the church or the Conference.

Pastors' vacation schedule, based on years of service in the denomination:

Through ten (10) years: fourteen (14) days.

Eleven (11) through twenty-five (25) years: twenty-one (21) days.

Over twenty-five (25) years: twenty-eight (28) days.

Moving Expenses: The moving expenses of a Pastor shall be paid by the church or circuit to which he moves. The moving expenses of a Pastor to his first charge (including a transfer from another denomination) shall be shared equally by the Pastor and the church or circuit to which he is moving. The reimbursement of personal expenses shall be negotiated between the Pastor and the church.

Each Pastor shall have provided for him a well and suitably furnished residence, including such basic items as a refrigerator, washing machine, dryer, stove and adequate carpeting throughout the parsonage. The church shall pay water rates and telephone. In all circuit relationships regarding the providing of the parsonage: all costs and expenses entailed shall be shared according to the proportion of membership involved in each church, unless otherwise determined by mutual consent of the churches involved.

414 SEPARATION OR DIVORCE OF A PASTOR

When an active Pastor of a Primitive Methodist Church is in the midst of a marital separation or divorce he will be temporarily removed from his ministerial duties in order to receive professional counsel, support and direction. The local church along with the Primitive Methodist Conference will assist with finances, pulpit supplies and any other special needs deemed necessary by the Executive Council until a common decision about ministry is achieved.

415 SEVERANCE OF RELATIONSHIP

[An Ordained Elder] desiring to sever relationship with the denomination shall present his case to the Quarterly Conference [or Local Church Elders,] the District Conference, and the Conference or the General Committee. When Conference is not in session, the request for credentials will be made known to all members of the Executive Session. Objections must be in writing to the General Secretary within 30 days. Objections will be investigated by the Executive Council and a recommendation will be made to the General Committee. The General Committee may vote to grant or deny the request, or refer the decision to the next Annual Conference. Upon approval of the Conference or General Committee, and provided all Conference financial obligations have been met, a Pastor leaving the denomination will be issued a properly signed credential when requested by a denomination or a church or a religious organization.

416 PASTORAL MISCONDUCT

Charges of Pastoral misconduct must be presented in writing to the Superintendent of the District in which the Pastor is stationed. The District Superintendent shall appoint a committee of two lay persons and two Pastors to hear the evidence and decide the case. When the complaint is made by a church or Quarterly Conference, it shall be represented by two members of either body. Appeal of the decision may be made to the District Conference or the Conference. If the defendant be the District Superintendent, the President of the Conference shall receive the case. The Conference shall have full power to enact disciplinary action.

417 SPECIAL MINISTRIES

The status of Special Ministries may be granted to an ordained Elder leaving the active pastorate of a church to enter a field of Christian service other than our Conference, such as teaching or counseling in a Christian school or college, to enter an industrial or institutional chaplaincy; or any church related work which is in harmony and sympathy with our doctrinal position.

Special Ministries must have the confirmation of the Conference, and be renewed annually by the Conference through proper channels: Quarterly Conference or **[Local Church Elders,]** District Conference and written letter to the Preachers' Pension Fund Board.

418 ARMED FORCES CHAPLAIN

The candidate must be an ordained Elder in good standing and must have met the educational requirements of the Armed Forces. The candidate must receive the recommendation of his local church Quarterly Conference, the District Conference, and the Conference. The Conference, through the office of the President, will approve the Ecclesiastical endorsement of the individual's application to the particular branch of the Armed Forces. **(Note: for endorsing purposes, The Primitive Methodist Church belongs to the Chaplains Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals.)**

A Pastor leaving the Armed Forces Chaplaincy, under the normal retirement age, may return to the active pastorate, or to a status satisfactory to the Conference.

419 DESIRING TO RETURN TO THE PASTORATE

Any ordained Primitive Methodist Elder desiring to return to the active pastorate must be examined by the School of Theology and appear at Conference to be stationed by the Conference Stationing Committee.

CHAPTER FIVE OF THE DISCIPLINE

(The District)

500 THE DISTRICT

A district is any group of Primitive Methodist Churches within a given geographical area, the bounds of which shall be set by the Conference.

501 THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The District Superintendent is a Conference officer. He shall be a Primitive Methodist ordained Elder. He shall be an active attending member of a Primitive Methodist Church within that District. He shall be nominated by his District and elected by Conference for a four (4) year term with a two (2) consecutive term limit. One half (1/2) of the total number of District Superintendents shall be elected every two (2) years.

He shall hold official supervision over all churches and all Pastors within the bounds of his District. He shall be authorized in the event of any contingency to meet with the Pastor, and/or the congregation, and/or the Quarterly Conference involved. The District Superintendent shall be an encourager and resource person in the areas of church growth and leadership.

The District Superintendent may call all District meetings when necessary and preside over them. He shall notify the churches in his District and the other District Superintendents of the names of Pastors available for pastoral change. He shall also notify the Pastors of his District of any open Conference churches. Should a vacancy occur in any church, the District Superintendent shall, with the Quarterly Conference, and the approval of the District, make satisfactory arrangements to fill the vacancy until Conference. The General Secretary shall be notified of the arrangement.

He shall receive the reports of the churches of his District, compile and forward the reports to the General Secretary before Conference.

502 DISTRICT MEETINGS

District meetings shall be held at the discretion of the District Superintendents. All Conference Pastors, District Supply Pastors within the District, a lay delegate elected by each church, and all person residing within the District who are Conference officers shall have voice and vote at the meetings. All retired Primitive Methodist Pastors shall have the privilege of vote at the District Meeting either in the District where they reside or in which they hold their member but not at both.

503 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Each District shall hold a District Conference prior to the Annual Conference. This meeting must be held within one week after the Sunday the Pastor responds to the Pastoral contract offer. If this conference falls during Holy Week then the District Conference will be held the following week. See paragraph 502 for the composition of the District Conference.

Agenda:

- A. Devotions
- B. Election of Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall be elected to a term of office to run concurrently with the District Superintendent. They shall record and maintain the minutes of the District Conference and supply the District Superintendent with a copy.
- C. Reading of minutes of the previous meeting.
- D. Reading of reports of special committees.
- E. Receiving reports of the local churches.
- F. Receiving and settling of all complaints and appeals.

G. Appoint a committee that shall interview all candidates who have been recommended by their Quarterly Conferences, and act upon the report of said committee.

H. Acting upon the application of any church desiring to affiliate with the denomination.

I. Receiving applications for buildings or improvements, and grant permission for the borrowing of monies.

J. Acting upon the information presented with regard to the establishment of new congregations.

K. Set the date for next year's District Conference.

L. Miscellaneous business.

504 PASTORAL ASSOCIATION

Each district is encouraged to organize a Pastoral association for the purpose of fellowship.

CHAPTER SIX OF THE DISCIPLINE

(The Local Church)

600 THE LOCAL CHURCH

Definition: The local church is a congregation of Christian believers organized for the worship of God (see paragraph 101). The local Primitive Methodist Church is a part of the denomination known as the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America. All property is owned by the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.

601 THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

The Quarterly Conference is the highest official body of the local church. It is the governing body to which all organizations, committees, boards and ministries are responsible. It administers mainly the spiritual activities, delegating others, such as financial, social, and educational, to boards, organizations, committees and ministries. (See item 605, the option for Local Church Elders.)

The following, who shall be approved members in good standing, shall comprise the Quarterly Conference: Pastors, Local Preachers, Local Church Elders, Deaconesses, the Station Steward, Church Clerk, one (1) representative from each approved organization, the youth director, and as members at large, a number of church members equal to one fourth (1/4) of the membership of the Quarterly Conference. The body shall determine the number of meetings. It is recommended that the Quarterly Conference meet every three months.

The Pastor shall chair the meeting, or in his absence, the Station Steward shall preside. Special meetings may be called as needed. The Quarterly Conference must meet to approve the Annual Report for Conference (to be received by the District Superintendent by January 31) and the Annual Report for the District.

Quarterly Conference meetings shall begin with devotional preparation and prayer. Following the confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting, business shall include the following:

1. Grant approval to candidates for Primitive Methodist ministry, as well as Local Preachers. These are to be referred to the District for examination and endorsement.
2. Receive and act upon reports from committees and boards.
3. Name special appointments and committees if necessary, and confirm the establishment of new organizations.
4. Arrange for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and special services, and prepare the church calendar.
5. Receive and act upon complaints and appeals.
6. Act upon any required changes in the membership roll (see chapter 7).
7. Confirm the election of organizational officers and other ministry participants.
8. Confirm actions of congregational meetings.
9. Conduct any other business that is necessary.

Special Appointments and Committees

Missionary Secretary-Treasurer. A secretary-treasurer may be appointed to receive, record and disburse all contributions received for missions.

A Missionary Committee may be appointed for the purpose of promoting the general missionary program of the church. The missionary secretary-treasurer shall be a member of this committee.

A person may be appointed to care for the preparation of the Lord's Supper.

Ministers of music, song leaders, choir directors and organists shall be appointed by, and subject to, the Quarterly Conference.

A Membership Committee, consisting of four (4) members plus the Pastor, shall be appointed. The Pastor shall be chairman of this committee. The committee shall approve membership applications, and shall prepare an annual report of status of the membership of the church.

Instruction classes

All of our Pastors shall see that junior and/or adult membership classes be organized for all individuals wishing to join the church.

The Pastor may appoint Christian leaders to assist him in the instruction of these classes.

Instruction classes must be approved by the Quarterly Conference.

602 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

All congregational meetings shall be announced from the pulpit and the time for the meeting printed in the church bulletin two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. Exception: to further discuss business relating to the previously called meeting, this rule may be waived. All congregational meetings properly announced shall be considered official - those who attend will be considered a quorum for conducting business.

The Pastor is to chair all congregational meetings, except the congregational meeting for invitation of Pastor.

Voice and vote at all congregational meetings shall be restricted to the approved active adult members of the church who are present at the meeting. Absentee ballots are not valid.

The action of all congregational meetings shall be confirmed by the Quarterly Conference or Local Church Elders.

Delegates to the Conference and the District Conference may be elected at any congregation meeting, except the congregational meeting for invitation of Pastor.

A. The Annual Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers.

This meeting shall be held at such time as the church authorities may direct for the election of officers.

The following officers shall be elected: Station Steward, Church Clerk, at least two Financial Stewards, Financial Secretary, the required number of Trustees, the Pastoral Relations

Committee, and Quarterly Conference members-at-large. (see Quarterly Conference membership, chapter 601)

Tenure and Duties of Officers Elected at the Annual Congregational Election.

Station Steward: Tenure of office - one (1) year. In a church where the Local Church Elder office exists the Station Steward would be elected from among this staff. Duties: he shall have oversight of the church in the absence or disability of the Pastor; he shall assist the Pastor when requested; he shall preside over the Congregational Meeting for Invitation of Pastor.

Church Clerk: Tenure of office - one (1) year. Duties: The Clerk shall be the secretary of all congregational meetings and the Quarterly Conference.

Financial Stewards (at least 2): Tenure of office - one (1) year. Duties: the Financial Stewards shall receive all offerings of the church services, prepare a report and present the offerings and the report to the appropriate church treasurers. This shall be done as soon as possible after the church services.

Financial Secretary: Tenure of office - one (1) year. Duties: the Financial Secretary shall record all contributions and present a statement thereof to each contributor.

Trustees: the Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than three (3), nor more than nine (9) members. Tenure of office - one third (1/3) of the trustees shall be elected annually and shall hold office for three (3) years. All trustees shall be members of the local church. Note: the church should consider the legal age requirements of the state in electing trustees. Duties: the Trustees shall be responsible for the properties and the finances of the church. (See guidelines for Trustee Board refer to 604).

Pastoral Relations Committee: At the Annual Meeting for the Election of Officers of the Church may elect three (3) to five (5) persons, one of whom shall be the Station Steward, to serve as the Pastoral Relations Committee. (Refer to 603)

Local Church Elders may replace the Pastoral Relations Committee. (Refer to 605)

Other officers may be elected as deemed necessary.

B. The Congregational Meeting for the Invitation of Pastor

A church can vote at any Congregational Meeting not to have a Congregational Meeting for the Invitation of Pastor every two years.

A meeting can be called by the Pastor, Station Steward, Quarterly Conference, or Local Church Elders if they feel it is necessary. Complaints in writing should be presented to the Pastor and Station Steward 14 days before the date of the meeting and must be signed by the person presenting them.

Congregational Meeting for the invitation of pastor can be held anytime after January 1st of the second year of the pastoral contract, but cannot be held any later than the last Tuesday in March.

All pastoral contracts are for a minimum term of two years, starting in odd years. The Church Clerk shall notify the District Superintendent, immediately, with the decision of the Congregational Meeting for the Invitation of Pastor.

No other business shall be transacted at this meeting.

1. Procedures for Invitation of an Ordained Elder

If a Congregational Meeting for the Invitation of Pastor is held, the congregation shall discuss the philosophy of ministry and vision for the church and the work of the Lord in the church with the leadership of the pastor in view. They shall discuss and set the salary, fringe benefits and all other items relating to the new pastoral term and invitation. A majority vote, taken by the

active members present by paper ballot, is sufficient to recall the present pastor.

No absentee ballots will be accepted.

The Congregational Meeting for the Invitation of Pastor cannot be held any later than the last Tuesday in March.

Following the Congregational Meeting the Pastoral Relations Committee or Local Church Elders will meet with the pastor immediately to discuss the decisions of the church. A letter of invitation, setting forth the salary and fringe benefits, shall be presented to the pastor at that time.

In the event the pastor does not accept the invitation, the congregation shall meet again and instruct the Pastoral Relations Committee or Local Church Elders how to proceed. These instructions can be to re-negotiate with the present pastor or contact other eligible ordained Elders.

When the majority of votes cast are not in favor of the present pastor's returning, the Pastoral Relations Committee or Local Church Elders will inform the pastor immediately of the church's decision. The church shall then follow the procedures in item 4.

(Refer to item 5 for pastor's response).

2. Procedures for Invitation of Pastor for Churches Served by Student Pastors.

The congregation shall discuss the philosophy of ministry and vision for the church and the work of the Lord in the church with the leadership of the pastor in view. The congregation shall vote either to request the return of their current pastor or seek a relationship with an eligible ordained elder according to the procedure in item 4. They shall discuss and set the salary, fringe benefits and all other items relating to the new pastoral term and invitation.

The congregation can instruct the Pastoral Relations Committee or Local Church Elders to advise their present pastor of their desire to seek another relationship either with an ordained elder at that time or with a pastor through the Annual Conference sessions.

The church should consult with their respective District Superintendent concerning their interest. The Stationing Committee and Primitive Methodist Conference assigns Student Pastors at the Conference Sessions.

(Refer to item 9, Student Pastors).

3. Procedures for Pastoral Invitation for a Circuit

Each congregation shall meet separately, followed by a joint meeting, in order to reach a common decision.

4. Procedures for Pastoral Invitation when the Church Has No Pastor or Is Served by a District Supply.

The church may discuss possible choices of eligible ordained Elders. The congregation may also vote to leave themselves in the hands of Conference. They may set salary and fringe benefits and extend an invitation to an eligible ordained Elder.

5. Procedure for an Elder to Respond to the Congregational Invitation.

The Church Clerk shall furnish a letter detailing the invitation, the salary and the fringe benefits. When the pastor has accepted the invitation, it must be presented to the congregation in a written letter by the following Sunday. The letter of invitation, along with the acceptance letter of the pastor, will constitute a binding contract between the church and the pastor.

The Church Clerk shall notify the District Superintendent immediately that the contract has been completed. The District Superintendent will then notify the General Secretary.

If the pastor declines the invitation of the church he should do so immediately in writing. He then shall have the right to send his name to the General Secretary, the District Superintendents, and any church that is looking for a new pastoral relationship. An ordained Elder who has officially declined to accept an invitation may enter into a relationship with another church before the Annual Conference sessions.

A church whose pastor has declined to accept their invitation shall have the right to send the name of the church to the General

Secretary, the District Superintendents and to any eligible Elder in order to secure a pastor.

The church may reset the salary, fringe benefits and all other arrangements when a new pastor is being considered.

6. Procedure for an Elder Who Will Not Be Renewing his Contract.

An Elder may decide he will not renew his contract with the church. He shall notify the church of his intent in writing. The church is then free to contact other eligible ordained Elders as possible candidates for their ministry. The Elder is now eligible to candidate.

7. Procedure for Termination.

If the congregation or Pastor decides it would be in the best interest of both parties to terminate the contract in mid-term then they shall contact the District Superintendent for assistance and counsel in this matter.

8. Procedure for Candidating.

The purpose for candidating is for the church and pastor to meet each other and discuss purpose and philosophy of ministry in order to see if there is a possibility of pursuing a pastoral relationship.

Candidating can begin in January. All pastors candidating must notify their present church that they are candidating. Travel expenses of all candidates will be met by the inviting church. The Church may contact an eligible Pastor at any time to arrange a date for them to meet with the Pastoral Relations Committee or Local Church Elders, and the congregation to candidate as a potential pastor.

9. Student Pastors

The Conference Stationing Committee will station all Student Pastors.

603 PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Local Church Elders may replace the Pastoral Relations Committee. (Refer to 605)

The purpose of this committee is to act as a liaison between the pastor and congregation. This committee, elected at the Annual Election of Church Officers, shall be composed of 3 to 5 members, one of whom shall be the Station Steward. It is not a complaint committee.

A. Duties

The Pastoral Relations Committee should act as a support to the pastor, offering encouragement and discussing matters of mutual concern to both pastor and congregation.

They are to assist in working out any misunderstanding which might arise.

The Pastoral Relations Committee may meet with the pastor at any time to discuss the work of the church under his ministry.

This is to be a positive time of discussion.

This committee will serve in a counseling capacity to the Pastor to discuss the mutual concerns of the ministry of the total church during their term of office.

This committee will serve as an intermediary in the creation of a contract between the local church and the pastor in preparation for the Congregational Meeting for Invitation of Pastor.

This committee will also serve as liaison between the congregation and the Pastor in communicating ministry goals and negotiating salary.

Should the pastor decide not to accept the contract the Pastoral Relations Committee is to negotiate with any eligible ordained Elder.

The Pastoral Relations Committee cannot make any commitments with an ordained Elder other than that authorized by a Congregational Meeting. (Refer to Appendix 18-9)

604 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees administers the church properties for the benefit of the church.

