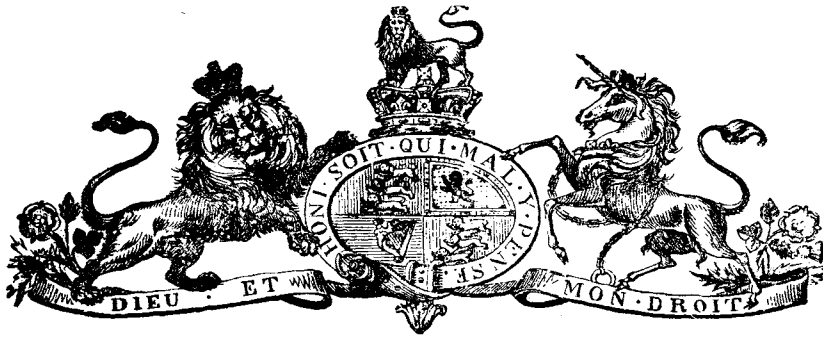


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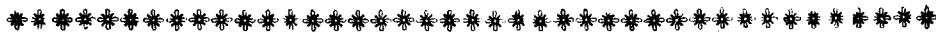


1902.

ANNO SECUNDO

EDWARDI VII. REGIS,

No. 18.



AN ACT to confirm the Union in *Tasmania* A.D. 1902.
of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the
Primitive Methodist Church, and the United
Methodist Free Churches; to deal with the
Properties in *Tasmania* of the said Uniting
Churches, and to assimilate the Trusts
thereof; to vest the said Properties in the
United Church under the name of the
Methodist Church of *Australasia*; to give
certain powers to the *Victoria* and *Tas-*
mania Conference of the Methodist Church
of *Australasia*; to amend "The Tasmanian
Wesleyan Methodists Act, 1888," and for
other purposes. [28 November, 1902.]

WHEREAS the Churches or religious denominations known as the PREAMBLE.
Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodist Church, and the
United Methodist Free Churches within *Tasmania* by the resolutions
of their respective Conferences or other chief assemblies, and, after con-
s.]

Methodist Union.

A.D. 1902.

sulting the adult members of the said Churches or denominations and the trustees of their properties and the circuit meetings of the said Churches or denominations, determined to unite as on the First day of *January*, One thousand nine hundred and two, under the Constitution set forth in Schedule (1.) hereto in one Church, to be known as "The Methodist Church of *Australasia*," which is intended to comprise all members of the said Churches or denominations within *Australasia*, and also the Bible Christian Church: And whereas under "The Tasmanian Wesleyan Methodists Act, 1888," all church lands within *Tasmania* of the Wesleyan Methodist Church are held upon the trusts and subject to the provisions of "The Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of *Tasmania*, 1888," with certain exceptions in the said Act mentioned: And whereas it is desirable, in order fully to consummate the union, and in order to attain uniformity, that the church lands of the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Free Churches, and all other church lands hereafter to be acquired, should be held on the same trusts as the church lands within *Tasmania* of the Wesleyan Methodist Church: And whereas the General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, referred to in the said Act, purported, by resolution passed in the month of *May*, One thousand eight hundred and ninety, to empower the several annual Conferences to make regulations as to the term during which a minister might be appointed to the same circuit subject to certain conditions: And whereas the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference has purported during the month of *March*, One thousand nine hundred and two to exercise this power, and it is desirable as incidental thereto to alter and modify "The Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of *Tasmania*, 1888,": And whereas doubts have arisen as to the power of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference, notwithstanding the said resolution of the said General Conference, so to alter or modify the said Model Deed as to increase the term for which a minister shall be appointed to the same circuit beyond Three years in succession, and it is desirable to make the power undoubted so far as the trusts of lands in *Tasmania* are concerned: And whereas it is desirable also to enable the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference to further alter and modify the said Model Deed with regard to the term for which a minister may be appointed to the same circuit, but subject to the approval of the General Conference, given as prescribed in the Fourth Section of the said Act: And whereas it is desirable also to make provision as to the personal property of the said Churches or denominations, and as to gifts which have been or may be made to any of the said Churches or denominations, and to alter and amend the said Act in manner hereinafter appearing:

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of *Tasmania*, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:—

Short title.
Incorporation
with Principal
Act.

