FOUNDATION DEED POLL

OF THE

United Methodist Church.

Parties.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME WE A.B. of

the President for the time being of the United Conference referred to in and holden pursuant to the provisions of the United Methodist Church Act 1907 C.D. of

[*See Note to No. 9, Part VIII., later.*]

the President elected in the year 1907 of the Annual Assembly or Conference of the Methodist New Connexion Church E.F. of

the President elected in the year 1907 of the Annual Conference of the Bible Christian Church and G. H. of

the President elected in the year 1907 of the Annual Assembly of the United Methodist Free Churches SEND GREETING.

Recitals.

1. United Methodist Church Act, 1907.

WHEREAS by the United Methodist Church Act 1907 it was enacted that in the events in that behalf in the said Act mentioned (which have since happened) the meetings of the respective Annual Assemblies or Conferences of the three several Churches or religious Denominations in the said Act and in these presents referred to respectively as "the Methodist New Connexion Church" "the Bible Christian Church" and "the United Methodist Free Churches" and collectively as "the said Churches or Denominations" holden in the year 1907 should by virtue of the said Act be adjourned as in the said Act mentioned and that it should be lawful for the said Assemblies or Conferences when assembled at such adjourned meetings to unite and sit together as one United Conference (in the Act and in these presents referred to as "the United Conference").

AND WHEREAS by the said Act it was also enacted that it should be lawful for the United Conference by resolution carried by the votes of not less than three-

fourths of the respective representatives of each of the said Churches or Denominations present at the United Conference and voting upon the said resolution (the representatives of each of the said Churches or Denominations voting first separately and then as one body) to declare that the said Churches or Denominations should be united in and form one united Church or Denomination under the name of "The United Methodist Church" and under such constitution and upon such terms and conditions as might be declared and defined in a Deed Poll of Foundation to be settled and adopted by the United Conference as in the said Act provided.

AND WHEREAS by the said Act it was also enacted that it should be lawful for the United Conference by resolution carried in like manner as aforesaid to settle and adopt a Deed Poll of Foundation declaring and defining the Constitution and doctrinal tenets of the said United Church or Denomination under the title of "The United Methodist Church" and the terms and conditions of such union as aforesaid and containing all such provisions as to the election powers duties and privileges of the Conference of the United Methodist Church and all such other provisions (including powers to alter amend or repeal any of the provisions of the Deed Poll of Foundation or of the constitution of the United Methodist Church as declared and defined thereby and to adopt any new provisions with respect to any matter to which the Deed Poll of Foundation relates or to the constitution of the United Methodist Church) as in the judgment of the United Conference might be necessary or desirable for the government and discipline of the United Methodist Church and the management and administration of the affairs thereof.

AND WHEREAS by the said Act it was also enacted that the Deed Poll of Foundation when the same had been adopted by such resolution of the United Conference as aforesaid should be forthwith signed sealed and delivered by the President for the time being of the United Conference and by any of the Presidents elected in the year 1907 of the said respective Annual Assemblies or Conferences of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches who might be present at the United Conference and be willing to execute the Deed Poll of Foundation.

2. Adjournment of Conference of said Churches or Denominations.

AND WHEREAS the events in that behalf in the said Act mentioned having happened the meetings of the respective Annual Assemblies or Conferences of the said Churches or Denominations holden in the year 1907 were by virtue of the said Act adjourned as in the said Act mentioned.

3. Sitting of United Conference.

AND WHEREAS in pursuance of the recited powers in that behalf conferred on them by the said Act the said Assemblies or Conferences assembled at such adjourned meetings as aforesaid have duly united and sat together as one United Conference.

4. Resolution to unite.

AND WHEREAS the United Conference in pursuance of the recited powers in that behalf conferred upon it by the said Act by resolution duly carried in manner in the said Act in that behalf provided has declared that the said Churches or Denominations shall be united in and form one United Church or Denomination under the name of "The United Methodist Church" and under such constitution and upon such terms and conditions as shall be declared and defined by a Deed Poll of Foundation to be settled and adopted by the United Conference as in the said Act provided.

AND WHEREAS such United Church or Denomination is hereinafter referred to as "The United Methodist Church."

5. Resolution settling and adopting these presents as Deed Poll of Foundation.

AND WHEREAS the United Conference in pursuance of the recited powers in that behalf conferred upon it by the said Act by resolution carried in manner in the said Act in that behalf provided has settled and adopted these presents as the Deed Poll of Foundation declaring and defining the constitution and doctrinal tenets of the United Methodist Church and the terms and conditions of such Union as aforesaid.

6. As to execution of these presents.

AND WHEREAS it is intended that these presents should be executed pursuant to the provisions in that behalf in the said Act contained by the said A.B.

and by any of them the said C.D.

E.F.

and G.H.

who may be present at the United Conference and willing to execute these presents.

NOW THESE PRESENTS WITNESS THAT WE the said A.B.
C.D.
E.F.
and G.H.
do and each of us doth hereby declare as follows (that is to say):—

Constitution and Tenets of United Methodist Church and terms of Union set forth in these presents.

