

APPENDIX G

YOUNG ADULTS INTERNATIONAL

A. Constitution of Local Young Adults International

7700. Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be Young Adults International of The Wesleyan Church or such name as the local YAI chapter may select.

7705. Article 2. Mission. The purpose of Young Adults International is to encourage members to adopt an obedient Christian lifestyle, to mobilize members for active involvement in Christian mission both locally and worldwide, and to provide opportunities for fellowship in the body of Christ.

7710. Article 3. Organization. A local YAI shall be considered an organized chapter if it has a chair, a secretary-treasurer, meets regularly and is registered with the General Department of Spiritual Formation.

7715. Article 4. Relationship. The local YAI 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, 25, 26, 28), and shall be under the direction of the local board of Christian education (880:2).

7720. Article 5. Membership. Any young adult of post high school status up to and including age thirty and who desires to participate in the meetings and activities of YAI, shall be listed as a member of this organization. An adult over age thirty who has been elected to lead a local chapter or is a district or general director of YAI shall also be listed as a member.

7725. Article 6. Meetings.

(1) **Strategy Meetings.** Strategy meetings of the local YAI shall be held monthly to develop plans for personal and group ministry projects, to encourage and support one another prayerfully in accomplishment of ministry projects, to review ministry projects and to establish accountability for accomplishment of purpose.

(2) **Annual Business Meeting.** The local YAI shall hold an annual business meeting at a time set by the YAI executive committee for the election of officers and a delegate, and other necessary business.

(3) **Additional meetings** may be held as necessary for the accomplishment of its purpose.

7730. Article 7. Officers.

(1) **Executive Officers.** The executive officers of the local YAI shall be the chair of the local chapter and a secretary-treasurer, who together with the pastor as an *ex officio* member (725:18) shall constitute the local YAI executive committee (7740:4).

(2) **Other Officers.** Each local YAI shall select other officers and committees as it deems necessary, such as a singles coordinator, college age coordinator, young marrieds coordinator or a prison ministries coordinator.

(3) **Delegates.** In addition to the local YAI chair who is a member of the district YAI convention by virtue of office, each organized local YAI chapter shall be entitled to one delegate to the district YAI convention (7710; 7765:2).

(4) **Qualifications.** The local YAI chair shall be a covenant member of The Wesleyan Church and if necessary, may be over thirty years of age.

(5) **Election Procedure.** The local YAI chair, local YAI secretary-treasurer and the delegate to the district YAI convention shall be elected by the local YAI at its annual business meeting (7725:2). Preceding the annual YAI election, the local YAI shall elect or the local YAI executive committee shall appoint, a nominating committee consisting of three members. The pastor, or a representative appointed by the pastor, shall preside over the nominating committee (725:18). The nominating committee shall present nomination(s) for local YAI chair to the local board of administration for its approval prior to the election. The nominating committee shall then present to the annual business meeting the nomination(s) for local YAI chair, local YAI secretary-treasurer, delegate to district YAI convention and all other officers of the local YAI. All officers and the delegate shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the local YAI present and voting. All elections other than that of the local YAI chair must be ratified by the local board of administration before becoming final.

(6) **Term of Service.** Local YAI officers shall take office at the beginning of the district fiscal year and shall serve until the end of the district fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified (1180:18).

(7) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All officers of the local YAI 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 YAI so require by a majority vote of the local board of administration (782:25). The local board of administration shall have authority to fill all vacancies in the manner it deems best (782:26).

7740. Article 8. Duties of Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** All officers shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline* and the constitution of Young Adults International.

(2) **Local YAI Chair.** The local YAI chair shall exemplify an obedient Christian life-style including involvement in Christian mission, exercise general leadership of the local YAI under the general oversight of the pastor (725:16) and the local board of administration (782:4), preside over all business meetings of the local YAI and all meetings of the local YAI executive committee. The local YAI chair shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the district YAI convention if the local YAI chair represents an organized local YAI chapter (7710; 7765:2).

