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Membership Class Guidance for Pastors in the Japanese Free Methodist Church the Study of Free Methodism and a Japanese Translation of Belonging: Adventures in Church Membership

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MEMBERSHIP CLASS GUIDANCE FOR PASTORS IN THE
JAPANESE FREE METHODIST CHURCH
THE STUDY OF FREE METHODISM
AND
A JAPANESE TRANSLATION OF BELONGING!
ADVENTURES IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A Research Project
Presented to
the Faculty of
Western Evangelical Seminary

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Divinity

by
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April, 1981

APPROVED BY

Major Professor: Wayne McCoun

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PREFACE

The Lord gave me a special opportunity to study at Western Evangelical Seminary. It was an unexpected opportunity for me, because my ability to study in English and financial situation were not enough to come to WES. But the Lord gave me a vision to study abroad in the United States. I decided to send the application form to WES, trusting the Lord for guidance.

When the letter came to me from WES and I knew that the Seminary had accepted my application, I believed that this was provided by the Lord to equip and train me for his service. At the same time, I thought that the study of Free Methodism was one of the special assignments from the Lord for me, being a Free Methodist.

The history of the Free Methodist Church in Japan goes back seventy-three years. In 1960 the churches organized the General Conference, which is one of three in the world. Since then, they are organizationally independent of the North American Church, and work to establish Free Methodism in their way. Unfortunately, this separation has led to some difficulties for Japanese Free Methodists. One of these is in the study of Free Methodism. Because the Japanese Free Methodist Church is a small conference, it is difficult for it to provide study guides and books.

Since I came to the United States, I have joined the local Free Methodist Church, and through this church I know there are good books about Free Methodism. The Seminary also offered a course on Denominational Polity and History. I learned many things. Through

these, I was encouraged to minister in the Free Methodist Church, and decided to bring back with me the results of study to my homeland for the Japanese Free Methodist Church and her ministers. This desire produced the project, which I have titled, "Membership Class Guidance for Pastors in the Japanese Free Methodist Church- -The Study of Free Methodism." The purpose of this project is to make a class guide for membership class, and to translate Belonging by Bishop Donald N. Bastian into Japanese. Belonging is one of the best introductory books to Free Methodism and also provides for the membership class. A translation of this book is necessary for the Japanese Free Methodist Church until they provide their own book. Translation is not easy for me, and it proved to be truly hard work as I spent many hours on it. But I enjoyed the work and the Lord blessed me through it.

I express thanks for the help given to me. Bishop Donald N. Bastian accepted my proposal and gave me his permission for the translation. Dr. Wayne McCown, Dean of Western Evangelical Seminary and Assistant Director of John Wesley Seminary Foundation, Free Methodist Church of North America, has led me in this study, stimulating my thought. The Rev. George M. Nakajima, professor at Osaka Christian College and Theological Seminary and pastor of the College Free Methodist Church, examined my translation in spite of his heavy duties. The Rev. Frank Vidin, former pastor of Faith and Life Free Methodist Church, often prayed with me and guided me during my first year at the Seminary when the time was hard for adjustment. My roommates, Gordon Elliott, Phil Gilmore, Bill Kettenring, and Richard Koyama, always helped me, not only in English study, but also

in the area of daily living.

The Osaka Christian College Free Methodist Church, Osaka, Japan; the Women's Missionary Fellowship International, Oregon Conference, Free Methodist Church of North America; and Faith and Life Free Methodist Church, Milwaukie, Oregon also supported my study through their commitment and fellowship.

May God bless this project.

Toshiro David Takeya

Introduction

OVERVIEW OF FREE METHODISM

HISTORY

The Free Methodist Church was organized in a meeting at Pekin, Niagara County, New York, on August 23, 1860. It came into existence as a result of spiritual declension in the parent body, the Methodist Episcopal Church. The call issued for the meeting by B. T. Roberts in his magazine, The Earnest Christian, identified several positions as a basis for the convention, including (a) the doctrines and usages of primitive Methodism- the witness of the Spirit, entire sanctification as a state of grace distinctive from justification attainable instantaneously by faith, free seats, congregational singing, and plainness of dress; (b) an equal representation of ministers and members in all the councils of the church; (c) no slave holding, and no connection with secret and oath-bound societies. B. T. Roberts was elected the first general superintendent.

The name "Free" reflects the social issues which faced American Methodism in the early nineteenth century including prosperity, slavery, intemperance, and secrecy. The new church appeal, therefore, was based on free seats, freedom from slavery, freedom of the Spirit in worship, freedom from sin, and freedom from secret societies.

It is the history of the Free Methodist Church, rooted both in the Scripture and the Methodist revival, to be a witnessing people to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The development of the Free Methodist Church may be traced through the New Testament, Catholic,

Anglican, Arminian, Wesleyan and Methodist traditions. The historical perspective and heritage of the Free Methodist Church is as follows.

The Free Methodist Church is best understood within the framework of the Biblical concept of the church. It is clear from Scripture that the church is of God and for people. The church is His creation, and Christ is the head of the "body of Christ." It has a mission of holy love. It is a divine-human partnership.

The Catholic-Anglican heritage is seen in the openness on baptismal forms, the refusal to demand a particular millennial view, the commitment to the Bible as the primary rule for faith and life, and the vision of personal piety and discipline.

The Arminian heritage is seen in the affirmation of the love of God in Christ which seeks to bring every man to Himself, but grants to every man the responsibility of accepting or rejecting that salvation. Since salvation is a matter of one's relationship to Jesus Christ, Free Methodists affirm the security of all who continue in fellowship with and obedience to God rather than an unconditional, eternal security.