Membership: The Board shall consist of not less than three (3), nor more than nine (9) persons. The following officers shall be elected annually: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The Board may fill all vacancies until the next Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers. The Pastor shall have the right of attendance, voice and vote at the meetings of the Board. A member may be removed for cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board. The Board may appoint a church treasurer who may not be a member of the Board, but must be a member of the church.

Duties: The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the maintenance of all church properties and shall make an annual inspection of the same. The Board is authorized to allow the properties to be used by organizations or persons when such use is not injurious to, and does not conflict with the design of said properties, and when not inconsistent with the Discipline or doctrine of the Primitive Methodist Church or the laws of government. The Board shall be responsible for administering all funds, except as otherwise provided by the Discipline. The Board shall make an annual report to the Quarterly Conference.

605 LOCAL CHURCH ELDERS (optional)

A Congregation by 2/3 vote may designate their Local Church Elders as the highest official body of the local church, replacing the Quarterly Conference.

Definition: A ministry staff appointed by the Pastor to assist the Pastor in the work of spiritual leadership in the church. As members of the Quarterly Conference (see paragraph 601), Local Church Elders would contribute to the administration of the church, but their major emphasis would be ministry.

In a church where the Quarterly Conference votes the establishment of this office, the Quarterly Conference shall

prepare and approve a written statement of organization, specifying the selection and approval process, a program of training, the specific organization of Local Church Elders, means of evaluation, accountability and review, relationships with the church, and other specifics seen fit by the Quarterly Conference.

Responsibilities of Local Church Elders: Local Church Elders shall assist the Pastor in bearing responsibility for the ministry of the church, such as worship, observance of communion, membership training and orientation, care for the flock (example, shepherding, exhorting, oversight, guarding, correction and reproof), teaching, evangelism, missions, defense of the faith, visitation, Christian education, stewardship, music, etc.

Qualifications of Local Church Elders: We look to the following specific scripture texts for these qualifications: I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:17.

Functional Qualifications:

1. A desire and capacity to study the Scripture and apply its concepts to personal life.
2. Ability to recognize a clear call from God in seeking this office.
3. A demonstration of spiritual and pastoral gifts.
4. Emotional and spiritual maturity manifested by stability.
5. Christian leadership demonstrated in the home.
6. A teachable spirit and an ability to teach.
7. A commitment to the church and the ministry under the leadership of the pastor.
8. A good reputation and respect within the church and among the community.
9. Hospitality.
10. In full agreement with our doctrine and practices.

Term of Office: No less than two (2) years with no limit of tenure.

Recognition: a service of consecration should be a most solemn experience for the Local Church Elder and the Congregation.

Discipline: a person found unfit for this office may be removed by a vote of the Quarterly Conference only after following the requirements of Matthew 18:15-17 and after every attempt at restoration is made according to Galatians 6:1 and with the recommendation of the Pastor. A Local Church Elder removed for cause may be reinstated in the same manner as first appointed following repentance and correction of the problem.

CHAPTER SEVEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

(Membership in a Local Church)

700 MEMBERSHIP IN A LOCAL CHURCH

Description and Purpose: The Primitive Methodist Church is a community of evangelical Christians, united for worshiping God, mutually building up the people of God, developing Christian character promoting vital Christianity in the earth and aiding in extending the kingdom of Christ throughout the world. Since Scripture teaches that the church is the body of Christ and we are placed into that body by conversion, a prerequisite for membership in the Primitive Methodist Church shall be confession of sin and repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Whenever this is fixed in the soul, it will be evident by its fruit in the life of the individual.

Members of a local church covenant with one another to be the people of God, to be about the business of their Heavenly Father, and to support the local church with their regular attendance, prayers, and financial giving. The Primitive Methodist Church has 2 levels of membership: Adult and Junior. Adult members must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. Junior members are youth not younger than twelve (12) and not older than eighteen (18) years of age. Voice and vote at all congregational meetings shall be restricted to the approved active adult membership of the church, eighteen (18) years of age and over.

Current active adult membership in a local Primitive Methodist Church shall be a prerequisite for election or appointment to any Conference office, board, or committee.

701 JOINING THE CHURCH

The basic prerequisite for joining the church is found in the words of Jesus: "You must be born again." (John 3:7). Any and

all persons wishing to become a member of the church shall make application on the form prescribed by the local church. All persons being received into membership shall give evidence of having been baptized. Those who have not been baptized shall be required to do so. Candidates shall complete the required membership study course.

Membership instruction classes: The Pastor shall see that junior and/or adult membership classes be organized for all individuals wishing to join the church. He may appoint leaders to assist him in the instruction of these classes. These classes and leaders must be approved by the Quarterly Conference.

The Membership Committee (see) shall review and approve (or disapprove) the application. Upon their approval, the candidate shall be received into membership in a public service of the church, covenanting to keep the duties of membership.

Junior members, upon turning eighteen (18) years of age, may apply for adult membership by completing the required form. Upon approval by the Membership Committee they shall reaffirm their faith and renew their covenant with the church in a public service. Following that, they shall have all rights and privileges of an adult member.

702 TEST OF MEMBERSHIP

The standard of active membership shall be regularly attending the services of the church, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and financially supporting the church and its various ministries, unless providentially prevented.

703 DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Members of the Primitive Methodist Church are to live sincere, godly lives, attend the services on the Lord's Day and at mid-week, and promote family worship. They are called to

support to the best of their ability, as God shall prosper them, all the ministries of the church. We see the practice of tithes and offerings as the Scriptural standard of obedience to this call. Members are to regularly participate in the observance of the Lord's Supper. They must observe the Scriptural injunction to do all the good they can by being merciful and kind, especially to those who are of the household of faith. It is their duty to visit the sick and minister to the needs of the poor as far as they are able. They are to pursue godliness and holy living. (Heb. 12:14; I Tim. 4:7-8; 6:11; II Tim. 2:22; I Pet. 1:15-16; II Pet. 1:5-9; 3:11; Eph. 4:17-5:21; Col. 3:1-4:6) Members are to follow Christ's example of loving the lost and sharing the gospel. (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 19:10; John 13:15, 34-35; 14:12; 15:8; Matt. 9:36-38; 5:13-16; Luke 10:25-37; Rom. 13:8-10; I John 3:16-19)

Because the body of the Christian is the temple of God's Holy Spirit, we strongly advocate total abstinence from the use of intoxicating beverages, tobacco, habit-forming drugs, and narcotics.

Members are to meet the test of membership. (See 702 above). Members are amenable to the Quarterly Conference with regard to questions of moral conduct. (See for procedures.)

704 THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Each local church shall maintain a current, approved membership list. This list shall show active adult members and junior members. Active members are those who meet the test of membership (see 702 above). The Membership Committee shall be responsible for maintaining this list throughout each year. No name shall be removed from the roll without Quarterly Conference approval.

Members who have failed to meet the test of membership for a period of six months, unless away for military service, education, employment, or providentially prevented, should be approached by the Pastor and representatives from the Membership

Committee by a personal visit and official letter. Such persons shall have six (6) months following this visit and letter to demonstrate their intention to meet the test of membership. If they do so, they shall remain active members. If they fail to do so, they may be removed from the active membership roll. Pastors may grant letters of transfer for members who want to transfer membership to another church. In the event the church does not have a Pastor, the Quarterly Conference may do so. No letters of transfer shall be granted by a Pastor leaving his church or by the Quarterly Conference in the period between the Congregational meeting for election of Pastor and the beginning of the pastoral year. Should a member join another church, whether Primitive Methodist or another denomination, the Quarterly Conference shall have authority to remove them directly from the membership roll. Junior members reaching the age of eighteen (18) and not wishing to become active members shall be removed from the rolls. The readmission of any person whose name has been removed from membership must be approved by the Quarterly Conference.

CHAPTER EIGHT OF THE DISCIPLINE

(Social Concerns)

800 SOCIAL CONCERNS

801 MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

1. What the Bible Teaches About Marriage

A. Marriage is a Divine Institution.

Contrary to some contemporary opinions, marriage is not a human institution that has evolved over the millennia to meet the needs of society. If it were no more than that, then conceivably it could be discarded when it is deemed no longer to be meeting those needs. Rather, marriage was God's idea, and human history begins with the Lord himself presiding over the first wedding (Gen. 2:18-25).

B. Marriage is to be regulated by Divine Instructions.

Since God made marriage, it stands to reason that it must be regulated by his commands. In marriage, both husband and wife stand beneath the authority of the Lord. "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Ps. 127:1).

C. Marriage is a Divine Illustration.

In both Old and New Testaments, marriage is used as the supreme illustration of the love relationship that God established with his people. Israel is spoken of as the wife of Jehovah (Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:8; Hos. 2:19-20). The church is called the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-32). The Christian marriage is sort of a "pageant" in which the husband takes the church, and the wife plays the role of the believer, loving and submitting to her husband as the Christian does to the Lord. Thus, Christian marriage should be an object lesson in which others can see something of the divine-human relationship reflected.

D. Marriage is a Covenant.

From the earliest chapters of the Bible, the idea of covenant is the framework by which man's relationship to God is to be understood, and it also regulates the lives of God's people. A covenant is an agreement between two parties based upon mutual promises and solemnly binding obligations. It is like a contract, with the additional idea that it establishes personal relationship. God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants is summarized in the statement, "I will be your God, and you shall be my people." Marriage is called a covenant (Mal. 2:14), the most intimate of all human covenants. The key ingredient in a covenant is faithfulness, being committed irreversibly to the fulfillment of the covenant obligations. The most important factor in the marriage covenant is not romance; it is faithfulness to the covenant vows, even if the romance flickers.

E. Marriage is a Whole-Person Commitment.

God meant marriage to be the total commitment of a man and a woman to each other. It is not two solo performances, but a duet. In marriage, two people give themselves unreservedly to each other (Gen. 2:25; I Cor. 7:3-4). "What God has joined together, let not man separate," declared our Lord (Matt. 19:6). "Till death do us part" is not a carryover from old-fashioned romanticism but a sober reflection of God's intention regarding marriage (Rom. 7:2-3; I Cor. 7:39).

2. What the Bible Teaches About Divorce.

A. Divorce is abhorrent to God (Mal. 2:15-16).

B. Divorce is always the result of sin.

God's basic intention for marriage never included divorce; but when sin entered human experience, God's intention was distorted and marred. Under perfect conditions, there was no provision for divorce, but God allowed divorce to become a reality because of man's sinfulness (Deut. 24:1-4; Matt. 19:7-8). To say that divorce is always the result of sin is not to say,

however, that all divorce is itself a sin. It may be the only way to deal with the sinfulness of the other party that has disrupted the marriage relationship.

C. There are two conditions under which divorce is biblically permissible. Since divorce is a sinful distortion of God's intention for marriage, it is an alternative of last recourse, to be avoided whenever possible. However, Scripture does teach that there are two circumstances in which divorce is permitted (though never required):

1. In the case of sexual unfaithfulness (Matt. 19:9)>

2. In the case of desertion of a believing partner by an unbelieving spouse (I Cor. 7:15-16).

D. Divorce carries with it consequences and complications.

Divorce, because it is a violation of God's plan, carries with it painful consequences and complications. God has made perfect provisions for the complete forgiveness of all our sin through the death of Christ, even the sins of sexual infidelity and unjustified divorce (I Peter 2:24; Col. 2:13).

Forgiveness, however, does not remove the temporal consequences of our sins or the pain and grief involved in the death of a relationship. Divorced singles, single-parent families, remarriage, and the problems of "blended" families are part of the consequences of God's intentions being thwarted. The church is to minister to individuals and families suffering these consequences, and to seek to help them respond with maturity to their problems.

E. Scripture recognizes the possibility of separation that does not lead to divorce.

Because of humankind's sinful nature, couples can, at times, be involved in a marital relationship that is destructive, either physically or emotionally, to the two marriage partners and/or their children. It is possible that separation might become necessary because of the destructive nature of the relationship or the potential danger to one or more of the family members. Such

a situation does not provide grounds for dissolution of marriage and the establishment of a new marriage. A Christian is bound to seek reconciliation as long as there is a possibility of such reconciliation taking place (I Cor. 7:11).

F. Reconciliation is to be preferred to divorce.

While divorce is permitted, it is never commanded. Forgiveness and reconciliation are always to be preferred (I Cor. 7:10-11).

3. What the Bible Teaches About Remarriage.

A. Remarriage is permitted when the former spouse is deceased (Rom. 7:3; I Cor. 7:39).

B. Where a divorce occurred prior to conversion, remarriage may be permitted.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (II Cor. 5:17). When one becomes a Christian, all sin is forgiven, and all condemnation is removed (Rom 8:1). Thus, preconversion conditions do not necessarily preclude remarriage to a Christian mate.

If the former marriage partner has also become a Christian, remarriage to that partner should be sought. Where the former partner has not been converted and attempts to share the gospel with him or her are rejected, however, remarriage to that person would be disobedient to Scripture (II Cor. 6:14).

Even though remarriage is allowable biblically, there may be consequences from past sins that continue or destructive patterns from the old life that can carry into new relationships. Thus, a new marriage should be entered into with due thoughtfulness and with the counsel of mature Christians.

C. Where a divorce has occurred on scriptural grounds, the offended party is free to remarry.

A person who has been divorced because of infidelity of a marriage partner or desertion by an unbelieving partner is free to remarry (I Cor. 7:15).

D. What about desertion by a "Christian" spouse?

First Corinthians 7 deals specifically with the case of a nonbeliever who refused to live with the believing spouse. The question then arises about the remarriage of a believer who was divorced by a partner who also professes to be a Christian. Such a situation ideally should involve the church in the steps of disciplinary action outlined in Matthew 18. A Christian who decides to walk out of a marriage without biblical cause is in violation of Scripture. Such a person who refuses the counsel and admonition of the spiritual leaders and persists in following the course of disobedience ultimately is to be dealt with as though he or she is an unbeliever (Matt. 18:17). The deserted spouse would then be in a position of having been deserted by one whose sinful behavior and unresponsiveness to spiritual admonition give evidence of an unregenerate heart, and thus he or she falls under the provision of I Corinthians 7:15.

E. Scripture does not absolutely forbid remarriage of a person who was involved in a nonbiblical divorce. Where there is the demonstration of genuine and heartfelt repentance in the case of one who was a Christian at the time of the divorce, remarriage may be permitted if (1) the former spouse has remarried or (2) the former partner refuses reconciliation (I Cor. 7:15).

802 SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of the local Social Action Committee is to provide information which both educates and motivates our congregations toward Christlikeness reflected in personal and community standards.

The local Social Action Committee and pastor are to encourage total abstinence from illegal and/or addictive drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. These leaders are expected to set an example themselves by refraining from the use of these addictive and destructive substances.

The use of these items in any form is prohibited in any area where the worship of God is conducted or where Christian instruction is performed.

Pastors, members, and friends are further encouraged to promote restriction of sales and use of these substances.

No pastor or member should license or rent property for use or sale of these substances.

It is our position that abortion under any circumstances is murder.

God is the Giver of life. God, not mere mortals, determines when life should end. Psalm 139:13-16; I Samuel 2:6.

Sexual intercourse outside of marriage is absolutely forbidden by Scripture. We are proponents of abstinence in the absence of a marriage partner. I Corinthians 7:1-3,10-11; 10:9; Hebrews 10:4.

Pornography is prohibited by God's Holy Word. It is also addictive and destructive. Matthew 5:28; Philippians 4:8.

The practice of homosexuality is positively forbidden by Scripture. Romans 1:26-27; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13.

Scripture repeatedly denounces the occult in all its forms. In our day, this includes (but is not limited to) horoscopes, Ouija Boards, tarot cards, palm reading, predicting the future, Transcendental Meditation, Yoga, and crystals. Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:6; 20:27.

Gambling is a destructive, impoverishing and addictive activity. We urge our fellow believers to abstain from gambling and from playing the lotteries. Hebrews 13:5; I Samuel 2:7; Ecclesiastes 5:19; Proverbs 23:5; 27:23-27.

The ballot is a potent weapon against the social evils of the day; therefore ministers and members are asked to use the ballot, guided by Christian principles. Conclusion: To the best of our ability, we will provide pertinent information and resources, as well as avenues of action, for our family of believers to express their concern, commitment and involvement.

803 Soliciting Fund: No person shall be allowed to solicit funds in any church without the consent of its minister.

804 Debts: When the reputation of the church has been injured by a member incurring a dishonest debt, the matter shall be considered by the Quarterly Conference. In case of a minister, the matter shall be referred to the General Committee.

CHAPTER NINE OF THE DISCIPLINE

(-Administration of Discipline- Complaints and Appeals)

900 —Administration of Discipline— Complaints and Appeals

901 Statement of faith and practice:

One member trespassed against by another must not complain of the offender to an official meeting until he has treated him as prescribed in Matthew 18:15-16: “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more; that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” If this procedure fails, then the following action is to be taken.

902 Definitions: Complaints and Appeals

- (a) Complaint: A complaint is a charge brought in writing by one party against another before a court.
- (b) Appeal: An appeal is an application to a higher court to consider the decision of a case that has been tried by a lower court, to whose decision the appellant objects. All parties have the right to appeal.
- (c) Party: As used in this chapter a party means an individual or an official meeting of the church.
- (d) Personal Complaint: A personal complaint is one that is made by an individual about an offense committed by another individual against the complaining individual.
- (e) Official Complaint: An official complaint is one that is made by a party about an offense with which he has cause to be aggrieved, only in common with other members of the church. An official complaint may be made against one individual, several individuals, or an official meeting.

(f) Individual: As used in this chapter an individual means a member of the Primitive Methodist Church.

(g) Court: The Quarterly Conference, and/or the District Conference, and/or the General Committee, and/or the Conference as applicable, shall hereinafter be known as the Court.

(h) Office: The term office as used in this chapter shall be considered, as applicable, membership in the Primitive Methodist Church and/or the ministry on any of its levels.

(i) Official Person: An official person is a member of the Primitive Methodist Church who holds one or more offices, other than membership in the church.

(j) Notice: All notices shall be deemed to have been given in writing and either hand-delivered to the party concerned or deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, at the last known address of the party concerned as shown on the official records of the Primitive Methodist Church.

903 Complaints against individuals, Local Preachers, Lay Elders must be brought before the complainant’s Quarterly Conference.

(a) Complaints against pastors must be brought before the complainant’s District Conference.

(b) Complaints against pastors and officers not serving churches must be brought before the complainant’s General Committee.