1 This Act may be cited as "The Methodist Union Act, 1902," and shall be read and construed together as one with "The Tasmanian Wesleyan Methodists Act, 1888." This Act and "The Tasmanian Wesleyan Methodists Act, 1888," may be cited together as "The Methodist Church Acts."

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2 In the interpretation of this Act the following terms shall have the meanings hereinafter assigned to them respectively, unless the meaning be inconsistent with the context:

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Interpretation.

52 Vict. No. 4.

“The Principal Act” means “The Tasmanian Wesleyan Methodists Act, 1888 :”

“The Model Deed” means “The Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of *Tasmania*, 1888,” and (when substituted therefor) “The Methodist Model Deed of *Tasmania* :”

“Primitive Methodist Church” means the denomination, Church, or connection, commonly described by that name (established in *Great Britain*, in the year One thousand eight hundred and ten, by the late *Hugh Bourne* and *James Bourne*) and the Members of the said denomination :

“The United Methodist Free Churches” means the denomination Church or connection commonly described by that name (established in *Great Britain* in the year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven under the name of “The United Methodist Free Churches” upon the amalgamation of the “Wesleyan Methodist Associations” with the “Wesleyan Methodist Reformers”) and the members of the said denomination :

“Church lands” includes (when applied to property of the Primitive Methodist Church or the United Methodist Free Churches) all lands and premises in *Tasmania*, of whatever tenure and chattels real, which now are, or which may at any time hereafter be held in trust for, or on behalf of, or otherwise belonging to the Primitive Methodist Church, or of the United Methodist Free Churches (as the case may be), together with all churches or chapels, dwelling-houses, schools, and all other buildings thereon, and also all fittings, fixtures, rights, easements, and appurtenances whatever relating thereto respectively, or therewith usually held and enjoyed :

“The General Conference” means the General Conference of the Methodist Church of *Australasia*.

3 The Union of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodist Church, and The United Methodist Free Churches, in the Church known as “The Methodist Church of Australasia,” is hereby declared and confirmed, so far as the State of *Tasmania* is concerned, and shall be deemed to have taken place on the first day of *January*, One thousand nine hundred and two, under the Constitution set forth in Schedule (1.) hereto.

Confirmation of Union.

Schedule (1.)

4 As from the end of the year One thousand nine hundred and one, all references in the Principal Act or in the Model Deed to the “Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church,” to the “Wesleyan Methodist Church,” to the “Wesleyan Methodist Church in *Tasmania*,” to the “General Conference,” to the “*Victoria and Tasmania* Conference,” or to any “Annual Conference,” shall be deemed to apply also respectively to the Methodist Church of

Substitution of names.

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Australasia, to the Methodist Church of *Australasia* in *Tasmania*, to the General Conference of the Methodist Church of *Australasia*, to the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference of the Methodist Church of *Australasia*, and to any Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of *Australasia*, as the case may require.

Confirmation of proceedings of Conference of United Church.

5 All appointments and admissions made, all acts done, resolutions passed, and orders given by or under the authority of the assembly which sat in *Melbourne* as the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference of the Methodist Church of *Australasia*, in the months of *February* and *March*, One thousand nine hundred and two, shall be deemed to be valid and to be the appointments, admissions, acts, resolutions, and orders of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference of the Methodist Church of *Australasia*.

Alterations in Model Deed validated. Schedule (2.)

6 The resolutions passed by the said assembly in the month of *March*, One thousand nine hundred and two, for the alteration and modification of the Model Deed and set forth in Schedule (2.) hereto shall be deemed to be valid, and to alter and modify the Model Deed according to their purport respectively.

Wesleyan Methodist Church lands. how to vest. Schedule (1.)

7 Save as hereinafter provided all church lands as defined in the Principal Act shall, as from the end of the year One thousand nine hundred and one, or (if acquired subsequently thereto) from the date of acquisition be deemed to have been held or to be held under the Constitution set forth in Schedule (1.) hereto upon the trusts and subject to the provisions of the Model Deed or any future alteration or modification thereof duly authorised by the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference, by and with the approval of the General Conference but subject and without prejudice to any mortgage, charge, encumbrance, lien, or lease affecting the same respectively, and as if the words "The Methodist Church of *Australasia*" were substituted for the words "The Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church," or the "Wesleyan Methodist Church," and the word "Methodists" for the words "Wesleyan Methodists" wherever such words occur in the Clauses declaring the trusts of the said lands.