The Wesleyan line of descent is discovered in the commitment to salvation by faith assured to believers by the direct witness of the Holy Spirit, and the confidence in a God who is able to cleanse the hearts of men from sin here and now by faith, fill them with the Holy Spirit, and empower for the fulfilling of God's purposes in the world. The Reverend John Wesley wrote:

In 1729 two young men in England, reading the Bible, saw they could not be saved without holiness, followed after it, and incited others so to do. In 1737 they saw, likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified; but still holiness was their object. God then thrust them out to raise a holy people.

The Methodist parentage is seen in Free Methodist organization. The church is organized with lines of responsibility connecting local, district, conference, and denominational levels. The concern is for the total church, not just for the local congregation. The Methodist parentage is also evident in the social sensitivity. Free Methodists in their earliest days recovered the social awareness which characterized the Wesleys.¹

The mission of the Free Methodist Church is still to spread Scriptural holiness over these lands, and Scriptural holiness still means sound doctrines, an inner experience of cleansing and power, spiritual worship, a way of holy living, and faithful stewardship.²

B. T. Roberts taught holiness as follows:

1. Holiness begins in regeneration and is consummated in entire sanctification. . . .
2. Entire sanctification is the full cleansing of man's nature and his complete surrender of every power and passion to the Spirit's control, so that all his motives are promptings of perfect love toward God and all men. . . .
3. The holiness of the entirely sanctified may be ~~lost~~ replaced by corrupting tendencies to sin again invading the nature and these inner propensities may lead to the outward transgressions of a backslidden state. . . .
4. The process of sanctification, either initial or entire, does not make a man one whit less human. . . .
5. The core principle of holiness is perfect love to God and man. . . .
6. "Christian perfection" or "perfect love," is applicable to any stage of a sincere Christian's development toward full maturity.³

¹1974 Book Of Discipline (Winona Lake, Indiana: The Free Methodist Publishing House, 1975), pp. 1-4.

²Leslie R. Marston, A Living Witness (Winona Lake, Indiana: Light and Life Press, 1960), p. 16.

³Marston, op. cit., p. 276ff.

DEFINITION

The Free Methodist Church is conservative in doctrine, evangelical in spirit, and concerned to be an instrument in God's hand to bring the message of full salvation to the world.⁴

DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLE

(a) Free Methodists are a fellowship of Christians in earnest to get to heaven and committed to working in the world for the salvation of all men. (b) Free Methodists' beliefs are the standard beliefs of evangelical, Arminian protestantism, with distinctive emphasis on the Scriptural teaching of entire sanctification. (c) Free Methodists sense a special obligation to preach the Gospel to the poor. (d) Free Methodists are committed to the New Testament ideals of simplicity and modesty as the proper style of life.⁵

DISTINCTIVE MINISTRY

The Free Methodist Church is an evangelical body.⁶ This concern for evangelism comes from its historical heritage and doctrine, and is reflected in its ministry and organization, such as evangelical outreach (including broadcasting), higher education, missions (including VISA, Volunteers In Service Abroad), social care,

⁴Donald N. Bastian, Belonging! Adventures in Church Membership (Winona Lake, Indiana: Light and Life Press, 1978), p. 6.

⁵1974 Book Of Discipline, pp. 5-7.

⁶Bastian, op. cit., p. 210.

camping, and ministries supporting and serving the local church.

DEVELOPMENT

There are seventy-five thousand Free Methodists in North America, and the congregations are organized into thirty-six conferences. Abroad, there are another seventy-five thousand Free Methodists in many widely separated areas. The church also has 178 missionaries on 21 mission fields around the world and a general missionary budget that reached \$1,935,821 in 1978.

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Part One

PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP CLASS GUIDANCE

INTRODUCTION

Church membership is essential to the spiritual life of a Christian. Without membership in the organized body of Christ, the new Christian probably will die spiritually. Since belonging is so important, the act of joining the church should be a significant, meaningful experience.

This course is planned for adults who are ready to be advanced to full membership after a little preparation. The course is designed for the Sunday morning study hour between 9:30 and 10:40. The course is divided into ten sessions and follows the book Belonging by Donald Bastian as its textbook.

COURSE OUTLINE

Belonging - Membership Class

Text: Belonging by Donald Bastian.

- Session 1 Why Belong? (Read chapter 1)
- A. Getting started
 - B. Getting the questions in mind
 - C. A Free Methodist Glossary
- Session 2 Our Roots. (Read chapter 5)
- A. Why so many denominations?
 - B. Key events in church history
 - C. Why the Free Methodist Church?
- Session 3 Who is Jesus Christ? (Read chapter 2)
- A. What is the doctrine?
 - B. Who is Jesus Christ?
 - 1. The human
 - 2. God in a human body
 - 3. The agent of creation
 - 4. The world's redeemer
 - 5. Our sanctification
 - 6. Head of the church
- Session 4 I Believe. (Read chapter 3)
- A. About God
 - B. About the Bible
 - C. About man
 - D. About salvation
 - E. About the church
 - F. About the last things
- Session 5 Living Beyond Rules. (Read chapter 7)
- A. Living beyond rules
 - 1. Antinomianism
 - 2. Legalism
 - 3. Living beyond rules
 - B. Principles from Romans 14
 - C. A steward is a caretaker
 - D. Guidelines for giving
 - E. Truths about spiritual gifts
 - F. The gifts of the Spirit
- Session 6 The Meaning of Discipleship. (Read chapter 6)
- A. Discipline paragraph 156
 - B. As regards myself and all men
 - C. As regards the institutions of God

Session 7 Witnessing. (Read chapter 4)

- A. What kind of witness has had the most influence on your life?
- B. What key ideas related to witnessing stood out as you read chapter 4 of Belonging?
- C. Forms of witness
- D. Witnessing and evangelism
- E. Role-play

Session 8 The Means of Grace. (Read chapter 8)

- A. Means of grace
 - 1. Scripture
 - 2. Prayer
 - 3. Worship
 - 4. Sacraments
 - 5. Fellowship
- B. Levels to approach the Bible
- C. Prayer
 - 1. Four ways of Christian prayer
 - 2. Elements of prayer
- D. Profiting from worship
- E. The Lord's Supper

Session 9 The Local Church. (Read chapter 9)

- A. Our church and its purposes
- B. The witness of the church
- C. How does a local Free Methodist church get things done?
- D. The minister
- E. Tips for the lay leader

Session 10 The World Wide Church. (Read chapter 10)

- A. Evangelistic concern
- B. Higher education
- C. Mission
- D. Social concern
- E. Camping ministries
- F. Publication
- G. Support ministries

Session One
WHY BELONG?