904 A complaint must state to the proper court, in writing, all the facts of the case without comment, with the names and addresses of all parties and the offices they hold. It must be dated, signed, and sent to the secretary of the court for which it is intended. Notice of this document must be given to the defendant as soon as practicable after receipt by the secretary.

905 A defendant must file his answer to the complaint with the court within 20 days after notice to him of the filing of the complaint with the court. As soon as possible after the answer is received by the court, the court shall set a date, time and place for a hearing, notice of which shall be given to all parties.

906 The defendant and complainant must frankly answer any reasonable questions which the court may propose to them for aiding in its decision of the case. They must also furnish any letters, papers or documents that may be requested.

907 When the court and the defendant determine that it is impracticable for the defendant to attend a hearing because of distance, the court and the complainant may question the defendant in writing, and the defendant may submit his evidence in writing.

908 Any party may be represented at the hearing or an appeal by an attorney duly licensed to practice law.

909 No person who is not a member of a Christian Church shall be allowed to give evidence, except in cases where there is no evidence from members of Christian Churches. In such cases, the evidence of a person whose moral character is determined by the court to be good, and who is known to the court to be favorable to the Christian religion shall be allowed.

910 Appeals must be filed within 10 days of notice of the decision of the lower court.

911 The highest court to which an individual can appeal is the District Conference or the General Committee whose decision shall be final, but official persons or meetings may carry their appeals to the Conference.

912 An appeal to the General Committee of a decision of a lower assembly must reach the secretary of the Committee within the Conference year of the decision, otherwise the appeal must be returned without being examined.

913 A minister or church dissatisfied with the decision of the lower ecclesiastical courts shall have the right to appeal to the Conference, whose decision shall be final.

914 When an appeal is made of a decision of a court to a higher court, no matter not raised at the hearing shall be received by the appellate court.

915 No official assembly may allow an individual to propose, second or vote on any proposition respecting a case in which he is either the complainant or the defendant, in his individual capacity.

916 The attorney for the court shall rule on all questions of procedure and evidence.

917 Every appellant must observe the rules on the duties of a complainant as far as they are applicable to him.

NOTE: Refer to , President's Duties. The President of the Conference may suspend from office, after due consultation with duly authorized officials of the conference, any individual against whom serious charges are made.

Trial and Discipline

918 Announcement of Decision

When a decision has been reached, it shall be announced for each charge separately. Notice of such decisions shall be given to all parties. If the defendant has been found guilty, the presiding officer shall announce the degree of discipline to be imposed. Further publicity can be given to the announcement as the court may direct.

When the decision has been announced, the court shall take whatever steps necessary to enforce it.

919 Decision of the trial court is binding unless appealed to a higher court. The final decision of the higher court is binding.

Procedures

920 The secretary of the court, or his appointee, shall keep records of all cases. The records shall include the complaint; a summary of all evidence and issues presented at the trial; all papers and documents filed in the case; the decision, and any action or orders relating to the case with the vote thereon.

921 Voting: a quorum of the members of the court must be present to decide on any question. Names of absent members of the court are to be recorded. No member absent during a part of a hearing shall be allowed to vote. A majority of those present and voting shall be necessary to render a verdict and, if necessary, to establish a degree of discipline.

922 Closed Sessions: A two-thirds vote of the court is required to exclude persons other than parties or counsel at any stage of a hearing. Any party may request a closed session.

923 Publicity: No party to a trial shall circulate, or cause to be circulated, among members of the court, any printed, written or visual material of any kind or matter pertaining to the case (other than proceedings) before the final disposition of the case.

924 Degree of Discipline upon arriving at a guilty verdict. The court may decree any one or more of the following judgments:

- a. Rebuke
- b. Temporary exclusion from exercise of office.
- c. Removal from membership or ordained office.

924.1 To Be Read By Presiding Officer To Defendant

(a) Censure or Rebuke

Whereas you have been found guilty of the offense (insert Offense) and by this offense you have acted contrary to the Discipline of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America, now therefore the (name judicatory body) acting in the name of the above named Church expresses its condemnation of this offense and (list the degree of judgment).

You are called up to diligently avoid such offenses in the future and to use the means of grace as found in the Lord Jesus Christ to be obedient to your Lord and the Church (This rebuke to be followed by intercessory prayer).

(b) Temporary Exclusion

The period of censure shall not exceed one year. The offender shall not exercise any duties of his office during the term of the

exclusion. The offender shall not have a voice or vote in any official meeting of the church, the District or the Conference. Prayer of intercession shall be made upon reading of the Judgment.

(c) Removal of an Elder

Under the temporary exclusion, if an appeal is pending, a pulpit may be declared vacant and a new arrangement made.

(d) Removal from Office

Removal from office can be decreed without removal from membership.

(e) Removal from Church Membership

Removal from membership in the Primitive Methodist Church includes removal from office and termination of Ordination. All other relationships to the church are set aside and immediately terminated.

(f) Degree of discipline imposed shall refer to the case for which it is imposed. The formal declaration shall be followed by intercessory prayer.

925 Responsibility of a Minister Removed from Office.

(a) To vacate the pulpit immediately.

(b) To vacate the parsonage within one month (30 days).

(c) To take care of all financial matters relating to the church, the District and the Conference (Preachers' Pension Fund, etc.).

(d) To accept as final and binding the judgment of the court hereunder as to all matters in any way dealing with the relationship between the minister and the Primitive Methodist Church.

(e) To leave quietly and peaceably according to the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

926 Restoration

(a) Application: A person wishing to be restored shall apply in writing to the General Secretary of the Conference. If the censure was a local church Quarterly Conference decision, then application is made to the Church Clerk.

(b) Persons may be restored by the body that conducted the trial, once formal request has been made and acted upon. In the case of temporary exclusion, early restoration is permitted.

(c) A pastor removed from office must receive a two-thirds vote of the Executive Session before restoration is granted.

927 Acceptance of any level of the ministry is acceptance of this agreement and acceptance of the articles defined in this chapter.

928 A Statement of Compliance must be signed when a person is received into the ministry, either as a Supply, Elder or by Transfer of Credentials, declaring agreement with the above procedures.

APPENDIX - Table of Contents

- 1. Preacher's Pension Fund - Constitution**
- 2. Primitive Methodist Investment Foundation**
(Articles of Incorporation)
- 3. Conference Trustee Board**
- 4. Pocono Mountain Bible Conference (By-Laws)**
- 5. International Mission Board (Principles and Practices)**
- 6. Board of National Missions (Articles of Incorporation)**
- 6a. Board of National Missions (By-Laws)**
- 7. Commission on Archives and History (By-Laws)**
- 8. Board of Christian Education - Local Church (By-Laws)**
- 9. Sunday School Constitution**
- 10. Organization Guidelines for Educational Agencies in the**
Local Church
- 11. Holy Scripture Circulation**
- 12. National Association of Evangelicals**
- 13. In Memoriam**
- 14. Conference Sessions**
- 15. General Conference Sessions**
- 16. School of Theology and Examining Board**
- 17. Church Directory**
- 18. Resolutions and Presidential Rulings**
 - 1. Ecumenical Movement**

2. Sign-gift Emphasis

3. Social Concerns

Abortion

Euthanasia

Pornography

Gambling

Thermo-nuclear Arms Limitations

4. Raising Money

5. Ministerial Ethics

6. Authority for the Pulpit

7. Retired Ministers in District Churches

8. Infant Dedication Without Water

9. The Pastoral Relations Committee

10. Setting of Salary

19. Handbook For District Superintendents

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APPENDIX ONE OF THE DISCIPLINE
Preacher's Pension Fund
Constitution and By-Laws

Article I - Name and Purpose

This association shall be called the “Primitive Methodist Preachers’ Pension Fund” and shall be for the support and maintenance of its membership.

Article II - Membership

1. All our Ordained Elders, Student Ministers, and Missionaries become beneficiary members of this fund by a 3/4 vote of the membership present at the Annual Meeting.

2. Each candidate for our ministry and/or missionary service, must join this fund at the time of his/her being received as a Student Minister/Missionary.

3. Ministerial Supplies, after two years as a supply, may be admitted to the fund by a 3/4 vote of the membership present at the Annual Meeting.

Article III - Status of Membership

1. Active - A member employed by Churches of our Denomination as Pastors, or employed by mission boards, or the Denomination.

2. Supernumerary - A member of the Preachers’ Pension Fund under leave of absence from the Primitive Methodist Ministry. Any Elder, Student Minister, or Missionary may apply for Supernumerary relationship. Upon returning to the active ministry, he/she would receive the same status as prior to his/her application.

3. Special Ministries - A member of the Preachers’ Pension Fund entering another field of Christian Ministry other than our Conference, such as teaching or counseling in a Christian School, college, chaplaincy, or any church related work, which is in harmony and sympathy with our doctrinal position.

4. Armed Services Chaplain - A member of the Preachers’ Pension Fund entering the Armed Services of our Nation as a Chaplain.

5. Evangelist - A member of the Preachers’ Pension Fund entering the evangelistic field as Conference Evangelist.

6. Retired - A member of retirement age or becoming permanently disabled by either accident or illness.

Article IV - Procedure of Status

1. Any person requesting a change of status must request this change in writing, stating reasons for such request, to the Preachers’ Pension Fund Board for disposition and such action be confirmed by Conference.

2. Status of Supernumerary must be renewed annually through the proper channels - Quarterly Conference, District, PPF, and Conference. This status may be granted for:

a. Ill Health - Ill health shall be considered when a member is physically incapacitated and therefore unable to perform his/her responsibilities.

b. Education - When a member leaves the active ministry to pursue advanced education relating to the ministry.

c. Personal Reasons - Consideration will have to be made according to each individual case base on stated reasons.

It is a violation of this status if a member holds any formal relationship with another Church or denomination. We suggest that he either returns to the full time ministry of the Primitive Methodist Church or relinquish his relationship with us.

Should a Supernumerary not return to Active Status within a period of three years, his membership in this Fund shall cease.

3. Status of Special Ministries must be renewed annually through the proper channels - Quarterly Conference, District, PPF, and Conference.

4. Status of Armed Services Chaplain must be presented and acted upon by the Preachers’ Pension Fund and Conference. Anyone returning from the Armed Services Chaplaincy and under normal age of retirement shall return to a listing satisfactory to our By-Laws, i.e., Active Pastorate, Supernumerary, Special Ministries, or Missionary.

5. Any person changing his status of work within such status, must apply for approval by the PPF Board and Conference before change of status can be granted. Any person seeking re-instatement to the active ministry with the Primitive Methodist Conference, must be granted such status by the PPF and Conference before being available to consider any invitation or

appointments.

Article V - Financial Obligations

1. This fund shall be open to volunteer subscriptions, donations, bequest from all of our churches and their friends, together with the Conference Apportionments as per Discipline.

2. Notes on hand for financial obligations shall not be accepted.

3. The contribution formula will be that which is required to keep the fund solvent and will be established by PPF Board (Trustees) and approved by Conference.

4. Any member who is in arrears of his/her Preachers' Pension Fund required contribution shall be eligible for funeral benefits, less unpaid contributions.

5. Any member who is in one calendar year or more arrearage of his/her Preachers' Pension Fund required contribution will be recommended to Conference that he/she not be stationed by Conference.

6. Active Membership - Financial obligation of Preachers' Pension Fund members shall be 3% of stated basic salary. The minimum that each member shall pay is 3% of the existing minimum scale of salaries plus car allowance.. The payments are based on current salary with 50% being paid in January and 50% paid in July. Delinquent accounts shall be assessed a 5% penalty added to the required contribution at the next billing period.

7. Supernumerary - Is required to maintain the 3% payment of stated basic salary.

8. Special Ministries - Is required to maintain the 3% payment of the stated basic salary.

9. Armed Services Chaplain - Is required to maintain the 3% payment of the stated basic salary.

10. Evangelist - Is required to pay 3% of the income received for services rendered as reported to the Internal Revenue Service, but in no case shall the payment be less than the minimum amount of an ordained Elder.

11. If a minister/missionary having been dismissed, properly credentialed, and later is re-admitted to the denomination and the PPF - his/her financial obligation shall be reckoned from the date of re-admission.

12. All retired or pensioned members shall not be required to pay any financial obligations.

13. Churches and Boards - Assessments for Churches and Boards shall be based on 6% of the minimum salary scale plus car allowance, as set forth by Conference or the current salary plus car allowance, whichever is higher. The Churches and Boards will be billed semi-annually, 50% in January and 50% in July. Delinquent accounts shall be assessed a 5% penalty added to the required contribution at the next billing period.

Article VI - Policies

1. Any member becoming permanently disabled, either by accident or illness, may receive the full value of his/her account available as specified by the Pension Document. When all accumulated funds are distributed, membership shall cease.

2. Any member leaving the denomination, or if he/she shall be convicted of immorality or dismissed for cause, shall receive vested funds only. Any person forfeiting rights under this rule shall have the right of appeal to the PPF Board for action.

3. When an active member deceases, their spouse shall receive the full value of the members pension account or settlement under the various options of the Pension Document.

4. In case of death, a Death Certificate shall be sent to the Secretary of PPF; action shall be taken by the PPF Board (Trustees) and the funeral benefits shall be paid to the proper person. When practical, arrangements for payment may be conducted by correspondence.

a. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be allowed for the funeral of a member; Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) for the funeral of a wife or widow of a member not included in Master Pension Document.

5. Any member previously retired for reason of ill health whose health is sufficiently restored to warrant a resumption of active service, shall make application to the PPF Board and Conference, and when employed will be accepted into the fund as a new member.

6. Distribution of the 6% Churches and Boards assessment will be divided as set forth by the Pension Document.

7. Should any member of the Fund be incapacitated from the

active work in the ministry, they may apply for assistance from the Benevolent Trust Fund of the PPF.

8. All pension payments shall be made according to the Pension Document.

9. All monies deposited in banks, or other institutions, shall be in the name of the "Primitive Methodist Preachers' Pension Fund".

10. Any case not coming under the above rules or scale, is to be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Fund or be referred to the PPF Board (Trustees) for consideration.

Article VII - Retirement

1. Each applicant, at the age of eligibility for retirement, shall submit in writing an application to the PPF Plan Administrator and Conference General Secretary who shall as soon as possible, present it to the Conference or General Committee for consideration. This request shall be forwarded to the PPF Board for action.

a. When a member of the Fund reaches the age established by our Nation's Social Security program, he shall have the privilege of retirement in accordance with the Pension Document.

2. Upon the 60th day following the normal retirement date, a participant's Accrued Benefits shall be distributed in such form and as such time(s) as may be set forth by the Pension Document.

3. All pension payments shall be made according to the Pension Document.

Article VIII - Annual Meeting

1. An annual meeting shall be held at the time and place of Conference for the transaction of the business of the Fund. This meeting shall elect the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Health Fund Treasurer-to be confirmed by Conference, annually.

a. This meeting shall elect a Pension Plan Administrator for a four year term. The election for this office shall be held one year before the scheduled term of office shall begin. The election to be confirmed by Conference.

2. The Annual Meeting of the Fund shall be composed of the

Officers of the Fund and the participating members. This is an open meeting for anyone interested.

3. The Preachers' Pension Fund may, at its Annual Meeting, or by its Board, make such laws (not contrary to the Constitution) as shall be necessary to carry on its business.

4. The Constitution may be altered or amended by proposing the changes to Conference.

Article IX - Board & Officers

1. The Board of the Primitive Methodist Preachers' Pension Fund shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Health Fund Treasurer, plus members at large to make a nine member board. Qualified lay persons may be elected to the Board by Conference.

2. The Preachers' Pension Fund Board shall act as the Trustees and shall attend to all duties required for such officers in a chartered association.

3. The Preachers' Pension Fund Board shall have the authority to fill all vacancies until the next Conference. 4. Officers (selected at Annual Meeting) shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Health Insurance Fund Treasurer, to be confirmed by Conference, annually.

a. President

1. To preside at all PPF meetings.

2. Plan an agenda for each meeting.

3. Call special sessions of the Board and Executive

Committee when necessary.

b. Vice-President

1. Preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

2. Become President in case of vacancy.

3. Assists President in all areas of responsibility.

c. Secretary

1. Record all minutes of meetings.

2. Maintain records of all Board transactions.

3. Shall submit reports of the proceedings of the Board concerning finances and investments to the Annual Meeting of the Fund.

d. Health Fund Treasurer

1. Preside at meetings of the H.I.F. (a PPF sub-

committee).

2. Sign all insurance contracts in behalf of the Fund, and shall be the policy holder for the Conference.

3. Receive the premium payments for the current various health insurance policies and make payment to the carriers.

4. Shall give an annual report to the PPF Board and Conference and be accountable to the PPF Board.

e. Pension Plan Administrator

1. Duties are described in the plan document. They generally include the management of the day-to-day operations.

2. Federal regulations require that the Plan Administrator provide reports to participants, including summary plan descriptions and benefit statements; file reports with the IRS, Department of Labor and the Pension Guaranty Corporation; and maintain records relating to the operation of the plan with sufficiently detailed information to verify the accuracy of the various reports.

3. May delegate the performance of the plan's administrative functions to other persons or purchase (with PPF Board approval) administration services from companies which provide them. The plan administrator may rely on the information, data, or analyses provided by other persons who perform these functions provided that he has exercised prudence in their selection, and has no reason to doubt their competence or integrity.

4. Traveling expenses incurred by the Board to attend necessary meetings and business shall be paid from the Benevolent Trust Fund.

Article X - Health Insurance Fund

1. The purpose of this Fund is to provide for the current premium payment on the various health insurance policies.

2. Participation in this Fund is available to all who are acceptable by our underwriters.

3. The Health Insurance Fund, under the jurisdiction of the PPF Board, will be supervised by a sub-committee from the PPF Board that includes the H.I.F. Treasurer as it's chairperson.

a. The operating procedures of H.I.F. shall be established by the sub-committee and approved by the PPF Board.

1. The sub-committee shall be authorized to negotiate with various underwriters in the best interest of the Fund.

4. All delinquent members of the H.I.F. shall be accountable to Conference through the Annual PPF meeting.

APPENDIX TWO OF THE DISCIPLINE
Primitive Methodist Investment Foundation (Articles of
Incorporation)

ARTICLE I

The name of this corporation shall be “The Primitive Methodist Investment Foundation.”

ARTICLE II

The location and post office address of its initial registered office with the Commonwealth is 310 Steele Road, Feasterville, Bucks County, Pa. 19047.