1.—THE constitution and doctrinal tenets of the United Methodist Church and the terms and conditions of the Union of the said Churches or Denominations in one United Church or Denomination under the name of "the United Methodist Church" are declared and defined and the other provisions which in the judgment of the United Conference are necessary or desirable for the government and discipline of the United Methodist Church and the management and administration of the affairs thereof are contained in the several provisions hereinafter in these presents contained.

Interpretation.

2.—IN these presents unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction—

The expression "the Conference" means the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Member of the United Methodist Church" means a person recognized as a member of the United Methodist Church in accordance with any rules for the time being in force with respect to membership of the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Church" means the whole body of members of the United Methodist Church connected with and attending one particular place of worship belonging to the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Class Leader" means a person appointed by the Church Meeting to meet a Class or to fulfil any other duty under the name of a Class Leader;

The expression "Church Meeting" means a Church Meeting constituted as hereinafter is mentioned;

The expression "Leaders' Meeting" means a leaders' meeting constituted as hereinafter is mentioned;

The expression "Preachers' Meeting" means a Preachers' Meeting constituted as hereinafter is mentioned;

The expression "Circuit or Quarterly Meeting" means a circuit or quarterly meeting constituted as hereinafter is mentioned;

The expression "District Meeting" means a district meeting constituted as hereinafter is mentioned;

The expression "Guardian Representative" means a Guardian Representative elected in manner hereinafter provided;

The expression "Minister" means a minister of the United Methodist Church admitted into Full Connexion;

The expression "admitted into Full Connexion" when used in reference to a minister of the United Methodist Church means that such minister has been admitted and become entitled to the full status and privileges and is subject to all the obligations of a minister of the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Probationer" means a person who has been admitted by the Conference upon probation for the ministry as hereinafter provided and is fulfilling minis-

terial duty by the appointment of the Conference but has not yet been admitted into Full Connexion;

The expression "Local Preacher" means an honorary lay preacher received and appointed by the Circuit or Quarterly Meeting;

The expression "Connexional officer" means an officer holding any office in the United Methodist Church or in or in connection with or under the Conference who is declared by the United Conference or the Conference to be a Connexional officer;

The expression "Connexional" when used in relation to any institution, fund or property means that the same is an institution or fund or property (as the case may be) the purposes whereof extend to the United Methodist Church in general and are not confined to a particular Church or Churches, circuit or circuits, district or districts;

The expression "the date of Union" has the meaning assigned to that expression in the United Methodist Church Act 1907.

Doctrinal Tenets.

3.—THE Doctrines held and taught by the United Methodist Church are as follows:

I.—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, through Divine inspiration, contain a revelation of the will of God to man, and furnish a sufficient rule of faith and practice.

II.—There is one God, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, Who is above all and through all and in all. And, in the mystery of His being, there are Three Persons in the one Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

III.—The Lord Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God, in the unity of His being at once human and Divine, truly God and truly man.

IV.—Man as a moral being is free and responsible, and in the exercise of his freedom has fallen into sin and condemnation.

V.—The Lord Jesus Christ in His life and death perfectly manifested the righteousness and love of God: and becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross, He made atonement for the sins of the whole world. He was raised from the dead, and received up into glory, and now reigns Lord over all.

VI.—God wills not the death of any sinner, but requires repentance towards Himself and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as necessary to salvation.

VII.—Believers are justified by faith through the grace of God, are born again from above, and by the life of obedient faith, perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord.

VIII.—The Holy Spirit of God illuminates the minds of men, convicts of sin, leads into all truth, gives assurance

of salvation and sonship, and dwells in every believer to strengthen and sanctify.

IX.—The Holy Catholic Church is the innumerable company of saints of every age and nation, who, being united to Christ their Head, are one Body in Him, and have communion with their Lord and with one another.

X.—It is the will of Christ that His Church on earth should exist as a visible brotherhood, for the worship of God, for the manifestation of His Spirit and teaching in the service of man, and for the extension of His Kingdom throughout the world.

XI.—The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are of Divine appointment and of perpetual obligation.

XII.—There will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked; the Lord Jesus Christ will be the Judge of all men; and they who have done good shall come forth unto the resurrection of life, and they who have done evil unto the resurrection of condemnation.

Circuits and districts.

4.—THE several Churches in Great Britain the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man forming part of the United Methodist Church shall be formed into circuits constituted as hereinafter is provided such circuits being arranged in districts constituted as hereinafter is provided.

Church Classes and Class Leaders.

5.—EVERY Church forming part of the United Methodist Church within the United Kingdom the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man shall be divided into classes to meet for Christian fellowship under the care of a class leader or into sections approved by the leaders' meeting such sections to be under the oversight of a person who shall have the name and status of a class leader.

Colonial Churches and Foreign Missions.

6.—ALL Churches forming part of the United Methodist Church in any part of the British Empire (other than the United Kingdom the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) and in foreign countries and all foreign missions shall be organized governed and regulated in such manner as the Conference shall from time to time determine.

Basis of membership.

