

# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

UNITED BRETHERN'S

HOME-MISSION SOCIETY,

OF

*NORTH-CAROLINA.*

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## PREAMBLE.



WHEREAS we, as members of the *Unitas Fratrum*, regard it as our Christian duty, in conformity with the spirit and design of the Church of the United Brethren, to exert ourselves in promoting the spread of the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ amongst our fellow-creatures,—especially in those districts of our country, which appear to be particularly destitute of Christian instruction,—and

WHEREAS we feel ourselves abundantly encouraged by the successful endeavors of our Brethren in other parts of the world, to benefit our *Christian* fellow-sinners by sending unto them devoted and experienced persons, in order to instruct and exhort, advise and direct them;—that, under the blessing of God, by the instrumentality of such friendly messengers of salvation, the *ignorant* may be *taught*,—the *careless roused*,—*inquirers directed*,—the *wavering established and strengthened*,—*believers encouraged and confirmed*, in the most simple, unobtrusive and evangelical manner, in imitation of Him, who “went about doing good, and seeking that which is lost;” therefore we, the subscribers, have resolved, in the name of God, for the attainment of the above specified objects to form a Society under the name of

*The United Brethren’s Home-Mission Society of North Carolina*; and do herewith agree to the following articles of the Constitution of said Society, viz :

### ARTICLE I.

This Society, consisting of members of the United Brethren’s Church, shall have its fixed seat at Salein, Stokes County, North Carolina, where the Board of Directors shall meet, and the general meetings of the Society be held.

### ARTICLE II.

Members of the United Brethren’s Church alone have seat and vote in the Society as *actual* members; minors, if even members of our Church, have no vote.

Individuals of other religious denominations, interested in the object of our association, can be received as honorary members of this Society.

### ARTICLE III.

The Board of Directors of the Society consist 1, Of *permanent Directors*, or those brethren, who are entrusted with the superintendence of our Congregations and missions in North

Carolina and adjacent parts, and 2, Of five brethren as *assistant Directors*, who are annually chosen, in a general meeting, by a plurality of the votes of the members present, from the number of the actual members.

The *current* business of the Society is to be *jointly* transacted by the Board of Directors.

The power to appoint and instruct the missionary or missionaries of the Society remains, however, in the hands of the permanent directors, according to the rules and regulations of the Brethren's Church.

#### ARTICLE IV.

Two semi-annual general meetings of the Society shall be held in each year; the first on Whit-monday, the latter on the last Thursday in November.

The President may, with the consent of a majority of the Directors, call Extra meetings, if the concerns of the Society should require it. He can likewise, if necessary, appoint, with the consent of the Board, a day, different from the time specified above for either of the *stated* meetings of the Society,—timely notice thereof being in such case given to all the members.

#### ARTICLE V.

In the second semi-annual meeting the Society shall by a plurality of votes of the members present, choose a President from among the permanent Directors.

In case of absence of the President, or his inability to attend, the Directors shall appoint a President *pro tempore*.

#### ARTICLE VI.

Besides the above assistant Directors, a *Secretary* and a *Treasurer* shall in a like manner be chosen from among the actual members of the Society; both of whom shall, by virtue of their offices, become Directors for the duration of their respective offices.

#### ARTICLE VII.

A collection in support of the funds of the Society shall be made at each semi-annual meeting, every member contributing according to his ability or inclination.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

The Board of Directors shall, at every *stated* general meeting, submit a report of their transactions, of the labors of the missionary or missionaries, and in general, of every thing relating to the concerns of this Society.

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The Treasurer shall, at the second semi-annual meeting, render a regular and correct *account* of all the receipts and disbursements of the Society, as well as of the state of its funds generally.

#### ARTICLE IX.

All contributions, donations and bequests to the Society, shall, at all times, and forever, be and remain appropriated, secured, placed at interest, or made use of and expended, *solely* for promoting the object of this Society under the control of the Board of Directors; and we all, and every one of us, expressly renounce forever, all demands and claims for salaries or rewards for any *personal* services, which we may, at any time, or in any manner, perform in behalf of the Society; provided nevertheless, that all and every contingent expense, as shall be necessarily incurred by the Board of Directors and officers aforesaid, or any of them; or any member, on behalf of the Society, shall, at all times, be defrayed or reimbursed from the funds of the Society.

The expenses and necessities of the missionary are to be provided for by the board of directors from the funds of the society.

#### ARTICLE X.

All persons desirous of becoming members of this Society, should notify the Board by one of its members thereof, previous to a general meeting; whereupon the Directors shall name them to the Society; and the individuals applying, become members by subscribing the constitution. No one is entitled to a vote before having subscribed the constitution.

#### ARTICLE XI.

Circumstances requiring it, the Society may in future amend or alter these articles, or adopt new articles and regulations; provided however, that such amendments or new articles be not contrary to the design and spirit of this Constitution, or to the rules and regulations of the Brethren's Church. Such amendments and alterations shall, therefore, be adopted only after the most mature deliberation, and with the approbation of at least two thirds of the members present at a general meeting. And in order to promote the most mature deliberation of the amendments or alterations proposed to be introduced, it shall be a permanent rule, that no amendments or alterations can be adopted in the same meeting in which they originated, but they shall not be decided before the next general meeting. Two-thirds of the members present in the latter, voting in favor of the proposed amendment or amendments, they shall be considered as having been adopted by the Society.