

## Bantu Methodist Church.

The Bantu Methodist Church was designed by the will of God. It was ~~in~~ the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1932 that most unpleasant circumstances made impossible for the Rev. S. Ndlovu Hlongwana to continue his ministry in The Methodist Church which he had served for years. That year he left the Methodist Church at Ermelo, Transvaal. It was followed by a large section of the Ermelo Congregation. With the guidance of the Divine Providence he started The Bantu Methodist Church. Dissatisfaction that was spread all over the Transvaal among the members of the Bantu Methodist Church increased the membership of the Bantu Methodist Church. He was in demand all over the Country. Invitations came in from all sides for him to come and receive into the Bantu Methodist Church the established members of the Methodist Church.

Constitution

Revised in the year 1938

DOCTRINES

1. The Teachings of the Bantu Methodist Church are as follows:—
- A. The Being of God, including the Holy Trinity.
  - B. The Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - C. The innocence of man at creation.
  - D. The fall of man and his offspring.
  - E. That the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth to redeem mankind.
  - F. To be saved man must believe in God the father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit, and with sorrow turn from sin to be saved by Jesus Christ.
  - G. The reward or punishment of man after the last Judgement.

MEMBERSHIP

- II membership of the Bantu Methodist Church is open to all Africans who have repented and accepted Christ Jesus as their

Saviour, and strive to lead a Godly life. Such members approved by the leaders meeting, where his name shall be proposed, shall then be accepted into full membership of the Church in a service arranged for that purpose. All Children shall be accepted as Junior members. All members shall attend weekly class meetings under their leaders.

CLASSES

There shall be classes, composed of from two to fifteen members of the Church, to shall meeting once a week in the Church. Their meeting meets once a week. In it, lead by the leader, they shall regulate their spiritual life.

Leader

A leader is someone whose desire is to serve God, and persuade others

All members shall pay \$1.00 quarterly F.M. T.M.

IV

others to do likewise. He or she shall be appointed by the ministers and full members of the Church.

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### Preachers

V There shall be Preachers who shall be elected in a Leaders meeting. They shall be laymen who are full members of the Church. They must have a good Character and a good Knowledge of the Bible.

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### Stewards

VI There shall be Stewards in each circuit. They shall be men of clean record and good Character and full members of the Baptist Methodist Church. They shall be elected in the Leaders and Preachers meeting. Stewards shall be members of the Leaders meeting. All Leaders meetings and Preachers meetings shall be

V  
be passed by the minister of the  
Circuit.

### Trustees Board

VII There shall be Trustees of the  
Bauhi Methodist Church for the  
whole connexion consisting of  
the President, vice President and  
Treasurer. All Title Deeds, Receipts  
of all monies, Building Fund and  
any other fund shall be sent to  
the Board of Trustees.

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VIII There shall be a Treasurer who  
shall be a full member of the  
Church and a man of substance,  
who shall sign security papers  
on being elected. He must be  
a man with immovable property.

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IX  
Church Supreme Council.

There shall be a Supreme Council composed of seven full members of the Church who may be Evangelists, Stewards, Preachers and Laymen, the Chairman of which shall be the President. <sup>They shall be elected by the Conference</sup> The functions of the Supreme Council shall be all work of the Synod during the interim, all members must be within easy reach of the Head Quarters, where all Supreme Council meetings shall be held. It shall meet once a month. It is imperative that all members attend all meetings. If a member fails to attend two meetings without a very reasonable excuse, the said Supreme Council may suspend him, and if necessary elect another member in his place. The Supreme Council shall make its

its reports to the Church Synod.

X There shall be a Synod which shall meet ~~once~~ a year, its deliberations shall be the reports of the Church Supreme Council, The President shall preside. The members of the Synod shall be, the Superintendents and their Stewards together with members of the Supreme Council, they shall be elected by the <sup>Conference</sup> Conference.

CONFERENCE

XI There shall be a Conference once a year. For any very urgent and important matter a Special Conference may be summoned. The Conference is the Extreme Supreme Body, which bears all responsibility of the Baptist Methodist Church, its decisions are binding and there is no appeal against them. Its deliberations

deliberations shall include all activities of the Southern Methodist Church for the last year, and it shall plan for the following year.

The President shall ~~Preside~~ preside after his Charge. Before the reading of minutes, all visitors shall be asked to leave until such time as they may be invited to come in. Then the President will follow his agenda. All delegates to the Conference shall pay their Contingent fund which is \$1 and a Church administrator fund.

The delegates of the Conference shall be ~~from~~ Ministers, Evangelists, ~~members~~ laymen appointed by the various circuits of the Southern Methodist Church.