7.—THE condition of membership of the United Methodist Church shall be repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ evidenced by a life in harmony therewith and by attendance at the Lord's Supper together with the practice of Christian fellowship as provided for in the class meeting or such other means of grace and Christian ordinances as may be recognized from time to time in the United Methodist Church.

Constitution, powers, and duties of subordinate meetings. Local Preachers.

8.—THE Church meetings leaders' meetings preachers' meetings circuit or quarterly meetings and district meetings respectively shall be constituted in such manner of such persons and with and subject to such powers duties and provisions and the probation examination recognition and appointment of Local Preachers shall be regulated in such manner as shall be from time to time provided in that behalf by the Conference.

Constitution of circuits and districts. Number of districts and their representatives in Conference.

9.—SUBJECT as hereinafter provided circuits may consist of one Church or of several Churches united for mutual encouragement and help (especially in meeting their respective financial obligations) and shall be formed or recognized by the Conference. Subject as hereinafter provided a district shall be composed of such number of circuits in the same locality as shall from time to time be approved by the Conference. Until otherwise determined by the Conference the number of districts in the United Kingdom the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man shall be eighteen. The United Conference shall fix the number of persons to be sent by the district meeting of each such district as its representatives to the next and to each successive Conference until the Conference shall decide upon an alteration of such number (provided that such number shall be in all cases an even number) and each such district meeting shall elect as such representatives an equal number of ministers and laymen every one of whom must be at the time of his election and thereafter so long as he is such representative a member of the United Methodist Church connected with and attending a Church in the district the district meeting of which he is elected to represent and the said eighteen districts and the circuits comprised therein shall unless and until the Conference shall otherwise determine be the districts and circuits approved by the United Conference. In addition to the districts from time to time existing in the United Kingdom the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man the Conference may from time to time in any case where it may think proper so to do constitute a district consisting of any number of Churches situate in any part of the British Empire (other than the United Kingdom the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) or of any number of Churches in foreign countries or of foreign missions with such organization and government and in such manner generally as the Conference shall from time to time determine and representatives to the Conference from such district shall be elected in such numbers having such qualifications at such times and in such manner generally as the Conference shall from time to time determine.

Stationing Committee.

10.—FOR the purpose of stationing the ministers and probationers there shall be a Committee (to be called and in these presents referred to as "the Stationing Committee") which shall consist of five persons appointed by and as representatives of the Conference and other representatives appointed by the district meetings one by each such meeting in manner in these presents provided. It shall be the duty of the Stationing Committee to recommend to the Conference ministers and probationers for appointment to the several districts and circuits for the ensuing year.

The Conference: its meetings and constitution.

11.—(1) THERE shall be a Conference of the United Methodist Church constituted and meeting annually as hereinafter provided.

(2) The Conference holden in 1908 shall meet at such place and shall commence its sittings on such date as the United Conference shall determine.

(3) Every subsequent Conference shall meet at such place and shall commence its sittings on such date as the Conference of the last preceding year shall determine.

(4) The Conference holden in 1908 shall consist of the President and Secretary of the United Conference the Guardian Representatives the Connexional officers the representatives of the District meetings and such representatives of Connexional funds and institutions as the United Conference shall determine.

(5) Every succeeding Conference shall consist of the President and Secretary of the last preceding Conference and the President-Designate (if any) nominated thereby the Guardian Representatives, the Connexional officers the representatives of the district meetings and such representatives of Connexional funds and institutions as the last preceding Conference shall determine.

(6) No person shall be a member of the Conference who is not a member of the United Methodist Church.

(7) In the appointment of representatives of the Connexional funds and institutions the Conference shall as far as possible make such appointments in such manner that the whole number of Connexional officers and such representatives taken together shall always consist of an equal number of ministers and laymen.

(8) The whole number of the members of the Conference exclusive of the Guardian Representatives and Connexional officers shall be 300 or as near thereto as may be having regard to the provisions of these presents.

Guardian Representatives

12.—(1) THE United Conference shall elect 24 Guardian Representatives 12 of whom shall be ministers and 12

laymen each of them being a member of the United Methodist Church.

(2) Of the 24 Guardian Representatives selected by the United Conference the two ministers and two laymen respectively elected by the lowest number of votes shall go out of office at the close of the Conference of 1908.

(3) Of those of the 24 Guardian Representatives elected by the United Conference who shall not have already gone out of office under the provisions of the last preceding sub-clause or of this sub-clause the two ministers and two laymen respectively elected by the lowest number of votes shall go out of office at the close of the several Conferences of 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913 respectively.

(4) As between two or more persons elected by the same number of votes the junior or juniors in age of such persons shall always go out of office.

(5) Every person elected a Guardian Representative at the Conference holden in 1908 or the Conference holden in any subsequent year shall subject as hereinafter provided hold office from the close of the Conference at which he is elected until the close of the Conference holden in the sixth year after the date of his election and shall thereupon go out of office.

(6) Subject as herein provided any Guardian Representative going out of office under any provisions of this clause shall be eligible for re-election.

(7) If any Guardian Representative is absent from the Conference for two years in succession without assigning any reason for such absence which shall be satisfactory to the Conference or is adjudged a bankrupt or makes a composition or arrangement with his creditors or becomes incapable of acting or unfit to act or ceases to be a member of the United Methodist Church he shall be disqualified from being a Guardian Representative and his office shall forthwith became vacant.

