

CONSTITUTION

— OF —

The Conference

— OF —

Churches of Christ,

IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

February 2nd, 1915,

CONSTITUTION.

NAME.

1. The Conference of Churches of Christ in New South Wales.

OBJECTS.

2. The objects of the Conference are to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in Holy Scripture and to extend the interests, consolidate the influence and help to secure and preserve the unity and purity of the Churches, that is to say:—

- (a) To extend the interests of the Churches by instituting, conducting and sustaining such missions (Home and Foreign) as may be from time to time within the power of the Conference.
- (b) To consolidate the influence of the Churches by the securing of a more general distribution of the talent and wisdom of the Churches in their upbuilding and guidance and by the collection and dissemination of information concerning the numbers, wants and desires of the Churches.
- (c) To assist and encourage the work of the Bible Schools in any manner as may from time to time become expedient.
- (d) To promote temperance and philanthropic work.

CONSTITUTION.

3. The Conference shall consist of all Churches of Christ at present associated and such other Churches as may hereafter from time to time be admitted in the manner hereinafter provided. Each Church forming the Conference shall be asked to contribute according to the number of its members upon the following basis:—

- (a) Churches of a membership of not more than 50 members, 5/-.

- (b) Churches of a membership of over 50 and more than 100 members, 10/-.
- (c) Churches of a membership of more than members, 20/-.

REPRESENTATION.

4. Churches associated shall be entitled to be represented at all General Conference Meetings upon the following scale:—

Each Church shall be entitled to one representative for each 25 members or portion thereof; provided, however, that no Church shall have more than 21 representatives.

MODE OF ADMISSION.

5. Any Church desirous of admission to the Conference shall forward to the Secretary an application for admission, which shall be dealt with at the next General Conference Meeting; such application to be in the hands of the Secretary six weeks before the date of the General Conference Meeting, and the name of each Church applying for admission shall within 10 days from the receipt of such application be sent to each Church associated.

OBJECTIONS TO ADMISSION.

6. Any objection by a Church to any Church associated or to any Church applying for admission must be clearly stated in writing and be in the hands of the Secretary two weeks prior to the next General Conference Meeting. The Executive Committee shall, as soon as possible, convene a Special General Meeting of representatives, who shall sit in committee, at such time and place as shall be most convenient. This meeting shall hear the evidence relating to such objections, decide thereon, and report to the General Conference Meeting. No discussion in reference to any objection shall be allowed at the General Conference Meeting.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

7. Any member of a Church of Christ in good standing may be admitted by consent of the Conference to take part in the deliberations, but not to vote on any question arising.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

8. (a) All members of the Conference shall enjoy equal rights in the discussion of all matters that may engage the attention of the Conference.

(b) Any member of the associated Churches in good standing shall be eligible for election for one office only under the Conference. He may, however, hold in addition any office on any Special Committee. No person may be nominated in his absence unless his consent has previously been obtained.

(c) The ordinary rules of debate shall regulate the proceedings of this Conference so far as they do not conflict with this constitution.

(d) Each representative, even though he may represent more than one Church, shall only have one vote.

(e) Any 10 representatives shall be entitled to call for a division upon any question put to the vote, when a division of representatives shall be taken.

(f) Any representative shall be entitled during any discussion to move "that the question be now put," and provided that 10 representatives rise in support thereof and the motion be carried, the question shall be put without further discussion.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

9. (a) The officers of the Conference shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected by vote at the Annual Meeting, and shall hold office until the close of the next Annual Conference, and be eligible for re-election. All vacancies occurring in the interim to be filled by the remaining members of the Executive Officers.

(b) The Executive shall be responsible for the proper convening and orderly conduct of all meetings of the Conference, for the proper carrying out of all decisions arrived at and referred to the province of any of its Committees, and for the general furtherance of the objects of the Conference as set forth in clause 2 hereof.

MANAGEMENT.

10. The following Committees shall be elected annually by Conference:—

- (a) A Home Missionary Committee, charged with the conduct of Home Mission enterprise in the State of New South Wales and border towns, the collection and disbursement of funds in aid of Home Mission work, and at its discretion to assist the furtherance of the objects of sub-clauses (c) and (d) of clause 2. The said Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers and 7 other members, to be elected by the Annual Meeting.
- (b) A Foreign Missions Committee, which shall be charged with the conduct of Foreign Mission enterprise, the collection and disbursement of funds in aid of Foreign Mission work, and generally with the carrying out of the decisions and programmes decided upon at the Annual Meeting of the Conference relating to Foreign Missions, and shall be responsible to the Annual Conference and duly report its proceedings thereto. The Foreign Missions Committee shall consist of a chairman and 9 other members, to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Conference and 3 Sisters, if elected by the Sisters' Auxiliary Conference.
- (c) A Bible Schools Committee, consisting of a chairman and 8 other members also 3 Sisters, if elected by the Sisters' Auxiliary Conference, charged with the promotion of Bible School work, the encouragement of Bible School teachers in the work of winning souls for Christ, the furtherance of Biblical education, the best means of advancing Scriptural knowledge among the scholars, and generally with the stimulation of Bible School work, and the

collection and disbursement of funds in connection therewith. The Committee shall be responsible to the Annual Conference, and duly report its proceedings thereto.