ARTICLE III

The names of the incorporators are: (The directors then serving.) Note: See Yearbook of the Primitive Methodist Church for names of present directors.

ARTICLE IV

The management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in its directors. There shall be at least seven such directors, but no more than eleven directors, who shall serve for a period of three years, except, for the initial terms of classes one and two, or until their successors are elected. The directors shall be elected by the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America, a nonprofit corporation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or its successor or successors. If a vacancy occurs before the normal expiration of any, however, the said vacancy may be filled for the unexpired portion of such term by the remaining directors.

ARTICLE V

The corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE VI

The corporation will have Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) in personal property with which to begin its corporate functions.

ARTICLE VII

The directors of this corporation shall constitute the members

of the corporation.

ARTICLE VIII

The corporation is religious in nature, not for profit, and it shall have no capital stock. If the corporation shall dissolve or cease to exist as a legal entity and its charter be terminated, the title to all of its property, both real and personal, shall revert to the Primitive Methodist Church of the United States of America, or its successors and assigns, to be held subject to the laws, usages, and discipline of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.

ARTICLE IX

The purpose for which the corporation is formed is to promote and support the religious, missionary and charitable activities of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America by establishing an investment fund to make monies available for such religious, missionary and charitable purposes, to furnish aid and assistance by gift, donation, loan or otherwise, as the directors may deem advisable.

ARTICLE X

The corporation shall have authority to solicit the investment of funds from persons, agencies, corporations and institutions affiliated with the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America and to receive, hold and administer such funds and other property which may be given, transferred, conveyed or entrusted to it in an investment fund or mortgage pool; to issue participation certificates to such investors for their interest in such investment fund or mortgage pool; to invest such funds in mortgage loans to Primitive Methodist Churches or in stocks, bonds or other securities as determined by the directors, without being limited to what are known as legal investments for Fiduciaries under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to collect the interest or income therefrom, to pay to investors such interest upon their investments as may be determined by the directors, to purchase, sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, pledge, mortgage, or hypothecate, all kinds of stocks, bonds, mortgages, real estate, debentures, trust

receipts, notes and other securities, obligations, contracts, chose in action and evidences of indebtedness generally of all corporations, associations, firms, trusts, persons, governments, and other organizations, and to exercise any and all said powers, either on its own account, or as agent or trustee for other persons, firms, corporations, or other organizations.

ARTICLE XI

The officers who shall manage the corporation shall be elected by the directors at the annual meeting of the corporation. There shall be a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the directors shall from time to time deem necessary. The duties and authorities of the officers of the corporation shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XII

The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to make, adopt, amend and repeal such By-Laws, rules and regulations as may be necessary or proper for the management, control, and conduct of the affairs and property of the corporation. The By-Laws, rules, and regulations so adopted shall be binding on said corporation until amended in the manner and in the form prescribed therein, provided, none of said By-Laws, rules and regulations shall be contrary to any law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or of the United States, or to any existing or future laws, rules, resolutions, actions or regulations of the Conference of the Primitive Methodist Church.

ARTICLE XIII

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended in the manner provided by law.

APPENDIX THREE OF THE DISCIPLINE Conference Trustee Board

1. The business, property and affairs of the Church shall be administered and managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of seven (7) members elected at the Conference of the Church for a term of six (6) years and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. The authority and power conferred upon the Board of Trustees hereunder to administer and manage the business, property and affairs of the Church shall extend to all real and personal property of the Church entrusted to its care, possession and custody and to all gifts and donations made to the Church; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be interpreted or construed to extend the authority and power of the Board of Trustees to manage and administer the business, property and affairs of the subsidiary churches and/or organizations of the Church, whether or not such churches and/or organizations are incorporated. Rather such subsidiary churches and organizations shall have the right to administer and manage their own business, property and affairs in such manner as they shall deem advisable so long as it shall be consistent with the precepts and directives of the Church for each church and/or organization. In the event that a subsidiary church and/or organization, whether or not incorporated, shall violate or operate in a manner inconsistent with the precepts and directives of the Church for its administration and management and it shall be judicially determined by the Church that it has done so or if such a church and/or organization shall dissolve for any reason, the Board of Trustees shall immediately initiate procedures and take whatever action is necessary to take possession and control of the property of such church and/or organization and to administer and manage the same. The Board of Trustees shall constitute and be the legal representative and agent of the Church and shall have the authority and power to legally bind and obligate the Church by the appropriate vote of its members. In addition to the authorities and powers expressly conferred upon it hereunder, the Board of Trustees may exercise all such powers of the Church and do all such lawful acts and things which are conferred upon and granted to it by statute or the Articles of Incorporation of the

Church. The grant or failure to grant the Board of Trustees any specific power, authority or discretion, shall not in any way be construed to limit or curtail the full and complete power, authority and discretion, which it is intended and directed shall be exercisable at all times by the Board of Trustees respecting any and all matters of whatsoever pertaining to the business, property and affairs of the Church; provided, however, that notwithstanding anything to the contrary hereunder, the authority and power of the Board of Trustees to administer and manage the business, property and affairs of the Church and the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees may be altered, amended or modified, whether the same be in the way of limitation, restriction or expansion, by the Conference of the Church.

2. The Board of Trustees shall, from within its own membership, elect a President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees and such other officers as it shall deem necessary and advisable for the orderly and efficient administration and management of the business, property and affairs of the Church. All officers of the Board of Trustees shall be elected for a term of one (1) year and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. The President of the Board of Trustees shall be the Chairman and chief executive officer of the Board of Trustees and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees and at the annual Conference of the Church and such other interim conferences of the Church as shall be duly called and scheduled; he shall be the legal representative of the Board of Trustees and/or the Church, and shall be responsible to see that all orders, precepts, directives and resolutions of the Board of Trustees and/or the Church are carried into effect by the Board and/or Church and/or the subsidiary churches and organizations. The President may also appoint committees from within the Board of Trustees or individual members of the Board of Trustees to act in his stead to fulfill his duties and responsibilities hereunder. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Conference of the Church and interim conferences of the Church duly called and scheduled and shall record all votes taken and the minutes of all transactions in a book to be kept for the

purpose; he shall give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Conference of the Church and interim conferences of the Church duly called and scheduled, and he shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees and/or President. The Treasurer of the Board of Trustees shall have custody of the funds and securities of the Church and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Church and shall keep the monies of the Church in a separate account to the credit of the Church, and he shall disburse the funds of the Church as may be ordered by the Board of Trustees taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the President and/or the Board of Trustees, whenever they may require it, an account of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Church. In addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred upon them hereunder, the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees shall have the general powers and duties of the supervision and management of the Church usually vested in their respective offices.

3. The Board of Trustees shall be diligent and use due care in the administration and management of the business, property and affairs of the Church and the protection and preservation of its property and shall act in such manner as a prudent man would reasonably act in such circumstances. The Board of Trustees shall give an account annually to the Conference of its administration and management of the business, property and affairs of the Church and shall furnish a written report of its activities for the preceding year and the present financial condition and net worth of the Church and its subsidiary churches and organizations. The report to be so given shall be entitled "The Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America" and shall in such form and contain such information as shall be prescribed and approved by the Conference of the Church.

4. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such place and at such time as a majority of the Board of Trustees may establish and appoint each year for its regular meetings

throughout the ensuing year. The President of the Board of Trustees may call a meeting of the Board of Trustees at any time upon five (5) days written notice to the members of the Board of Trustees. A majority of the Board of Trustees in office shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the acts of the majority of the Trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the acts of the Board of Trustees.

APPENDIX FOUR OF THE DISCIPLINE Pocono Mountain Bible Conference (By Laws)

- I. The Conference shall elect a Board of Directors for the administration of the Pocono Mountain Bible Conference.
- II. The Board shall elect for one year the following officers:
 - A. President of the Board, who shall:
 1. Direct all sessions of the Board.
 2. Be responsible for the administration of Board policy.
 3. Make contracts as approved by the Board.
 4. Arrange for loans with other agencies, as agreed upon by the Board.
 - B. Vice President, who shall assist the President of the Board and in the event of illness or absence, he shall act as President until the President returns.
 - C. Secretary, whose responsibilities shall include: the recording of all sessions, the calling of sessions at the request of the President and Board. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, he may call a meeting of the Board.
 - D. Treasurer-Business Manager, whose responsibilities shall include: the receipt of all funds, the expenditure of all funds as directed by the Board, the presentation of a financial report each session or as often as determined by the Board.
 - E. Treasurer of Special Funds shall receive any Special Funds planned by the Board.
- III. The Board will hire a Camp Director to direct the operation of the Camp Program.
 - A. Financial arrangements and tenure to be established by the Board.
 - B. Responsibilities as defined in the Camp Manual.
- IV. Appointed and Hired Positions. The Board will appoint the following:
 - A. Supervisors of the various departments of the Camp. See the Camp Manual for duties and responsibilities.
 - B. Permanent personnel.
- V. The Board shall meet as often as is required, at the Call of the President or by majority of the Board members.
- VI. The Board shall have supervision of all matters pertaining to the Bible Conference Ministry; selection of and employment and

dismissal of all employees, raising and using funds, publication of all literature and distribution of the same, to buy, sell, dispose of property, improving the property, the promotion of its interest throughout the denomination.

VII. The Board shall have the power to explore the possibilities of expanding the Bible Conference work, if in judgment and with the approval of the Conference, the opportunity is presented and funds warrant it.

VIII. All Board Members shall be compensated for travel per mile as arranged by the Board members in session and if funds permit.

IX. The Board shall prepare annually, if necessary, rules and regulations pertaining to the department of all employees of the Pocono Mountain Bible Conference Board.

X. The Board shall prepare as needed rules and regulations pertaining to the camp department for all guests.

XI. The Board shall provide as needed, job specifications for all employees so that they shall be aware of their responsibilities.

XII. The Board shall have the right to determine how the Conference grounds and property shall be used by other groups and individuals.

XIII. The Board shall arrange for all insurance coverage deemed necessary.

XIV. Any vacancy on the Board created by death, resignation, or other causes, shall be filled by the Pocono Mountain Bible Conference Board of Directors until the next Conference Session.

XV. All equipment, machinery, furnishings, or any other items contributed by the Churches, individuals, groups, shall become the property of the P.M.B.C. and shall be included in the inventory of the Conference Board. In the event of the dissolution of the P.M.B.C., all properties will be used for religious purposes.

APPENDIX FIVE OF THE DISCIPLINE International Mission Board (Principles and Practices)

PURPOSE STATEMENT: Promote, encourage and enable churches and individuals in the Primitive Methodist Denomination to fulfill the Great Commission worldwide.

SECTION I - ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

A. The Annual Conference shall elect an International Mission Board consisting of no less than six (6) members, one from each district (either clergy or lay persons). Three additional at large members may be elected consisting of individuals who have demonstrated or indicated an interest in and commitment to international missions.

1. The superintendent of Women's Ministries shall be a member of the board.

2. IMB members shall be elected to six (6) year terms.

3. Any vacancies midterm shall be filled in the following manner: The president of IMB, in consultation with the Executive Committee of IMB, shall have the power to appoint another person to fill the vacancy until the following Annual Conference. If the vacancy occurs at the end of the Conference year, the Nominating Committee, with IMB advisement, will recommend to the Annual Conference the name of a suitable candidate to fill the unexpired term caused by the resignation.

4. The President of the Annual Conference is an ex-officio member with voice and vote.

5. Any IMB member who has a relative serving as a missionary shall be excused from discussion concerning his/her relative.

B. The IMB shall meet at least twice a year in a place designated by IMB, or by the Executive Committee of IMB. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the IMB President, General Director, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional meetings shall be called by the Executive Committee.

C. The IMB shall have the supervision of all International mission work determined by the Annual Conference; the selection, commissioning, and dispersing of funds of missionaries; the raising of funds; publication of literature; the acquisition, purchase or receipt by gift or bequest of real estate or personal property; to hold, sell, or dispose of property; the promotion of IMB interests both within and without the denomination.

The IMB will not purchase property in a country outside the U.S.A. but may assist in the purchase of property to support the growth of the ministry.

D. The IMB shall explore the possibilities of opening new work, or assuming control of established work. A formal plan shall be drafted and presented to the IMB members prior to approval, and items addressed may include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- * National Incorporation
- * Means of financial support
- * A plan for self sufficiency
- * Church Planting
- * Training of future Pastors and layleaders
- * Leadership and accountability structure

The recommending of missionaries to other Mission Agencies may be an acceptable outcome after review of the formal plan presentation.

Approval for the above items must be given by the Annual Conference or by the General Committee.

E. Officers

1. General Director

The General Director shall be elected annually from within IMB membership.

- a. The election shall be confirmed yearly by vote of the

Annual Conference.

- b. The office of General Director may be either a full-time or a part-time position, governed by IMB's needs, financial status, and the availability of a qualified person.

- c. Duties of General Director.

- 1) Field-related:

- a) Take action appropriate to administer policies and directives of IMB.

- b) Recommend policy to IMB.

- c) Carry out special assignments of IMB.

- d) Keep missionaries informed of all IMB policies and directives either personally or through appointed representatives.
- e) Communicate with outgoing and incoming missionaries for orientation, information and debriefing.

- f) Meet with missionaries in their fields of ministry as often as possible, offering counsel and encouragement as needed.

- g) Keep IMB informed of changes to current status of each missionary.

- h) Make arrangements for transfer or termination of missionaries, as directed by IMB.

- i) Make regular communication with missionaries on leave of absence.

- 2) Board-related:

- a) Compile semi-annual booklets for IMB members, which include agenda and field reports.

- b) Represent IMB to other mission and denominational agencies.

- c) Report to IMB regarding office-related activities.

- d) Promote the work of IMB throughout the denomination and to other entities as opportunity permits.

- e) Process all applicants for IMB endorsement.

- f) Available to help coordinate itineraries for furloughing missionaries.

- g) Handle IMB correspondence.

- h) Keep up-to-date regarding all IMB assets, investments, and liabilities.

- i) Forward all funds received for IMB to IMB treasurer.

- j) Receive an honorarium or remuneration as designated by IMB.

- k) Shall be bonded if he receives and disburses funds.
 - l) Call IMB Executive Committee meetings at his discretion.
 - m) Poll the IMB members between sessions for urgent decisions.
- 3) Hispanic Coordinator-related:
Shall be in communication with the Hispanic Coordinator monthly to discuss contacts, trips and plans.

2. The President

- a. The President shall be elected annually from among the IMB members.
- b. His election shall be confirmed yearly by vote of the Annual Conference.
- c. Duties of the President:
 - 1) Preside at sessions of IMB.
 - 2) Be available to advise the General Director in the supervision of IMB's missions program.
 - 3) Call IMB Executive Committee meetings at his discretion.
 - 4) Appoint suitable candidates to the IMB to fill vacancies occurring during the year. (re:I.A.3)
 - 5) Appoint committees from among the members of IMB.

3. The Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall be elected annually by the IMB and attend all board meetings.
- b. The election must be confirmed yearly by vote of Annual Conference.
- c. Duties of Treasurer:
 - 1) Receive and disburse all IMB funds.
 - 2) Keep a complete, accurate, and current record of all funds received and disbursed.
 - 3) Report current financial status monthly to the IMB membership.
 - 4) Submit complete financial report to IMB members semi-annually.
 - 5) Reimburse IMB members for expenses incurred for IMB business.

- 6) Confer with General Director as necessary regarding any payment of funds which may be in question.
- 7) Receive an honorarium or remuneration as designated by IMB.
- 8) Shall be bonded, as per Annual Conference requirements.
- 9) Provide an annual auditor's report to IMB.

4. The Assistant Treasurer

When the IMB deems desirable, an Assistant Treasurer will be appointed.

5. The Recording Secretary

- a. The Recording Secretary shall be elected annually from among the IMB members.
- b. The election must be confirmed yearly by vote of Annual Conference.
- c. Duties of Recording Secretary:
 - 1. Keep accurate minutes of each board meeting.
 - 2. Distribute minutes to board members.
 - 2. Maintains minutes in an orderly fashion of all previous meetings.
 - 4. Sends official IMB correspondence when requested to do so by the board.

6. General Board Members

- a. Duties of General Board Members
 - 1. Attend meetings.
 - 2. Represent the IMB in their district.
 - 3. Communicate with and encourage missionaries.
 - 4. Willing to visit mission fields.
 - 5. Respond to periodic communication from IMB leadership.
 - 6. Assist IMB leadership when requested.
 - 7. Seek to stay knowledgeable about current missionary trends.

SECTION II - CAREER MISSIONARY CANDIDATES

Candidates for career service must be members of a Primitive Methodist church prior to making application. Exceptions to this rule will be considered by IMB. Candidates must be 21 years of age by the time of commission. Candidates must have written recommendation from their quarterly conference and their district conference. All student minister candidates must have written recommendation from the School of Theology. All career candidates shall be subject to the **Primitive Methodist Discipline**. Additional requirements and procedures are included in the *IMB Policy and Procedure Manual*.

APPENDIX SIX OF THE DISCIPLINE
Board of National Missions (Articles of Incorporation)
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of State
Corporation Bureau

In compliance with the requirements of 15 Pa. C.S. Paragraph 7316 (relating to articles of incorporation) the undersigned desiring to be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation, hereby certifies (certify) that:

1. The name of the corporation is:
Primitive Methodist National Mission Board
2. The location and post office address of the initial registered office of the corporation in this Commonwealth is:
40 E. Northampton Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18702
3. The corporation is incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the following purpose or purposes: - The Corporation shall be organized and operated as a non-profit corporation for purposes exclusively religious, charitable, literary and educational, no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and which does not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and in furtherance thereto the Corporation shall, inter alia; for the purpose of Missionary outreach within the United States of America for the Primitive Methodist Church engage in the following activities:
 1. The establishment of new congregations for the Primitive Methodist Church.
 2. The Administration, supervision and regulation of Extension projects and mission churches.
 3. The appointment of Missionaries and Mission personnel required for the successful operation of the program.
 4. The formulation of regulations that will act as guidelines for National Missionaries.
 5. Administrate and supervise all National Mission enterprises

undertaken by the Primitive Methodist Church.

6. Formulation of regulations and guidelines for the surveying of new areas.

7. The supervision, in cooperation with the District Superintendent, of all established churches that the Primitive Methodist Conference directs the Board to subsidize financially.

