

APPENDIX F

WESLEYAN YOUTH

A. Constitution of Local Wesleyan Youth

7500. Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be Wesleyan Youth of _____ Wesleyan Church, or a local WY may select its own name and logo for local identification purposes.

7505. Article 2. Mission. The mission of Wesleyan Youth is to glorify God through evangelizing, nurturing and equipping youth to be spiritual leaders committed to lifelong service to Christ and His church. Wesleyan Youth ministry shall be characterized by an effective organization of youth committed to active sharing of their faith, personal and collective study of God's Word, edifying the body of Christ through the use of spiritual gifts, positive Christian fellowship, and service to their family, church, community and the world.

7510. Article 3. Organization. A local WY shall be considered an organized WY if it has an adult youth leader, a WY president, a secretary-treasurer, meets regularly and has registered with the General Department of Spiritual Formation. In case there are no youth qualified to serve as officers, the local board of administration may grant an exemption on youth officer elections and register them as an official WY with the General Department of Spiritual Formation.

7515. Article 4. Relationship. The local WY shall be a ministry of the local Wesleyan church, shall be subject to the supervision of the pastor (725:16), in all actions shall be amenable to the local board of administration (782:3, 23), and shall be under the direction of the local board of Christian education (880:2).

7520. Article 5. Membership. Any youth completing grade six (or age thirteen) through age nineteen (or high school graduation), who is in any way touched by the local church ministries and who desires to participate in the meetings and activities of WY shall be listed by the local WY secretary-treasurer as a member of the local WY.

7525. Article 6. Meetings.

(1) **Regular Meetings.** The local WY shall hold meetings and activities which will help it to fulfill the mission of WY (7505).

(2) **Annual Business Meetings.** The local WY shall hold an annual

business meeting at a time set by the local executive youth council for the election of officers and delegates and other necessary business (cf. 7530:2).

(3) **Special Business Meetings.** The local executive youth council may call a special business meeting, subject to the approval of the pastor (725:16).

7530. Article 7. Officers.

(1) **Qualifications.**

(a) **Adult Youth Leader.** The adult leader shall be a covenant member of The Wesleyan Church and live a life which will inspire youth to holy living. The position may be filled by either a minister or a lay member (7530:3).

(b) **Local WY President.** The local WY president shall be a covenant member of The Wesleyan Church or a Christian youth who is in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church, and a member of the local WY.

(c) **Other WY Officers.** The local WY secretary-treasurer and any other WY officers the local WY chooses to elect shall be Christian youth who are members of the local WY and in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church.

(d) **Adult Youth Staff.** If the adult youth leader chooses to recruit additional adult staff, they shall be persons who live a life which will inspire youth to holy living and are in harmony with the doctrines and standards of The Wesleyan Church.

(2) **Elections.**

(a) **Adult Youth Leader.** The adult youth leader shall be elected by the local board of administration (782:22), considering input from local youth.

(b) **WY Officers.** The local WY president, WY secretary-treasurer, other officers and delegates to the district WY convention shall be elected by the local WY under the direction of the adult youth leader. These elections are subject to ratification by the local board of administration.

(3) **Duties of Officers.**

(a) **Adult Youth Leader.** The adult youth leader is the primary spiritual and administrative head of the local WY and shall seek to lead the youth in fulfilling the mission of WY (7505), overseeing the activities and programs of the local WY and leading by spiritual example. The adult youth leader shall serve as the chair of the annual business meeting and any special business meetings. The adult leader shall work in cooperation with and be amenable to the pastor and local board of administration.

(b) **Local WY President.** The local WY president shall cooperate with the adult youth leader in implementing the mission of WY (7505), as the local WY president seeks to lead peers by spiritual example.

(c) **Local WY Secretary-Treasurer.** The local WY secretary-treasurer, in cooperation with the adult youth leader, shall be responsible for written correspondence, membership records, minutes, statistical and financial records, and annual reports. The office of secretary-treasurer may be divided into two positions by the executive youth council.