(8) The vacancies whether casual or normal occurring from time to time in the number of the Guardian Representatives shall be filled up by the Conference Provided that in filling up the four vacancies occurring normally in each year under the provisions of this clause two ministers and two laymen must always be elected and in filling the casual vacancies arising from the death resignation or disqualification of a Guardian Representative a minister shall be elected in the place of a minister and a layman in the place of a layman and every person so elected shall hold office for the remainder only of the term for which the person whose death resignation or disqualification occasioned the vacancy was elected and shall then go out of office.

Position, etc., of guardian representatives.

13.—THE rights duties and privileges of the Guardian Representatives shall be the following:

(1) Every Guardian Representative shall be entitled as such to sit and vote in the Conference as a member thereof with all the rights and privileges attaching to membership therein without restriction or limitation; he shall be eligible for election or appointment to any office in the United Methodist Church.

(2) Any Guardian Representative may also be elected as a representative of a district meeting and sit as such in the Conference but he shall have one vote only notwithstanding his sitting in a dual capacity.

(3) The Guardian Representatives in association with the President and Secretary of the Conference for the time being shall be the legal Guardians of the rights and privileges of the United Methodist Church, the Guardian Representatives and the President and Secretary together forming a Consultative Committee to be called together by the President and Secretary by written notice given at least seven days previous to the time of meeting to the said Guardian Representatives whenever any emergency in relation to such rights and privileges as aforesaid shall arise requiring prompt attention; and the action which such Consultative Committee shall take in such cases shall be deemed and taken to be the act of the Conference; and it shall be reported to the Conference next ensuing and entered in the Journals thereof.

(4) In the event of any such emergency arising as aforesaid such Consultative Committee or a majority of them may authorize the President and Secretary of the Conference to commence raise carry on or defend any action or proceedings of whatsoever description on behalf of or against the United Methodist Church which in the opinion of such Consultative Committee or a majority of them ought to be so commenced raised carried on or defended but the President and Secretary shall not without such authorization as aforesaid or the authorization of the Conference commence raise carry on or defend any action or proceeding of whatsoever description on behalf of or against the United Methodist Church.

(5) The President of the Conference shall be Chairman of every meeting of such Consultative Committee at which he shall be present and in his absence such member of such Consultative Committee as shall be chosen by a majority thereof shall be Chairman. In any case when the votes are equal the President of the Conference or other

Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(6) Notice in writing shall be sent to every Guardian Representative by the Secretary of the Conference of the time and place of holding the next Conference six weeks at least before its commencement and such Guardian Representative shall give notice in writing to the Secretary at least four weeks before the commencement of the Conference whether he intends to be present at its sittings.

List of members of Conference to be made by Secretary and to be conclusive unless questioned.

14.—(1) BEFORE the assembling of the Conference in each year the Secretary of the Conference holden in the last preceding year shall make out a list of the representatives of the district meetings Guardian Representatives and other persons entitled to be members of the then ensuing Conference.

(2) On the assembling of the Conference in each year and before any other business is transacted the Secretary of the Conference holden in the last preceding year if present and willing to act and him failing the person who shall previously to him most recently have held office as Secretary of the Conference and shall be present and willing to act and failing such last-mentioned person then such person as shall be chosen by the Conference for that purpose shall lay before the Conference the said list of the persons entitled to be members of the Conference made out by the Secretary of the Conference holden in the last preceding year. If the completeness or correctness of such list shall be forthwith questioned by any person who (in the opinion of the Conference) is entitled to be a member of the Conference the Conference shall forthwith supply any omission or correct any error which shall in its opinion be shown to exist in such list but subject as aforesaid such list shall be taken to be final and conclusive as to the persons of whom the Conference consists other than the persons (if any) appointed by the Conference as hereinafter provided to fill up the casual vacancies (if any) in the number of the Guardian Representatives.

(3) In the application of this clause to the Conference holden in the year 1908 the Secretary of the United Conference shall be deemed to be the Secretary of the Conference holden in the last preceding year.

President and Secretary of last preceding Conference to act till election of a new President and Secretary

15.—(1) UNTIL the election of a President of the Conference holden in any year under the provisions in that behalf hereinafter contained the President of the Conference holden in the last preceding year if present and willing to act and him failing the person who shall previously to him most recently have held office as President of the Conference and shall be present and willing to act and failing such last-mentioned person then such person as shall be chosen by the Conference for that purpose shall act as President of the Conference with all the powers rights and duties of such President.

(2) Until the election of a Secretary of the Conference holden in any year under the provisions in that behalf hereinafter contained the Secretary of the Conference holden in the last preceding year if present and willing to act and him failing the person who shall previously to him most recently have held office as Secretary of the Conference and shall be present and willing to act and failing such last mentioned person then such person as shall be chosen by the Conference for that purpose shall act as Secretary of the Conference with all the powers rights and duties of such Secretary.