8. The management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors composed of at least 10 and not more than 15 members elected by the Primitive Methodist Conference. The Directors shall act in accordance with the Discipline of the Primitive Methodist Church.

9. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine.

APPENDIX SIX(a) OF THE DISCIPLINE Board of National Missions (By-Laws)

1. The name of the Corporation shall be, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, as follows: The Primitive Methodist National Mission Board.

Board of Directors

2. There shall be at least 10 and not more than 15 directors who shall be elected by the Primitive Methodist Conference.

3. Directors shall serve for a period of six years or until their successors are elected.

4. One-third of the Directors shall be elected bi-annually.

5. Vacancies occurring before the normal expiration of a term may be filled for the remainder of the term by the remaining members of the Board.

Officers

6. The Primitive Methodist Conference shall elect the Director and Treasurer from members of the Board. (The Director and Treasurer may be the same person).

7. Other officers, including a Secretary and Vice-President, shall be elected by the Board at their annual meeting.

Meetings

8. The Board shall meet at least semi-annually; preferably once in the Spring and again in the Fall. These will be stated meetings. Special meetings may be called by the President with a 15 day written notification.

9. Board members present will constitute a quorum at all stated meetings.

10. The Executive Committee shall meet between Board meetings to carry out the actions of the Board. An officer of the Trustee Board and other Conference Boards may be invited to attend the meetings.

Committees

11. The Executive Committee of the Board will consist of the President, Director-Treasurer, Financial Treasurer, Field Representative, and two lay representatives.

12. The Executive Committee will act in the intervals between Board meetings to execute the program of the Board. It will give leadership to the entire ministry of the church's outreach.

13. There may be other committees such as: Finance Committee, Survey Committee and Promotion Committee.

Relationships

14. The Board of National Missions shall function according to the discipline of the Primitive Methodist Church.

15. The Board will make an annual report to the Conference of the Primitive Methodist Church.

16. The purchase of all property (transfer or sale) shall be approved by Conference Trustee Board.

17. The formation and signing of all legal documents shall be approved by the Conference Trustee Board and Conference Officers.

18. The President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be empowered to execute documents under the corporate seal.

Districts

19. The Board of National Missions will work within the following Districts of the Conference: (1) Eastern-New England States. (2) Wyoming-Northeastern, Pa., Eastern N.Y., Northern N.J. (3) Schuylkill-Southeastern, Pa., Southern, N.J., Delaware, Maryland. (4) Pittsburgh-Western, Pa., Western N.Y., Ohio and West Virginia. (5) Western-Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. (6) Southern-Florida, Georgia (7) Mission-all territories outside the above mentioned states.

20. Each District will be entitled to appoint two representatives who with the District members of the Board and the District Superintendent will form a District Committee. The committee will act as a liaison between the Board and the District to insure harmonious and effective administration. The committee will be on the lookout for areas of potential church outreach and report same to the Board for consideration and action.

Amendment

These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Directors present at a meeting after notice of said amendment in the notice of the meeting.

APPENDIX SEVEN OF THE DISCIPLINE Commission on Archives and History (By-Laws)

I. Name

The name shall be Commission On Archives and History of The Primitive Methodist Church.

II. Purpose

The purpose shall be to gather, preserve, and hold title to and disseminate materials on the history of the Primitive Methodist Church, cooperate with other bodies, especially the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History and the World Methodist Historical Society, shall do any and all things necessary to promote and care for all the history of the Primitive Methodist Church, and shall maintain an Archives and library in which shall be preserved historical records of every kind relating to the Church, there being a need for the creation and preservation of archives and records at all levels of said Church.

III. Membership

Membership shall be constituted quadrennially, and its members and officers shall hold office until their successors have been chosen, shall be composed of one member from each District of the Conference with one of them being chosen Chairman and one chosen as Secretary-Treasurer, both of whom shall be elected for a term of four years; in addition Dr. Charles Tyrell, chief benefactor of the existing fund, shall be an advisory member.

IV. Financing

Conference shall determine the means of finance.

A. The Historical Shrines will be left in the hands of the present committee and Board when elected.

APPENDIX EIGHT OF THE DISCIPLINE
Board of Christian Education - Local Church (By-Laws)

I. PURPOSE

- A. To promote a unified program of education within the church and its organization.
- B. To cause the Church and its organizations to realize their educational responsibilities.
- C. To provide a continuous program of leadership in the area of Christian education.
- D. To create and develop a church-wide interest in denominational publications and programs and make available the best literature for the dissemination of Christian truth and thought.

II. COMPOSITION

The Board shall be made up of 3-7 members including the Pastor, Sunday School Superintendent, Station Steward and Youth Director (where applicable).

III. ORGANIZATION

- A. Officers: President, Vice-President and Secretary.
 - 1. Requirements of officers and members.
 - a. All members of the Board shall be elected annually by the Quarterly Conference from among the active membership.
 - b. President shall be chosen by the Quarterly Conference from among those elected to the Board.
 - c. Lay members of the Board shall be elected annually by the Quarterly Conference.
 - d. Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected from among the Board by the Board.
 - 2. Responsibilities of officers.
 - a. President
 - 1). Arrange for and conduct the meetings of the Board.
 - 2). Plan an agenda (written and available for all Board members prior to the meeting) for each meeting, which takes into consideration both objectives and activities of Christian Education work.
 - 3). Make assignments to individuals and committees in

preparation for meetings of the Board.

- 4). Supervise the accountability of members and committees in facilitating and decisions of the Board.
- b. Vice-President
 - 1). Preside at meetings in absence of the President.
 - 2). Become president in case of vacancy.
 - 3). Assist president in the development and implementation of duties and anything else assigned by the Board or President.
- c. Secretary
 - 1). Record all minutes of meetings.
 - 2). Maintain records of all Board transactions.
 - 3). Other duties assigned by the Board.
- B. Subcommittees.
 - 1. The Board of Christian Education shall appoint such subcommittees to study the needs and oversee the programs of the following groups:
 - a. Youth
 - b. Children
 - c. Adult
 - d. Leadership Training
 - 2. The Board of Christian Education shall promote or select a subcommittee to promote district and/or denominational programs such as:
 - a. Youth Rallies
 - b. Camp Programs
 - c. Educational Conferences
- C. The Board of Christian Education shall meet once every one or two months at a time appropriate for all board members.
- D. Proceedings.
 - 1. The Board of Christian Education shall know its purposes and responsibilities and carry out to the fullest extent.
 - 2. The Board of Christian Education shall make long and short range plans and strive to implement them successfully.
 - 3. The Board of Christian Education shall select goals for the total Church program annually.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Act as a resource committee for the educational facilities of

the church.

B. Evaluate the progress of the educational agencies, revise policy and practices where necessary.

C. Supervise and coordinate (organize, if necessary) all programs and schedules of the following educational agencies:

1. Sunday School
2. Children's Church
3. Primitive Methodist Youth Fellowship
4. Vacation Bible School
5. Cradle Roll
6. Membership Classes
7. Weekday Classes and Clubs
8. Any other teaching arm of the church (i.e., Christian Day

School)

D. Determine the curriculum to be used throughout the educational agencies.

E. The Board shall recommend for election or appointment the personnel needed for the educational agencies.

1. Teachers and Officers shall be nominated by the Board of Christian Education or the Sunday School teachers and officers, and elected at the Annual Society Meeting for the Election of Church Officers. All officers shall be active members of the Church, and shall subscribe to its doctrines and practices, and shall support its programs.

2. All nominees for Teachers and Substitutes must be approved by the Quarterly Conference prior to their nomination. The Quarterly Conference shall base their approval upon the following qualifications:

- a. Does this person demonstrate a born-again experience?
- b. Does this person have enough Bible knowledge to teach? (i.e. knowing the books of the Bible; where to find major stories and teachings, etc.)
- c. Does this person demonstrate some gifts or abilities to teach?
- d. Does this person agree to teach Scripture in harmony with the doctrines of the Primitive Methodist Church?

F. The Board of Christian Education shall be responsible for leadership and teacher training.

G. The Board shall make sure that facilities and equipment are

used to the best possible advantage.

H. The Board shall work closely with all other boards and make recommendations regarding its needs.

APPENDIX NINE OF THE DISCIPLINE
Sunday School Constitution

I. OBJECTIVES

- A. To Teach the Scriptures to students of all ages.
- B. To lead each student to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and serve Him as Lord.
- C. To challenge each student to make the Bible the foundation for their values and behavior.
- D. To develop Christian growth and maturity through the knowledge of the Scriptures.
- E. To prepare students for leadership and provide for them opportunities for Christian service in the church.
- F. To provide opportunities for Christian fellowship.
- G. To build up the church through solid Biblical understanding.

II. ORGANIZATION

The Sunday School is an integral part of the church, and as such, shall be identical with the Church in its purpose and doctrine, and shall be amenable to the church as its governing body.

A. GENERAL ORGANIZATION:

- 1. The general supervision of the Sunday School shall be the responsibility of the Board of Christian Education.
- 2. Officers: Superintendents, secretary, treasurer, and assistants.
- 3. There shall be a superintendent for each Department of the Sunday School.

B. MEMBERSHIP:

- 1. New members shall be added to the Active Roll after three (3) consecutive Sundays in attendance.
- 2. Names shall be dropped from the Active Roll at the discretion of the local Sunday School (suggestion: after 13 weeks).

C. GROUPING:

- 1. The following is the suggested division of the students:

Cradle Roll	Birth to 2 years of age
Beginners	2 to 4 years

Kindergarten	5 to 6 years
Primary	6 to 7 years (grades 1 & 2)
Middler	8 to 9 years (grades 3 & 4)
Junior	10 to 11 years (grades 5 & 6)
Young Teens	12 to 14 years
Senior High Teens	15 years & up
Young Adults	Post High School to 24 years
Adults	25 years and up

D. PROMOTION:

- 1. Promotion from one department or class to another should be held annually. The second Sunday of September is suggested.
- 2. Proper acknowledgment should be held for the occasion and certificates awarded.

E. VISITATION:

- 1. The Sunday School should have an active visitation program.
- 2. The visitation program should be under the direction of the Superintendent and Pastor, with an appointed chairperson.

F. OTHER DEPARTMENTS:

- 1. Cradle Roll
 - a. Purpose - To enroll infants into the Sunday School as soon as possible in order to tie the Sunday School to the home; to encourage parents to begin the Christian training early in their child's life; and to introduce the child into the Sunday School program.
 - b. Personnel - The Superintendent shall be elected by the congregation and should be amenable to the Board of Christian Education.
- 2. Home Department
 - a. Purpose - To extend the Sunday School into the home, hospitals and convalescent homes to aid in meeting the spiritual needs of the aged, the infirm, and those whose employment prevents their attendance at Sunday School.
 - b. Personnel - The Superintendent shall be elected by the congregation and should be amenable to the Board of Christian Education.
- 3. Missionary Department
 - Purpose - To aid in teaching the purpose and meaning

of the “Great Commission” of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to promote the programs of the denomination’s National Mission Board and International Mission Board within the Sunday School.

G. SPECIAL DAYS:

1. Decision Day - Since the matter of conversion or the New Birth is of the utmost importance, a special Decision Day should be observed in our Sunday School at least once a year, when students may be given the opportunity to make decisions for Christ. However, teachers should remember that the opportunity to make commitments to Christ needs to be a vital part of their ministry.

2. Children’s Day - A Children’s Day program, under the supervision of a committee should be observed annually. The program could be an outgrowth of that which the students have learned, and a summary of the overall program of the Sunday School.

3. Rally Day - A Rally Day program, with the regrouping and extension of the Sunday School as its goal, should be observed as directed by the Sunday School staff meetings.

III. OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

A. SELECTION:

1. Teachers and Officers shall be nominated by the Board of Christian Education or the Sunday School teachers and officers, and elected at the Annual Society Meeting for the Election of Church Officers.

2. All officers shall be active members of the Church, and shall subscribe to its doctrines and practices, and shall support its programs.

3. All nominees for Teachers and Substitutes must be approved by the Quarterly Conference prior to their nomination. The Quarterly Conference shall base their approval upon the following qualifications:

- a. Does this person demonstrate a born-again experience?
- b. Does this person have enough Bible knowledge to teach? (i.e. knowing the books of the Bible; where to find major stories and teachings, etc.)
- c. Does this person demonstrate some gifts or abilities to

teach?

d. Does this person agree to teach Scripture in harmony with the doctrines of the Primitive Methodist Church?

B. DUTIES

1. Superintendent:

- a. Shall oversee, promote and implement every phase of the Sunday School program.
- b. Shall be responsible for the pre-session activities of the Sunday School.
- c. Must see that each class is provided with a teacher each Sunday, or join two or more classes for that Sunday.
- d. In cooperation with the pastor, will present suggestions for promoting growth of the Sunday School.
- e. Shall preside at all Staff Meetings.

2. Assistant Superintendent:

The Assistant Superintendent shall render to the Superintendent all the assistance required and officiate in the absence of the Superintendent.

3. Secretary:

- a. Shall be responsible to keep minutes of Staff Meetings.
- b. Shall be responsible for the ordering of Sunday School literature and supplies.
- c. Shall be responsible for the making and keeping of Sunday School records for the entire Sunday School.
- d. Shall give a report to the Church as required.

4. Treasurer:

- a. Shall receive and keep in charge all monies belonging to the Sunday School and keep a proper account of the same, and whenever officially requested, present accounts for inspection and audit.
- b. Should not pay any bills not authorized by a staff meeting.

5. Primary Superintendent:

- a. Shall plan department work in full harmony with the general officials of the Sunday School.
- b. Shall be responsible for the opening and closing services of said department.
- c. Shall be responsible to see that the teachers are present and encourage promptness.

APPENDIX TEN OF THE DISCIPLINE
Organization Guidelines for Educational Agencies in the
Local Church

PURPOSE

To provide the Board of Christian Education organizational guidelines for any educational organization it deems necessary in the local church.

Article I - General Policy

1. The Board of Christian Education, having responsibility to promote a unified program of education in the church, shall organize such agencies as it shall see fit.
2. The Board of Christian Education shall determine if a program needs only the leadership of the Board itself.
3. Long-term organizations (i.e. Sunday School) shall be governed by written By-Laws which shall be approved by the Quarterly Conference.
4. Short term organizations (i.e. VBS) may be established by the Board without further approval.
5. Amendments of written By-Laws shall be approved by the Quarterly Conference.
6. Appointment of Executive officers shall be approved by the Quarterly Conference.
7. Educational Agencies shall be responsible to the Board of Education.

Article II - Guidelines

1. Before any agency is organized the following considerations should be made:
 - a. What are the needs of the whole church in the area of education?
 - b. What specific function should be fulfilled by this agency?
 - c. What personnel and abilities are available? Example: If all those available for leadership of the Sunday School are not well suited to leading an opening worship (if you want one), then the By-Laws should state the person holding the leadership position will be responsible to have someone lead the opening worship.

6. Teachers:

- a. Shall be responsible for the lesson preparation and presentation each Sunday.
- b. Shall be faithful to the public services of the Church. Those in positions of leadership need to set the example for those who follow.
- c. Each teacher shall be responsible to keep a regular account of student attendance and to contact the absentee who has not been in class for two (2) consecutive Sundays.
- d. Shall attend Staff Meetings, and when unable to attend, shall notify the Superintendent. Regular staff meeting attendance is strongly encouraged.

IV. STAFF MEETINGS

The work of the bi-monthly (or monthly) meeting of the Officers and Teachers of the Sunday School seeks to:

- A. Keep the Sunday School on a straight course toward its objectives (see Article I.)
- B. Facilitate smooth operation for the good of the individual student and the whole Sunday School.
- C. Be responsible for the supervision of the work in such a way that things will operate with efficiency in accomplishing Sunday School goals.
- D. Plan a time for workers' conferences or teacher instruction, a vital part of ministry to teachers.

d. What tasks need to be done? Examples: (1) Don't appoint a corresponding secretary if there is no real need: give a recording secretary this task if it is needed once or twice. (2) If no treasury is anticipated, or if your church has a unified treasury, you should not need a treasurer.

e. What are the short-range and long-range goals of the Church? How does this agency help reach those goals?

2. Determine the responsibilities of officers.
3. Determine the relationship of officers to each other.
4. How are officers to be elected? Term of office?
5. How will officers relate to Board of Christian Education and Quarterly Conference? (Executive officers usually are members of the Quarterly Conference.)
6. What resources are available to the agency? (How will financial needs be met?)
7. What kind and how many meetings shall be held? Example: The agency may meet weekly for 9 months but the executive officers meet monthly.
8. Written By-Laws shall be published and made available to all church members.

Article III - Discipline

1. All officers shall be members of the Church.
2. Other staff who are not church members must be approved by the Quarterly Conference.
3. Board of Christian Education shall evaluate the ministry of each educational agency. If the agency is no longer fulfilling its function and moving toward its goals, or if the goals have changed enough to warrant action, the Board shall recommend amendments in the By-Laws or shall recommend the agency be disbanded. Examples: (1) A visitation program might need to be changed to two organizations; (i.e.) an Evangelism Committee and a Discipleship Committee. (2) A Ladies Bible Study that is spending more than half of its time in prayer might need to be encouraged to join a prayer meeting and move ahead to meet its goal, or become a prayer group and another organization be established to teach the Bible to them.

APPENDIX ELEVEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

Holy Scripture Circulation

We acknowledge the need for the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world, and encourage the support for the translation, printing and distribution of said Scriptures.

The Conference shall elect representatives to the agency designated to represent it at the time. Expenses for those elected shall be defrayed by the Conference.

**APPENDIX TWELVE OF THE DISCIPLINE
National Association of Evangelicals**

The Primitive Methodist Church is a member of the National Association of Evangelicals.

a. Local churches are authorized and directed to continue their support of this organization.

b. Conference officials may be designated to represent the denomination at the stated meetings of N.A.E.

c. Representatives may be appointed to the subsidiary N.A.E. organizations.

d. Expenses involved shall be met by the Conference or by the Board represented.

e. All designated representation shall be according to the By-Laws of N.A.E.