- (d) A Temperance and Morals Committee, specially charged with the promotion of the objects set out in sub-clause (d) of clause 2, and the collection and disbursement of funds in connection with the furtherance of such objects. Such Committee shall consist of a chairman and 6 other members, to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Conference and 3 Sisters, if elected by the Sisters' Auxiliary Conference. It shall be responsible to the Annual Conference, and shall duly report its proceedings thereto.
- (e) A Committee of Reference and Credentials, consisting of 5 members, shall be elected annually by the Conference, to which Churches may apply concerning the standing of any preachers. Membership on any other Committee shall not debar any brother from being elected to this Committee.
- (f) Any such other Committees as the Conference may from time to time determine, which Committees shall have such powers and duties as the Conference in electing them shall decide.
- (g) No preacher employed by the Conference or assisted from its funds or evangelist employed by any Church assisted or subsidised by the Conference shall be eligible to be a member of the Executive or of the Home Missionary Committee.
- (h) Any Member of the Executive or any other Committee absenting himself from any two consecutive ordinary meetings, without just cause assigned, shall be liable to forfeit his position at the discretion of such Committee.
- (i) In the event of any position upon the Executive or any Committee falling vacant through any cause the remaining members shall fill the vacant position.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

11. That the voting for election of officers and committees be by ballot. That the election of members of the Executive be by exhaustive ballot. That in the election of Committees the requisite number who are highest on the poll be duly elected. That in the event of a tie between two or more which affects the number to be elected, another ballot be taken between those tying. In the event of a tie on the second ballot the chairman shall give his casting vote. Each representative shall vote for the full number to be elected; otherwise his vote shall be declared informal.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

12. The Annual Meeting of the Conference shall be held at such time and place as may have been selected by the previous Conference. All applications for admission to the Conference shall be determined, all reports of the Executive Officers and Committees submitted and dealt with and all other business shall be discussed and determined thereat. At least 1 month's notice shall be given by the Executive to the associated Churches of the time and place of such meeting.

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

13. Special Meetings may be called as often as necessary by the Executive and shall be summoned upon a requisition in writing signed on behalf of any 8 of the associated Churches, such requisition to set forth fully the business proposed to be brought forward at such meeting. At least 1 month's notice shall be given by the Executive to the associated Churches of the time, place and business to be considered at such meeting. No business shall be entertained or discussed at such Special Meetings other than that specified upon the Executive's notice convening such Special Meeting.

NOTICE OF BUSINESS.

14. That 6 weeks' notice in writing shall be given to the Executive of all business to be brought forward at any meeting of the Conference; such notice to set forth

the motion to be made and to be signed by the ser; and no matter of which such notice has not given shall be discussed at any such meeting. This clause shall not be construed to apply to any matter or business presented in or arising out of the report of the Executive appointed by Conference. Provided always that Conference may set apart certain of its time for General Business when this rule shall not apply.

BY-LAWS AND STANDING ORDERS.

15. (a) That such by-laws and standing orders as may be necessary to the orderly conduct of the deliberations of the Conference shall be framed by the Executive and approved by the vote of Conference, and shall thereafter be construed as part of this constitution.

(b) No by-law or standing order shall be of any force if it be contrary to the spirit of the **Constitution**.

(c) That, subject to the preceding provisions, the Conference may at any time, at its own discretion, suspend, amend or rescind any or all of such by-laws or standing orders as the case may be.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION.

16. That no amendment of the Constitution shall be entertained except at an annual meeting. That 6 weeks' notice of intention to propose any amendment of the Constitution shall be given in writing, signed by the proposer, such notice to set forth fully the terms and nature of the proposed amendment.

AUDITORS.

17. At such Annual Conference the Conference shall elect such Auditors as it may deem necessary to audit the several annual balance sheets provided for by this Constitution, and such Auditors shall present a report of their audit at the succeeding Annual Meeting. Provided that any vacancy in the position of Auditor occurring between the Annual Conference Meetings shall be filled by the Executive Officers.

EXISTING COMMITTEES.

18. That all Committees under the old Constitution shall have effect until the next Annual Conference.

RESERVATION.

19. The Conference shall have no power to settle matters of discipline or dispute in any Church.

BY-LAWS.

1. Any Church failing for a period of 3 consecutive years to forward to the Conference its statistical returns may be removed from the list of Churches forming this Conference.

2. That, unless Conference otherwise orders, any brother moving a resolution be not allowed to exceed 15 minutes in doing so, and that all subsequent speakers be limited to 10 minutes, the mover being allowed 10 minutes to reply; provided any brother merely seconding a resolution without comment be entitled to a subsequent 10 minutes if so desired by him.

3. That each speaker, other than the mover, be allowed to speak once only to any motion except to state a point of order, ask a question, or make, with the consent of the chairman, a brief explanation.

4. That the chairman shall have a casting vote only excepting in the election of Officers and Committees, when he shall be entitled to a deliberative vote.

5. No two Committees shall be nominated at one and the same time. The time of nomination and election to be stated on the printed programmes of business.