Church lands of other uniting churches how to vest.

Schedule (1.)

8 Save as hereinafter provided, all church lands in *Tasmania* of the Primitive Methodist Church howsoever held, and all church lands in *Tasmania* of the United Methodist Free Churches howsoever held shall as from the end of the year One thousand nine hundred and one or (if acquired subsequently thereto) from the date of acquisition be deemed to have been held or to be held under the Constitution set forth in Schedule (1.) hereto upon the trusts and subject to the provisions of the Model Deed (with the substituted words provided by Section Seven of this Act) or any future alteration or modification thereof duly authorised by the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference, by and with the approval of the General Conference, but subject and without prejudice to any mortgage, charge, encumbrance, lien, or lease affecting the same respectively. Provided always, that nothing in this or the preceding section contained shall

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extend to any of the lands referred to in the Ninth and Tenth Sections hereof unless such lands were immediately before the commencement of this Act held upon the trusts of the Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of *Tasmania*, 1888, or upon the usual church trusts of the other denominations in this present section mentioned. A.D. 1902.

9 All lands in *Tasmania* belonging to any College of any of the said denominations shall, as from the end of the year One thousand nine hundred and one, be treated as held by the trustees on the existing trusts thereof, except that in any declaration of trusts or other instrument relating to such lands, every reference to any of the said denominations shall be taken to mean the Methodist Church of *Australasia* in *Tasmania*. College lands, how to vest.

10 All lands granted by the Crown to or for the benefit of any of the said denominations without receiving any purchase-money or promised or reserved by the Crown, or by the Governor, permanently or temporarily for church or school or church and school purposes, or for dwelling-houses for ministers, or for any other purpose or purposes connected with the said denominations respectively shall as from the end of the year One thousand nine hundred and one be treated as granted, or promised, or reserved for the same purposes for the benefit of the Methodist Church of *Australasia* in *Tasmania*. Grants and reservations by Crown, how to vest.

11 The Register of Trustees referred to in the Sixth Section of the Principal Act shall hereafter be called and inscribed as "The Methodist Church of *Australasia* Register of Trustees for *Tasmania*," and the provisions of the Principal Act relating thereto shall apply not only to all church lands as defined in the Principal Act, but to all church lands in *Tasmania* of the Primitive Methodist Church and of The United Methodist Free Churches (including those referred to in the Ninth and Tenth Sections of this Act) whether the trusts of the lands are registered under "The Public Trusts Act, 1882," or not. Where the trusts of any such church lands are registered under "The Public Trusts Act, 1882," at the time of this Act coming into operation, no entry shall be made in the Register of Trustees under the Principal Act with regard to any such land until notice in writing of the entry proposed to be made has been served on the Recorder of Titles and until the entry proposed has been approved by him under his hand. And the Recorder shall forthwith enter upon the face of the folio or folios of the Register of Public Trusts relating to that land the words "vacated under 'The Methodist Union Act, 1902,'" and no further entries shall be made in the Register of Public Trusts with regard to that land. Register of Trustees.

12 The power to alter or modify the Model Deed which is conferred by the Fourth Section of the Principal Act on the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference, acting with the approval of the General Conference, shall be treated as including a power so to alter the trusts of the said Deed as to enable the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference to appoint its ministers to the same circuit, or locality, or premises, year Power to alter Model Deed.

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by year successively for such period and on such terms and conditions as the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference may authorise by and with the approval of the General Conference.

Copies of future alterations to be enrolled.

13 When and so often as the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference shall exercise its power to alter or modify the Model Deed a copy of the alterations and modifications, verified by the hand of the President of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference, shall with all reasonable despatch be deposited and enrolled in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of *Tasmania*, and then and not till then the alterations and modifications shall be deemed as made in the Model Deed.

Copy of past and present alterations to be enrolled.

14 A copy of the alterations and modifications heretofore and hereby made in the Model Deed, verified by the hand of the President of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference shall, with all reasonable despatch, be deposited and enrolled in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, but the alterations or modifications shall be deemed to have taken effect as from the time they were meant to take effect respectively notwithstanding the directions contained in this Section.

Power to prepare and enroll new Model Deed.