**APPENDIX THIRTEEN OF THE DISCIPLINE
In Memoriam
Western Conference
"The Memory of the Just is Blessed"**

Entered Ministry	Name	Died	Age	Years in Ministry
1854	John Leekely	Feb, 1884	51	30
1802	Frederick Dobson	Apr 27, 1843	-	
	41			
1848	Father Bond	May 9, 1876	-	
	28			
1848	William Wood	Mar 25, 1876	-	
	28			
1848	John Sharp	July 5, 1886	-	
	39			
1848	Joseph Hewitt	Jan 30, 1888	76	33
1849	Thomas Jarvis	Oct 9, 1888	76	33
1850	William Tomkins	Apr 26, 1870	64	24
1850	Christ Hendra	May 5, 1891	71	40
1851	Charles Dawson	May 27, 1898	72	34
1857	Thomas Butterwick	May 30, 1883	-	
	40			
1870	Alfred Pasco	June 8, 1875	-	
	3			
1870	William Audiss	June 28, 1902	81	3
1871	Hugh Clark	May 19, 1891	76	5
1881	John Ralph	June 16, 1891	34	14
1881	W. D. James	1910	81	16
1884	Frank Vivian	July 5, 1898	48	14
1885	William Cape	July 19, 1894	30	9
1890	J. D. Blenksopp	Feb 13, 1921	59	30
1892	M. D. Peary	May 6, 1923	-	
	31			
	Rev. M. C. Chubb	June 17, 1934	-	
	-			
	Rev. M. C. Baker	Apr 12, 1939	91	44
1867	William A. Morris	Nov 17	93	72

Rev. R. M. Stevenson, Richard Lazenly, David Handley, William Johnson, S. How, and James Arnold - no correct information obtainable in regard to their death, age, ministry.

In Memoriam
"The Memory of the Just is Blessed"

In Memoriam
Eastern Conference
"The Memory of the Just is Blessed"

Entered Ministry	Name	Died	Age	Years in Ministry
1888	Rev. John J. Arnaud	Feb 10, 1902	56	14
1871	Rev. J. H. Acornley,D.D.	Sep 16, 1907	65	36
1876	Rev. W. H. Yarrow,D.D.	Dec 2, 1909	79	33
1907	Rev. W. H. Brock	Dec 10, 1910	29	3
1887	Rev. J. Sutcliffe	Apr 11, 1911	67	24
1869	Rev. Howard Daisely	Apr 24, 1911	82	42
1887	Rev. John T. Barlow	Sep 13, 1917	63	30
1876	Rev. Thomas M. Bateman, D.D.	July 1, 1920	75	45
1879	Rev. N.W.Matthews,Ph.D.	Nov 30, 1922	64	44
1920	Rev. John Trewartha	Feb 28, 1924	-	-
1878	Rev. John Mason,D.D.	Jan 27, 1926	74	48
1886	Rev. John Proude,A.M.	Dec 1, 1927	70	40
1874	Rev. Elijah Humphries, D.D.	July 15, 1928	75	47
1907	Rev. John Ullom	Nov 24, 1936	57	29
1885	Rev. Alfred Humphries, Ph.D.	Sep 24, 1937	77	52
1892	Rev. William B. Taylor, D.D.	Jan 7, 1942	87	50
1904	Rev. William T. Blackeby, D.D.	Mar 9, 1944	79	40
1909	Rev. Aleanah Hesford,D.D.	June 4, 1946	74	37
1928	Rev. Edward J. Curson	Sep 1, 1947	83	20
1911	Rev. Joseph Gorton	Oct, 1947	80	46
1900	Rev. Charles H. Kershaw	Nov 25, 1947	68	42

Entered Ministry	Name	Died	Age	Years in Ministry
1853	Rev. G. Parker	Oct 8, 1879	64	26
1876	Rev. T. Phillips	Apr 22, 1882	34	10
1872	Rev. R. Fothergill	Apr 22, 1882	37	10
1882	Rev. S. Silvers	Sep, 1882	24	-
-	-	Aug 5, 1885	35	4
1841	Rev. C. Spurr	Jan 31, 1890	70	35
1865	Rev. C. Miles	Jan 15, 1892	79	51
1892	Rev. W. Opie	July 7, 1897	54	5
1885	Rev.A. Woodcock	July 13, 1897	69	12
1845	Rev. J. George	aug 11, 1897	80	52
1889	Miss E. Demerritt	Apr, 1898	33	9
1880	Rev. S. Penglase	June 12, 1903	62	23
1884	Rev.C. Prosser	June 5, 1904	45	20
1874	Rev. M. Harvey	Mar 26, 1905	68	31
1837	Rev. C. McKechnie	Sep 5, 1905	87	66
1840	Rev. B. Whillock	Feb 14, 1910	91	70
1871	Rev. D. Savage	Mar 16, 1910	75	39
1907	Rev. J. Trevitt	Oct 9, 1910	30	3
1884	Rev. W. H. Acornley	Dec 26, 1916	69	32
1892	Rev. James Walker	Dec 17, 1917	60	26
1880	Rev. J. B. Tyler	Dec 14, 1918	79	38
1873	Rev. H. G. Russell	Apr 8, 1919	77	50
1888	Rev. J. D. Acker	Feb 11, 1919	88	35
1887	Rev. W. F. Nichols	Feb 11, 1920	59	33
1886	Rev. John Bath	Apr 25, 1920	64	34
1871	Rev. T. C. Bache	Jan 4, 1921	81	46
1920	Rev. J. H. Evans	Feb 25, 1924	25	4
1882	Rev. G. J. Jefferies	Aug 10, 1924	74	43
1888	Rev. R. W. Wilson	Dec 26, 1924	66	37
1923	Rev. W. R. West	Mar 22, 1925	27	2
1891	Rev. C. H. Higginson	Nov 19, 1926	63	35
1892	Rev. Thomas Wilson	Jan 19, 1927	67	35

Entered Ministry	Name	Died	Age	Years in Ministry	Entered Ministry	Name	Died	Age	Years in Ministry
1872	Rev. John G. Ward	Dec 24, 1926	77	54	1945	Rev. Russell R. Kingsley	May 3, 1958	41	13
1890	Rev. S. T. Nichols	Nov 20, 1927	60	37	1926	Rev. Lambert Fell	Nov 16, 1958	71	32
1880	Rev. John Hardcastle	Oct 8, 1927	73	49	1922	Rev. Richard Seymour	Mar 15, 1959	70	32
1888	Rev. George Lees	1930 -	-		1902	Rev. J. Albert Tinker	Jan 2, 1959	84	45
1927	Rev. Samuel Clements	May 13, 1930	70	40	1896	Rev. James Iley	Oct 23, 1959	89	48
1908	Rev. T. H. Reseigh	Dec 8, 1931	55	23	1897	Rev. Wm. C. Hall	Nov 6, 1960	93	42
1889	Rev. Wm. Reynolds	Dec 28, 1931	71	42	1921	Rev. Wm. B. Sharp	June 28, 1960	78	39
1892	Rev. J. N. Reseigh	Dec 30, 1932	65	40	1910	Rev. Joseph Holden	Nov 30, 1963	86	54
1898	Rev. James Truscott	Jan 19, 1933	61	35	1918	Rev. Arthur Butterfield	Mar 14, 1964	84	46
1921	Rev. J. H. Magee	Dec 19, 1933	49	12	1921	Rev. Peter Scholes	Apr 13, 1964	69	43
1882	Rev. James Moore	Apr 5, 1935	77	53	1913	Rev. Wesley Boyd, D.D.	Sep 5, 1964	74	51
1893	Rev. Anthony Iveson	Nov 24, 1935	77	42	1908	Rev. William J. Waters	Dec 5, 1964	80	56
1895	Rev. W. T. Williams	June 5, 1935	70	40	1914	Rev. Clement Crawley	Mar 13, 1965	84	51
1887	Rev. H. J. Buckingham	May 15, 1939	77	52	1900	Rev. William F. Paul	Oct 8, 1965	87	65
1930	Mrs. Harriette Clements Boyd (Deaconess)	Aug 7, 1939	69	10	1922	Rev. Joseph C. McGuinness	Nov 8, 1966	-	44
1897	Rev. Thomas Cook	Jan 31, 1941	69	43	1925	Rev. William Oughton	Dec 28, 1966	-	42
1906	Rev. Andrew B. Russell	June 14, 1941	63	35	1934	Rev. Thomas J. Brown	Nov 6, 1967	60	33
1883	Rev. George Ball	Nov 4, 1941	89	58	1930	Rev. Herbert Hoyes	Jan 6, 1968	64	37
1930	Rev. Samuel D. Knecht	Jan 30, 1942	43	12	1918	Rev. George T. Bamford	Jan 21, 1968	82	38
1922	Rev. W. J. Williams	Dec 30, 1942	75	20	1921	Rev. J. Elvin Zuch	Nov 2, 1968	70	47
1888	Rev. W. H. Holder	May 26, 1944	79	45	1936	Rev. Wilbert S. Tyson	Mar 16, 1970	69	28
1900	Rev. J. C. Keller	Sep 24, 1944	73	45	1920	Rev. Frank Dracup	Mar 1, 1971	88	68
1915	Rev. William J. Reseigh	Mar 22, 1945	55	30	1959	Rev. Frank Van Fleet	June 6, 1970	48	11
1910	Rev. Charles W. Peters	June 4, 1945	78	27	1924	Rev. Floyd J. Seymour	June 15, 1971	69	36
1896	Rev. William H. Russell, D.D.	Dec 16, 1947	82	51	1915	Rev. Isaac Davies	Aug 19, 1972	80	55
1908	Rev. George Powis	Dec 6, 1948	75	40	1926	Rev. John H. Ferguson	Oct 13, 1973	68	45
1906	Rev. Harry O. Fichter	Feb 26, 1950	71	44	1931	Rev. William A. Smith	May 26, 1974	70	38
1923	Rev. George E. Harrison	Oct 21, 1950	58	25	1943	Rev. H. William Hays	Sep 29, 1974	62	31
1931	Rev. Charles C. Pellow	May 11, 1951	52	20	1926	Rev. Jesse C. Murphy	Dec 12, 1974	82	37
1904	Rev. Nicholas White	Aug 24, 1952	79	49	1975	Rev. John B. Grogg	Aug 1, 1975	25	-
1937	Rev. Wade R. Miller	Nov 10, 1955	49	18	1911	Rev. Thomas W. Jones	Aug 24, 1975	86	55
1914	Rev. William C. Tyrrell	Oct 1, 1957	77	43	1928	Rev. Leonard L. Collins	Dec 5, 1975	-	47
1922	Rev. Samuel R. Nichols	June 27, 1957	84	18	1956	Rev. James Lumsden	Mar 24, 1976	55	20
					1930	Rev. Alban G. Tippins	Apr 19, 1976	74	45

Entered Ministry	Name	Died	Age	Years in Ministry
1923	Rev. Arthur E. Hiley	Nov 3, 1980	80	42
1954	Rev. G. Kenneth Tyson	Dec 20, 1981	50	27
1921	Rev. Eber Seymour	May 17, 1982	89	40
1928	Rev. Evan P. Thomas	Aug 10, 1982	79	42
1943	Rev. Francis Reilly	Feb 20, 1983	78	32
1950	Rev. John G. Reitz	Jan 30, 1984	59	32
1946	Rev. Lester J. Moore	Sep 3, 1984	62	38
1950	Rev. W. Melvyn Lewis	Nov 14, 1984	63	34
1937	Rev. Richard L. Purnell,D.D.	Apr 27, 1985	72	45
1952	Rev. David M. Jones	May 12, 1985	68	33
1984	Rev. William A. Heffner	Nov 6, 1985	61	2
1982	Rev. James S. Vickery	June 30, 1986	51	4
1943	Rev. Carman W. Robinson	Apr 3, 1987	69	36
1950	Rev. James S. Hughes	Apr 5, 1988	69	38
1987	Rev. Bruce E. Whitney	Apr 18, 1989	53	2
1923	Rev. Harry S. Granger	June 9, 1989	-	-
1915	Rev. John Stephens	July 12, 1990	100	75
1952	Rev. John Lewis Evans	Feb 8, 1991	60	38
1971	Rev. John Douglas Sargent	Sep 10, 1993	44	22
1950	Rev. E. Gerald Anderson	June 22, 1995	77	44
1975	Rev. William C. Lewis	May 26, 1995	81	20
1938	Rev. Harold J. Barrett	Mar 20, 1997	86	59
1940	Rev. Andrew C. Heller	June 11, 1996	78	56
1929	Rev. Richard E. Owens, D.Th.	Aug 28, 1997	96	68
1962	Rev. LeRoy Harvey	Aug 23, 1998	73	36
1950	Rev. Herman Hildebrand	Nov 8, 1998	75	48
1944	Rev. Donald L. Thomas	Mar 7, 1999	79	55
-	Rev. Andrew Derrick	-	-	-
1948	Rev. William Edwards	Sep 14, 2000	82	52
1951	Rev. Clifton Eugene Mains Sr.	Aug 14, 2000	76	49
1947	Rev. Oddie Malanowski	Sep 24, 2001	82	54

Entered Ministry	Name	Died	Age	Years in Ministry
1945	Rev. J. William Reseigh, D.D.	July 1, 2001	77	56
1939	Rev. William R. Esser	June 5, 2002	94	63
1975	Rev. Joseph Chomas	Feb 3, 2004	94	29
1956	Rev. Wesley Frey	Apr 12, 2004	80	48
1952	Rev. Hubert Kidd	-	82	52
1963	Rev. Loyd R. Dean	Dec 5, 2006	80	43
1975	Rev. David Malanowski	Aug 19, 2006	54	31
1943	Chaplain William Rennie	Jan 22, 2008	91	65
-	Rev. Robert Balsinger	-	-	-
-	Rev. Tom W. Watkins	-	-	-
1980	Rev. Daniel Jackson Jones Sr.	May 31, 2008	85	29

APPENDIX FOURTEEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

EASTERN CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary
1	1891	Scranton	H. Daisley	J. H. Acornley
2	1892	Fall River, First	T. M. Bateman	J. Mason
3	1893	Lawrence, First	J. H. Acornley	J. T. Barlow
4	1894	Fall River, First	J. J. Arnaud	T. G. Spencer
5	1895	New Bedford, Second	J. Mason	G. Davis
6	1896	Providence, First	W. H. Yarrow	W. B. Taylor
7	1897	Lowell, First	N.W. Matthews	J. Mason
8	1898	Lonsdale	E. Humphries	J. J. Lockett
9	1899	Methuen, First	W. B. Taylor	J. H. Acornley
10	1900	Pascoag	A. Humphries	J. H. Acornley
11	1901	New Bedford, First	N.W. Matthews	J. H. Acornley
12	1902	Fall River, First	J. T. Barlow	J. H. Acornley
13	1903	Lonsdale	W. H. Shaw	J. H. Acornley
14	1904	Lowell, First	N.W. Matthews	J. H. Acornley
15	1905	Brooklyn, Second	J. Proude	J. H. Acornley
16	1906	Methuen, First	W. B. Taylor	J. H. Acornley
17	1907	Fall River, Third	T. M. Bateman	J. H. Acornley
18	1908	Pascoag	R. Cookson	E. Humphries
19	1909	Fall River, Second	J. J. Lockett	J. Mason
20	1910	New Bedford, Second	W. H. Shaw	J. Mason
21	1911	Lonsdale	W. B. Taylor	C. H. Kershaw
22	1912	Lowell, Second	N.W. Matthews	C. H. Kershaw
23	1913	North Tiverton	A. Humphries	C. H. Kershaw
24	1914	Methuen, Second	E. Humphries	C. H. Kershaw
25	1915	New Bedford, First	J. Mason	C. H. Kershaw

Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary
26	1916	Fall River, Third	T. M. Bateman	C. H. Kershaw
27	1917	New Bedford, Second	N.M. Matthews	C. H. Kershaw
28	1918	Fall River, First	J. Proude	C. H. Kershaw
29	1919	Methuen, First	W. B. Taylor	C. H. Kershaw
30	1920	Lonsdale	E. Humphries	J. Singleton
31	1921	Brooklyn, First	C. H. Kershaw	N. W. Matthews
32	1922	Pascoag	A. Hesford	J. T. Ullom
33	1923	Lowell, First	J. Holden	J. T. Ullom
34	1924	Lonsdale	J. Proude	J. T. Ullom
35	1925	North Tiverton	E. Humphries	J. T. Ullom
36	1926	Fall River, Second	J. Gorton	J. T. Ullom
37	1927	Lowell, First	C. H. Kershaw	T. H. Reseigh
38	1928	Methuen, First	J. T. Ullom	T. H. Reseigh
39	1929	New Bedford, South	C. Crawley	T. H. Reseigh
40	1930	Block Island	W. B. Sharp	T. H. Reseigh
41	1931	Lowell, Second	A.M.Butterfield	J. Gorton
42	1932	Fall River, First	Frank Dracup	J. Gorton
43	1933	New Bedford, First	A. Humphries	J. Gorton
44	1934	Providence	J. Holden	J. Gorton
45	1935	Lonsdale	J. Gorton	A. E. Hiley
46	1936	Methuen, Second	E. J. Curson	A. E. Hiley
47	1937	New Bedford, Second	Lambert Fell	A. Humphries
48	1938	Methuen, First	A. E. Hiley	A. Hesford
49	1939	Fall River, First	C. H. Kershaw	A. Hesford
50	1940	Lowell, First	Wm. B. Sharp	F. J. Seymour
51	1941	Lowell, Second	Edward Price	F. J. Seymour
52	1942	Lonsdale	F. J. Seymour	A. M. Butterfield
53	1943	Fall River, Second	C. Crawley	A. M. Butterfield

Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary
54	1944	Greystone	W. S. Tyson	A. M. Butterfield
55	1945	Fall River,First	A. Hesford	A. M. Butterfield
56	1946	Methuen, Third	F. J. Seymour	A. M. Butterfield
57	1947	North Tiverton	Lambert Fell	A. M. Butterfield
58	1948	Merged with Pennsylvania Conference, at Wilkes-Barre, PA., April 29, 1948.		