XIII

Missionary Fund (Rona)

All Church members of the  
 Banta Methodist Church shall  
 pay to the Circuit minister a  
 sum of 5/- per member per  
 annum. Children shall pay  
 2/6 per annum. This money  
 is to be forwarded to The <sup>Supreme</sup> ~~Presidential~~  
 Council, <sup>53, Sun Valley, Pimlico</sup> before the 30<sup>th</sup> October each year,  
 Booklets will be printed showing  
 the names of the members who have  
 paid this money. This booklets will  
 be given free to all members of  
 the Church.

XIV

MINISTERS

All ministers shall be <sup>approved &</sup> appointed  
 by the Conference. Laymen and Evangelists  
 who wish to join the ministry

shall apply to a circuit minister who shall submit his name to the Leaders and Preachers meeting. If he is satisfactory the Leaders meeting shall introduce his name to the Supreme Council which in turn shall introduce him to the Synod. after which his name will be submitted to the Conference where he may or may not be accepted. If accepted he shall be ordained, all candidates to the ministry must have a fair education and wised in scripture in which they will be examined by the President or his deputy and the Superintendent before ordination.

Stipend

For their stipend ministers shall collect \$2- from each T.M. \$4- from Q.T. & from T.M. Ministers who do not submit report, and lay Preachers - Stipend will not get appearance -

all ministers shall take an oath of allegiance before receiving an appointment

XV

PRESIDENT.

A President of the Baptist Methodist Church shall be elected at a Conference for which proper arrangements

arrangements have been made for that purpose. The candidates shall have served the Baptist Methodist Church as ministers for five years, their standing as regards character and reports must be good. They must be married men. Their education and Scriptural knowledge must be good. They must have a good following (members) in their Circuits. If successful a candidate will serve as President for three years. Candidates must submit their wish to contest in advance to the Supreme Council or the Synod. a Candidate, who, through illness is unable to attend Conference can send in a Doctors certificate. The existing President, if he so wish will be eligible for election.

XVI

XII

The President Stipend.

All Circuits and Branches  
shall contribute \$3 per quarter  
towards the President's maintenance.

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XVII There shall be a vice President  
who shall assist the President  
in all his work and act for  
him if and when the President  
is ill or indisposed. There is  
no special stipend attached to  
this office.

XVIII

There shall be a Secretary  
whose business shall be to do  
all the Secretarial work of the  
Church. The Secretary may be  
a Minister or layman who is  
in good standing in the Church  
and qualified to do the work.

There shall be a Bank account in the name of the Danish Methodist Church, the Bank shall be situated in Johannesburg which is the Great Quarters of the Church for the time being. Withdrawals of money will be made by a resolution of the Supreme Council the Synod or Conference. The withdrawal will be signed for by the President, the Secretary and Treasurer.

Dist Superintendents of the Southern  
 Methodist Church shall be elected  
 by Conference. It is important that  
 their reports for the previous five  
 years are good. Their education and  
 Scriptural knowledge must be good.  
 They must be married men.

Their work shall be  
 to supervise the work of ministers  
 who are under their charge.  
 It will be the Superintendents  
 work to visit all congregations  
 of ministers under his charge.  
 They shall keep in regular  
 correspondence with the President  
 and advise him of any change,  
 alterations and suggestions they  
 may have about the work  
 of the Southern Methodist Church.

There shall be a Young men Union  
Consisting of full Church members.  
They shall meet weekly in the  
Church. They shall hold revival  
meetings and bring new members to  
Join the Church. They shall appoint  
Among them a Chairman, a Secretary  
and Treasurer, an Assistant Chairman  
Assistant Secretary and Assistant  
Treasurer. They shall start a fund  
and open a Banking account. The  
Object of the Fund is to help and  
assist the Church, all their work  
and particularly the collecting of  
monies shall be done through and  
by the Permission of the Minister.  
They may send a delegate or  
delegates to the Synod Church  
Conference. They shall see to it  
that all their members have  
paid all their Church dues. They  
shall also visit sick members  
of their Union.

They shall be a Women's Manxans  
Consisting of women who are full  
members of the Church. They shall  
have weekly prayer meeting on  
Thursday afternoons. They shall  
visit sick members. They shall  
have a banking account. They  
shall have officers the head of  
which shall be the wife of the  
President. She is the President of the  
Manxans. There shall be a vice President  
elected from among the members, she  
work shall be to assist the President  
and to act in the absence of the President.  
There shall be a Secretary and  
Assistant Secretary appointed from  
among the Women's members, Their  
work shall be to do all Secretarial  
work. They shall take instructions  
from the President. There shall

There shall be a Business Order

which shall be to be that all

members of the same and their heirs

shall have and enjoy the same

privileges and benefits that shall

be the same as the privileges of

which shall be assigned for and

made by the President, Secretary, Treasurer,

through a Resolution passed by

members of the organization. Members shall

contribute \$1. for annual, \$1. for their share

to be made out of time to be for the maintenance

of delegates of the organization.

