

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Adopted August 5, 1928.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME.

This organization shall be known as the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists.

ARTICLE 2 - TERRITORY.

The territory of this Union Conference shall comprise England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and adjacent islands, including the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands.

ARTICLE 3 - OBJECT.

The object of this Union Conference is to teach the commandments of God and the everlasting Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. The membership of this Union Conference shall consist of such local conferences and union missions within its territory as have been, or shall be, properly organized and accepted by vote of the British Union Conference in session.

Section 2. The delegates of this Union Conference shall be designated as follows:-

- (a) Delegates at large
- (b) Regular delegates

Section 3. Delegates at large shall be:

- (a) All members of the British Union Conference Executive Committee.
- (b) Attending members of the General Conference Executive Committee
- (c) Ordained ministers of the British Union Conference
- (d) Secretaries of departments of the British Union Conference.
- (e) Superintendents of Union Missions, superintendents and business managers of Union Conference institutions, and such general labourers and field secretaries as shall receive delegates' credentials from the Executive Committee of the British Union Conference.

Section 4. Regular delegates shall be persons duly accredited by such local conferences and union missions as have been, or shall be, properly organized within its territory and accepted by vote of the British Union Conference.

Section 5. Each local conference and union mission shall be entitled to one delegate in addition to its president or superintendent without regard to numbers, and an additional delegate for each fifty church members of the conference or union mission as reported at the close of the last calendar year preceding the session of the British Union Conference.

#### ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

Section 1. The regular officers of this Union Conference shall be:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice-President ?
- (c) A recording secretary
- (d) Treasurer
- (e) Auditor
- (f) Such departmental secretaries as may be necessary to carry forward the work.

Section 2. The President: The president shall act as chairman of the Executive Committee and labour in the general interests of the Union Conference as the Executive Committee may advise.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall labour in the general interests of the Union Conference as the Executive Committee may advise and shall, in the absence of the president, act as chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Secretary: It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the British Union Conference sessions and of the British Union Conference Committee meetings, and to collect such statistics and other facts from local conferences and union missions as may be desired by the British Union Conference, or by its Executive Committee; to maintain correspondence with the fields and perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Section 5. The Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all funds of the British Union Conference and disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee of the British Union Conference, and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the British Union Conference, or by its Executive Committee.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the secretary in charge of a department to promote the general interests of the work entrusted to that department, to provide such statistical reports as may be required, and to perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office of such departmental secretary.

#### ARTICLE 6. - ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

All officers of the Union Conference and the members of the Executive Committee, except presidents of local conferences, shall be chosen by the delegates at

the regular quadrennial sessions of the British Union Conference, and shall hold their office for the period of four years or until their successors are elected and enter upon their duties.

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#### ARTICLE 7 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, the presidents of local conferences, superintendents of Union Missions, the secretary or manager in charge of each duly organized Union Conference department, namely the Publishing, Medical, Educational, Sabbath-School, Religious Liberty, Young People's Missionary Volunteer and Home Missionary, and other persons not to exceed ten in number.

#### ARTICLE 8. - CORPORATIONS, DEPARTMENTS, AND AGENTS.

Section 1. Such corporations may be created by the British Union Conference in session, or by the British Union Conference Executive Committee as the development of the work may require.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall nominate trustees or boards for the corporate bodies or institutions connected with this organization, as may be provided in the statutory law governing each, and shall receive their reports.

Section 3. The Union Conference shall employ such committees, secretaries, treasurers, agents, ministers, missionaries, and other persons and make such distribution of its labourers as may be necessary to execute effectively its work.

Section 4. The Union Conference shall grant credentials or licences to ministers and missionaries except in local conferences within its territory.

#### ARTICLE 9. - SESSIONS.

Section 1. This Union Conference shall hold quadrennial sessions at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall designate by a notice published in the Union Conference paper.

Section 2. The Executive Committee may call special sessions of the British Union Conference at such time and place as it deems proper by a like notice as of regular sessions, and the transactions of such special sessions shall have the same force as those of the regular sessions.

Section 3. The election of officers and the voting on all other matters of business shall be viva voce, unless otherwise demanded by a majority of the delegates present.

ARTICLE 10.

The voters of this Union Conference may enact By-laws and amend or repeal them at any session thereof and such By-laws may embrace any provision not inconsistent with the Constitution.

ARTICLE 11. - AMENDMENTS.

The Constitution, or By-laws, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voters present, and voting at any session, provided that, if it is proposed to amend the Constitution at a special session, notice of such proposal shall be given in the call for such special session.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 1. During the intervals between sessions of the British Union Conference, the Executive Committee shall have full administrative power, with authority to grant credentials and licences, and to fill for the current term, any vacancies that may occur in its offices, boards, committees, or agents, by death, resignation or otherwise. The Executive Committee shall also have power to withdraw credentials or licences by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular council meeting.