(3) In the application of this clause to the Conference holden in the year 1908 the President or the Secretary of the United Conference (as the case may be) shall be deemed to be the President or the Secretary of the Conference holden in the last preceding year.

First business of Conference.

16.—AFTER the Conference shall have assembled and after such list as aforesaid shall have been laid before the Conference and (if necessary) corrected or completed the Conference shall as its next business fill up all casual vacancies in the number of the Guardian Representatives.

Election of President and Conference Officers.

17.—IMMEDIATELY after such vacancies shall have been filled up the newly-elected Guardian Representatives shall if present be entitled to sit and vote and the Conference shall proceed to the election of a President and Secretary from the members thereof and shall also either forthwith or at a later period of the proceedings of the Conference as the Conference may decide nominate if the Conference thinks fit so to do a President-Designate of the next Conference and appoint the other officers of the Conference and the Connexional officers and elect four persons as Guardian Representatives to fill the vacancies in the number of the Guardian Representatives which will occur in accordance with the provisions of these presents at the close of the Conference.

President to preside at Conference.

18.—AT every meeting of the Conference the President if present shall preside. If the President be absent the person who previously to him shall most recently have held office as President of the Conference and shall be present and willing to act and failing such last-mentioned person then such other member of the Conference as the Conference shall choose shall during the absence of the

President preside and act as President of the Conference with all the powers rights and duties of the President.

Vote of majority binding.

19.—EXCEPT as in these presents otherwise expressly provided the vote of the majority in number of the members present and voting at any meeting of the Conference shall be taken as and be the act of the Conference for any of the purposes for which such act is hereby rendered necessary and be binding and conclusive on and against every member of the United Methodist Church to all intents and purposes whatsoever and in the case of the votes being equal the person presiding at the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

Disqualification of members not to invalidate acts of Conference.

20.—ALL acts done and votes given at a meeting of the Conference or of any committee thereof by any person acting or voting as a member of the Conference or such Committee shall notwithstanding its being afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or election of any such person so acting or voting or that he had become disqualified be as valid as if there had been no such defect or disqualification.

Duration and adjournment of Conference.

21.—SUBJECT as in these presents is provided the duration of the Conference in each year shall not exceed fourteen successive days to be computed from and inclusive of the day of its assembling. Provided that the Conference shall in any case which in the opinion of the Conference is one of emergency have power to adjourn from time to time to such time and place as it may decide and to continue any adjourned meeting for such period as may be necessary to enable the business of the Conference to be transacted.

Journals of Conference.

22.—NOTES minutes or copies (as the case may require) of all acts orders resolutions and proceedings whatsoever of the Conference shall be entered in Journals to be kept under the superintendence of the Conference and until otherwise ordered by the Conference read to the Conference for confirmation during its sittings and subscribed by the President and Secretary for the time being in the presence of two or more members of the Conference as attesting witnesses at the end of the Conference or any adjourned meeting thereof provided that if the Conference shall be adjourned for a month or upwards the Journals of the meetings previous to such adjournment shall be subscribed and attested at the end of the last meeting previous to the same and the Journals of any adjourned meetings shall be subscribed and attested at the end of the last of such meetings and such Journals so subscribed and attested shall be taken and received for all purposes whatsoever as conclusive evidence of the acts and proceedings of the Conference and the Journals of the

Custody of Journals.

Conference holden in any year and of all preceding Conferences shall be and remain in the custody of such person or persons as such Conference shall from time to time direct. All general resolutions passed by the Conference holden in any year and such other parts of its proceedings as such Conference or its President and Secretary shall direct shall as soon as may be after its close be printed and published.

Publication of proceedings.

Powers and duties of Conference.

23.—THE Conference shall have and may exercise and shall perform (in addition and without prejudice to any other powers authorities rights or duties conferred or imposed upon them by these presents) the several powers authorities rights and duties following (that is to say):

The Conference—

(*a*) Shall elect its President and may if it thinks fit so to do designate its President for the following year and shall (subject as hereinafter provided) fill up any casual vacancies which may occur in the office of President;

(*b*) Shall elect its Secretary and such other officers of the Conference as the Conference may think fit and shall (subject as hereinafter provided) fill any casual vacancies in the office of Secretary or any other Office and may declare any such Officer to be a Connexional Officer;

(*c*) Shall elect the Guardian Representatives;

(*d*) Shall appoint five persons to represent it on the Stationing Committee in addition to the representatives appointed by the district meetings: the representatives of the Conference to consist of three ministers and two laymen and two ministers and three laymen in alternate years;

(*e*) Shall appoint such Treasurers Secretaries Stewards Editors and other officers as the Conference may from time to time consider necessary for conducting and managing the Connexional business and affairs of the United Methodist Church and may declare any such officer to be a Connexional officer;

(*f*) May prescribe the duties and powers of and the amount of salary (if any) to be paid to any officer of the Conference or Connexional officer;

(*g*) Shall appoint as ministers and probationers to the several circuits for the ensuing year such persons as shall be recommended by the Stationing Committee or such other persons as the Conference shall think proper BUT no minister shall be appointed to the same circuit for more

than four successive years unless the circuit or quarterly meeting shall request by a vote of the majority of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting that the appointment may be renewed for a fifth, sixth or seventh year. After the seventh year no appointment shall be renewed except by special resolution of the Conference;