There shall be a Convention every year. It

shall be presided over by the President.

The first form shall be a Black dress,

Wagon, Ribbon, White Collar. Numbers also

break the rules of the organization may be suspended

The Constitution may be amended, altered, amplified as the next arises. - This will be done by a request in writing to the Secretary ~~of the~~ who shall present such request to the next Supreme Council meeting, for consideration. Should the request be accepted by the Supreme Council, such request shall be submitted to the Synod, which in turn will be presented to the next Conference, where it will be submitted. To be successful it must gain  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote by ballot after the debate.

The Bantu Methodist Church  
Constitution.

1. Nature of the Church: The visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered, according to Christ's ordinance, in all these things that of necessity ~~are~~ are requisite to the same.

<sup>is</sup> (An assembly of persons, especially an assembly of persons) <sup>is</sup> ~~shall~~ be for the worship of God, and for religious instruction.

2. Name: The name of the church <sup>is</sup> shall be Bantu Methodist Church.

3. No specific form of church government is prescribed in the scriptures, and therefore it is left to the discretion of the church to regulate these matters as the exigencies of time, place and circumstances shall dictate to be most expedient; and likely to accomplish the most good, always avoiding and and everything which God has forbidden.

Constitution

The Church shall be directed by elected President and who shall be vested with the administration of the church.

The President.

The President shall hold office for the period of three years, in the event of death or retirement the office shall then be filled by a president who shall be elected by popular vote such voting to take place according to the rules laid down for voting in this Constitution.

Head Committee

The President shall be assisted in the management and control of the church by a Head Committee of nine members of the church who shall consist of six men and three women of which shall be elected by the Annual Conference. Resolutions passed by this committee shall therefore be confirmed by the Annual Conference.

Meetings of the Committee.

The Head Committee shall hold meetings at a place given by the President; seven days written notice shall be served to all members of the Committee.

Justices.

Pres. Treasurer, Secretary

The Board of Justices shall consist of President - three ministers and three lay-members, and the term of office shall be three years. They shall be selected by the Annual Conference and known as Justice Board of the Baptist Methodist Church.

Class.

A Class is composed of persons, who meet together ~~for the purpose~~ one a week, at an appointed time, under the direction of some experienced ~~leader~~ Christian, who is called the Leader.

Twelve or fifteen is found to be the most convenient number for this sort of intercourse.

Every member of the Society belongs to a Class, and receives a Ticket of Membership which is renewed every year by the Leader.

A Leader is one who is entrusted with the charge of a class, over the members of which he or she is to watch, as one who must give account. It is the duty to see each person in the class one a week.

- 1. To inquire how their souls prosper;
- 2. To advise, reprove, comfort or exhort as occasion may require;
- 3. To receive what they are willing to give towards the support of the Gospel.

The office of Leader is one of very great trust and importance. The weekly intercourse, which Leaders hold with the members of their classes, affording peculiar facilities for exercising influence over them. Hence it is generally found, that when Leaders are animated by a right spirit, their members will exhibit the same.

Stewards.

Society Stewards are entrusted with the financial affairs of a particular Society.

- 1. To attend the Leader's Meetings, to examine the books of the Leaders, and to receive the money which their members have contributed.
- 2. To prepare proper notices for the pulpit of all that is advertised upon the Circuit Plan, to enter them in books provided for that purpose - notices are duly signed.

3. To receive the Trench in the vestry before public worship, and to make such arrangements for the service as may be necessary providing also for the due celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism when it is appointed to be administered.

4. To see that collections are made at the time specified upon the Circuit-Plan, to enter them in books provided for that purpose, and to take charge of the collections until they can be delivered into the right-hands.

5. To provide suitable homes, when needed for Preachers who officiate ~~in~~ their respective charges, and to see that their expenses, if any, are paid.

### Ministerial Education.

A Preacher, to be qualified for his charge should walk closely with God and have his work greatly at heart. He should understand and love constitution ours in particular.

He should inquire of his brethren if they also walk closely with God, have fellowship with the Father and the Son observe proper hours for retiring and rising from bed, spend the day in the manner advised by the Conference, converse strictly, carefully and closely, and use all means of grace themselves, and enforce the use on others.