The purpose of this first session is to help the students review or formulate a beginning Biblical understanding of the church. Strive to establish a warm, relaxed atmosphere in the class.

A. Getting started - an informal sharing time.

1. What is the happiest memory you have associated with the church?
2. Why do you think people belong to the church?

B. Getting the questions in mind.

1. Why was the church formed in the first place?
-Colossians 1:18; 4:15b; Acts 6:1-7; Titus 1:5
-The church member is in a special relationship with other members.
2. What need did it meet?
-Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-16
-The church which is the body of Christ, and the organized church.
-Resource sheet 1
-Members are able to meet the needs of each other and of the world outside their membership.
3. What five current ideas bring conflict over belonging to the church?
4. What three Scriptural facts answer the conflicts some may have over belonging to the church?

C. A Free Methodist glossary.

1. Junior membership
2. Preparatory member
3. Full member
4. Associate member
5. Society
6. District annual conference
7. General conference

8. Bishop

9. Discipline

D. For next week:

Ask two students to prepare reports on the following questions:

1. As you read chapter 5 in Belonging, what impressed you about John Wesley?
2. As you read chapter 5 in Belonging, what impressed you about the Methodist movement?

Session Two
OUR ROOTS

The focus of session two is church history, particularly the historical beginning of the Methodist and Free Methodist churches.

- A. Why so many denominations?
- Resource sheet 2
- B. Key events in the history of the church.
- Resource sheet 3
- C. Why the Free Methodist Church?
- B. T. Roberts filmstrip
- D. Student reports.

Session Three WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

The focus of this session is a study of the person of Jesus Christ. Through Bible study, review of Belonging, and discussion, the students will deepen their understanding of Jesus Christ and what he means to them.

- A. What is doctrine?
- B. Who is Jesus Christ?

- Resource sheet 4

Justifier
Example
Savior
Unchanging
Sanctifier

1. Jesus: The human
 - a. Was born (Matthew 1:18-25)
 - b. Grew (Luke 2:40,52)
 - c. Experienced (Luke 10:21; Matthew 8:24; John 19:28)
 - d. Died
 - e. Sinless human (1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:15; Hebrews 7:26)
2. Jesus Christ: God in a human body
 - a. The Scriptures refer to Jesus as God (John 1:1; Romans 9:5)
 - b. Jesus is given divine title (Luke 1:32,33)
 - c. To him are ascribed the attributes of God (Mark 1:24; Colossians 2:3)
 - d. Jesus' humanity is specifically affirmed (Philippians 2:6,7; Colossians 2:9)
3. Jesus Christ: The agent of creation
 - a. God is the sole creator of all that exists (Genesis 1:1)
 - b. God created the world through Christ (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16,17)
4. Jesus Christ: The world's redeemer
 - a. Redemption is a person's act of buying back something which formerly belonged to him but which for some reason had passed out of his possession.
 - b. The New Testament teaches that Jesus paid that price and in doing so became the world's redeemer

(Mark 10:45; John 10:11).

- c. Jesus came to be the world's redeemer. His redemptive act on Calvary was voluntary and costly and was carried out for those who could not help themselves. Redemption refers to the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1:7) and its provision for the whole world (1 John 2:2).
- d. This truth of redemption can also spur us to live lives of holiness and service (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

5. Jesus Christ: Our sanctification

- a. Christ is our justification (Romans 5:1; 1 Corinthians 6:11).
- b. Christ is made unto us sanctification. Sanctification is what Christ is to us and in us and through us. It can never be separated from him.

6. Jesus Christ: Head of the church

- a. The church is the body of Christ; and Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22,23).
- b. The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20).
- c. The church is provided by Christ with evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11).
- d. The leadership of Christ over His church means that he gives order and vitality to all that is carried on in the church (Ephesians 4:16).

Session Four
I BELIEVE

In this session, the students will discuss the Articles of Religion of The Free Methodist Church.

- A. What does a Free Methodist believe about God?
- B. What does a Free Methodist believe about the Bible?
- C. What does a Free Methodist believe about man?
- D. What does a Free Methodist believe about salvation?
- E. What does a Free Methodist believe about church?
- F. What does a Free Methodist believe about the last things?

"The Articles of Religion" are brief statements outlining the most basic points of doctrine. They are not intended to be an exhaustive discussion of the doctrine nor to answer every possible question. But they do provide us with a beginning point for understanding the beliefs of our church.

Session Five LIVING BEYOND RULES

Guidelines for Christian living will be the focus of exploration in this session. The students will discuss guidelines in the area of stewardship. The goal for external rules to become internalized principles will be presented.

A. Living beyond rules

Mature Christianity is neither living without rules nor living by rules. It is living beyond rules. The rules set before us are gradually internalized.

1. Antinomianism = Anti-law (living without rules)
2. Legalism = Law (living by rules)
3. Living beyond rules:
"Self discipline is the best discipline."

B. Principles from Romans 14

1. We must be tolerant of the other person's convictions.
(3,4)
2. We must be certain of our beliefs. (5)

C. A steward is a caretaker

God is the owner of the earth and we are his caretakers and so are responsible as managers of his.

1. Earth: Ecology
2. People: Labor; Husband-Wife; Parent-Child; Neighbor
3. Body: Health
4. Money: Possessions
5. Time: Time management

D. Guidelines for giving

100% is God's. Of that he asks that we invest 10% back into his work (tithing).