(3) **Local YAI Secretary-Treasurer.** The local YAI secretary-treasurer shall be responsible for membership records, minutes, statistical and financial records and annual reports, including those of the local YAI executive committee.

(4) **Local YAI Executive Committee.** The local YAI executive committee shall be composed of the local YAI chair who shall be chair *ex officio*, the local YAI secretary-treasurer and the pastor as an *ex officio* member (7730:1). All actions of the local YAI executive committee shall be subject to the review of the local board of administration. The local YAI executive committee may also include other local YAI officers.

7745. **Article 9. Bylaws.** The local YAI 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 Young Adults International

7750. **Article 1. Name.** All local YAI organizations within the bounds of a district shall be known collectively as Young Adults International of the _____ District of The Wesleyan Church.

7755. **Article 2. Purpose.** The district Young Adults International shall carry out the mission of YAI (7705), seeking to establish and motivate local chapters, to train local YAI directors and to mobilize young adults for ministry projects.

7760. **Article 3. Relationship.** The district YAI shall be a ministry of the district of The Wesleyan Church to which it belongs, shall be subject to the supervision of the district superintendent (1310:8), shall be amenable in all actions to the district board of administration (1233:24, 25), and shall

be under the direction of the district board of Christian education (1455:1).

7765. Article 4. District Convention.

(1) **Purpose and Organization.** There shall be an annual district YAI convention, held at such time as the district board of administration shall approve (1233:24) to elect district YAI officers, to receive reports, to train local officers, to commission young adults involved in ministry projects and to recognize participants who have completed service in ministry projects. The district YAI director shall preside over the district YAI convention unless the General Director of Spiritual Formation, or a representative appointed by the General Director of Spiritual Formation, is present and presides (cf. 7815).

(2) **Membership.** The annual YAI district convention shall be composed of the district superintendent (1303:6), the district YAI officers, local YAI chairs from each organized chapter and one delegate named by each local chapter.

(3) **Committees.** There shall be a nominating committee as set forth in 7770:4. The district YAI convention may elect other committees as it deems necessary and shall define their duties.

(4) **Approval.** All plans and actions of the district YAI convention shall be subject to the review and coordination of the district board of Christian education (1455:1) and the approval of the district board of administration (1233:24).

7770. Article 5. District YAI Officers.

(1) **Executive Officers.** The executive officers of the district YAI shall be the district YAI director, district YAI finance chair and the district YAI projects chair. These officers together with the district superintendent (1310:10) shall constitute the district YAI executive committee (7775:5).

(2) **Other Officers.** Each district YAI may have such other officers and committees as the district YAI convention shall deem necessary.

(3) **Qualifications.** All district YAI officers and committee members must be covenant members of The Wesleyan Church within the district in which they serve. If necessary, executive officers of the district YAI may be over thirty years of age.

(4) **Election Procedure.** The district YAI director, and any other officers and committee members as the bylaws shall require, shall be elected by the annual district YAI convention. The district YAI convention shall select, and the district YAI executive committee shall appoint, a nominating committee over which the district superintendent, or a representative appointed by the district superintendent, shall preside (1310:10). The nominating committee shall present nomination(s) for the office of district

YAI director to the district board of administration for their approval, or additional nominations, prior to the district YAI convention (1233:24). The nominating committee shall then present the nomination(s) for district YAI director and other officers to the annual district YAI convention. Executive officers shall be elected by ballot and other officers elected in any manner desired. All elections other than that of the district YAI director must be ratified by the district board of administration before becoming final.

(5) **Terms of Service.** District YAI officers shall take office at the beginning of the district fiscal year and shall serve until the end of the district fiscal year or until their successors are elected and qualified (1180:18).

(6) **Amenability and Vacancies.** All district YAI officers and committee members shall be amenable to the district board of administration, and may be removed by majority vote of the district board of administration when the best interest of YAI or the district so requires. The district board of administration shall fill all vacancies.