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary
1	1873	Plymouth	C. Spurr	H. Daisley
2	1874	Mt. Carmel	C. Spurr	H. Daisley
3	1875	Shenandoah	C. Spurr	H. Daisley
4	1876	Girardville	D. Savage	R. Fotergill
5	1877	St. Clair	H. Daisley	W. H. Yarrow
6	1878	Wilkes-Barre	D. Savage	W. H. Yarrow
7	1879	Hazleton	J. Odell	E. Humphries
8	1880	Tamaqua	R. Fothergill	E. Humphries
9	1881	St. Clair	C. Miles	R. Fothergill
10	1882	Girardville	C. Spurr	J. H. Acornley
11	1883	Brooklyn, First	W. H. Yarrow	J. H. Acornley
12	1884	Mahanoy City	H. G. Russell	S. R. Chubb
13	1885	Mt. Carmel	J. H. Acornley	J. T. Mathews
14	1886	Plymouth	E. Humphries	N. W. Matthews
15	1887	Lowell	T. M. Bateman	J. Mason
16	1888	Tamaqua	J.A.McGraham	G. J. Jefferies
17	1889	Shenandoah	S. R. Chubb	W. H. Acornley
18	1890	Nanticoke	N.W. Matthews	S. Knowles
19	1891	Scranton	M. Harvey	A. Humphries
20	1892	New Castle	S. Penglase	J. Proude
21	1893	St. Clair	G. Ball	C. Prosser
22	1894	Girardville	C. Prosser	J. Bath
23	1895	Avoca	J. Proude	S. T. Nichols
24	1896	Shamokin	T. C. Bache	J. Moore
25	1897	Scranton	W.H. Acornley	H. J. Buckingham
26	1898	Pittsburgh, First	J. Bath	J. N. Reseigh
27	1899	Nanticoke	G. J. Jefferies	W. H. Holder
28	1900	Tamaqua	G. Less	Wilson Bentley

Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary
29	1901	Plymouth, Second	W. F. Nichols	J. Guinness
30	1902	Shenandoah	H.J.Buckingham	W. H. Russell
31	1903	Hazleton	C. Prosser	J. Walker
32	1904	Pittsburgh, First	C.H. Higginson	T. Cook
33	1905	Wilkes-Barre, First	J. Moore	W. F. Paul
34	1906	New Castle	S. T. Nichols	W. F. Paul
35	1907	Tamaqua	W. H. Holder	J. Iley
36	1908	Avoca	R. W. Wilson	J. N. Goodrich
37	1909	Scranton	Wilson Bentley	N. White
38	1910	Mahanoy City	A. Iveson	N. White
39	1911	Pittsburgh,First	W. H. Acornley	T. Cook
40	1912	Mt. Carmel	J. N. Reseigh	C. H. Higginson
41	1913	Houtzdale	J. Iley	A. B. Russell
42	1914	New Castle	W. T. Williams	J. A. Tinker
43	1915	Plymouth, Second	J. Walker	H. J. Buckingham
44	1916	St. Clair	W. C. Hall	H. Clemons
45	1917	Youngstown, First	T. Wilson	T. W. Jones
46	1918	Wilkes-Barre, E.E.	W. H. Russell	W. F. Paul
47	1919	Girardville	Thos. Cook	H. O. Fichter
48	1920	Pittsburgh	J. Truscott	W. J. Reseigh
49	1921	Scranton	W. F. Paul	W. J. Reseigh
50	1922	Mt. Carmel	J. A. Tinker	C. H. Higginson
51	1923	Philadelphia	N. White	I. Davies
52	1924	Houtzdale	A. B. Russell	W. R. Williams
53	1925	Olyphant	H. O. Fichter	T. W. Jones
54	1926	Philadelphia	W. J. Waters	C. Q. Miller
55	1927	New Castle	A. Iveson	J. E. Zuch
56	1928	Shamokin	John Hardcastle	J. E. Zuch
57	1929	Avoca	George Powis	Peter R. Scholes
58	1930	Wilkes-Barre, S. St.	Wesley Boyd	Peter R. Scholes
59	1931	Pittsburgh, Second	W. H. Holder	J. H. Ferguson
60	1932	Dickson City	A. B. Russell	J. C. Murphy

Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary	Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary
61	1933	Hazleton	John Stephens	J. C. Murphy	91	1963	New Bedford,		
62	1934	Olyphant	Wm. J. Reseigh	R. E. Owens			South	Floyd J.Seymour	G. Kenneth Tyson
63	1935	Girardville	T. W. Jones	Herbert Hoyes	92	1964	Johnson City	Andrew C.Heller	G. Kenneth Tyson
64	1936	Platteville	I. Davies	Herbert Hoyes	93	1965	Hazleton	Gillard I.Evans	G. Kenneth Tyson
65	1937	Johnson City	G. T. Bamford	Herbert Hoyes	94	1966	Tamaqua	Francis L.Reilly	G. Kenneth Tyson
66	1938	Wilkes-Barre, E.E.	J.C.McGuinness	Herbert Hoyes	95	1967	Blakely	W. W.Vasey	G. Kenneth Tyson
67	1939	Hazleton	P. R. Scholes	W. A. Smith	96	1968	Philadelphia, Mayfair	Donald L.Thomas	G. Kenneth Tyson
68	1940	Pittsburgh,First	W. F. Paul	Thomas Brown	97	1969	Johnson City	Carman Robinson	G. Kenneth Tyson
69	1941	Nanticoke	Richard Seymour	Thomas Brown	98	1970	Platteville	Edward L.Thomas	G. Kenneth Tyson
70	1942	Youngstown, First	J. E. Zuch	C. C. Pellow	99	1971	Methuen	Lester Moore	Clarence Allwine
71	1943	Johnson City	J. Iley	C. C. Pellow	100	1972	Buck Hill Falls, PA	J.William Reseigh	Clarence Allwine
72	1944	Shamokin	Eber Seymour	Willis H. Miller	101	1973	Grantham, PA	William Fudge	Clarence Allwine
73	1945	New Castle	H. O. Fichter	Willis H. Miller	102	1974	Grantham, PA	Merle F. Wilson	Clarence Allwine
74	1946	Dickson City	Geo.E.Harrison	Willis H. Miller	103	1975	Grantham, PA	J. Fred Parkyn	Clarence Allwine
75	1947	Mt. Carmel	Frank Cracup	Willis H. Miller	104	1976	Grantham, PA	J. Fred Parkyn	Clarence Allwine
76	1948	Wilkes-Barre, First	J. C. Murphy	Floyd J. Seymour	105	1977	Grantham, PA	J. Fred Parkyn	Clarence Allwine
77	1949	Johnson City	J. H. Ferguson	Andrew C. Heller	106	1978	Grantham, PA	J. Fred Parkyn	Clarence Allwine
78	1950	Methuen	L. L. Collins	Andrew C. Heller	107	1979	Grantham, PA	G.Kenneth Tyson	Clarence Allwine
79	1951	Tamaqua	E. P. Thomas	Andrew C. Heller	108	1980	Grantham, PA	G.Kenneth Tyson	Clarence Allwine
80	1952	Philadelphia, First	R. E. Owens	Andrew C. Heller	109	1981	Grantham, PA	G.Kenneth Tyson	Kerry R. Ritts
81	1953	Hazleton	A. G. Tippins	Andrew C. Heller	110	1982	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	Kerry R. Ritts
82	1954	Wilkes-Barre, E.E.	Herbert Hoyes	Andrew C. Heller	111	1983	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	Kerry R. Ritts
83	1955	Shamokin	John H.Gordon	Andrew C. Heller	112	1984	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	Kerry R. Ritts
84	1956	Platteville	William A.Smith	Andrew C. Heller	113	1985	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	Kerry R. Ritts
85	1957	Plymouth, Franklin St.	Thomas J.Brown	Andrew C. Heller	114	1986	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	Kerry R. Ritts
86	1958	Wilkes-Barre, E.E.	Richard L.Purnell	Andrew C. Heller	115	1987	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	Kerry R. Ritts
87	1959	Tamaqua	Harold J. Barrett	Andrew C. Heller	116	1988	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	Kerry R. Ritts
88	1960	Pittsburgh, Third	Harold K.Hatton	Andrew C. Heller	117	1989	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	John D. Sargent
89	1961	Johnson City	William R.Esser	Andrew C. Heller	118	1990	Grantham, PA	J.William Reseigh	John D. Sargent
90	1962	Hazleton	J.C.McGuinness	Andrew C. Heller	119	1991	Grantham, PA	K. Gene Carroll	John D. Sargent
					120	1992	Grantham, PA	K. Gene Carroll	John D. Sargent
					121	1993	Grantham, PA	K. Gene Carroll	David Parry
					122	1994	Grantham, PA	K. Gene Carroll	David Parry
					123	1995	Grantham, PA	K. Gene Carroll	David Parry
					124	1996	Grantham, PA	Eugene Martin	David Parry
					125	1997	Grantham, PA	A. Russell Masartis	David Parry
					126	1998	North East,MD	Wayne Yarnall	David Parry

Number	Date	Place	President	Recording Secretary
127	1999	North East,MD	Wayne Yarnall	Allan Rupert
128	2000	North East,MD	Wayne Yarnall	Allan Rupert
129	2001	North East,MD	Wayne Yarnall	Allan Rupert
130	2002	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	Allan Rupert
131	2003	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	Allan Rupert
132	2004	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	Allan Rupert
133	2005	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	Allan Rupert
134	2006	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	John Stange, IV
135	2007	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	John Stange, IV
136	2008	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	John Stange, IV
137	2009	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	David Sargent
138	2010	North East,MD	Kerry R. Ritts	David Sargent

APPENDIX FIFTEEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

General Conference Sessions

YEAR	PLACE	OFFICERS
1889	Pittsburgh First, PA	President, Rev. Charles Miles Vice-President Rev. W. J. C. Bond Secretary, Rev. S. R. Chubb Treasurer, Mr. P. Allen
1893	Mineral Point, WI	President, Rev. J.H. Acornley, D.D. Vice-President, Rev. W. D. James Secretary, Rev. John Proude, M.A. Treasurer, Mr. J. Bond
1897	Fall River First, MA	President, Rev. T. M. Bateman, D.D. Vice-President, Rev. W. H. Yarrow, M.A. Secretary, Rev. John Mason Treasurer, Rev. J. T. Barlow
1901	Scranton, PA	President, Rev. W. H. Yarrow, M.A. Vice-President, Rev. Daniel Savage Secretary, Rev. John Mason Treasurer, Rev. J. T. Barlow
1905	Shenandoah, PA	President, Rev. Daniel Savage Vice-President, Elijah Humphries, D.D. Secretary, Rev. John Proude Treasurer, Rev. J. T. Barlow
1909	Lowell First, MA	President, Rev. Elijah Humphries, D.D. Vice-President, Mr. R. Dudley Secretary, Rev. John Proude, M.A. Treasurer, Rev. J. T. Barlow
1913	Wilkes-Barre First, PA	President, Rev. H. G. Russell Vice-President, Mr. Tom Brierley Secretary, Rev. Alfred Humphries, Ph.D. Treasurer, Rev. J. T. Barlow

YEAR	PLACE	OFFICERS	YEAR	PLACE	OFFICERS
1917	Platteville, WI	President, Rev. John Hardcastle Vice-President, Mr. Enoch George Secretary, Rev. William C. Hall, D.D. Treasurer, Rev. W. B. Taylor, D.D.	1942	Tamaqua, PA	President, Rev. William H. Russell, D.D. Vice-President, Rev. William Burley Sharp Secretary, Rev. John H. Ferguson Treasurer, Rev. John Stephens
1921	Hazleton, PA	President, Rev. Nathaniel W. Matthews Vice-President, Rev. George J. Jefferies Secretary, Rev. C. H. Kershaw Treasurer, Rev. W. B. Taylor, D.D. (President died November 30, 1922, Vice-President Rev. George J. Jefferies, acting President 1922 to 1925.)	1946	Blakely, Olyphant, PA	President, Reverend William Burley Sharp Vice-President, Rev. William Franklin Paul, Ph.D., D.D. Secretary, Rev. Richard Emerson Owens, S.T.M. Treasurer, Rev. John Stephens
1925	Kewanee, IL	President, Rev. S. T. Nicholls, S.T.D. Vice-President, Rev. Alfred Humphries, Ph.D. Secretary, Rev. H. J. Buckingham Treasurer, Rev. W. B. Taylor (President died November 20, 1927, Vice-President Rev. Alfred Humphries, acting President 1927 to 1929.)	1950	Wilkes-Barre, East End, PA	President, Rev. William F. Paul, Ph.D.,D.D. Vice-President, Rev. William J. Waters Secretary, Rev. Richard E. Owens, S.T.M. Treasurer, Rev. Floyd Joseph Seymour
1929	Pittsburgh First, PA	President, Rev. Alfred Humphries, Ph.D. Vice-President, Rev. H.J. Buckingham Secretary, Rev. James Iley Treasurer, Rev. John Stephens	1954	New Bedford South, MA	President, Rev. William J. Waters Vice-President, Rev. Thomas W. Jones, M.A., B.D.
1935	Lowell, Matthews Memorial, MA	President, Rev. H. J. Buckingham Vice-President, Rev. W. C. Hall, D.D. Secretary, Rev. William Burley Sharp Treasurer, Rev. John Stephens	1958	Methuen, St. George's, MA	President, Rev. Thomas W. Jones, B.D.,M.A. Vice-President, Rev. Wesley Boyd, M.A.,D.D. Secretary, Rev. Richard E. Owens, S.T.M.,Th.D. Treasurer, Rev. Floyd J. Seymour
1938	Wilkes-Barre First, PA	President, Reverend William Charles Hall, D.D. Vice-President, Rev. William H. Russell Secretary, Rev. William Burley Sharp Treasurer, Rev. John Stephens			

YEAR	PLACE	OFFICERS
1962	Hazleton, PA	President, Rev. Wesley Boyd, M.A.,D.D. Vice-President, Rev. Richard E. Owens, S.T.M.,Th.D. Secretary, Rev. Thomas J. Brown Treasurer, Rev. E. Kermit Giles (President died September 4, 1974, Vice-President Richard E. Owens acting President, 1964-1966.) (Treasurer resigned, May 1963, Rev. Gillard I. Evans, Treasurer,1963-1966).
1966	Pocono Mountain Bible Conference, PA	President, Rev. Richard E. Owens, S.T.M.,Th.D. Vice-President, Rev. Richard L. Purnell, D.D. Secretary, Rev. Harold K. Hatton Treasurer, Rev. Gillard I. Evans
1970	Pocono Mountain Bible Conference, PA	President, Rev. Richard L. Purnell, D.D. Vice-President, Rev. Harold J. Barrett Secretary, Rev. G. Kenneth Tyson Treasurer, Rev. Gillard I. Evans
1974	Johnson City, NY and Grantham, PA	President, Rev. Richard L. Purnell, D.D. Vice-President, Rev. Harold J. Barrett Secretary, Rev. G. Kenneth Tyson Treasurer, Rev. Lester J. Moore

1975 - General Conference joined with Annual Conference.

APPENDIX SIXTEEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

By Laws of the Primitive Methodist School of Theology and Examining Board

- 1. NAME:** School of Theology and Examining Board of the Primitive Methodist Church.
- 2. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Board is to examine, teach and equip individuals for the ministry and to guide them in their quest for higher learning. Its aims can be stated as follows:
 - (a) to set forth clearly the doctrines of the Bible (which is the Word of God);
 - (b) to cultivate and enrich the spiritual life and witness of the individual student, to develop able leaders and preachers of the Word of God for the edification of the church and propagation of the gospel at home and abroad;
 - (c) to assist in the training of local church leaders such as: deacons, local preachers, deaconess and exhorters;
 - (d) to examine all candidates for the ministry and mission field; to examine student ministers and supplies; to make recommendations as to their standing; and to advise and direct them in their preparation for ordination;
 - (e) to examine all ministerial transfers and make recommendations as to the acceptance of their credentials;
 - (f) to work in cooperation with the president for the arrangement of the ordination services.
- 3. COMPOSITION:** The Board shall consist of no less than five and no more than seven members, one third of which shall be elected bi-annually for a six year term. Membership shall be limited to ordained Elders of the Primitive Methodist Church.
- 4. ORGANIZATION:** The officers shall be elected annually by the Board, confirmed by the Conference and shall consist of the following:
 - (a) President
 - (1) Arrange for and conduct all meetings of the Board.
 - (2) Appoint committees and assign responsibilities to individual board members.
 - (3) Represent our Board before other Conference Boards and committees when necessary.

(b) Vice-President

(1) Assumes the responsibility of the president in the president's absence.

(2) Assists the president in any area requested.

(c) Secretary/Registrar

(1) Records minutes of all meetings and keeps record of all transactions of the Board, including students records and grades.

(2) Handles all official correspondence of the Board.

(3) Receives and records student registration fees and tuition.

(d) Treasurer of Special Funds

(1) Receives money from conference budget and education fund offerings.

(2) Pays operating expense of the board, school and summer school.

(3) Handles and records all ministerial student loan fund receipts and payments.

5. FUNCTION

(a) Maintain a constant vigilance with respect to the theological issues of the day and how they relate to our conference.

(b) Maintain a correspondence School of Theology.

(c) Conduct a summer School of Theology.

(d) Establish a resident School of Theology when feasible.

(e) Work in co-operation with other Christian Institutions of higher learning.

(f) Act as an examining board for the Conference.

(g) Provide a committee for the approving of ministerial student loan funds. This committee shall be composed of the Special Funds Treasurer and two other members (not necessarily members of this Board.)

6. REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY are stated in articles 300 to 313.

7. MINISTERIAL STUDENT LOAN FUND

The purpose is to provide loans for education to ministerial students of the Primitive Methodist denomination.

(a) Requests must be made in writing to the Treasurer of Special Funds stating the purpose and the school.

(b) The ministerial student loan fund committee will act on each request.

(c) Loans are granted based on the availability of funds.

(d) Loans are granted up to the maximum established for each year.

(e) A student may request two loans up to the maximum amount.

(f) Loans are granted for ten years, the first five years being interest free. Repayments begin the sixth year on one half of the amount of the loan at a rate of interest established by the committee. The remaining balance is payable only if the recipient leaves the Primitive Methodist ministry.

(g) A note for each loan must be signed by the borrower along with two responsible co-signers who are responsible for its repayment. Names and addresses of the co-signer must be provided.

APPENDIX SEVENTEEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

Church Directory

The listing of the churches may be found by going to the world wide web at www.primitivemethodistchurch.org

EASTERN DISTRICT

New England States

WYOMING DISTRICT

Northeastern Pennsylvania and New York

SCHUYLKILL DISTRICT

Southeastern Pennsylvania

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Western Pennsylvania and Northeastern Ohio

WESTERN DISTRICT

Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Florida

APPENDIX EIGHTEEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

Resolutions and Presidential Rulings

1. 1976 Yearbook p. 42 Legislation Committee Report Item 3

We as the Primitive Methodist denomination, declare ourselves opposed to the ecumenical movement and to any doctrines whereby salvation by grace alone in Jesus Christ is not proclaimed. We understand by the term 'ecumenical movement' the current trend among many religious groups to merge into one body or one church, regardless of basic doctrinal differences or heritage, and very often at the compromise of spiritual and Biblical convictions.