15 At any time after the passing of this Act a new Model Deed of some church lands, in the form authorised by the Principal Act and this Act, and with any alterations and modifications authorised up to the date thereof, may be prepared and adopted by the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference, and shall after execution be certified under the hand of the President of the said Conference and registered and enrolled in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, and intitled "The Methodist Model Deed of *Tasmania*," and shall thereafter be substituted for "The Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of *Tasmania*, 1888," referred to throughout the Principal Act.

Personal property of uniting churches, how to vest.

16 All personal property in *Tasmania* belonging to or held in trust for the Wesleyan Methodist Church or the Primitive Methodist Church or the United Methodist Free Churches at the end of the year One thousand nine hundred and one, shall as from that time be deemed to belong to or to be held in trust for the Methodist Church of *Australasia* in *Tasmania*, and shall be under the control of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference.

Property conveyed, transferred, devised, bequeathed, or given, how to vest.

17 Whenever by any deed, transfer, will, or other instrument, any property, real or personal, has been, or shall be, conveyed, transferred, devised, bequeathed or given to, or in trust for, or for the benefit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, or the Primitive Methodist Church, or the United Methodist Free Churches, or the Bible Christian Church, either generally or in some locality, or to, or in trust for, or for the benefit of the members or adherents of, or any conference or assembly or meeting or fund, institution, or society in connection with any of the said denominations, or is or shall be received by or payable to any of the said denominations, or any officer thereof, every such conveyance, transfer, devise, bequest or gift, shall be construed and take effect as if the Methodist Church of

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Australasia in *Tasmania* had been the Church or denomination referred to in the conveyance, transfer, devise, bequest or gift. And the release or receipt of the President for the time being of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference for any such conveyance, transfer, devise, bequest or gift, shall be a sufficient discharge to the person delivering, conveying, transferring or paying. And all property so conveyed, devised, bequeathed or given, shall (subject to any directions to the contrary in the said deed, transfer, will, or other instrument) be under the control of the said Conference. A.D. 1902.

18 In any action or proceeding affecting the rights or interests of the Methodist Church of *Australasia* in respect of any property real or personal in *Tasmania*, the President for the time being of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference shall (if the Church or its members ought to be a party or parties as distinct from the trustee or trustees) represent the said Church or the members thereof as plaintiff or as defendant, as the case may require. President of Conference to be a representative party in legal proceedings.

19 Nothing in this Act contained shall impose upon the Methodist Church of *Australasia* or any part thereof any liability or responsibility, whether by way of indemnity or otherwise, for or in respect of any mortgages, charges, liens, encumbrances, or obligations created or contracted in respect of any Church lands or Church property, or shall relieve any property or any person from any liability or responsibility in respect of any mortgage, charge, lien, encumbrance, or obligation. Liabilities on church properties not imposed on United Church.

20 Nothing in this Act contained shall deprive any trustee of Church lands or Church property of any rights which but for this Act he would have to be indemnified out of the property the subject-matter of the trust in respect of any mortgage, charge, lien, encumbrance, or obligation. Rights of trustees to indemnity out of church property preserved.

21 A document purporting to be a copy of the Model Deed, and purporting to be signed by the President for the time being of the *Victoria* and *Tasmania* Conference shall be *prima facie* evidence of the contents of the Model Deed, and may be received in evidence without production of the original. Proof of Model Deed.

SCHEDULES.

(1.)

Section 3, 7, 8.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF AUSTRALASIA.

1. The United Church shall be called "The Methodist Church of Australasia."
2. The Church shall be governed by General and Annual Conferences.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE.

I.—*Constitution.*

The General Conference shall consist of—

1. The President and Secretaries of the Annual Conferences for the time being.
2. One General Secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia.
3. One General Clerical Treasurer of each of the Connectional Funds.
4. One General Lay Treasurer of the Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia.
5. One General Lay Treasurer of each Connectional Fund.

(All the above shall be members *ex officio*.)

6. Ministerial Representatives from each Annual Conference, in the proportion for the present of One Minister to every Ten Ministerial members of such Conference: Provided that no Conference shall have less than Two Ministerial Representatives in addition to its President and Secretary.

7. Lay Representatives from each Annual Conference, equal to the number of Ministerial Representatives, including the President and and Secretary.