### Courses of Study.

Every preacher to be admitted to the Annual Conference must have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

He must have a respectable knowledge of the Bible, the Constitution of the Church, Theology. He should have training in reputable Theology Seminary.

### Local Preachers Meeting.

The local preachers meet together once in every quarter, at a time specified on the Circuit-Plan. At these meetings, inquiries are made:

1. As to their real and religious character;
2. Whether or not they have sufficient ability to preach;
3. Whether they have faithfully kept their appointments to the Plan.

Inquiries are also made about the progress of the work at the places, which they visit - whether it would be desirable and practicable to visit other places, not yet on the Plan.

If there are any candidates to be admitted as  
recommended Local Treasurers, they are examined at these  
meetings in reference to their experience, their educational  
views, and their reasons for desiring to engage in such a work.

# Bantu Methodist Church.

The Bantu Methodist Church was designed by the will of God. It was in, <sup>10 July</sup> 1932 that most unpleasant circumstances made impossible for the Revd. James Indelwa Mhlongwana, to continue his ministry in the Methodist Church which he had served for years. In 1932 he left the Methodist Church at Encedon, Transvaal, with a <sup>large</sup> ~~big~~ section of that congregation <sup>and with divine guidance & with the guidance of his P.</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>started</sup> the Bantu Methodist Church. He remained President of this Church until his death in 1957.

Providence

## Constitution

Revised in the year 1958

### Doctrines

1. The teachings of the Bantu Methodist Church are as follows:-
  - A. The Being of God, including the Holy Trinity.
  - B. The Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - C. The innocence of man at creation.
  - D. The fall of man and his offspring.
  - E. That the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth to redeem mankind.
  - F. To be saved man must believe in God the father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit, and with sorrow turn from sin to be saved by Jesus Christ.
  - G. The reward or punishment of man after the last judgement.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Bantu Methodist Church is open to all Africans who have repented and accepted Christ Jesus as their saviour, and strive to lead a godly life. Such members approved by the leaders meeting where his name shall be proposed, shall then be accepted into full membership of the Church in a service arranged for that purpose. All children shall be accepted as junior members. All members

members shall attend weekly class meetings under their leaders.

AIMS and OBJECTS

To extend the worship of God Almighty and furthering the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, by preaching the Gospel, worshipping in church publicly and in houses privately, while encouraging christian fellow ship among all members and others. To put the above into practice, leaders and other officials elected by vote in a members meeting, shall conduct weekly services under the direction of the minister, whose appointment appears further in this Constitution.

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Ministers shall be elected from among those members who are especially trained for this work. They should be educated generally and especially in the Gospel. They should be able to teach, preach and pray. In addition to preaching the Gospel, they shall baptize the repenters, bury the dead, pray for the sick, solemnize marriages, visit the sick and other members of his congregation. Supervise the leaders meetings and other meetings in his congregation.

LAY PREACHERS

There shall be lay preachers, who shall be elected from among the full members in good standing.

To preach, to pray the sick, and generally assist the minister. To be examined by the same Council or by Synod quarterly.

LAY LEADERS

There shall be lay leaders, who shall be elected from among the full members of good standing to have hold class meetings + visit his class members. (page 11 with church dues.)

Conferences

There shall be an annual conference which is the Supreme official gathering that controls the whole

Exhortation, or prayer.  
There shall be a quarterly conference.  
There shall be a quarterly conference.  
There shall be a quarterly conference.  
There shall be a quarterly conference.

whole Bantu Methodist Church. Its decision on all matters pertaining to the Bantu Methodist Church shall be final. The Date and Place of each Conference shall be decided at the last conference. The President shall preside at all Conferences.

MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE

All ministers who have names signed by The President and Secretary, and who have signed an oath of allegiance and have Congregations shall be members of the Bantu Methodist Church.

The Organisers, Treasurers and elected leaders and Prayers, to the Conference shall be members of the Conference and shall have the right to speak and vote in all matters in the Conference.

ELECTION

The President, The Secretary, The Treasurer, The Organisers, The Officers of the Conference and members of the Supreme Council shall be elected in a Conference of The Bantu Methodist Church duly convened for that purpose. Notices convening such Conference shall be sent to all Conference members three months before such Conference is held. The President shall be elected by ballot vote, The Chair being held for time being by a minister who is not contesting for the presidency. A President shall be elected for a period of three years. He will be competent for the Conference to re-elect a President if he is willing to serve for a further period of three years. He may hold office for as many years as the Conference desires, provided however he is willing to serve. In the event of illness just before the Conference the Contesting President may send in his final report, and other Conference papers together with a letter stating his wish to contest and a Doctor's Certificate showing that he is too ill to attend Conference.

or any other minister who wishes to retain his appointment

The Bank Methodist Church was designed by the  
<sup>will of 1905</sup>  
~~Power beyond human control.~~ It was in 1936 that  
most unpleasant circumstances made impossible  
for the Reverend James Indelwa Hlongwana, to continue  
his ministry in the Wesleyan Methodist Church which  
he had served for — years. In 1934 he left the  
Methodist Church at Ennelo with a big section of that Church,  
and started the Bank Methodist Church as its President. This  
office he held until his death in 1957.