(d) **Other Officers.** Each local WY may elect other officers, such as directors of evangelism, fellowship, service projects and others as needed to fulfill the mission of WY (7505).

(e) **Adult Youth Staff.** The adult youth leader, in consultation with the pastor, may recruit other adult staff to help carry out the ministry of WY.

(f) **Executive Youth Council.** The executive youth council shall be composed of the adult youth leader as chair, local WY president, local WY secretary-treasurer and the pastor as an *ex officio* member. All actions of the executive youth council shall be subject to the review of the local board of administration (782:23). The executive youth council may also include other adult staff or other local WY officers (7530:3e).

(g) **Delegates.** In addition to the local adult youth leader and local WY president who are members of the district WY convention by virtue of their offices, each organized local WY shall be entitled to two youth delegates to the district WY convention (7585:3). In addition, each organized local WY whose average attendance is 20 or more shall be entitled to an additional adult and youth delegate for each additional 20 youth in average attendance.

(4) **Term of Service.** Local WY officers shall take office at the beginning of the local WY year and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. A shorter term of service may be adopted by action of the executive youth council.

(5) **Vacancies.** All officers of the local WY shall be amenable for their official duties to the local board of administration and may be removed whenever the best interests of the church or the local WY so require by a majority vote of the local board of administration (782:25). The local board of administration shall have authority to see that all vacancies are filled in the manner it deems best (782:26).

7540. Article 8. Age-Level Divisions. The executive youth council may approve the organization of the local WY into two or more separate age-level divisions.

7545. Article 9. Bylaws. The local Wesleyan Youth may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they do not conflict with *The Discipline* or other directives of the General Church and district, and provided they are approved by the local board of Christian education (880:2) and the local board of administration (782:23).

B. Constitution of District Wesleyan Youth

7550. Article 1. Name. All local WY organizations within the bounds of a district shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Youth of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church.

7555. Article 2. Purpose. The purpose of the district Wesleyan Youth is to carry out the mission of WY (7505) on the district level and to train local WY leaders for effective ministry to youth.

7560. Article 3. Relationship. The district WY shall be a ministry of the district of The Wesleyan Church to which it belongs, operating for the benefit of local WY organizations, subject to the supervision of the district superintendent, coordinating its programs with the district board of Christian education, being amenable to the district board of administration.

7565. Article 4. District WY Leadership.

(1) **District WY Cabinet.** The district WY cabinet shall be composed of the district WY president as chair, the district WY treasurer, two teen members, two or more members appointed by the district WY president, and the district superintendent.

(a) **District WY President.** The district WY president is elected by the district WY convention (7585:4a). The initial election shall be for a term of one year, and reelection thereafter shall be for a term of two years. Total years of service as district WY president shall not exceed seven years.

(b) **District WY Treasurer.** The district WY treasurer shall be elected by the district WY convention for a term of one year.

(c) **Teen Members.** There shall be two teen members elected by the district WY convention for a term of one year.

(d) **Appointed Members.** The district WY president, in consultation with the district superintendent, shall appoint two or more additional members for one-year terms within thirty days after the

district WY convention, subject to ratification by the district board of administration.

(e) **District Superintendent.** The district superintendent shall be an *ex officio* member of the cabinet (1310:10).

(2) **Qualifications.** All cabinet members must be covenant members of The Wesleyan Church within the district and have a burden and vision for youth ministry.

(3) **Amenability and Vacancies.** The district WY cabinet members shall be amenable to the district board of administration and may be removed when the best interests of the WY or district so require by a majority vote of the district board of administration. Vacancies of elected positions shall be filled by the district board of administration, and vacancies in appointed positions shall be filled by the district WY president subject to the approval of the district board of administration.