8. Representatives, whether Ministers or Laymen, shall be elected by ballot by and from among the members of each Annual Conference respectively.

II.

The General Conference shall have no power—

1. To revoke, alter, or change any of the doctrines as contained in Mr. Wesley's first four volumes of Sermons and Notes on the New Testament, nor to establish any new doctrine contrary thereto.
2. To revoke the "Rules of the Societies of the People called Methodists."
3. To make such change in the discipline as to do away with the itinerancy of the Ministry.
4. To abolish the privilege of trial and appeal of members or Ministers.
5. To abolish the right of the Ministers to admit or expel members subject to such guards and regulations as the rules of the Church shall provide.
6. To abolish the right of the Minister to receive and ordain Ministers in the Church.

III. *Powers of the General Conference.*

The General Conference shall have power—

1. To elect by ballot, on its assembling, from its members, a Minister of not less than fifteen years' standing to preside over its proceedings, and in the intervals of the sessions of the General Conference to perform such duties as the General Conference may direct.
2. To divide the Annual Conferences or alter their boundaries.
3. To create new Conferences.
4. To alter the proportion in which the Annual Conferences shall from time to time elect Representatives to the General Conference.
5. To make, or direct the Annual Conferences to make, all necessary changes and interchanges of Ministers between the several Annual Conferences.
6. To control the Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia, and the several Connectional Funds, and to appoint their Committees and Officers.
7. To review the proceedings of such Committees, and sanction or disallow the same.
8. To arrange the order in which the several Annual Conferences shall make provision for returned Missionaries.
9. To direct any Annual Conference to re-appoint to the full work any Minister who may have been made a Supernumerary since the last General Conference.
10. To disallow any of the regulations of the Annual Conferences which in its judgment infringe constitutional principles.
11. And generally to legislate for the Methodist Church of Australasia.

IV. *What number shall form a quorum.*

The General Conference, on the first day of its session, shall determine the number that shall constitute a quorum.

*Methodist Union.*V.—*When and where the General Conference shall assemble.*

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The General Conference shall meet once in three years, or at such other intervals, more or less, as it may deem expedient, and shall have power to fix the date, place, and duration of its sessions.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

I.—*Constitution.*

1. The Annual Conferences shall comprise all the Ministers within their respective boundaries who have been admitted into full connection with the said Conferences.

2. The Quarterly Meeting of each circuit shall be entitled to elect one lay representative, who shall be elected by ballot at the Quarterly Meeting next preceding the session of the Conference to which such Circuit pertains.

3. The Committee of each Institution of the connection, to which a Minister is or may be set apart by an Annual Conference, shall have the right to elect from among the members of such Committee, by ballot, one Lay Representative.

4. Should the number of Laymen thus provided for be less than the number of Ministers pertaining to any Annual Conference, additional Laymen shall be elected by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit or Circuits which, according to the returns published by such Conference at its last session, contained the largest number of members. The Presidents of the several Annual Conferences shall give notice to the Circuit or Circuits which may be entitled to elect more than one Lay Representative.

5. The Laymen eligible for election as representatives must be Church members of four years' continuous standing, and at the time of their election must be members in the Circuit by which they are or may be elected.

II.—*Powers of the Annual Conference.*

1. Each Annual Conference shall have the usual powers in regard to—

- (a) The election of its own President and Secretary.
- (b) The division of Circuits and Districts, or alteration of their boundaries.
- (c) The appointment of Chairmen of Districts.
- (d) The exercise of discipline upon its Ministerial Members and Preachers on Trial.
- (e) The making of any of its Ministerial Members Supernumeraries.
- (f) The reception of Candidates for the Ministry.
- (g) The appointment of Ministers and Preachers on Trial on the several Circuits and Churches.
- (h) The carrying out of all directions of the General Conference relative to the changes and interchanges of Ministers. In the intervals of the General Conferences, the Annual Conferences shall effect changes and interchanges by negotiation.
- (i) The receiving and finally deciding upon appeals from subordinate courts of the Conference.
- (j) The direction and control of those Funds which have been known as District or Conference Funds.
- (k) And all other powers necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Methodist Church, except the powers of general legislation set forth as pertaining to the General Conference.

2. Each Annual Conference shall also have the power to recommend to the General Conference any measure which may be deemed conducive to the welfare of the Connection.