The duties of a President shall be, in addition to his ministerial work in his Parish, to administer the work of the whole Church Connexion with the aid, support and advice of the ~~Head Committee~~ <sup>Supreme Council</sup>.

The Correspondence between the Church and the local or territorial Government <sup>Officials</sup> shall be his Charge. He shall preside in all ~~Trustee~~ <sup>Supreme Council</sup> meetings, ~~Head Committee~~ meetings, special meetings, Conferences and any other gathering of the Church any where and every where

For trouble he may be, + Ministers and Congregations who are not members of the Congregations of the Banti Methodist Church who wish to become members of the Banti Methodist Church shall first approach the President, who shall, if he deems it necessary, advise through the Secretary a Special meeting of the ~~Head Committee~~ <sup>Supreme Council</sup> in order to put the matter before it. Should a member, a minister, or the Congregation misconduct himself or itself by willfully violating the Constitution of the Church, or committing a serious offence against the Canons of the Christian Church,

Money shall be taken

or committing a serious offence against Common Law, the President shall on the advice of the ~~Head Committee~~ <sup>Supreme Council</sup> reprimand, suspend or expel <sup>or fine</sup> such member or members. It shall be the duty of the President to visit all Branches of the Church

Number of the year case will go to meeting

Some time during the year if travelling funds are available. All ministers of the Banti Methodist Church shall prepare a roll of members of his Church and forward same to the President for his information.

Presidents & other officers must be dressed properly, wearing a Casack

Ministers must send the 2/3 President's support and all other moneys decided by the Conference. The President may suspend a minister who does not conform with his Clause. The Churches birthday, certain moneys are sent by all ministers to the President, failing to comply with his order, a minister may be suspended. One Pound by all ministers & Sweptst for time being.

Women's Managers

He shall be a Women's Managers of the Banti Methodist Church, the President of which shall be the wife of the President of the Church

Services every Thursday - Quarterly gathering.

Once a year Convention opened by the President and  
Presided over by President of women's managements, closed by  
the President, Convention of the young women. The  
Women's Convention arranges time and place. The  
Report of the Convention is submitted to Conference.

### Membership.

a member has to be on probation for six months before  
she is allowed to wear the uniform. If a member of  
the young people, management get married she is put  
on probation for three months. Each member has to  
contribute \$1.00 annually. Half of the \$1.00 goes to the Bank  
the other half pays for the judging members of the Convention  
they may pay the President of the women managements.

### Aims and objects

Dress: - Black dress, Mason House White collar  
White dock. The member who off or break the  
law she is considered if a woman has been 15  
months absent from meeting.

Women's managements Quarterly meeting  
to be convened by the President women managements  
The women managements will have their own banking etc

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The Madonnas

Leaders' meeting shall meet every month and may meet sooner if there is a case. The Chairman of the Leaders meeting shall be the minister, there shall be a Local Preachers meeting. There shall be a quarterly meeting which shall be presided by the Superintendent of the area. No minister may contest the Superintendency of the Methodist Church or contest for the Presidency of the South Methodist Church until they have served as a minister for three years.

~~As it shall arise~~ This Constitution will be amended, altered, amplified or altered as the need arises — This will be <sup>done</sup> ~~made~~ by a request in writing to the Secretary of the Conference, who will in turn present such request to the next Supreme Council meeting for consideration. Should the request be acceptable the Supreme Council will have such request on the agenda of the following Annual Conference, where the request will be debated. To be successful it must gain  $\frac{2}{3}$  votes by ballot after the debate.

# Bantu Methodist Church

## Constitution

Revised in the year 1957

### Doctrines

1. The teachings of the Bantu Methodist Church are as follows:
  - a. The Being of God, including the Holy Trinity.
  - b. The proper Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - c. The innocence of man at creation.
  - d. The fall of man and his offspring.
  - e. That the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth to redeem mankind.
  - f. To be saved man must believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, and with sorrow turn from sins ~~to~~ be saved by Jesus Christ.
  - g. The reward or punishment of man after the last judgement.

