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BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE

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CONSTITUTION

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REVISED JULY 28, 1948

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THE BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION

28/7/48.

The committee appointed January 21 1948 to revise the Constitution of the Union, South and North England Conferences, and the Missions, submits the following report in respect to the proposed Constitution for the British Union Conference.

Members of Committee:- E.B. Rudge, G.D. King, A. Carey, W.W. Armstrong, O.M. Dorland, W.L. Emerson, W.R.A. Madgwick, J.M. Howard.

ARTICLE 1. - Name

This organization shall be known as the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and is hereinafter referred to as "this Union Conference". This Union Conference functions as a detached union conference of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and acknowledges in all church matters the authority and leadership of such General Conference.

ARTICLE 2. - Territory

The territory of this Union Conference shall comprise England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Eire, and all adjacent British islands.

ARTICLE 3. - Object

The object of this Union Conference is to proclaim the everlasting Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and to inculcate the Commandments of God as the supreme rule of life.

ARTICLE 4. - Composition of Union Conference

This Union Conference shall be composed of such local conferences and missions within its territory as have been, or shall be, properly organized and received into this Union Conference by vote of a session of this Union Conference or by vote of the Executive Committee at an annual meeting, carried in each case by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

ARTICLE 5. - Sessions

Section 1. This Union Conference shall hold a regular session at an interval of four years at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall determine, and a notice of such session shall be published at least four weeks before the appointed time in the Union Conference paper.

Section 2. In the event of special conditions arising which would make it advisable to postpone the calling of a regular session, the Executive Committee may postpone such session for a period not exceeding two years, provided that a regular session shall not be postponed without the consent of at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee expressed by personal vote or by signature to a resolution in writing submitted to the members of the Executive Committee. Separate copies of the resolution may be signed for this purpose.

Section 3. The Executive Committee may call a special session of this Union Conference at such time and place as it deems proper, by a like notice as for regular sessions, and the transactions of such special sessions shall have the same force as those of the regular sessions.

Subject as aforesaid a special session may elect any such officers or other persons or committees and transact any such business and do any such other act as under this Constitution a regular session or the Executive Committee between sessions may elect, transact, or do.

Section 4. For the purpose of nominating the standing committees of a Union session, the delegates present from any local conference or mission shall choose one representative 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 General Conference present at the session, or other chairman elected by the delegates present, and shall promptly submit to the session their choice of names for the various standing committees.

ARTICLE 6. - Delegates to Session

The delegates to a session of this Union Conference shall be:

- a. All members of the Executive Committee of this Union Conference.
- b. All ordained ministers holding credentials from this Union Conference or duly organized local conferences within its territory.
- c. All members of the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists who may be present.
- d. All ministers holding credentials from the said General Conference who may be present.
- e. All missionaries employed by the General Conference who may be present.
- f. Such persons as are duly appointed by the Executive Committee of each local conference and mission. Each local conference and mission shall be entitled to appoint one delegate for each fifty church members or fraction thereof in such local conference or mission.
- g. Such other persons as may be present who shall be received as delegates by vote of the session.

ARTICLE 7. - Voting

On all questions only delegates may vote and each delegate to the session shall have one vote. The chairman of the session shall have a deliberative vote and in case of equality of votes shall have a casting vote.

ARTICLE 8. - Powers of Session

This Union Conference in session shall have power to determine all matters and things for the order and good administration of this Union Conference and the regulation of its affairs including the management and disposal of or dealing with all real and personal property and revenues held or proposed to be acquired for or

on behalf or for the use benefit or purposes of this Union Conference, subject however to any specific trusts relating thereto and for such purposes to give to the British Advent Missions Limited or to any company corporation or person in whom any such real and personal property and revenues shall be vested such directions with reference thereto and as to the management and disposal thereof as this Union Conference shall deem expedient. This Union Conference in session may make rules to govern its own procedure.

ARTICLE 9. - Credentials and Licences

Section 1. This Union Conference in regular session shall determine who are the approved ministers within the jurisdiction thereof, grant suitable credentials to such ministers and grant licences to those whom it shall consider suitable to labour in the cause of this Union Conference, and recommend for ordination such men as shall have given proof of their call to the ministry. Between sessions the Executive Committee is authorized to perform such duties.

