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CHARTER,
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S
MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
AT
Bethlehem, Penn.

ORGANIZED, SEPTEMBER, 1840.

CHARTERED, AUGUST, 1851.

BETHLEHEM:
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1852.

CHARTER,
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS,
OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
at Bethlehem, Penna.

To the honorable Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Northampton. The undersigned, citizens of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Members of the *Young Men's Missionary Society* of Bethlehem respectfully represent :

That the Society has received several bequests, and labours under great inconvenience by not being able to hold property in a legal manner, and therefore pray your honors to grant them articles of incorporation according to the Act of Assembly, in such case made and provided, presenting as herewith annexed, the fundamental articles and conditions, name, style and title under which they have associated and desire to be incorporated.

Lucius Luckenbach,
Robert P. Krause,
Charles Kunkler,
Parmenio Leinback,
Richard Leibert,
C. William Schropp,
Henry G. Lange,
Henry G. Tombler,
Lewis R. Huebner,

Ed. H. Jacobson,
Abraham Prince,
Edw. C. Brown,
Edw. T. Kluge,
John Eberman,
The. Lambert,
Sidney Schneller,
Lewis Doster, jr.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The name of this association shall be,—“*The Young Men’s Missionary Society of Bethlehem.*”

ARTICLE II.

Whereas the increasing burden of pecuniary expenses, attending the Missions of the United Brethren, has for many years been much more than the Church was able to bear, and they are at the present time chiefly dependent on other communities of Christians, for the means of continuing the interesting and invaluable work of christianizing poor benighted heathen, therefore, the aim and object of this Society, shall be the furtherance of the Missions of the United Brethren among the heathen.

ARTICLE IV.

This Society shall have a common seal, for the authentication of all lawful acts and proceedings.

ARTICLE IV.

The Society shall have its fixed seat at Bethlehem, in Northampton County, in the State of Pennsylvania, where the stated meetings shall be held.

ARTICLE V.

The active members of this Society shall consist of all persons regularly admitted by application to the President. Any member remaining in arrears for two years, shall lose all privileges of membership.

ARTICLE VI.

The honorary members of this Society shall consist of all persons regularly admitted by application to any of the active

members. Any honorary member remaining in arrears for two years shall lose all privileges of membership.

ARTICLE VII.

Any honorary member, by paying the sum of Five Dollars, may be constituted a Life Honorary Member.

ARTICLE VIII.

Contribution.—Active members shall pay an annual contribution to be fixed by the By-Laws at not less than fifty cents. Honorary members shall pay an annual contribution to be fixed by the By-Laws at not less than twenty-five cents.

ARTICLE IX.

SECTION 1. *Of Officers.*—The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, three Directors, three Auditors, and three Museum Directors, all of whom shall be elected annually by ballot at the monthly meeting in December.

SECT. 2.—The President and Treasurer, in connection with the three Auditors, shall constitute a Board of Directors, of which the President shall be the presiding officer; in his absence the Treasurer shall perform the duties of the President.

SECT. 3.—In case of death or resignation of any of the officers of the Society, a special election shall be held at the next stated meeting, after notice has been given to the Society.

SECT. 4.—The duties of all the officers shall be such as are implied in their titles, and shall be prescribed in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE X.

Of Meetings.—The stated meetings of the Society shall be held monthly, at such time and place as may be determined upon by the directors. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society on or about the 6th day of January, the day to be fixed by the Directors for the purpose of giving the Honorary and Life Honorary Members an opportunity of hearing a general account of the state of the Society.

ARTICLE XI.

Of the Funds.—The clear yearly income or value of the real and personal estate held by the Society shall not at any time exceed the sum of Two Thousand Dollars.

The Funds of the Society shall at no time be expended for any other purpose than the furtherance of the Gospel among heathen nations.

ARTICLE XII.

Of the By-Laws.—This Society shall have the power of enacting By-Laws by a vote of two thirds of the members present, provided that such By-Laws are not contrary to the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Pennsylvania, or the Constitution of this Society.

ARTICLE XIII.

These articles shall not be abrogated or altered except at a stated meeting. Every alteration shall be proposed at the meeting previous to the one in which it is to be acted upon, and it shall require the vote of two-thirds of the members residing in Bethlehem to carry it.

CHARTER.