3. In the exercise of the aforesaid powers by the Annual Conferences the Ministers alone shall—

- (a) Dispose of all matters comprised in the subjoined questions :—

Question I.—Who are now admitted as Ministers into full connexion with the Conference?

Question II.—What Preachers remain on Trial?

Question III.—What Preachers are now received on Trial?

Question IV.—What students are to continue to have theological training?

Question V.—What Candidates are now received for theological training?

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- Question VI.—Who are now admitted as Native Ministers?
 Question VII.—Who remain as Native Preachers on Trial?
 Question VIII.—Who are received as Native Preachers on Trial?
 Question IX.—What Ministers become Supernumeraries?
 Question X.—What Supernumeraries return to the regular work?
 Question XI.—What Ministers have died since the last Conference?
 Question XII.—Are there any objections to any of our Ministers or Preachers on Trial?
 Question XIII.—What persons who were in full connexion with the Conference have now ceased to be recognised as Ministers among us?
 Question XIV.—How are the Ministers and Preachers on Trial stationed for the ensuing year?

(b) Elect Chairmen of Districts.

(c) Determine all appeals affecting the status of Ministers and Members.

4. For the purposes enumerated in the foregoing section the Ministerial Members of each Annual Conference shall meet alone, at such times as the Conference shall determine.

5. In the election of Ministers and Laymen as representatives to the General Conference, all the members of each Annual Conference who may be present in their respective Annual Conferences shall be entitled to vote. The voting shall be by ballot.

6. *Who may attend, and what number shall form a quorum.*—The Chairmen of Districts, *ex officio*, a representative elected by ballot at the Annual District Meeting, and such other Ministers as may be appointed by, or obtain the permission of, their Annual District Meetings to attend the Conference; together with the Laymen elected as provided for in the foregoing section, headed "Constitution." The number of Ministers and Lay Representatives who may actually attend the Conference shall be deemed competent for the transaction of business; but the Conference shall have power, whenever it may deem expedient, to determine how many of its number shall constitute a quorum.

7. *When and where the Conference shall assemble.*—Each Conference shall assemble annually, and shall have power to fix the time and place, and to limit the duration of its sessions.

8. *President and Secretary, and who may vote in their Election.*—The President shall be a Minister of not less than Fifteen years' standing, and the Secretary shall be a Minister of not less than Ten years' standing. All Ministers in full connection who may be present at their respective Annual Conferences, and Lay Representatives, shall be entitled to vote in the election of the President and Secretary. The voting shall be by ballot.

9. *Re-election to Presidency.*—Each Annual Conference shall determine for itself the time which shall elapse before a Minister shall be eligible for re-election to the office of President. Provided that no Minister shall be eligible for election two successive years.

10. *Stationing Ministers*—

(a) The Stationing Committee shall consist of the President and Secretary of the Conference, the General Secretary or Secretaries of Missions, the Chairmen of Districts, and one Minister for each District, elected by the united votes of the Ministers and Laymen who are members of the Financial District Meeting.

(b) This Committee shall prepare a list of Stations, to be presented to the Ministerial Conference for consideration. Such Station sheet shall also be laid before the United Conference for information.

(c) The United Conference shall have the power, at its first session, to add by ballot, to the Stationing Committee, a number of its Lay Representatives, not exceeding the number of those already constituting the said Committee. The ex-President and ex-Secretary shall continue members of the Committee.

(d) Ministers and Circuit Stewards, or other authorized representatives from Quarterly Meetings, shall have the right of communicating, either personally or by letter, with the enlarged Stationing Committee in reference to Circuit appointments.

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- (e) The enlarged Committee shall revise the station sheet as often as may be necessary and submit it to the Ministerial Conference for final consideration and adoption. A.D. 1902.

11. *Funds of "The Methodist Church of Australasia."*—The funds hitherto known as District or Conference Funds shall be under the management of the Annual Conferences. The funds known as the Connexional Funds shall be under the direction of the General Conference, and the Presidents of the Annual Conferences shall see that all the regulations relating to these funds are faithfully carried out by and within the bounds of their respective Conferences.

DISTRICT MEETING.

The District Meeting is a Committee of the Conference, composed of all the Ministers, including Supernumeraries and Probationers, who are appointed to Circuits within the boundaries of the Districts.