### Membership

Probation 3 months if approved membership of the Bantu Methodist Church is open to all Africans who have repented and accepted Christ Jesus as their Saviour, and strive to lead a Godly life. Such member approved by the leaders meeting where his name shall be proposed, shall then be accepted into full membership of the Church in a service arranged for that purpose. All children shall be accepted as junior members. All members shall attend <sup>in addition to Church Services</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>once</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>by</sup> Class meeting under their leaders.

### Aims and Objects

To extend the worship of God Almighty and furthering the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, by preaching the Gospel, worshipping in Church publicly and in homes privately, while encouraging Christian fellowship among all members and others.

To put the above into practice, leaders and other officials elected by vote in a member meeting, shall conduct weekly services under the direction of the Minister, whose appointment appears further in his Constitution.

### Ministers of the Church

Ministers shall be elected from among those members who are especially trained for this work. They should be educated generally and especially in the Gospel. They should be able to teach, preach and pray. In addition ~~they~~ <sup>to preaching</sup>

Members wearing shawl  
After 10 a removal Note  
from the minister.  
This must be the command to the leaders  
speaking by the minister, the minister in  
him to the Synod, and lastly the highest  
candidates to be prepared for ordination

preaching the Gospel, they shall baptize the repenters, bury the dead, pray for the sick, solemnize marriages visit the sick and other members of his congregation. Supervise the leaders meetings and other meetings in his congregation.

LEADERS & PREACHERS

Conferences See book page I Synods

There shall be annual Conferences which is the Supreme Office of governing, its decision on all matters pertaining to the Bantra Methodist Church is final.

Synod

Members of Conference

Please write

Sept. (4)  
Cape, N. H., S. G.  
T. H. T. C. 75.  
V. P.  
V. S.  
V. T.

Org. To org.  
& conv. of. 74  
members.

All ministers <sup>who are licensed</sup> who have congregations ~~in the~~ <sup>of the</sup> Conference, signed by the President and Secretary, shall be members of the Conference of the Bantra Methodist Church. The <sup>organizer</sup> ~~organizer~~ <sup>treasurer</sup> ~~treasurer~~ and other lay members appointed by the various branches of the <sup>Church</sup> ~~Church~~ shall be delegates of the Conference, and are designated as Delegates of the Conference. All members and delegates shall have a right to speak and vote <sup>on all matters</sup> in the Conference.

Election of President

Electing officers of Conference

All ministers allowed for Ch. Tickets which they pay from the President's office. Send to contribute \$3 towards the President's salary.

President's Salary \$15.00

Church Birth Day  
Send books to contribute \$1-

The <sup>Secretary, the Treasurer, the Trustees</sup> ~~President~~ <sup>Supreme Council</sup> ~~Officers~~ of the Conference and members of the Bantra Methodist Church shall be elected in a Conference of the Bantra Methodist Church duly convened for that purpose. ~~Written~~ notices concerning such Conference shall disseminate be sent to all Conference members three months before such Conference is held. The ~~Conference~~ <sup>President</sup> shall be elected by <sup>popular</sup> ~~popular~~ vote, the Chair being held for the time being by a minister who is not contesting for the presidency. A President shall be elected for a period of three years. It will be competent for Conference to re-elect a president if he is willing to serve for a further period of three years. He may hold office for as many years as the Conference desires, provided however he is willing to serve. In the <sup>event</sup> ~~case~~ of illness <sup>his full report</sup> just before the Conference, the contesting President may <sup>submit</sup> ~~submit~~ in a letter, his wish to contest and a Doctors certificate showing that he is too ill to attend Conference.

and other Conference duties together with a <sup>splitting</sup> ~~splitting~~

## Leaders

A Leader is recommended to the Minister at a Leaders meeting of which the Minister is the Chairman. The candidate must be a member of good standing who has paid all his Church dues. Leaders should convert preachers who are outside the Church to join.

A Preacher is recommended to the Minister at a Preachers meeting of which the Minister is the Chairman. The candidate must be a member of good standing who has paid all his Church dues and he must be well versed with the Scripture.

## Evangelist

A candidate is recommended to the Minister at a Preachers meeting of which the Minister is the Chairman. The candidate must be a Preacher of good standing who has paid all his Church dues and must be well versed with the Scripture. He may make a written application to the Preachers meeting.

## Church Supreme Council

The Supreme Council shall consist of nine members, who shall all be elected at a Conference. These members must all be within easy reach of the Head Quarters, where all Supreme Council meetings are held. Nobody who will fail to attend the Council meeting, without a very reasonable excuse shall be elected. All members must have been members of the South Methodist Church for two years and must be of good standing, having paid the Church dues. Members may be Ministers and Laymen. The functions of the Supreme Council shall consist of all the work of a Synod if it were in session including suspending a Minister or member for any serious charge that is pending against him.