Section 2. Any credentials, licences, or certificates granted or issued by this Union Conference in session or by the Executive Committee shall remain in force and be valid until the next regular session unless previously terminated by this Union Conference in special session or by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 10. - Elections

Section 1. a. This Union Conference in regular session shall elect:

- (i) Executive Officers
- (ii) Field secretaries
- (iii) Departmental secretaries
- (iv) Chief Editors and assistant editors of our church publications
- (v) Secretaries of organized services, bureaus, and commissions
- (vi) Officers of missions
- (vii) Managers of the following institutions:
 - The Stanborough Press Ltd.
 - Granose Foods Ltd.
 - The Stanborough Park Sanitarium
 - Newbold Missionary College
 - Stanboroughs Secondary & Preparatory School
- (viii) Elective members of the Executive Committee of this Union Conference
- (ix) Auditors

b. Persons elected under this section shall hold their respective offices or appointments until the next regular session of this Union Conference unless their offices or appointments are previously terminated by this Union Conference in special session or by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. a. This Union Conference in regular session and the annual meeting of the Executive Committee between sessions shall elect the members of the following committees and boards:

- (i) Committees of organized missions
- (ii) Boards of management of all institutions of this Union Conference
- (iii) Faculties of Colleges and secondary schools.

- b. The members of such committees and boards shall hold their appointments until the next annual meeting of the Executive Committee or the next regular session of this Union Conference whichever first happens unless their appointments are terminated by this Union Conference in special session or by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. This Union Conference in session and the Executive Committee between sessions may establish such other offices, positions, and committees as may be determined, prescribe the duties and functions thereof and elect persons thereto and vary or terminate any such office, position, or committee and may remove any member of any such committee or any committee or board or faculty mentioned in Section 2.

Section 4. This Union Conference in session and the Executive Committee between sessions may elect nominate or appoint trustees of any real or personal property or revenues mentioned in Article 8.

ARTICLE 11. - Officers

Section 1. The Executive officers of this Union Conference shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. There shall be such other officers as this Union Conference in session or the Executive Committee may determine.

Section 2. All officers of this Union Conference shall hold office until the next regular session of this Union Conference or until their successors are elected unless their appointments are previously terminated by this Union Conference in special session or by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The president shall supervise the general work of this Union Conference; open and preside at all sessions of this Union Conference and also at all meetings of the Executive Committee, but should he so desire the vice-president or a representative of the General Conference or any member of the Executive Committee to assist him in presiding at the sessions of this Union Conference or meetings of the Executive Committee, he shall have power to call him to the chair.

Section 4. The vice-president shall assist the president in the general supervision of the work within this Union Conference, either at the president's request or by instructions of the Executive Committee. Whenever circumstances arise which prevent the president from fulfilling his duties, the vice-president shall discharge the same.

Section 5. The secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the sessions of this Union Conference and of the meetings of the Executive Committee and perform such other duties as usually pertain to his office.

Section 6. The treasurer shall receive all monies belonging to this Union Conference, keep an account of same, and disburse them as the Executive Committee shall direct, and make full report thereof at all sessions of this Union Conference and at such other times as may be required by the Executive Committee and perform

such other duties as usually pertain to his office.

Section 7. The field secretaries and the departmental secretaries shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee or the president and shall occupy an advisory relationship to the field.

ARTICLE 12. - Appointments

- This Union Conference in session and the Executive Committee between sessions
- a. shall appoint such agents, ministers, missionaries, and other persons as may be necessary to carry on the work of this Union Conference; and
 - b. may terminate or vary any such appointment.

ARTICLE 13. - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive officers of this Union Conference, the field secretaries, the presidents of local conferences, the superintendents of organized mission fields within this Union Conference, the secretaries of the organized departments of this Union Conference, the secretary of British Advent Missions Limited, the manager of the Stanborough Press Limited, the manager of Granose Foods Limited, the medical superintendent of the Stanborough Park Sanitarium (Good Health Association Limited), the principal of Newbold Missionary College, the chief editor of church publications, and such other persons not less than two nor more than seven as this Union Conference in session may determine.