7575. Article 5. Duties of District WY Leaders.

(1) **Criteria.** Cabinet members shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the WY Constitution and the official WY handbook authorized by the General Board and issued by the General Department of Spiritual Formation.

(2) **Duties of the District WY President.**

(a) To exercise leadership by coordinating and directing the ministry of district WY.

(b) To appoint two or more members to the district WY cabinet within 30 days after the district WY convention (cf. 7565:1).

(c) To appoint a chair pro tem of the WY cabinet to serve in case the district WY president is absent.

(d) To assign such responsibility to cabinet members as are needed to carry out the purpose of district WY (cf. 7555).

(e) To preside over meetings of the district WY cabinet.

(f) To serve as an *ex officio* member of all district WY committees.

(g) To preside over sessions of the district WY convention, except when the General Director of Spiritual Formation or a representative designated by the General Director of Spiritual Formation, is present and presiding.

(h) To supervise the recruiting and equipping of local youth leaders in cooperation with pastors and local boards of administration, seeking to organize local WYs in every church.

(i) To report annually to the district conference (1180:13) and the district WY convention regarding the state of the youth movement,

including realization of goals and the vision for the future.

(j) To cooperate with the general WY director and the general WY executive committee (7620; 7625).

(k) To be a nonvoting member of the district conference by virtue of this office (1090:8) unless the district WY president is a voting member by some other right.

(l) To appoint one member of the district WY cabinet to serve as secretary of the cabinet and the district WY convention.

(3) Duties of the District WY Treasurer.

(a) To receive, record and hold all moneys remitted by local WY secretary-treasurers or raised by the district WY.

(b) To disburse funds in accordance with the financial plans of the district WY cabinet, the district WY convention and the General Department of Spiritual Formation.

(c) To report annually to the district conference (1180:13) and district WY convention (7585:6), and to the district WY president and cabinet as requested.

(d) To submit the district WY treasurer's books annually to the district auditing committee (1340-1343), and when ordered by the district board of administration.

(4) Duties of the District WY Cabinet.

(a) The district WY cabinet shall direct the ministries of the district WY between the annual district WY conventions, including local leadership development, spiritual development and service opportunities, finances, communications, fellowship and other ministries.

(b) The district WY cabinet may also appoint others to direct specific youth ministries as necessary.

(5) Other Committees. Each district WY may also have such other committees as the district WY cabinet shall deem necessary.

7585. Article 6. District WY Convention.

(1) **Purpose.** The district WY convention shall rally the district youth movement to the mission of WY through inspiration, a call to commitment and the transaction of business (cf. 7505).

(2) Organization.

(a) There shall be an annual district WY convention at a time and place as recommended by the district WY cabinet and approved by the district board of administration (1233:24).

(b) The district WY president shall preside over the district WY convention unless the General Director of Spiritual Formation, or a

representative designated by the General Director of Spiritual Formation, is present and presides.

(3) **Membership.**

(a) Voting members of the district WY convention shall include the district superintendent, the district WY cabinet, each local adult youth leader or pastor/youth pastor and WY president plus delegates from each organized local WY (7585).

(b) The district WY convention may have such honorary members as it desires.

(4) **Committees.**

(a) **Nominating Committee.** The district WY convention shall elect three members to serve with the district WY president and the district superintendent as the nominating committee. The district superintendent shall serve as chair. Elected members of the nominating committee shall not succeed themselves. The nominating committee shall present nomination(s) for district WY president to the district board of administration for their approval, or additional nominations, prior to the district WY convention (1233:24). The nominating committee shall then present to the convention the nomination(s) for district WY president, district WY treasurer, teen cabinet members (7565:1c) and nominating committee members.

(b) **Other Committees.** The district WY convention may appoint other committees as it deems essential.