(*h*) May admit upon probation for the ministry any person of whom it shall approve who has been previously recommended by the leaders' and Church Meetings the circuit or quarterly meeting of the circuit and the district meeting of the district to which he belongs he having also passed a satisfactory examination by the district meeting: AND ALSO from time to time may and shall inquire into and decide upon the piety doctrinal views gifts and general suitability to the work of the ministry of such probationer and if not satisfied therewith may discontinue his services at any period of his probation and may also admit into full connexion such probationers as are approved;

(*i*) May admit ministers from other Churches or Denominations direct either as probationers or as ministers in such cases as shall be approved by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Conference present and voting;

(*j*) May and shall censure suspend or exclude from the ministry of the United Methodist Church any minister upon satisfactory evidence of immorality erroneous doctrinal teaching deficiency of ability neglect of duty general unsuitability or of his acting contrary to or neglecting to observe the rules and regulations of the United Methodist Church and shall make such regulations as the Conference thinks fit for dealing with cases of ministers so acting as to cause a public scandal;

(*k*) May rearrange existing districts and form new districts and on receiving proposals in that behalf from the district meetings may divide or combine existing circuits or form new circuits;

(*l*) Shall receive reports from the committees appointed for the management of the same as to the state and condition of all Connexional institutions and shall appoint and elect the officers of the said institutions and shall direct the

trustees or officers of any of the said institutions to take such action as it may be deemed by the Conference needful to take with respect to such institutions provided that such action be not in contravention of any provision of any trust deed relating to such institution;

(*m*) May elect committees for the management of the various Connexional institutions from nominations made by the district meetings and from additional nominations made in the Conference provided that the election of any such committee be not in contravention of any provision of any trust deed relating to the institution for the management whereof the committee is proposed to be appointed;

(*n*) Shall consider the spiritual state of the United Methodist Church as disclosed by reports from the district meetings and may direct and recommend to the circuits such methods of work as may appear desirable;

(*o*) Shall make a levy or requisition on the circuits for the support of all funds on which depend the maintenance of the ministry and the discharge of obligations of the Conference or circuits thereto and take such action as it may deem necessary or expedient to induce the circuits loyally to fulfil in any manner which the Conference may think desirable their obligation to sustain all institutions and funds of a Connexional character;

(*p*) Shall maintain the doctrinal standards of the United Methodist Church and may at its discretion advise and direct in respect of all matters which concern the unity order and usefulness of the Churches of the United Methodist Church;

(*q*) Shall elect a General Connexional Committee (to be called and in these presents referred to as "the General Connexional Committee") whose duty shall be to exercise general oversight over the affairs of the United Methodist Church and may confer and impose on such committee such powers and duties for that purpose as the Conference shall think fit and with respect to such committee shall declare how many shall be thereon and how many present shall form a quorum thereof;

(*r*) May at its discretion continue or found or autho-

rize the founding of any Connexional funds or institutions for the promulgation of the Gospel at home and abroad for assistance to circuits or Churches or for the benefit of retired or superannuated ministers or the widows or children of deceased ministers or for other objects and purposes of or in connexion with the United Methodist Church and may direct the application and management thereof and may approve any schemes for the amalgamation of any of such funds or institutions whether founded before or after the date of these presents and whether belonging to or connected with any of the said Churches or Denominations or the United Methodist Church and for the transfer in connection with any such amalgamation of any of such funds from the existing trustees or other persons having the legal control thereof to the trustees of any other of such funds or institutions;

(*s*) May continue or establish such printing or publishing offices carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of or in connection with the United Methodist Church (hereinafter referred to as "Book Rooms") as the Conference shall think proper to continue or establish;

(*t*) Shall manage all matters connected with the Book Rooms and publications Connexional property missions colleges and secondary schools of the United Methodist Church;

(*u*) May from time to time appoint such and so many Committees as the Conference may think necessary for the despatch of business or to perform and exercise any of its duties powers authorities or rights during or in the interval between its annual sittings: AND ALSO such and so many persons or delegates as the Conference shall think fit to act for and represent the Conference in any parts of the British Empire other than the United Kingdom the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man or in foreign countries and may delegate to any such Committees persons or delegates all or any of the powers of the Conference and shall prescribe the powers and duties which such Committee persons or delegates respectively shall possess and perform and with respect to each such Committee shall declare how many members shall be thereon and how many present shall make a quorum thereof. And all and every the acts matters and things done and transacted by such Committees persons or delegates when entered in a Minute Book provided for that purpose and confirmed by the Conference and signed by the President and Secretary for the time being of the Conference in the presence of two witnesses shall be deemed and taken to be the acts of or to have been done or transacted by the Conference to all intents and purposes;

(*v*) May from time to time make alter or repeal by-laws for the management of its own proceedings and to provide for the summoning and meeting of the Conference in the interval between the conclusion of its ordinary meetings or of any adjournment or adjournments thereof and the assembling of the next ensuing Conference and for the government of the United Methodist Church in ordinary affairs and also may adopt in any special case that may arise any means that it may deem necessary to meet it PROVIDED that no such by-law or means be contrary to law or repugnant to these presents and the purposes thereof;