Section 2. A majority of the full membership of the Executive Committee, including the president or any other officer of the British Union Conference temporarily appointed as chairman, is empowered to transact business at any time and place. Any five members of the Executive Committee, including the chairman of the British Union Conference, shall, after due notice to available members, constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee, and shall be empowered to transact such executive business as is in harmony with the general plans outlined by the Committee.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the ranking officer of the Union Conference who may be present, and such officer or any member of the Committee appointed by him, shall act as chairman of the meeting.

Section 4. Minority meetings of less than five members of the Executive Committee may be held for the transaction of necessary urgent business, but actions taken at such meetings shall not be final until the minutes of such meetings have been approved in a regular session of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 2. - DEPARTMENTS.

Section 1. Departmental secretaries elected by the British Union Conference shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee of the British Union Conference, and shall occupy an advisory relation to the field.

ARTICLE 3. - AUDITORS AND AUDITS.

Section 1. The responsibility for the auditing of the accounts of the British Union Conference shall rest with the Northern European Division of the General Conference. Copies of all the auditors' statements shall be forwarded to the Northern European Division of the General Conference.

Section 2. The British Union Conference Committee shall appoint such auditors as may be necessary to do the auditing which should properly be done under the supervision of the British Union Conference.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the accounts of unincorporated institutions connected with the British Union Conference audited at least once each calendar year, and the auditors shall report upon the same to the Executive Committee annually. The auditors shall also report for the full quadrennial period to the British Union Conference at its regular sessions. The British Union Conference auditors shall be available for auditing the accounts of local conferences and general institutions.

ARTICLE 4. - WAGES AND EXPENSES.

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall appoint annually four persons not in its employ who, with the officers of the British Union Conference, the presidents of local conferences within its territory, and superintendents of Union Missions, shall constitute a committee to audit the expense accounts of employees and fix their wages.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have power to make such adjustments of wages of employees as may, from time to time, in its judgement, be necessary.

Section 3. In the absence of a special contract in writing to the contrary, all contracts of employment shall be deemed to be terminable by either party by one month's notice in writing.

ARTICLE 5. - FUNDS.

Section 1. The funds of the British Union Conference shall be as follows:-

(a) A tithe of the tithe receipts of the local conferences and union missions within its territory.

(b) Special donations for work within its territory.

(c) A tithe of the profits of publishing houses, sanitariums and other profit-earning institutions under the control of the British Union Conference, or which, because of the character of their work, have more than local influence and responsibility.

(d) Such percentage of the annual profits of these institutions, after deducting the tithe, as may be arranged by joint counsel of the Executive Committee of the British Union Conference and the Boards of Management of the institutions.

Section 2. Trust Funds. This Union Conference shall receive in trust for the Northern European Division of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, funds as follows:

(a) Funds received through local conferences and union missions from churches, Sabbath-schools, societies and individuals, for missionary purposes.

(b) Special donations from any source.

(c) A tithe of the tithe of the British Union Conference for missions.

(d) A percentage of the tithe of local conferences and union missions for missions.

(e) Such percentage of the tithe of conferences and union missions and of the profits and pay rolls of institutions and tract societies as may be arranged by the Executive Committee of the British Union Conference in counsel with the Northern European Division, the same to be known as the Sustentation Fund, for the support of such aged and infirm workers, and for the dependent widows and orphans of workers as may be recommended annually by the British Union Conference.

#### ARTICLE 6. - FINANCE.

Section 1. The treasurer of the British Union Conference shall carry a reserve fund to provide for a possible period of financial depression, such reserve fund to be held in cash and in readily convertible securities.

Section 2. The Executive Committee, through its legal agency, the Seventh-day Adventist Union Ltd., shall have power to make such annuity contracts as it may deem desirable, and as shall be within British statutory limits; but all moneys obtained thereby shall be invested in readily convertible securities, and not be made available for appropriation until the annuity contracts have expired.

Section 3. The tithe and offerings received by the British Union Conference shall be held as a trust for appropriation to the work of the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination. It shall not be within the prerogative, therefore, of the British Union Committee, the Treasury Department, nor of any agent or agency of the denomination, to loan these funds to private individuals, to endorse notes or bonds or other securities, or in any way divert the funds of the British Union Conference from their intended purpose.

Section 4. The basis for computing per-capita quotas shall be the membership at the close of the second preceding year as published in the report of the statistical secretary of the General Conference.

ARTICLE 7. - BUDGETS AND RESERVES. (This is recorded as  
ARTICLE 8)

Section 1. The officers shall prepare annually not later than July 31st, an operating budget for the coming year based upon the income and expenditures of the current year; and for this purpose each secretary administering the affairs of a department shall lay before the officers an estimate of the total income to be received and the total expenses to be incurred in his department.