(5) **Election Procedure.** The district WY president shall be elected by majority ballot from the nominees submitted by the nominating committee and approved by the district board of administration. The district WY treasurer and two teen cabinet members shall be elected by a majority ballot of the district WY convention from the nominations submitted by the nominating committee or other nominations from the floor. The nominating committee may be elected in any manner desired by the district WY convention. All elections other than district WY president must be ratified by the district board of administration before becoming final (1233:24).

(6) **Amenability.** All plans and actions of the district WY convention shall be subject to the approval of the district board of administration (1233:24).

7595. Article 7. Zones. A district WY cabinet may organize activities within one or more zones which meet for inspiration and fellowship (cf. 1233:12).

7600. Article 8. Bylaws. The district WY convention may adopt such

bylaws as it deems essential, provided they are in accord with *The Discipline*, the constitutions and mission of WY, and other directives of the General Church and district in coordination with the district board of Christian education and subject to the approval of the district board of administration.

C. Constitution of General Wesleyan Youth

7605. Article 1. Name. All local and district WY organizations shall be known collectively as Wesleyan Youth, an auxiliary of The Wesleyan Church.

7610. Article 2. Purpose. General Wesleyan Youth shall carry out the mission of Wesleyan Youth, securing the cooperation of local and district WY organizations, providing resources and motivating them to accomplish the mission of Wesleyan Youth (cf. 7505).

7615. Article 3. Relationship. General Wesleyan Youth shall be a ministry of The Wesleyan Church and shall be subject to the direction of the General Department of Spiritual Formation.

7620. Article 4. General Director of Youth. The General Director of Spiritual Formation shall be the general WY director, serving as the executive officer of the general WY organization.

7625. Article 5. General WY Executive Committee.

(1) **Membership.** The general WY executive committee shall be composed of the General Director of Spiritual Formation as chair and the area WY directors.

(2) **Duties.** The WY executive committee shall hear the reports of the General Director of Spiritual Formation and the area WY directors; approve the official WY handbook; adopt recommendations to the General Director of Spiritual Formation which the General Director of Spiritual Formation may present to the General Board; serve as an advisory body to provide counsel and assistance to the General Director of Spiritual Formation (2335); submit memorials to the General Conference including proposed changes in *The Discipline* (1557); supervise area finances; approve area budgets; approve dates of area functions. All plans of the general WY executive committee shall be subject to the approval of the General Board.

7630. Article 6. Area Wesleyan Youth Director.

(1) **Qualifications.** Each area WY director shall be a covenant member of The Wesleyan Church and shall reside and hold church membership within the area represented and served.

(2) **Election Procedure.** The General Director of Spiritual

Formation, after polling the district WY presidents, shall present nominations for an area WY director for each area to the General Board for election. The area WY director shall take office at a time determined by the General Board, shall serve for four years or until a successor is elected and qualified, and shall be amenable to the general WY executive committee. The area WY director may be removed by the General Board by a majority vote of all the members when it is in the best interests of Wesleyan Youth or the Church. The General Board shall have power to fill any vacancies.

(3) **Duties.** The area WY director shall be responsible to cooperate with the General Director of Spiritual Formation and the general WY executive committee, exercise leadership of the area WY, report when requested to the general WY executive committee, nominate an assistant area WY director and other officers as deemed necessary to the general WY executive committee for election, and assume other duties assigned by the general WY executive committee in keeping with *The Discipline* and the *Policy of the General Board for Spiritual Formation*.

7635. Article 7. General WY Treasurer. The General Treasurer of The Wesleyan Church shall be the general treasurer of WY (1976), receiving, holding and disbursing all general WY funds in keeping with the actions of the general WY executive committee as approved or authorized by the General Board.

7640. Article 8. General WY Convention. There may be WY conventions, primarily for inspiration, instruction, and fellowship. They shall be held at a time and place recommended by the General Wesleyan Youth Executive Committee (7625:2) and approved by the General Board.

D. Amendments to WY Constitutions

7650. The local, district or general constitutions of Wesleyan Youth may be amended by majority vote of the General Board at any regular or special session.