(*w*) May at any time and from time to time by a resolution of the Conference carried in one year by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members of the Conference of that year present and voting upon such resolution and confirmed in the next subsequent year by a resolution of the Conference of that year similarly carried alter the name of the United Methodist Church;

(*x*) May subject to the provisions of the United Methodist Church Act 1907 at any time and from time to time make or receive overtures for union or amalgamation with any Church religious body Denomination or association and arrange and determine the terms and conditions of such union or amalgamation and carry the same into effect; but before the terms and conditions of any proposed union or amalgamation with any other Church or Churches or religious body or bodies Denomination or Denominations association or associations involving an alteration of either the constitution the doctrinal tenets or the name of the United Methodist Church is submitted to the Conference with a view to the passing of such resolution as is mentioned in the section of the United Methodist Church Act 1907 the marginal note whereof is "Power to unite with other religious bodies" publication shall be made by the Conference to the Churches of the United Methodist Church through the several circuit or quarterly meetings thereof stating the terms and conditions of the pro-

posed union or amalgamation and the proposed alteration of the constitution doctrinal tenets or name;

(*y*) May in the year 1915 and periodically in every succeeding tenth year reckoned from the year 1915 consider the propriety of altering amending or repealing any of the provisions of the several clauses of these presents the respective marginal notes whereof are:—

"Doctrinal tenets,"
"Basis of membership,"
"The Conference: its meetings and constitution,"
"Guardian Representatives,"
"Position, etc., of Guardian Representatives," and
"Powers and duties of Conference,"

or any of the provisions of the said several clauses as modified or added to by any alteration amendment or repeal (if any) made or new provisions (if any) adopted under the powers of this sub-clause, or of adopting any new provisions with respect to any matter to which any of the said several clauses or the said several clauses as so modified or added to as aforesaid relate; whereupon from time to time if the majority of the Conference holden in any such year as in this sub-clause mentioned shall judge that any such alteration amendment repeal or new provision is requisite the nature and particulars thereof shall forthwith be published and submitted to the consideration of the circuits and if the Conference shall by a resolution carried in the year immediately following such publication by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members of the Conference holden in that year present and voting upon such resolution and confirmed in the next subsequent year by a resolution of the Conference of that year similarly carried decide to make any such alteration amendment or repeal or adopt any such new provision as aforesaid the same shall be made or adopted and shall have effect and be binding on the United Methodist Church as from the date of the confirmatory resolution in this sub-clause mentioned and the insertion in the Journals of the Conference of such resolution and confirmatory resolution respectively shall be sufficient evidence that such alteration amendment repeal or new provision has been duly made or adopted. Nothing in this sub-clause contained shall apply to or prevent an alteration of either the constitution doctrinal tenets or name of the United Methodist Church in connection with any union or amalgamation of the United Methodist Church with any other Church or Churches religious body or bodies Denomination or Denominations association or associations under the powers in that behalf contained in the United Methodist Church Act 1907 and the last preceding sub-clause;

(*z*) May at any time by a resolution of the Conference alter amend or repeal any of the provisions of any clause of these presents (other than a clause to which the last preceding sub-clause of this present clause relates) or of any clause of these presents (other than as aforesaid) as modified or added to by any alteration amendment or repeal (if any) made or new provisions (if any) adopted under the powers of this sub-clause or adopt any new provision with respect to any matter to which any clause of these presents (other than as aforesaid) or any such clause as so modified or added to as aforesaid relates and such alteration amendment repeal or new provision shall have effect and be binding on the United Methodist Church as from the date of the resolution in this sub-clause mentioned and the insertion in the Journals of the Conference of such resolution shall be sufficient evidence that such alteration amendment repeal or new provision has been duly made or adopted.

Powers of Conference may be exercised from time to time.

24.—ALL powers rights authorities and duties conferred or imposed upon the Conference by these presents may be exercised and shall be performed by the Conference from time to time as occasion may require.

President and Secretary of Conference to hold office till beginning of next Conference.

25.—THE President and Secretary of the Conference holden in any year shall respectively continue in office until the assembling of the Conference of the next succeeding year. Provided that in the event of either the President or the Secretary of the Conference being adjudged a bankrupt or making a composition or arrangement with his creditors or becoming incapable of acting or unfit to act or ceasing to be a member of the United Methodist Church he shall be disqualified for being such

President or Secretary and shall thereupon vacate his office as such President or Secretary and a casual vacancy in the office of President or Secretary of the Conference as the case may be shall be deemed to have arisen. Provided further that in the event of any casual vacancy arising (whether under the provisions of this present clause or otherwise) after the end of the Conference or of the last adjourned meeting (if any) thereof, the same shall be filled up by the election as President or Secretary of the Conference (as the case may be) of the person who shall previously to the vacating President or Secretary, most recently have held office as President or Secretary of the Conference (as the case may be) and shall be willing to act, and failing such last-mentioned person, by the election of such other person as the Conference shall choose.

