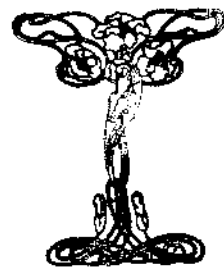


*Constitution*  
of the  
*British Union Conference*  
of  
*Seventh-Day Adventists*



August 1946

Constitution of the  
BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE  
of  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Adopted at the Union Conference Session  
August 1-10, 1946

---

**Article I—Name**

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

**Article II—Territory**

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

**Article III—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 IV—Membership**

Section 1. The membership of this Union Conference shall consist of such local conferences and local 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 the members of the British Union Conference Executive Committee.

(b) Attending members of the General Conference and Northern European Division Executive Committees.

(c) Ordained ministers of the British Union Conference.

(d) Such ministers receiving sustentation as may be invited by the Executive Committee.

(e) Secretaries of Departments of the British Union Conference.

(f) Superintendents of local 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.

(g) Such visitors from sister Unions and Divisions of the General Conference as may be present, who are accepted by the delegates in session.

Section 4. Regular delegates shall be persons duly accredited by such local conferences and local 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 local 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 churchmembers of the conference or local mission, as reported at the close of the last calendar year preceding the session of the British Union Conference.

#### Article V—Officers and Departmental Secretaries and Their Duties

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

- (a) President.
- (b) Secretary.

(c) Treasurer.

There shall also be departmental secretaries to care for the interests of the departmental work.

Section 2.—*President.*

The President shall act as chairman of the Executive Committee and labour in the general interests of the Union Conference in counsel with the Executive Committee.

Section 3.—*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 information from local conferences and local missions as may be desired by the British Union Conference or by its Executive Committee: to maintain correspondence with the field, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Section 4.—*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 action 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 5.

The departmental secretaries shall labour in the general interests of the departments, under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Union Conference, and shall occupy an advisory relation to the field.

#### Article VI—Election of Officers and Departmental Secretaries

Section 1. 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 session 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.

Section 2. The tenure of office of union executive officers and departmental secretaries shall not exceed eight consecutive years in any one position. In local conferences and mission fields the tenure of office of conference or mission executive

officers and departmental secretaries shall not exceed six consecutive years in any one position in the same conference or mission field.

#### Article VII—Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive Committee shall consist of the president, secretary, treasurer, the presidents of local conferences, superintendents of local missions, the secretary 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, the Managers of the Publishing House and Food Factory; other persons may be elected at a Union session or chosen by the Executive Committee, not to exceed seven in number.

Section 2. 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 3. 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 4. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the president or in his absence by the secretary.

Section 5. 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 regular session of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The plans and policies adopted by this Union Conference shall be in harmony with the plans and policies of the Northern European Division and the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists.

#### Article VIII—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 IX—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 at least four weeks before the appointed time 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.

Section 4. For the purpose of nominating the standing committees of a Union session, the delegates present from any constituent conference or local mission shall choose one repre-

sentative for their organization and a further representative for every five hundred of their membership, with one more for any surplus. The whole body of representatives so chosen shall meet under the chairmanship of the principal representative of the Northern European Division present at the session and shall promptly submit to the session their choice of names for the various standing committees.

#### Article X—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 session. The British Union Conference auditors shall be available for auditing the accounts of local conferences and general institutions.

#### Article XI—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 local 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 judgment, 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 XII—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 local missions within its territory.

(b) Special donations for work within its territory.

(c) A tithe of the profit 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 local missions from the churches, Sabbath-schools, societies, and individuals for missionary purposes.

(b) Special donations to the Division 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 local missions for missions.

(e) Such percentage of the tithe of conferences and local missions and of the profits and payrolls of institutions 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 such dependent widows and orphans of workers as may be recommended annually by the British Union Conference.

#### Article XIII—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 British Advent Missions Limited, shall have power to make such annuity contracts as it may deem desirable, and as shall be within British statutory limits; but all monies 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 tithes 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 competence of the British Union Committee, nor of the treasury department, nor of any officer, agent, or agency of the British Union to lend these funds to private individuals, or companies, or corporations, nor to involve them by indorsing in any official capacity notes or bonds or other securities, nor to divert in any way from their proper use and purpose the funds of the British Union Conference.

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 XIV—Budgets and Reserves

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.

#### Article XV—Amendments

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