1. 1 Corinthians 16:2 suggests giving be:

- a. Systematic - "first day of the week"
- b. Proportionate - "in keeping with his income"
- c. Personal - "each one of you"
- d. Preventive - "so . . . no collections will need to be made"

- 2. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 suggests giving be:
 - a. Generous - "whoever sows generously will reap generously"
 - b. Discriminate - "what he has decided in his heart to give"
 - c. Willing - "God loves the cheerful giver"

E. Truths about spiritual gifts based on 1 Corinthians 12

- 1. God's gifts are grace gifts.
- 2. They are not self-glorifying, but God-glorifying.
- 3. They are given in the sovereignty of God, at God's discretion.
- 4. They are not for personal display.
- 5. They are for the building of the church.
- 6. Love is the means of exercising them.

F. The gifts of the Spirit: Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4:10

- 1. Speaking gifts:
 - a. Knowledge
 - b. Wisdom
 - c. Evangelism
 - d. Teaching
 - e. Encouragement
 - f. Prophecy
 - g. Tongues
 - h. Interpretation
- 2. Serving gifts:
 - a. Faith
 - b. Healing
 - c. Discernment
 - d. Helps
 - e. Mercy
 - f. Giving
 - h. Hospitality

Session Six
THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

In session six the students begin a discussion of the Membership Covenant. The purpose is to lead them to a deeper understanding of what they will be promising as they join the church. They will also focus on the importance of living out the commitment.

- A. The Discipline paragraph 156 identifies God's part and the church's part in the Membership Covenant.
 - 1. God provides us with the Holy Spirit to enable us to live as we should.
 - 2. The church's responsibility is to offer us support as a member in the church.
 - 3. God has also given the Lord Jesus Christ to be our savior and planned for the forgiveness of our sins.
- B. The Membership Covenant as it regards myself and all men.
- C. The Membership Covenant as it regards the institutions of God.

-Resource sheet 5

Session Seven

WITNESSING

After looking at the meaning and forms of witnessing the students will have opportunity to prepare for sharing their witness.

A. What kind of witness has had the most influence on your life?

B. What key ideas related to witnessing stood out as you read chapter 4 of Belonging?

1. Our commission is not so much to bear witness to salvation as to Jesus, the one who saves.
2. Witnessing is broader than evangelizing.
3. Witnessing is an assignment for each member of the church.
4. A witness is someone who has first hand knowledge of that of which he speaks.
5. The Holy Spirit makes every generation of believers contemporary with Christ.

C. Forms of witness:

1. Informal and spontaneous witness
2. Organized witness
3. Supplemental witness of good works
4. Unconscious witness
5. Corporate witness

D. Witnessing and evangelism

Witnessing is telling the story; evangelism is endeavoring to lead the other person into a commitment to Jesus Christ. Every opportunity for a witness will not lead directly and immediately to evangelism.

E. If the opportunity should arise for you to share with another person the story of what Christ has done in your life, what would you say? (Role-play)

Session Eight
THE MEANS OF GRACE

This week the students will be looking at the practices which enable them to grow as Christians. The practices to be considered are Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, and the Lord's Supper.

A. Means of grace

1. Scripture
2. Prayer
3. Worship
4. Sacrament
5. Fellowship

B. Levels to approach the Bible

1. Read
2. Study
3. Memorize
4. Meditate
5. Apply

-Resource sheet 6

C. Prayer

1. Four ways of Christian prayer
 - a. Mental prayer (flash prayer, running dialogue with God)
 - b. Private prayer (planned prayer, devotions)
 - c. Family prayer (meal time, bed time, family devotions)
 - d. Public prayer (worship services, public gatherings)
2. Elements of prayer (public and private)
 - a. Adoration
 - b. Confession
 - c. Petition
 - d. Intercession
 - e. Thanksgivings

D. Profiting from worship

1. Attend regularly
2. Arrive early
3. Choose your seat wisely
4. Worship throughout the service
 - a. Begin with mood setting during prelude
 - b. Be called to worship
 - c. Sing meaningfully; sing words, not just melodies
 - d. Pray in your mind during prayers
 - e. Follow Scripture reading noting things that stand out
 - f. Concentrate during the sermon
 - i. Look for big thoughts
 - ii. Write major ideas
 - iii. Search your own life
 - g. Discuss the service with someone
5. Be part of the welcoming committee
6. Be actively involved in church life
 - a. The study hour
 - b. Worship
 - c. Vespers
 - d. Mid-week
 - e. Service opportunities
7. Live your worship
8. Christian growth group participation

-Resource sheet 7

E. The Lord's Supper

Session Nine THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church is the focus of this session. Students will discover the four purposes of the church, gain information about the operation of their local church, and consider the importance of their involvement in that church.

- A. Our church and its purpose. What is the church for?
 1. Worship
 2. Fellowship
 3. Ministry
 4. Evangelism
- B. The witness of the church.
 1. Personal, informal witness of its members
 2. Corporate witness of the services
 3. Organized witness
 4. Supplemental witness
 5. Unconscious witness of the life
- C. How does a local Free Methodist Church get things done?
-Ten marks of a well managed church.
 1. The church operates according to clearly defined purposes.
 2. The church has goals which are reviewed and revised periodically.
 3. The official board meets regularly.
 4. In a well governed church workers know their tasks.
 5. Responsibility is wisely spread throughout the congregation.
 6. Key leaders are strategically assigned.
 7. In a well governed church the worship of God is a part of every activity.

8. People not able to serve are replaced.
9. Everyone is accountable.
10. A pastor's cabinet served as a liaison between the pastor and the congregation.

D. The minister

Great ministers make great churches, great churches make great ministers.

Help your minister be the best leader possible:

1. Love him.
2. Work with him.
3. Encourage members of the official board to make opportunities for him to grow.
4. Register complaints ethically.
5. Support him with your means.