Other officers and committees of conference to hold office till end of next Conference.

26.—SUBJECT to the provisions in these presents contained all officers of the Conference Connexional Officers and Committees elected or appointed by the Conference holden in any year shall respectively continue in office until the end of the Conference holden in the next succeeding year and shall then go out of office. But any such officer and any member of any such committee as aforesaid shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment.

For preventing proceedings from being invalidated.

27.—NO meeting and no vote act or proceeding at any meeting of the Conference or any Committee thereof or of any other Committee appointed by the Conference or of any district meeting circuit or quarterly meeting preachers' meeting leaders' meeting or Church Meeting shall be hindered or rendered invalid void or voidable by reason of the absence from such meeting of any person or class of persons or representatives forming part of the Conference or of any such Committee or meeting as aforesaid or by reason of any informality in the summoning of the Conference or any such Committee or meeting as aforesaid or by reason of the failure to give due notice of the meeting of the Conference or of any such Committee or meeting as aforesaid to any person entitled to attend the same.

Discipline on a Minister not locally exercised

28.—IF in the judgment of the President of the Conference the person having last held office as President of the Conference who shall be able and willing to act and the Secretary of the Conference or a majority of them any minister shall so act as to cause public scandal and the circuit or quarterly meeting shall neglect or refuse to deal with the case in accordance with Connexional regulations (if any) or if the Trustees shall neglect or refuse to deal with the case in accordance with the provisions (if any) of the trust deed or deeds of the chapel or chapels in the circuit to which such minister is appointed then it shall be lawful for the President of the Conference for the time being with the consent of either such Ex-President as aforesaid of the Conference or of the Secretary of the Conference to require such minister to abstain from all ministerial duties until the next meeting of the Connexional Committee or other Committee of the Conference (as the case may be) to which powers in that behalf shall have been delegated by the Conference and such Committee may at its discretion continue his suspension from ministerial duty until the next Conference which shall deal with the case in accordance with Connexional regulations (if any) and subject to any such regulations in such manner as the Conference may determine.

To be temporarily dealt with by the President

And by the connexional committee.

How circuits and Churches becoming corrupt in doctrine or neglecting discipline may be dealt with.

29.—IF any circuit or Church forming part of the United Methodist Church shall in the judgment of the Conference become corrupt in doctrine or neglect or refuse to submit to or to enforce the morality enjoined by Holy Scripture with reference to the conduct of any of its ministers probationers local preachers officers or members or if in any other manner or matter such circuit or Church shall so act as in the opinion of the Conference to be unfit for or unworthy of continued incorporation in the United Methodist Church then the Conference may by resolution or minute thereof to be approved of and confirmed by the Conference holden in the year next after the passing of such resolution or minute separate such circuit or Church from the United Methodist Church and from the time of such confirmation of such resolution or minute such circuit or Church shall cease to be connected with or to form part of or be incorporated with the United Methodist Church and shall forfeit all rights and privileges arising from or appertaining to the being connected with or forming part of the United Methodist Church.

Protection from lawsuits.

30.—ALL acts and resolutions or minutes as to the separation of any such circuit or Church and all acts and resolutions as to the suspension or exclusion of any minister claiming any right under these presents shall be binding and conclusive on and against such circuit Church or minister and shall not subject or render liable the Conference or any of its officers or members or any committee or delegate or person acting under its instructions and authority to any action proceeding claim or demand whatsoever in respect of such separation suspension or exclusion as aforesaid.

Breviate not to affect construction.

31.—THE breviate or headings in the margin of these presents shall not be taken as part or in any manner affect the interpretation or construction thereof.

IN WITNESS whereof we the said
and
have hereunto set our respective hands and seals the
day of 1907.

SIGNED SEALED and DELIVERED, etc.

[*See Note to No. 9, Part VIII., later.*]

The United Methodist Church

PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS OTHER THAN THE CONFERENCE, AND TO LOCAL PREACHERS.

Definitions.

1.—In these Provisions, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction—

The expression "the Conference" means the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Member of the United Methodist Church" means a person recognized as a member of the United Methodist Church in accordance with any rules for the time being in force with respect to membership of the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Church" means the whole body of members of the United Methodist Church connected with and attending one particular place of worship belonging to the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Class Leader" means a person appointed by the Church Meeting to meet a class or to fulfil any other duty under the name of a class leader;

The several expressions "Church Meeting" "Leaders' Meeting" "Preachers' Meeting" "Circuit or Quarterly Meeting" and "District Meeting" mean respectively a Church Meeting Leaders' Meeting Preachers' Meeting Circuit or Quarterly Meeting and District Meeting as hereinafter constituted;

The expression "Guardian Representative" has the meaning assigned to that expression in the Deed Poll of Foundation of the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Minister" means a Minister of the United Methodist Church admitted into Full Connexion;

The expression "admitted into Full Connexion" when used in reference to a Minister of the United Methodist Church means that such Minister has been admitted and become entitled to the full status and privileges and is subject to all the obligations of a Minister of the United Methodist Church;

The expression "Probationer" means a person who