## Synod

There shall be a Supreme Council which will meet once a month. The Supreme Council is the governing body of the Baptist Methodist Church, it is responsible only to the Annual Conference. This ~~Conference~~ Council shall have 12 members 7 men and 5 ladies.

\*

There shall be a Women's Manynas composed of women members of the Church. Each applicant is to be a probationer for six months, when her name shall be submitted to the Committee where she will be examined. The Manynas meet every Thursday in Church. Manynas Committee shall meet once a quarter on being summoned by the Church lady who is the minister's wife, and her officers. Where there is no minister's wife a member of the manynas is elected. Each member pays 1/- annually and 6/- contingent funds.

There shall be a Lady President, and vice Lady President, Treasurer, Secretary & ass. Secretary. There shall be Stewards, Chaplain, Marshall, all these shall be elected at the Convention. These Conventions shall assemble once a year at such time and place as will be appointed by the Convention.

All members shall have a uniform - Black skirt, maroon blouse, white collar and white hat, black shoes & stockings, a brooch. Each Conventions shall be opened by and closed by the President. Young girls, and young women become junior members whose black skirt, white blouse maroon collar, white head black shoes & stockings. Their numbers kept shall be controlled by the Women's Manynas.

Young men's Christian Ass.

There shall be a young men's Christian association whose aims are:- 1<sup>st</sup> Study the Bible, 2<sup>nd</sup> Good behaviour,

\* Pines: A A member to serve for term, B. Selen Treasurer, C. Selen Convention and

Pine to manage, C. Selen from drive and Selen, D. To obey instructions.

E. If minutes is asked for three months, minutes will be in writing & if does not allow to withdraw.

Good Behaviour. <sup>a</sup> attend all church services  
4.  
All young church young men are eligible  
to become members. The joining fee is 1/6 each  
month 1/6, This money helps the Good Friday services.

The officers are Chairman, vice Chairman,  
Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain and Marshall.  
The Society meets once a week. There shall  
be a District Chairman who must be a minister.  
There shall be an Annual Convention of the  
Young men's Christian Association. Each District  
has its own Committee to settle its affairs.  
Each member must have a membership Pin  
Regulator maroon and white boarder. A member  
is on probation for three to six months before he is  
allowed to wear a Pin and regulator. Money of the  
Young men's Christian Ass. has to be signed for by the  
minister before being taken to the Bank. All officers  
will be elected by the Convention and the date & place  
of the next Convention shall be elected by the last  
Convention.

### Church Funds

Contingent Fund is 1/1 Administration Fund for  
Missionary Fund (Pousskap) 5/6 Church Birth-day of  
East <sup>minister</sup> Church to sent the amount collected by his Church.  
• Special Funds.

Minister's Stipend

Each member contributes 1/- a month

Each member takes a ticket each quarter 2/6

These two items will ~~be~~ be for the maintenance of the minister.

All monies of the Baptist Methodist Church have to be banked in the Johannesburg Business City Savings in Johannesburg and in other places the Standard Bank of South Africa.

All withdrawals should be made only by resolution of the Supreme Council signed for by the President Treasurer & Secretary.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE LAYMEN'S LEAGUE  
OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

ARTICLE I

NAME: The name of this Organisation shall be the LAYMEN'S LEAGUE of the AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

ARTICLE II

- AIMS AND OBJECTS:
- (a) To enlist and co-ordinate the manpower of the Church in the performance of essential Christian Activities, and to inspire men to support the total progress of the Church in the local congregation, the community, and the denomination.
  - (b) To promote fellowship among men, and to cultivate the Christian Life of laymen through study and discussion, worship and service.
  - (c) To promote among men a more definite and intelligent understanding of the Christian Faith and Life, and of the meaning of the Church.
  - (d) To promote Church attendance and to enlist unchurched men for fellowship in, and service through the Church; and to bring unsaved men into vital relations with God in Christ through personal contact with Him.
  - (e) To keep men aware of their duties and obligations as members of the Church through the local congregation, and to encourage co-operation with the Pastor, Officers and other Organisations in stimulating the development of the work of the Church in the local congregation.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP: The membership shall consist of both male and female lay members of eighteen years of age and over who are in good and regular standing with the A.M.E. Church. Membership will also include Associate Members consisting of the Ministers of the A.M.E. Church and other interested Christian men and women of the community. Associate Members shall not have the privilege of voting in the regular meetings of the Organisation.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS: The Officers of the Organisation shall be:-  
President  
Membership Vice-President  
Programme Vice-President  
Fellowship and Co-operation Vice-President  
Secretary, and Assistant Secretary  
Treasurer, and Two Committee Members.