-Resource sheet 8

E. Tips for lay leaders

1. Let the church match your abilities to tasks.
2. Learn how the church organization works and work as deftly as possible within it.
3. Accept opportunities for services nearest at hand.
4. Cultivate the spirit of faithfulness.

Session Ten
THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH

In this final session the class will take a look at the varied ministries of the Free Methodist Church. It is hoped the students will grasp the fact that they are part of something much bigger than their local church. They are part of the worldwide ministry of the Free Methodist Church.

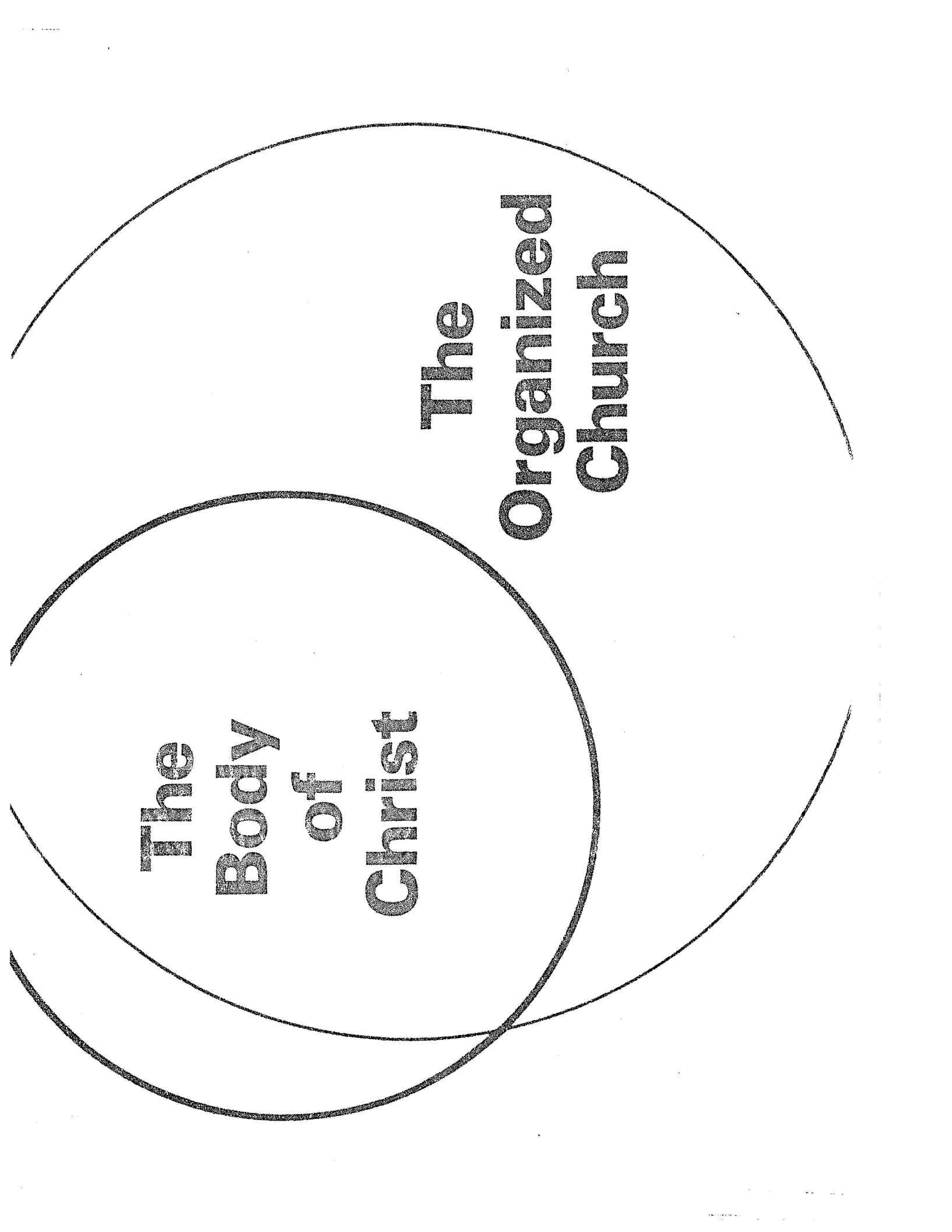
A. The strength of the Free Methodist Church is not measured by its membership but by its contribution to God's world.

1. Evangelistic concern
 - a. Church planting
 - b. Church extension districts
 - c. Ethnic ministries
 - d. Urban ministries
 - e. Evangelists
 - f. Church growth research
 2. Higher education
 3. Missions
 4. Social concern
 5. Camping ministries
 6. Publications
 7. Support ministries
- Resource sheet 9

