

Chapter 7

DISTRICT MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

A. District Coordination of Missions and Evangelism

1410. The district board of administration shall be responsible within the district for the promotion of world missions, general and district evangelism and church growth and the coordination of Wesleyan Men and Wesleyan Women on the district level as set forth in *The Discipline* (1233:3, 20-24).

B. District Board of Evangelism and Church Growth

1413. Function. The district board of administration shall serve as or shall establish a district board of evangelism and church growth to aid the district superintendent and the district board of administration in developing, supervising and promoting an aggressive program of district evangelism and church growth (1233:20; 1310:2).

1416. Membership. If a separate district board of evangelism and church growth is established, it shall have as its chair the district superintendent (cf. 1310:2), unless the district superintendent shall appoint another to serve instead, with such appointment subject to ratification by the district board of administration. In addition to the chair, the board shall consist of two or more ordained ministers and an equal number of lay members elected by the district board of administration who are especially concerned and qualified for this phase of the church's mission. In addition, the district director of evangelism and church growth shall serve as an ex officio member (1426). The term of office for the elected members shall be for two years, with the election so arranged that approximately one-half shall be elected each year. Other than the chair, the board shall elect its own officers. General regulations governing the members of this board are set forth in 1275-1292.

1420. Sessions. The district board of evangelism and church growth shall meet soon after the close of the district conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as it shall decide or the district board of administration shall order. Special sessions may be called by the chair as needed.

1423. Duties. The duties of the district board of evangelism and church growth shall be:

(1) To study potential fields for district extension work and report on and make recommendations to the district board of administration concerning the same.

(2) To stimulate interest in district evangelism and church growth throughout the district to help raise the funds needed for the district church growth program.

(3) To make recommendations to the district board of administration concerning the establishment of a mission, developing church or church, the appointment of pastors for the same, and real estate transactions and building projects connected with church growth projects (cf. 1233:29, 31-32).

(4) To assume direct supervision of the district church growth program or a specific church growth project to the extent delegated by the district board of administration.

(5) To perform other duties as may be required by the district board of administration in the interest of district evangelism and church growth.

C. District Director of Evangelism and Church Growth

1426. A district director of evangelism and church growth shall be elected by the district conference (unless the district conference by prior action has voted to authorize the district board of administration to appoint the district director of evangelism and church growth, 1180:35; cf. 1175:2), and is an *ex officio* member of the district board of evangelism and church growth (1416). The term of office, amenability and other requirements as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275-1292. The duties of the district director of evangelism and church growth are:

(1) To report the election or appointment promptly to the General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth and to cooperate with the General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth in promoting the interests of general evangelism and church growth; and likewise to promote the interests of the district program of evangelism and church growth.

(2) To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the district board of administration for approval.

(3) To assist the district superintendent in arranging for deputational work within the district by representatives of the General Department of Evangelism and Church Growth.

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of general or district evangelism and church

growth at the district conference or campmeeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at district or zone meetings.

(5) To assist pastors in promoting evangelism and church growth in the local churches.

(6) To promote membership in the Church Builders' Club.

(7) To keep a record of activities, reports and correspondence and to submit it to the successor in office.

(8) To submit an annual report of official activities to the district conference (1180:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished in the district for general and district evangelism and church growth, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(9) To perform other duties in the interest of general and district evangelism and church growth as may be required by the district conference, the district board of administration or the district board of evangelism and church growth.

D. District Director of World Missions

1429. A district director of world missions shall be elected by the district conference (1180:35; cf. 1175:2), unless the district conference by prior action has voted to authorize the district board of administration to appoint the district director of world missions. The term of office, amenability and other requirements as a district departmental officer are set forth in 1275-1292. The duties of the district director of world missions are:

(1) To report the election or appointment promptly to the General Director of World Missions and to cooperate with the General Director of World Missions in promoting an interest in and a burden for world missions outreach within the district.

(2) To make a general plan of activities for the year and submit it to the district board of administration for approval (cf. 1410).

(3) To assist the district superintendent in arranging for deputational work within the district by representatives of the General Department of World Missions.

(4) To assist the district superintendent in planning and conducting special services in the interests of world missions at the district conference or campmeeting; to arrange for promotional displays and the distribution of literature at district or zone meetings.

(5) To assist pastors in planning for world missions conventions and in promoting world missions in the local church.

(6) To keep a record of all activities, reports and correspondence and to submit this to the successor in office.

(7) To submit an annual report of official activities to the district conference (1180:13), including a financial report of expenses and a report of what has been accomplished by the district for world missions, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the General Director of World Missions; and to submit other reports as may be requested (cf. 1288).

(8) To perform other duties in the interest of world missions outreach as may be requested by the district conference or the district board of administration.

E. District Board of World Missions

1430. Function. The district board of administration shall serve as or shall establish a district board of world missions to aid the district board of administration in developing, supervising and promoting an aggressive program of district participation in The Wesleyan Church's program of world evangelism.

1432. Membership. If a separate district board of world missions is established, it shall have as its chair the district superintendent, unless the district superintendent shall appoint a chair subject to ratification by the district board of administration. In addition to the chair, an equal number of ordained ministers and lay members shall be elected to two-year terms, with terms so arranged that approximately one-half shall be elected each year. The district board of administration shall determine the size of the board. The district director of world missions, district director of Wesleyan Women and the district president of Wesleyan Men shall be *ex officio* members. General regulations governing the membership of this board are set forth in 1275-1292.

1434. Sessions. The district board of world missions shall meet soon after the close of the district conference to make plans for the year and shall meet for regular sessions as deemed necessary or as directed by the district board of administration. Special sessions may be called by the chair as needed.

1435. Duties. The district board of world missions is amenable to the district board of administration in fulfilling the following duties:

(1) To develop yearly and long-range plans for the promotion of world missions within the district.

(2) To stimulate interest in and increase awareness of Wesleyan World Missions throughout the district.

- (3) To build a strong prayer base for world missions.
- (4) To promote increased financial support of world missions.
- (5) To assist pastors in developing local church programs for promotion of and participation in missions.
- (6) To emphasize the call to missions service and encourage those in preparation for such service.
- (7) To perform other duties as may be required by the district board of administration in the interest of world missions.

F. District President of Wesleyan Men

1437. The district president of Wesleyan Men (7165:2) is a nonvoting member of the district conference unless he is a voting member by some other right (1090:8). He shall submit all plans for Wesleyan Men to the district board of administration for approval (1233:23). In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. He shall endeavor to guide the district activities of Wesleyan Men toward soul-winning, service, stewardship and fellowship in a coordinated effort to forward the district program.

G. District Director of Wesleyan Women

1439. The district director of Wesleyan Women is a nonvoting member of the district conference (7370:2) unless she is a voting member by some other right (1090:8). She shall submit all district plans for Wesleyan Women to the district board of administration for approval (1233:24). In the interim of district board of administration sessions, such plans may be approved by the district superintendent. She shall endeavor to guide the district activities of Wesleyan Women into soul-winning, evangelism, pioneer work and concern for world outreach in a coordinated effort to forward the district program.