At this Meeting the characters of the Ministers are inquired into; candidates for the Ministry and Probationers are examined, and, if approved, recommended to the Conference; and numerous other matters pertaining to the pastoral office are considered.

FINANCIAL DISTRICT MEETING.

This meeting is composed of the Ministers, Supernumeraries, and Circuit Stewards of the various Circuits in the District, who deal with all the financial and temporal affairs of the district.

N.B.—In this meeting, Probationers in charge of Circuits have the right to speak and vote.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF CIRCUITS.

The Quarterly Meeting is to consist of—

- (a) All the Ministers and Preachers on Trial in the Circuit, and the Supernumeraries whose names appear in the printed Minutes of the Conference.
- (b) The Circuit Stewards, the Society Stewards, and the Poor Stewards.
- (c) All the Class Leaders in the Circuit.
- (d) All the Local Preachers in full standing, they being resident members of Society in the Circuit.
- (e) All the Trustees of Chapels situated in places named on the Circuit Plan, such Trustees being resident members of Society in the Circuit.
- (f) A Superintendent of each Sunday-school which is conducted under the Conference Rules, such Superintendent being a member of the Church in the Circuit. Where there are Two or more Superintendents in One School, the senior Superintendent shall be the member of the Quarterly Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

It was agreed that no mode of facilitating and promoting fellowship among Christians approaches so nearly to the requirements of the New Testament as the Class Meeting, which, under God, has so greatly contributed to the spiritual vitality and success of Methodism, and we resolve to adhere to it as a test of membership in the United Church.

The term "member" shall be understood to include all whose names are entered upon a Class Book and who attend the Monthly Fellowship Meeting, according to the recent regulation of the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

N.B.—No person can be removed from membership without the privilege of a trial by the Leaders' Meeting and of appeal to the higher Courts of the Church, should such be demanded.

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Sect. 6.

(2.)

RESOLUTIONS.

That this Conference resolves to alter the Model Deed of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church in Tasmania in the following respects, viz. :—

- (a) That this Conference shall have power to appoint its Ministers to the same Circuit or premises year by year successively for a period not exceeding in the whole Five years, subject to the conditions prescribed in the resolution passed by the General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church in the month of May, 1890, and contained in Minutes of that Conference, pp. 38 and 39.
- (b) That a provision be added to section 11 of the present Model Deed, after the word "consent," to the following effect, viz. :—"Provided, however, that no lease, leave, or licence shall be granted, or agreed to be granted, to mine under any Wesleyan Methodist Church property, unless and until the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee of the Church in Tasmania, or the Exigency Committee thereof, expressly consent to such lease, leave, or licence, or the agreement therefor, and unless and until such lease, leave, licence, or agreement shall be signed by the registered authorised representative or the acting authorised representative."
- (c) That there be added to Section 17 of the present Model Deed, after the words "any of them," a provision to the following effect, viz. :—"But no Church Steward or Treasurer shall hold office for longer than Three years consecutively without re-election. Nevertheless, the retiring Steward or Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election."
- (d) That the words "except as hereinafter provided," or words to the like effect, be inserted in Sections 26 and 27 of the present Model Deed, and elsewhere wherever necessary, in order to make the Model Deed harmonise with the Section 37 thereof.
- (e) That the words "named in the Register of Trustees," or words to the like effect, be substituted in the fourth line of Section 34 for the words "then living."
- (f) That provisions be added to the Model Deed, investing the Victoria and Tasmania Conference with power to appoint from time to time new Trustees to any Trust on the recommendation or at the request of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit or Home Mission Station within the bounds of which the Trust shall be situated, such Trustees having been previously nominated by the Superintendent of the Circuit or Home Mission Station: Provided, however, that such new Trustees, and the prior continuing Trustees, shall not altogether exceed Thirty in number.
- (g) That Section 37 of the present Model Deed be altered to provide that the evidence of the appointment of a new Trustee shall be, not a copy of the resolution appointing him, but a certificate of appointment, in a form to be approved by the Victoria and Tasmania Conference, such certificate to be signed (in the case of appointments by continuing Trustees) by the Superintendent of the Circuit, or in the case of Home Mission Stations by the Superintendent of the Home Mission Station, and by the Trustee so appointed; and in the case of appointment by the Victoria and Tasmania Conference, to be signed by the President of the Conference appointing and the Trustee or Trustees so appointed.