These Officers shall be elected for a term of one year and shall be eligible for re-election.

ARTICLE V

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected Officers of the Organization, the committee members, and the Pastor. The President shall be Chairman.

ARTICLE VI

FISCAL YEAR: The Fiscal Year shall be from 1st January to the 31st December each year.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS AND VOTING: All amendments shall be effected by the Annual Conference Laymen's League. To effect same two-thirds majority shall be necessary, and voting shall be by ballot.

The ballot shall be used also in the election of Office-bearers.

SPECIAL NOTE TO SMALL CHURCHES

PASTOR of small Churches who may find it difficult to carry out the scheme in its entirety are requested to appeal to the PRESIDENT of the ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAYMEN'S LEAGUE for assistance on how they may organize the LAYMEN'S LEAGUE in their areas.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

Section (a), the President shall preside at all meetings of the Organisation, and the Executive Committee. He shall appoint all special committees, fill all vacancies of the Executive Committee, and shall be a member ex-Officio of all Committees, and shall be Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section (b), the Membership Vice-President shall be charged with the responsibility of enlisting new members in the Organisation, and of maintaining attendance of all meetings. He shall submit names of all prospective members to the Executive Committee for approval and recommendation for acceptance. He shall preside at meetings when the President is absent.

Section (c), the Programme Vice-President shall be in charge of the Programme of the Organisation and shall co-operate with the Sub-Committees appointed for special work. The Programme shall be planned to cover either a year or six months. He shall submit the suggested programme to the Executive Committee for approval. He shall preside when the Membership Vice-President and the President are absent.

Section (d), the Fellowship and Co-operation Vice-President shall plan all social activities of the Organisation and submit same to the Executive Committee for approval. He shall preside at all meetings when the President, Membership Vice-President and the Programme Vice-President are absent.

Section (e), the Secretary shall keep proper books of account and the minutes of the meetings of the Organisation and of the Executive Committee. He shall also make an Annual Report of the Organisation, and do whatever correspondence may be necessary.

Section (f), the Treasurer shall keep proper books of account of the Organization and shall see that all monies are banked in a recognized banking organization. All disbursements shall be upon the approval of the Executive Committee, and he shall also make the Annual Financial Reports.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP: All applications for membership in this Organization shall be referred by the Membership Vice-President to the Executive Committee which shall approve and recommend the applications to the Organization for acceptance. No member from another Circuit shall be taken into membership until the REMOVAL NOTE from the PASTOR of the Circuit has been produced.

ARTICLE III

DUES: The dues shall be..... a year payable.....

.....

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS: This Organization shall meet at least twice each month. One meeting shall be the regular meeting of the body, and the other a social meeting. The Executive Committee shall meet once each month and at such other times as the President may call. The time and place of the meeting to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The election of Officers shall be held annually. The vote shall be by ballot. A majority of those present shall be necessary to elect.

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES: This Organization shall consist of four area-of-work Committees to be known as follows:-

- (i) Personal Faith and Christian Living
- (ii) The Local Church and its Administration
- (iii) Mission and Evangelism
- (iv) Christian Social Service and Action

These Committees shall consist of not more than nine members each.

- (a) The Personal and Christian Living Committee. This shall be empowered to organize a permanent Sub-Committee within itself to be known as the WORSHIP which will be responsible for the devotions of the general meetings and for inspiring the League to be regular in its attendance upon the co-operate worship services of the Local Church for enlisting unchurched men and for encouraging church attendance.
- (b) The Local Church and its Administration Committee shall be empowered to organize within itself a permanent Sub-Committee to be known as the FINANCE COMMITTEE which shall be charged with the responsibility of encouraging members of the League to support the Financial Programme of the Church through direct giving.
- (c) The Christian Social and Action Committee shall be empowered to organize within itself a permanent Sub-Committee to be known as the SICK AND COMMITTEE which shall be responsible for encouraging the members of the League to visit the sick at home and in the hospital, to visit the imprisoned and generally to promote the welfare of the unfortunate and the community as a whole.

ARTICLE VII

AUORUM: The members present at all meetings shall constitute a quorum. At the Executive committee meeting those present shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII

DIVISION OF THE LAYMEN'S REPRESENTATION:

- (a) The Divisions of the Laymen's League shall be as follows :-
  - (i) The Local League
  - (ii) Conference League
  - (iii) Episcopal League
  - (iv) Connectional League.
- (b) The Head of the Local League shall be a member of the Official Board.
- (c) The Local League shall be amenable to the quarterly Conference.
- (d) Each League in a Local Church with five hundred (500) members or less shall elect one member of the League to be a member of the Laymen's League

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