RESOURCE SHEETS

Resource Sheet 1

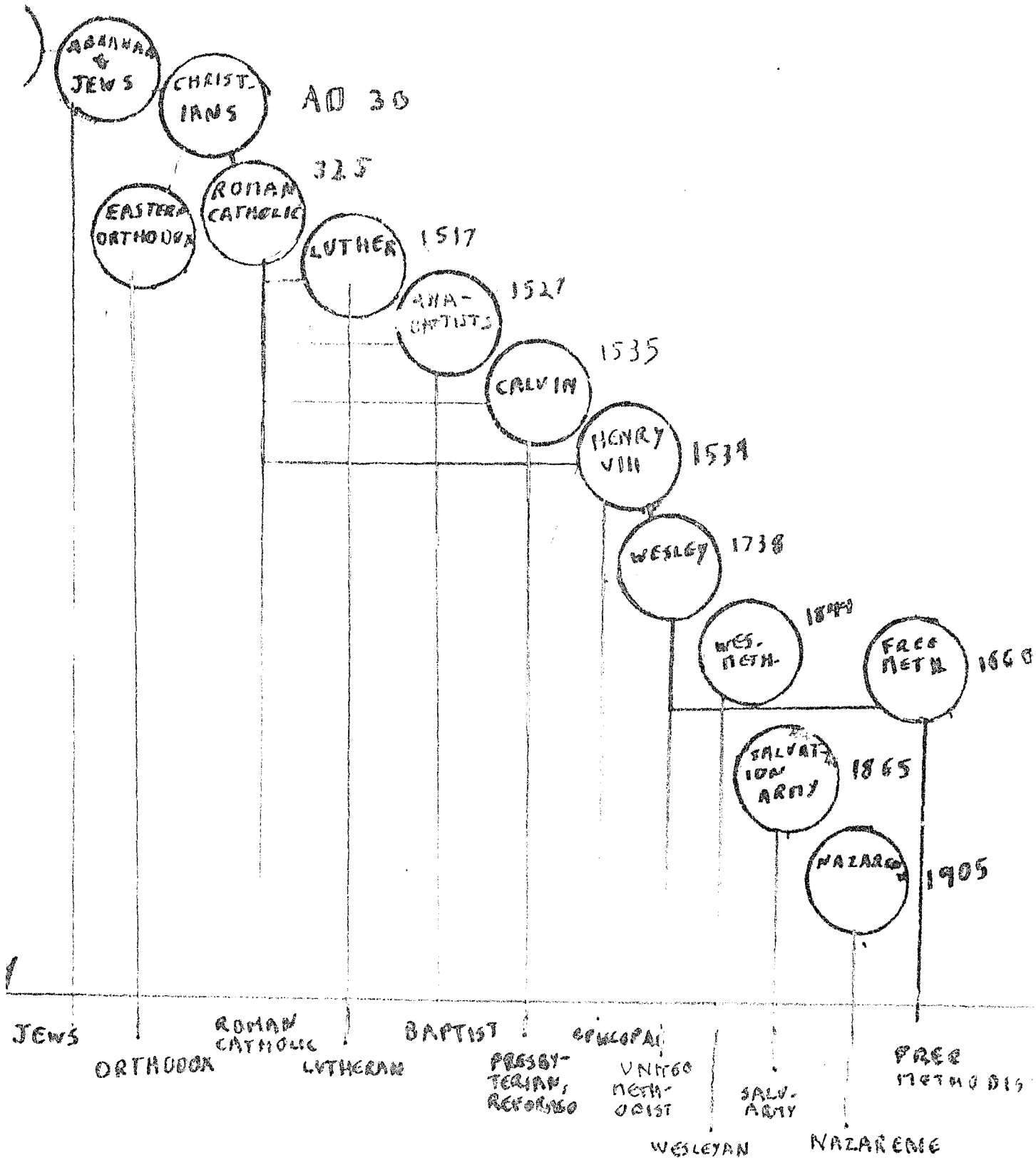
THE CHURCH AS BODY AND ORGANIZATION



**The
Body
of
Christ**

**The
Organized
Church**

Resource Sheet 2
CHART OF DENOMINATIONS



Resource Sheet 3

KEY EVENTS IN CHURCH HISTORY

30	1517-1546	1534	1571	1660	1738-	1784	1860
Pentecost	Luther and the Protestant Reformation	Henry VII revolt; formation of the Church of England	Reformation in Church of England; "39 Articles of Faith" adopted	Puritan Reform repulsed	Wesley Revival	American Methodist Episcopal Church founded	Free Methodist Church founded
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Resource Sheet 4

RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE TRINITY

**Holy
Spirit**

is

GOD

is

is

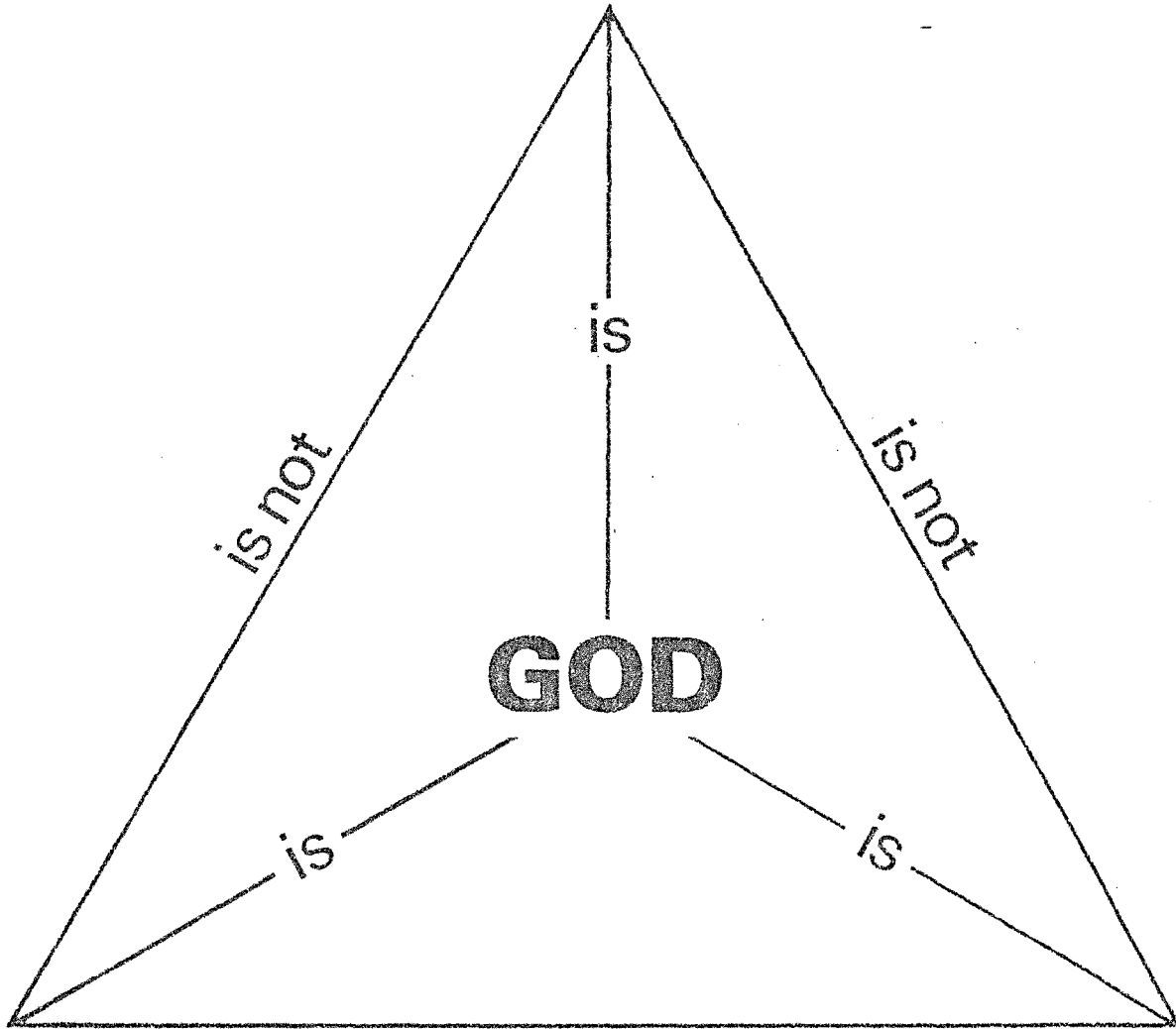
is not

is not

is not

Father

Son



Resource Sheet 5
MEMBERSHIP COVENANT



The Confession and Commitment




I confess Jesus Christ as my personalaviour and Lord and will continue to walk with him by faith. I commit myself to know God in his full sanctifying grace.

As Regards God

1. I will reverence the name of God.
2. I will observe the Lord's Day in worship, Christian fellowship and service, renewal of mind and spirit, avoiding all unnecessary commerce, labors, travel, and pleasures which detract from the moral and spiritual purposes of the day.
3. I will not engage in any form of false worship such as spiritism, witchcraft, and astrology.
4. I will abstain from membership in secret societies and oath-bound lodges, and, recognizing that the religious nature of such organizations tends to divide the Christian's loyalty and confuse his Christian faith, I will keep myself free to follow the will of God in all things.
5. I will seek to grow in the knowledge and love of God by consistent use of the means of grace such as public worship of God, the ministry of the Word, the Supper of the Lord, family and private prayer, searching the Scriptures, and fasting and abstinence.

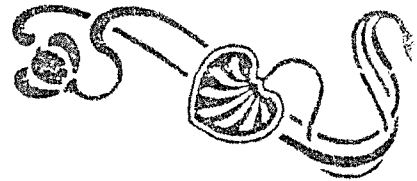
As Regards Myself and All Men

1. I will show goodness and mercy to all men, and especially to the household of faith, both to their physical and spiritual needs as I have ability.
 2. I will respect the rights of all persons as created in the image of God, regardless of differences of sex, race, or color.
 3. I will be just in all transactions, faithful in commitments and contract obligations with full intention to keep them.
 4. I will abstain from the manufacture, sale, and use of alcoholic beverages and harmful drugs and from the cultivation, manufacture, sale, and use of tobacco.
 5. I will abstain from all forms of gambling.
 6. I will observe the scriptural standards of simplicity, humility, modesty, propriety, purity, and good stewardship in everything I buy, use, or wear, and thereby reflect the beauty of the gospel.
- 

As Regards the Institutions of God

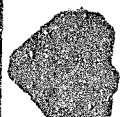
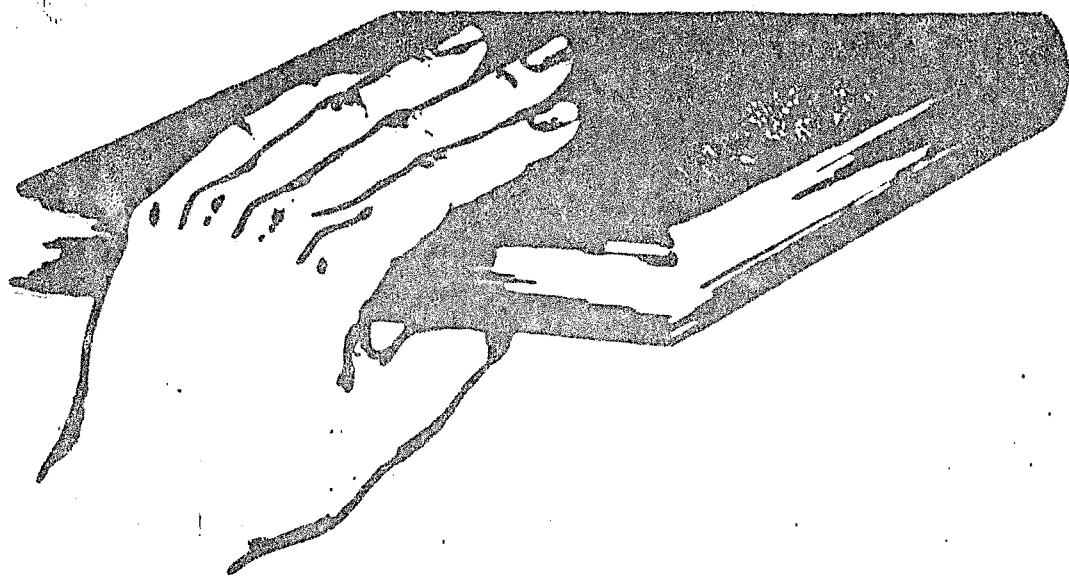
1. I will respect duly constituted authority in the home, church, and state except when it is in violation of the clear teachings of the Scripture.
2. I will observe the teachings of the Scripture regarding the sanctity of the home and marriage and the nurture of children in the Christian faith.
3. I will be guided by the teaching of Scripture regarding separation, divorce, and remarriage as understood by the church, especially recognizing monogamy as God's plan for marriage.