We also recognize that involvement in this compromise on the community level extends itself in very subtle and innocent-appearing gestures of cooperation.

2. 1976 Yearbook p. 43 Executive Session Report Item 3

While we believe that God, in His sovereignty, could give the gifts of the Holy Spirit to anyone at any time, we see the present day sign-gift emphasis of the charismatic movement to be both divisive and unbiblical and not in harmony with Primitive Methodist theology or tradition.

3. Social Concerns Resolutions

Sacredness of Life

Abortion: We affirm the Scriptures to indicate that human personality begins at conception (Exodus 21:22-25, Jeremiah 1:4-5, Luke 1:41,44). We believe, therefore, that every human fetus is a true human being. We thus stand in opposition to the practice of abortion which denies the dignity, development, and destiny of human personality.

Euthanasia: We believe human life, regardless of age, or mental and physical capacity, is sacred and has worth. We stand opposed to the philosophy of euthanasia where purposeful action is taken to end a human life for reasons such as population control. We call upon clinicians engaged in the healing profession to desist from implementing philosophies and practices which devalue human life, and to reaffirm their oaths for the protection

and promotion of human well-being.

Pornography: We affirm the Scriptures to indicate that the portrayal of erotic behavior intended to cause sexual excitement is immoral and socially destructive (Matthew 5:28, Romans 13:13-14, I John 2:15-17; Philippians 4:8). We disclaim any idea that pornography is not a crime; rather it is a crime whose victims constitute a critical census of men, women, and children. We denounce the efforts of those who seek to establish a Playboy/Playgirl philosophy as socially legitimate. We call upon our elected officials to enforce all existing obscenity laws and urge all concerned citizens to exert their voice and vote in effecting a cure for this destructive social disease.

Gambling: We affirm the Scriptures to indicate that gambling is a perversion of the Lord's concept of stewardship and inconsistent with a Christian lifestyle (Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:33,34, I Timothy 6:9-10, I Thessalonians 4:11). As Christians we are called to stand in opposition to any principle or practice which degrades rather than enhances the finer elements of our personhood and our society. This, gambling does, by opening the floodgate to immorality through its peripheral union with crime, prostitution, drugs, and alcohol. We therefore stand in opposition to any idea that gambling is a wholesome, productive, and beneficial element within our society.

Thermo-nuclear Arms Limitations: While we maintain that peaceful negotiations is the most moral and desirable form of securing peace, we oppose the current nuclear freeze movement as a potential danger to national security, and we oppose any reduction in our total military forces, whether unilateral or multilateral if this reduction would force the United States into a position of military inferiority.

This is based upon the Scriptures which describe the civil governments duty to resist evil and protect its citizens, such as Romans 13:1-7, I Peter 2:13-17 and Luke 14:30-31.

4. 1983 How Money Is To Be Raised in the Local Church

We urge our churches to discourage, where ever possible, commercialism, as the means of supporting their church. For the Lord encourages us not to make the house of God a house of merchandise. Matthew 21:12; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-47;

John 2:13-17, the Lord deemed this important enough to emphasize it in all of the gospels.

We also urge our churches to teach tithing as encouraged in the Old and New Testaments. Malachi 3:8-10; Hebrews 7:5; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:9-15; II Corinthians 9:6-8. For the Word of God teaches us to bring our tithes and offerings unto Him.

We believe the words "As God has prospered us" to be another way of encouraging us to bring our tithes and offering unto the Lord.

We do not believe this goal can be accomplished by mandate, but only out of love and the goodness of God. We believe that every person should be willing to follow the request of our Lord as outlined in his word. The Lord tells us in Leviticus 27:30, "All of the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's and is holy unto the Lord."

5. 1984 Ministerial Ethics

Although ethics cannot be legislated, we recommend this injunction to Primitive Methodist ministers and their wives: that, once having severed their relationship with a local church, that they refrain from interfering or advising in local church affairs either in person, by telephoning or through the mail. Such interference only causes division and discord for the new pastor.

6. Presidential Ruling 1984 p. 41

Concerning the question "Who has the final authority with the pulpit, the Pastor or the Station Steward?" The president ruled that the Pastor, as president of the Quarterly Conference, and as Pastor who is responsible for the pulpit has the final authority.

7. Presidential Ruling 1989 Yearbook p. 21

A question of privilege sought clarification whether churches pastored by retired ministers are still in care of the District. The president ruled that once a church or circuit makes a contract with a Conference minister, they are no longer in the care of the District.

8. Resolution: Infant Dedication Without Water: 1989

Yearbook p. 26a.

Although a Primitive Methodist pastor is required to be willing to baptize an infant of a believer, if a parent or guardian requests a dedication without water, a pastor is permitted to participate, provided the local Quarterly Conference agrees with the practice.

9. The Pastoral Relations Committee

Many misunderstandings have arisen as to the purpose, duty and amount of authority the Pastoral Relations Committee has.

The main purpose of this committee, which is elected annually, is to act as a liaison between pastor and congregation. This committee, elected at the annual election of Church officers shall be composed of 3 to 5 persons, one of whom shall be the Station Steward. The Pastoral Relations Committee (often known as the P. R. Committee) must always act in conjunction with the Station Steward. It is not a complaint committee. (Complaints should be handled in accordance with Scripture - Matthew 18.)

Duties: (1) To work out any misunderstanding which might arise during the year. This means it should be active throughout the year as a support to the pastor, offering encouragement and discussing matters of mutual concern to pastor and congregation. (2) Prior to the Annual Congregational meeting the committee will meet with the Pastor to discuss the work of the Church under his ministry. The committee should not wait until the week before the Annual Congregational meeting to meet with the Pastor. At the Annual meeting a discussion will be held, with input from the P. R. Committee, in regard to the work of the Church under the pastor's leadership as well as salary, fringe benefits and all matters relating to the new pastoral year with the present pastor. Should any differences remain, the P. R. Committee must bring these back to the congregation as soon as possible so that they can be worked out. (3) Should the pastor decide not to return, and until another Congregational meeting is held, the P. R. Committee can be instructed to (a) contact one or several choices (b) offer or negotiate salaries and fringe benefits with the following limitations: 603A "The Pastoral Relations Committee cannot make any commitments with an ordained Elder other than that authorized by the Congregational Meeting." (c) Contact any

available Elder.

Authority: This committee has only the authority granted by the Annual Congregational Meeting. It cannot make commitments on its own. It can offer suggestions but does not have the final authority to decide about the pastor or the salary. The Committee acts only as the one to carry out the wishes and decisions of the Congregation.

The Pastoral Relations Committee is a good addition to our Church government. Many problems can be averted and many misunderstandings straightened out. Working as the arm of the Congregational Meeting they can cultivate and generate a good feeling and cooperative spirit between pastor and Congregation. 602A "This committee will serve in a counseling capacity to the Pastor to discuss the mutual concerns of the ministry of the total church during their term of office."

10. Presidential Ruling - Setting of Salary

In response to the request for a Conference ruling on the Election of Pastor, "Specifically, Which is done first - the setting of salary or the invitation of the Pastor?", it was ruled, "Pastor first; then salary second." (Discipline 602B1)

APPENDIX NINETEEN OF THE DISCIPLINE

Handbook For District Superintendents

The following guidelines are presented for a Handbook to be used by all District Superintendents detailing his duties and responsibilities.

A. Definition of the Office

The District Superintendent is an elected Conference official with the responsibility of administration within his district.

B. Qualifications

He shall be an ordained Elder.

He shall reside in the district to which he is elected.

He shall have a thorough knowledge of the policies and operational procedures of the Conference.

C. Job Function Definition

He shall have official supervision of all churches and ministers within his area. In emergencies he represents the Conference, with or for ministers, or congregations or Quarterly Conferences. The District Superintendent is the highest authority within the District and is responsible for the harmony and unity within the district. He shall provide leadership and direction for denominational activities and policies within his area.

D. Duties

1. He shall keep aware of and abreast of activities and events within the district.

2. He shall be the information center and the clearing house for events and activities within the district.

3. He shall call all District Conferences and preside at the same. The District Superintendent or the District Conference shall appoint or elect a recording secretary, and this recording secretary and District Superintendent shall be responsible for the compiling of the minutes.

4. He shall call the annual District Conference and be empowered to call special Conferences when necessary.

5. He shall have official oversight of all ministers and churches within the district.

6. He shall be involved in the investigation of the sale or

purchase of any property within his district before the matter is presented either to a local church or the district for approval. His involvement shall be that of an advisory capacity.

7. Between the annual Conference sessions, all student pastors and supply pastors shall be the responsibility of the District Superintendent. He may visit them for counseling or guidance when necessary or as he deems necessary for the good of the district, the Conference, the individual church, or the pastor.

8. While the District Superintendent may not arbitrarily interfere in the pastor/church relationship, he may in the event of an emergency, call a meeting with a minister and/or congregation and/or a Quarterly Conference.

9. When notified of any emergency within a church or with a minister the District Superintendent must take immediate and appropriate action to investigate the problem.

10. In any contingency or emergency he shall contact the Conference President to coordinate actions and policy.

11. Should a vacancy occur in any church, the District Superintendent, with the Quarterly Conference, with the approval of the district, shall make satisfactory arrangements to fill the pulpit until the next Conference.

12. In the event that a District Supply is hired, the District Superintendent is directly responsible for the supervision of that supply.

13. Should a temporary emergency arise due to the lengthy illness of a pastor, the District Superintendent may be consulted by the Quarterly Conference to assist in securing competent pulpit supplies. He is the resource person to which any church applies for assistance if a pastor is incapacitated for any reason, or for any length of time.

14. He shall represent Conference to the various churches to encourage and promote Conference programs and to correlate various programs within the district.

15. He shall assist, when asked, and arrange missionary itinerary tours. He shall, when asked, arrange special Conference programs and projects for presentation to the district. He shall work in cooperation with the National Mission Board in any projects within the district or in seeking out locations for new churches in his area.

16. He shall notify all churches in the district of ministers seeking pastoral changes. He shall notify all ministers within his district of vacant churches throughout the denomination.

17. He shall notify other District Superintendents of vacancies or ministers seeking pastoral changes in his district.

18. Notification of vacancies and requests for pastoral changes shall be given at least two weeks prior to the annual congregational meetings.

19. He is responsible for receiving the annual reports from churches in his district, compiling the reports for the General Secretary of the Conference.

20. He is the "pastor's pastor" and shall be available for consultation by any minister within his district.

21. In the event of the death of a minister, the District Superintendent, by tradition, is in charge of the funeral arrangements and preside at the service. However, he shall consult with the family and defer to the wishes in such arrangements. In the case of a minister's wife or widow he shall offer whatever assistance may be required of him.

22. The Christian service flag shall be secured for any funeral service of a minister and shall be presented to the family at the conclusion of the funeral services.

23. Notification of the death of a minister, minister's wife, or minister's widow shall be given by telephone as soon as practical, to all ministers within the district, to the Conference President and to other District Superintendents.

Re-other deaths: He shall notify his district in the event of the death of a member of a minister's immediate family (father, mother, child), in order to facilitate the expression of condolences, or calling at the funeral home, or attending the funeral service.

Re-Serious illness of a minister or minister's wife: He shall notify his district as quickly as possible by whatever means he deems advisable. Likewise, he should notify other District Superintendents, probably by mail.

24. He shall be responsible for the strict monitoring of the expense accounts as stated on the vouchers turned in for Conference travel expenses. He shall sign them only if they are valid.

25. When a new minister is stationed in the district, the District Superintendent shall visit, or otherwise communicate with the new minister to advise him of the activities within the district and his expected response to those programs. He shall endeavor to acquaint the new minister with any items that might enable him to establish a successful pastorate.

26. He shall be responsible for the installation of each new minister when he comes into the district. The installation ceremony shall be part of a public worship service in the church of the new minister. The ceremony shall include appropriate Scriptures, a charge to the new minister, and a charge to the congregation. In the case of an ordained Elder with years of seniority, the installation ceremony may be adapted to the situation.

27. The District Superintendent shall visit our pastors and churches at least annually for encouragement, updating, fact-finding, counsel and further oversight.

28. The District Superintendent shall provide for a yearly planning meeting with pastors within their district for growth, outreach projects, new church plants, church redevelopments and other such plans within their district. This is not to be held during the same time as the existing District Meetings.

29. All District Superintendents will meet annually with our Executive Council (currently during the Fall Meeting) to report on their district, churches, pastors and strategic plans for the future.

E. Organizational Relationship and Accountability

The District Superintendent is responsible to the Conference for the fulfillment of his duties and throughout the year is accountable to the Executive Council of Conference.

1. Relationship With Conference Officials

a. The District Superintendent is a Conference officer.

b. He shall be in contact with the Conference President where matters relate to the overall work and programs of Conference.

c. Items of concern and interest should be conveyed to Conference officials as deemed advisable.

d. He must notify the General Secretary of Conference of any vacancies which occur during the year. He shall notify the General Secretary of any pastors desiring changes in pastorates at

least two weeks before the annual congregational meeting in late March.

e. He shall notify the General Secretary of all pastoral arrangements within the district as the results of the annual congregational meeting.

2. Relationship Between District Superintendent and Other District Superintendents

a. The District Superintendent is the highest authority within his own district. Appeals to any ruling or decision of the district superintendent by a local church, minister, or member, should be made to the Conference President.

b. The District Superintendent is responsible for the harmony and unity within the district.

c. The District Superintendent represents the Conference to churches in his area and he shall provide the leadership and direction for denominational activities as well as provide the administrative oversight of his district.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS' POLICY AND PRACTICE

1. Please consult the Primitive Methodist Discipline for information on duties and responsibilities. Discipline 501 & 502.

2. Please consult the Primitive Methodist Ministers' manual for information from the District Superintendent's Handbook.

The following is a summary of other policies and practices adopted by the District Superintendents at their annual meetings.

CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITIES

I. The presentation of their respective District report before the Conference.

A. The reading of the District Remarks and individual church items.

B. Remember: Any item of business not receiving District Approval will not be presented to Conference.

II. Attendance and Participation in the Conference Stationing

Committee.

A. Please see the Primitive Methodist Discipline Item #305.

B. The General Secretary will request one District Superintendent each year to present a devotion during the first Stationing Committee meeting.

C. Each District Superintendent will be requested to distribute all Ministerial I. D. cards to the Pastors of their district.

1) Please note any corrections, changes, etc. to the General Secretary before the end of Conference.

D. Each District Superintendent will distribute the Travel Fund Checks to all Pastors and Delegates at the conclusion of the Sunday Morning Worship Services.

1) Any person leaving the Conference Sessions, without the expressed permission of the Conference President, shall not receive their checks. No exceptions.

2) If permission is granted by the Conference President, the check may be presented at the discretion of the District Superintendent.

3) All undistributed checks shall be promptly returned to the Travel Fund Treasurer.

CONFERENCE REPORT GUIDELINES

I. District Financial Reports

A. The General Secretary will provide each District Superintendent with the proper report forms in January.

B. Each form must be completed and returned to the General Secretary by February 10th.

1) Please leave no spaces blank. Be sure each Pastor has completed their church's report, signed and included the date of their Quarterly Conference's approval.

2) These report forms are available on IBM 3.5 inch disk for computers. Contact the General Secretary for information.

II. Church Remarks Reports for the Yearbook.

A. All individual reports are limited to 100 words, or less.

B. Please edit and type these reports for submission to the General Secretary.

C. These reports are to be submitted to the General Secretary within two (2) weeks of the completion of your District

Conference.

III. District Items for Annual Conference.

A. To be submitted to the General Secretary as soon as possible after your District Conference. Please try for 48 hours.

B. These may be mailed to the General Secretary or faxed to the office of the President.

IV. Reports Checklist:

A. Financial Reports.

1) Report charts, completed, as provided by the General Secretary.

2) Photocopies of all individual church reports.

B. General Information Reports.

1) This includes Station Steward, Church Clerks, delegates, names and addresses please.

DISTRICT SUPPLY PASTORS

I. Please see the P. M. Discipline Item #411.

II. Each District Supply will be required to meet the qualifications of ministry as set by the Conference.

III. Each District Supply will be employed by the District Superintendent, but approved by the District in which they are employed.

IV. Each District Supply will be required to sign the one year contract adopted by the District Superintendents.

CONFERENCE PRAYER CHAIN POLICIES

I. The purpose is to provide prayer support for the Pastor and family throughout the Conference.

II. The District Superintendent shall call the General Secretary who will notify each District Superintendent of the prayer request.

III. The prayer requests are limited to (on the Conference level) to the Pastor and his family residing in the parsonage.

1) Each individual District may have its own policy for family members residing elsewhere.

YEARBOOK MEMORIALS

I. This is a District matter requiring the approval of your District and notification of the Conference in your District Remarks at the Annual Conference Sessions in May.

II. When approved by your District Conference, a person will be appointed or elected to write the memorial.

A. Each memorial is limited to 300 words or less.

B. Each memorial shall be submitted to the General Secretary for inclusion in the Yearbook within two weeks of the completion of your District Conference. After that, appearance in the Yearbook is not guaranteed.

III. The cost for memorial for Ministers and their wives is born by the Conference.

The cost of local Church member memorials shall be arranged prior to Conference by the District Superintendent and noted in his District Remarks.

MINISTERIAL FUNERAL POLICIES

I. Each District Superintendent shall have on hand a Christian Flag. These may be ordered through Wy-Val Religious Supply and billed directly to the Conference Treasurer.

II. Each District Superintendent shall provide for a floral arrangement at the Minister's funeral.

A. The cost shall not exceed \$50.00.

B. The bill for this shall be sent directly to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Investment Foundation for payment. Do not send it to the Flower Fund Treasurer.

III. In lieu of flowers, a donation of up to \$50.00 may be made to the Pastor's Church's Memorial Fund.

A. Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer of the Investment Foundation to obtain this.

IV. Each District Superintendent shall assist the family in the funeral service arrangements unless requested otherwise.

MISSIONARY ITINERARIES

I. Each District Superintendent shall organize the itinerary of

visiting Conference Missionaries within their District.

II. Each church reserves the right to host other missionaries.

CONFERENCE STATIONERY SUPPLIES

I. All letterhead and envelopes are to be ordered through the General Secretary.