ARTICLE 14. - Authority of Executive Committee

Section 1. Between sessions the Executive Committee shall manage the affairs of this Union Conference and may exercise such of the powers of this Union Conference in session as under this Constitution are not exclusively exercisable by this Union Conference in session, but subject to this Constitution and any directions as to policy or otherwise and any regulations given or made by this Union Conference in session.

Section 2. In particular and without prejudice to the general powers conferred by section 1, the Executive Committee may between sessions exercise the powers of this Union Conference in session under Article 8 with regard to the real and personal property and revenues therein referred to.

Section 3. The Executive Committee may between sessions remove from office any officer of this Union Conference or from the Executive Committee any member thereof, provided that such action has the consent of at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee by personal vote or by signature to a resolution in writing submitted to all the members of the Executive Committee. Separate copies of such resolutions may be signed for this purpose.

ARTICLE 15. - Meetings and Notices

Section 1. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the president or in his absence by the secretary.

Section 2. A majority of the full membership of the Executive Committee, including the president or any other officer of this Union Conference temporarily appointed as chairman, is empowered to transact business at any time and place. Any seven members of the Executive Committee including the chairman 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 plan outlined by the Committee.

Section 3. Minority meetings of less than seven members of the Executive Committee may be held for the transaction of necessary urgent business, but actions at such meetings shall not be final until the minutes of such meetings have been approved in regular session of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 16. -- Annual Meeting

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall hold an annual meeting with as full a representation of its members as possible.

Section 2. The Executive Committee at its annual meeting

- a. shall elect members to the committees and boards mentioned in Section 2 of Article 10;
- b. shall examine and if necessary adjust the wages schedule and authorize the annual budgets and shall set all wages rates in harmony with the schedule;
- c. shall have power to make such adjustments in the boundaries of the local conferences and missions under the jurisdiction of this Union Conference as it may deem to be necessary and advisable, and to create and organize new conferences and missions and to receive such into membership;
- d. may transact any other business.

ARTICLE 17. -- Finance -- Funds

Section 1. The funds of this 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 this 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 this Union Conference and the Boards of Management of the institutions.

Section 2. Trust Funds. This Union Conference shall receive in trust for 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 General Conference from any source.
- c. A tithe of the tithe of this Union Conference for missions.
- d. 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 this Union Conference in harmony with the General Conference policy for the operation of the Sustentation Fund for the support of such aged and infirm workers and for such dependent widows and orphans of workers as may be voted by the Executive Committee of this Union Conference.

Section 3. 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.

ARTICLE 18. - Auditors

At each regular session this Union Conference shall elect such auditors as may be required whose duty it shall be:

- a. To examine at least annually the accounts and vouchers of this Union Conference and to report upon same to the Executive Committee.
- b. To examine the accounts and vouchers of each and all of the local conferences and missions and institutions under the jurisdiction of this Union Conference, at such times as the Executive Committee or the president may direct, and to report to the Executive Committee of this Union Conference or the Executive Committee of the local conference or the managing boards of the respective bodies concerned.

ARTICLE 19. - Trustees

Section 1. The British Advent Missions Limited, a corporation formed and controlled by this Union Conference, shall be the regular trustee for this Union Conference to acquire, hold, manage, dispose of or deal with real and personal property for and on behalf of or for the use benefit or purposes of this Union Conference but subject to any specific trusts relating to such property and generally to conform with such directions, if any, as are from time to time given to it by or on behalf of this Union Conference.

Section 2. The Irish Good Health Association Limited, a corporation formed and controlled by this Union Conference to represent and conduct all legal matters appertaining to our denominational work in Eire, shall be the regular trustee for this Union Conference to acquire, hold, manage, dispose of or deal with real and personal property for and on behalf of or for the use benefit or purposes of this Union Conference in Eire, but subject to any specific trusts relating to such property and generally to conform with such directions, if any, as are from time to time given to it by or on behalf of this Union Conference.

ARTICLE 20. - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a resolution of this Union Conference in session passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the delegates who vote. No amendment shall be moved except with the consent of the Executive Committee unless notice thereof shall be given to the Secretary not later than two calendar months before the date of holding the session and the notice convening the session shall set out any intended amendment.