7775. Articles 6. Duties of Officers.

(1) **Criteria.** All officers of district YAI shall carry out their duties in keeping with *The Discipline*, the constitution of YAI and the official handbook authorized by the General Board and issued by the General Department of Spiritual Formation.

(2) **District YAI Director.** The district YAI director shall be responsible to cooperate with the General Director of Spiritual Formation; to exercise general leadership of the district YAI under the general oversight of the district superintendent (1310:8); to preside over the district YAI executive committee meetings; to preside over the district YAI convention, except when the General Director of Spiritual Formation, or a representative appointed by the General Director of Spiritual Formation, is presiding; to appoint one member of the YAI executive committee to serve as secretary of the committee and the district YAI convention; to report annually to the district conference (1180:13), the district YAI convention and at other times as ordered by the district board of administration (1233:11); to organize local YAI chapters; and to equip local YAI chairs in cooperation with pastors and local boards of administration. The district YAI director shall be a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:8), unless the district YAI director is a voting member by some other right.

(3) **District YAI Projects Chair.** The district YAI projects chair shall be responsible to organize ministry projects on the district level, to recruit young adults to participate and to assist local YAI chapters in organizing ministry projects in cooperation with pastors and local boards of administration.

(4) **District YAI Finance Chair.** The district YAI finance chair shall receive, record, hold and disburse all moneys remitted by the local YAI chapters or raised by the district YAI.

(5) **District YAI Executive Committee.** The district YAI director shall be the chair *ex officio* of the district YAI executive committee (7770:1). The district YAI executive committee shall direct the ministry of district YAI between the annual district YAI conventions and shall appoint others to direct specific ministries of district YAI as necessary.

7785. Article 7. Bylaws. The district YAI may adopt such bylaws as it deems necessary, provided that they are in accord with *The Discipline*, the constitution and purpose of YAI and other directives of the General Church and district. Such bylaws are subject to the review and coordination of the district board of Christian education (1455:1) and the approval of the district board of administration (1233:24).

C. Constitution of General Young Adults International

7800. Article 1. Name. All local and district YAI organizations shall be known collectively as Young Adults International, an auxiliary of The Wesleyan Church.

7805. Article 2. Purpose. General Young Adults International shall carry out the mission of YAI (7705), seeking to provide resources, materials and service opportunities to the district and local levels.

7810. Article 3. Relationship. Young Adults International shall be a ministry of The Wesleyan Church, and shall be subject on the general level to the direction of the General Department of Spiritual Formation (2318:3).

7815. Article 4. General Director. The General Director of Spiritual Formation, or a person designated by the General Director of Spiritual Formation, shall be the general director of YAI and shall serve as the executive officer of YAI. The general director of YAI shall be responsible to seek to accomplish the mission of YAI with particular emphasis given to the spiritual vitality of the leaders; to train district YAI leaders; to provide resources for district and local YAI organizations; to provide information on YAI programs to district and local YAI leaders; to oversee the quadrennial general YAI convention; and to study prayerfully General Church and worldwide needs in order to develop viable YAI ministry projects. The General Director of Spiritual Formation, or a representative appointed by the General Director of Spiritual Formation, may preside over the district YAI convention when present (7775:2).

7820. Article 5. General Treasurer of Young Adults International.

The General Treasurer of The Wesleyan Church shall be the general treasurer of YAI (1976), receiving, holding and disbursing all general YAI funds in keeping with the financial policies adopted by the General Board for the support of auxiliaries.

7825. Article 6. Quadrennial General YAI Convention.

There shall be a quadrennial general YAI convention, primarily for inspiration, instruction and fellowship. It shall be held at a time and place recommended by the General Director of Spiritual Formation and approved by the General Board.

D. Amendments to Young Adults International Constitutions

7840. The constitution of Young Adults International of The Wesleyan Church may be amended by majority vote of the General Board at any regular or special session.