

Chapter 6

GENERAL MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

A. Objectives

2200. The ultimate objective of The Wesleyan Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing with all mankind the good news and glorious experience of full salvation. To this end, The Wesleyan Church, through its General Department of Evangelism and Church Growth and General Department of World Missions, shall endeavor:

(1) To evangelize the nations of earth, seeking the salvation of the individual and the entire sanctification of believers as the primary responsibility of all missionary work.

(2) To gather the converts into churches and enlist them in the work of God's kingdom.

(3) To place well-qualified and Spirit-filled pastors over the churches, giving special emphasis to the training of workers and leaders for the church.

(4) To share the benefits of the gospel, and to facilitate evangelistic work through specialized ministries such as medical, educational, literary and benevolent work.

(5) To promote, in accordance with scriptural and indigenous principles, the growth and development of the churches in each field or area to a church body that is spiritually mature, well organized, financially responsible and missionary minded, and that can assume its place in The Wesleyan Church.

B. General Department of Evangelism and Church Growth

1. Function

2205. The General Department of Evangelism and Church Growth is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (2200) within the borders of the United States and Canada, and in such other places as shall be assigned to it by the General Conference or the General Board.

2. The General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth

2212. The General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth is elected by the General Conference as a general official (360:2; 1580:1; 1590:17; 1800), and is an *ex officio* member of the General Conference (1503:1c) and the General Administrative Council (1990). The General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth is amenable to the General Board, serves as a nonvoting resource person to the board, and is under the supervision of a General Superintendent (1915:3; 1935:3). The General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth shall exercise leadership in this department in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for Evangelism and Church Growth*, and other directives as may be given by the General Conference, the General Board, or its Executive Board. The term of service and other regulations for this office are provided for in 1810-1870.

3. Wesleyan Native American Ministries

2239. The work among Native Americans in the United States and Canada shall be organized as Wesleyan Native American Ministries, including all chapels, churches, institutions or other work among Native American people, as assigned by the General Board.

2242. Wesleyan Native American Ministries shall be incorporated as Wesleyan Indian Ministries and shall be governed by a board of directors as follows:

(1) **Composition.** The board of directors shall consist of the General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth as chair, the General Director of Wesleyan Native American Ministries and other members-at-large as determined in number and elected by the General Board, for which nominations shall be submitted by the General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth (cf. 1655:18). Each director must be a covenant member of The Wesleyan Church and shall serve for four years.

(2) **Amenability.** The board of directors shall be amenable to the General Board (1655:18; 1655:39b).

(3) **Duties.** The board of directors of Wesleyan Indian Ministries Inc. shall:

(a) Govern and coordinate all phases of the work in accord with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for Evangelism and Church Growth*, the articles of incorporation and the bylaws.

(b) Promote and develop evangelistic, educational, benevolent and church growth work among the Native American peoples of the United

States and Canada in those areas approved by the General Board (2208:2) and in harmony with the missionary objectives (2200).

(c) Adopt financial plans for the work of Wesleyan Native American Ministries.

(d) Employ teachers, missionaries, Christian workers and other personnel as deemed necessary, and dismiss the same.

(e) Acquire, own, hold, use, lease, mortgage, pledge, sell, convey or otherwise dispose of property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, in the name of the corporation and in trust for The Wesleyan Church, and exercise any or all other powers as set forth in the articles of incorporation and bylaws.

(f) Recommend to the General Board any plans for organizing the workers and churches under Wesleyan Native American Ministries into developing districts, provisional districts and established districts.

4. Other Workers

2244. Missionaries Appointed To Serve Under Wesleyan Native American Ministries. A missionary appointed to serve Wesleyan Native American Ministries under the jurisdiction of the General Department of Evangelism and Church Growth may retain membership in the local church and district as of the time of appointment. The missionary shall also relate to the Wesleyan Native American church where assigned and shall hold active membership therein.

2246. Developing District Pastor or Other Worker. A pastor or other worker duly appointed to serve in a developing district under the jurisdiction of the General Department of Evangelism and Church Growth may retain membership in a local church and district during the time of appointment to serve in a developing district. The pastor or other worker shall also relate to the developing district where assigned and shall hold membership as set forth in *The Discipline* and according to the *Policy of the General Board for Evangelism and Church Growth*. The pastor or other worker shall be amenable for conduct and performance to the proper authorities in the developing district in which service is rendered, to the General Director of Evangelism and Church Growth and to the General Board as set forth in the Judiciary and the *Policy of the General Board for Evangelism and Church Growth*.

C. General Department of World Missions

1. Function

2258. The General Department of World Missions is responsible for carrying out the missionary objectives of The Wesleyan Church (2200) in those fields and areas beyond the national borders of United States and Canada as approved by the General Conference or the General Board.

2. The General Director of World Missions

2261. The General Director of World Missions is elected by the General Conference as a general official (360:2; 1580:1; 1590:17; 1800), and is an *ex officio* member of the General Conference (1503:1c) and the General Administrative Council (1990). The General Director of World Missions is amenable to the General Board, serves as a nonvoting resource person to the board, and is under the supervision of a General Superintendent (1915:3; 1935:3). The General Director of World Missions shall exercise leadership in this department in keeping with *The Discipline*, the *Policy of the General Board for World Missions*, and other directives as may be given by the General Conference, the General Board or its Executive Board. The term of service and other regulations for this office are provided for in 1810-1870.

3. Missionaries

2272. A missionary or other worker duly appointed to serve under the General Department of World Missions may retain membership in the local church and district where membership is held as of the time of appointment by the General Board. The missionary or other worker shall also relate to the national church where assigned and shall hold membership as set forth in *The Discipline* or other regulations adopted for the particular field to which assigned and according to the *Policy of the General Board for World Missions*. The missionary or other worker shall be amenable for all conduct to the proper authorities on the field or area of service, the General Director of World Missions and the General Board as set forth in the Judiciary and the *Policy of the General Board for World Missions*.

4. Organization of Mission Units

2275. Mission units under the General Department of World Missions shall be organized on four levels:

(1) A **developing district** shall be a unit which does not meet the requirements for a provisional district.

(2) A **provisional district** shall be a unit with a minimum of five churches, two hundred covenant members, and a sufficient number of ordained ministers for a district board of administration.

(3) An **established district** shall be a unit with a minimum of twenty churches and seven hundred fifty covenant members.

(4) A **national or regional conference** shall be a unit with two or more provisional or established districts.

2278. Mission units under the General Department of World Missions shall be entitled to send delegates to the North American General Conference on a plan of representation determined by the General Board (325).

2281. Membership Rights. In keeping with the Statement of Relationship (6730) contained in the Essentials (see the Charter of The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church), members of units under the General Department of World Missions have the right to transfer membership not only among local Wesleyan churches but also from one unit under the department to any other unit under the department, or to districts within the United States or Canada (2550), subject to 297:5.

2284. Transfer of Ministers. The transfer of ministerial credentials from one unit under the General Department of World Missions to any other unit under the department, or to any district of the United States or Canada may be effected with the understanding that consideration must be given to differences in requirements for licensing and ordination of ministers as provided for in the various books of discipline of units worldwide (cf. 6730).

2287. Eligibility for Holding Office. As outlined in 2500:5, units under the General Department of World Missions are expected to adopt, subject to the approval of the General Board, a discipline or other similar document for the administration of the churches within their boundaries. While the right to be elected to office is worldwide, the right to hold office shall be exercised within the administrative jurisdiction of each book of discipline.