As Regards the Church

1. I have received Christian baptism.
 2. I accept the Articles of Religion and the authority of the *Discipline* in matters of church government.
 3. I will work for the advancement of God's kingdom and the mutual growth of fellow believers toward full stature in Christ in holiness and love.
 4. I will seek to preserve the unity and the witness of the church by nurturing and expressing Christlike love as described in 1 Corinthians, chapter thirteen.
 5. I will cooperate in developing the Christian fellowship by willingness to receive and give counsel with tenderness and meekness; to pray for others; to aid others in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy; and to show understanding, courtesy, and purity in all conversation.
 6. I will exercise responsible Christian stewardship by the careful and disciplined use of time, talents, and material resources, being sensitive to the needs of the church and my fellowmen. I will accept the biblical principle of tithes and offerings as the guide of my material stewardship and the support of the church. I will choose those activities which contribute to the spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical well-being of myself and those who share in them.
- 

Resource Sheet 6

LEVELS TO APPROACH THE BIBLE



LEVELS TO APPROACH THE BIBLE

Resource Sheet 7

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Notes

h song in the morning worship service most meaningful to you? Why?

two points from the sermon which you thought were most significant.

any questions you have about any part of the service.

Worship Notes

Which song in the morning worship service was most meaningful to you? Why?

List two points from the sermon which you thought were most significant.

List any questions you have about any part of the service.

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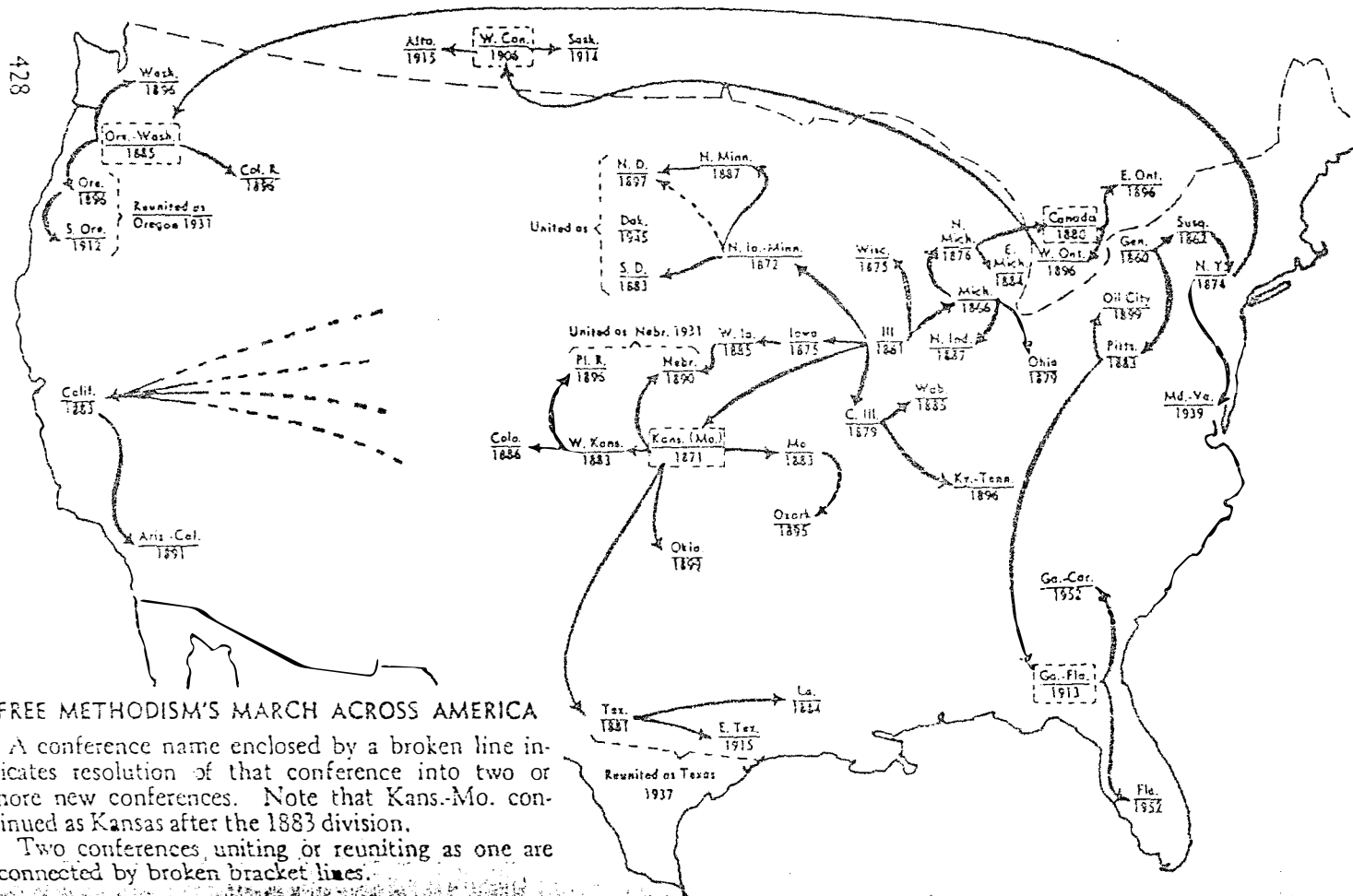
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Resource Sheet 8
INTERVIEW FORMS

What are your responsibilities? How many hours a week/month do you spend on your church job? What do you consider the most important feature of your job? What are the rewards of this job? (Can you think of anything else this person might be doing to serve God through his job?)

Resource Sheet 9

FREE METHODISM'S MARCH ACROSS AMERICA



Part Two

Takeya, David, trans. Belonging! Adventures in Church Membership, by Donald N. Bastian. Winona Lake, Indiana: Light and Life Press, 1978.