Be it remembered, that, at a Court of Common Pleas, held at Easton, in and for said County, the 30th day of April, A. D. 1851, before the Hon. J. Pringle Jones Esq., President Judge, and his associates, the Hon. John H. Keller and Isaac C. Wykoff, Esquires, Judges of the said Court, the within Instrument in Writing being exhibited and presented to the said Court, and the said Court having perused and examined the said Instrument and being satisfied that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained, are lawful and not injurious to the Community,—It is ordered by the Court that the said Writing be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that Notice be inserted in one newspaper printed in the said County, as directed by Law, setting forth, that an application has been made to the said Court to grant a Charter of Incorporation to the persons mentioned in the said Instrument of Writing.

And now, August 19th, 1851, It appearing to the said Court here, that notice had been published of the application according to Law and the order of this Court, and no cause being shown to the contrary, It is hereby decreed, ordered and declared by the said Court, that the Persons so associated, shall, according to articles and conditions in said Instrument of Writing exhibited to the Court, set forth and contained, become and be a Corporation or Body Politic. And the Court do further direct that the said Charter of Incorporation shall be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds at Easton, in and for the County of Northampton, and upon the said Instrument being so recorded, the Persons so associated, shall, according to the objects, articles and conditions in said Instrument, set forth and contained, become and be a Corporation or Body Politic in Law, and in fact to have continuance by the name and style and Title in said Instrument, provided and declared, and the Court further direct, that this order be endorsed on said Instrument, attested by the Prothonotary in the usual manner, &c. &c.

THOMAS SLETOR,
Prothonotary.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

SECT. 1. *Of the President.*—The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society, preserve order therein, and when a motion is made and seconded, take the question.

SECT. 2. He shall have a casting vote, but no other.

SECT. 3. He shall draw all orders on the Treasurer, when sanctioned by the Auditors, and attested by the Recording Secretary.

SECT. 4. He shall call a special meeting at the request of four members in writing.

SECT. 5. He shall be empowered to admit any person, applying to become an active member of the Society.

SECT. 6. He shall offer up a prayer at stated and special meetings, unless some other member be desirous of doing it.

ARTICLE II.

Of the Vice President.—The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall preside at all meetings and perform all the incumbent duties of the latter.

ARTICLE III.

SECT. 1. *Of the Recording Secretary.*—The Recording Secretary shall keep two books, one for the rough minutes of all the proceedings of the Society at meetings, both stated and special, and the other for fair copies of the same, which shall be subject to the inspection of any member.

SECT. 2.—He shall lend no paper or document, belonging to the Society, to any individual, without the previous approval of the Auditors.

SECT. 3.—He shall notify all members of their election to office, and the respective chairmen of committees, together with the names of the members of said committees; together with a copy of the resolution, upon which they were appointed, within one day of the time of such appointments.

SECT. 4.—He shall, in case he cannot attend, send the book of minutes in time for the meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

SECT. 1. *Of the Corresponding Secretary.*—The Corresponding Secretary shall in the absence of the Recording Secretary at meetings, perform all the duties incumbent upon the latter.

SECT. 2.—He shall transact all correspondence for the Society.

SECT. 3.—He shall keep a book for fair copies of all letters written by him.

SECT. 4.—He shall preserve all letters addressed to him, number them, and insert a catalogue of the same in aforessaid book.

SECT. 5.—He shall read all correspondence to the Society, at the first stated meeting after the reception or sending of the same, and shall show all letters written by him, to the President, before sending the same.

SECT. 6.—At the annual meeting he shall lay before the members, the most interesting extracts of letters received by him during the preceding year.

ARTICLE V.

SECT. 1. *Of the Treasurer.*—The Treasurer shall, before he enters upon the duties of his office, give satisfactory security to the President, for the safekeeping of all the monies belonging to the Society.

SECT. 2.—He shall collect all contributions of the active members quarterly, and of the honorary members annually.

SECT. 3.—He shall keep a book containing an account of all monies received and paid by him, subject at any time to the inspection of the Auditors, and shall lay before the Society a full and true account at the monthly meetings, as well as at the general meeting in January.

ARTICLE VI.

SECT. 1. *Of the Auditors.*—The Auditors shall furnish the Society with missionary accounts, lights, and writing materials, the same to be paid out of the funds of the Society.

SECT. 2.—They shall read the missionary accounts at the monthly meetings.

SECT. 3.—They shall annually submit a report of the general transactions of the Society during the year past, to be read at the annual meeting.

SECT. 4.—They shall before each annual meeting, examine into the books of the Treasurer and report at the next stated meeting.

SECT. 5.—They shall have special charge of the Library of the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

SECT. 1. *Of the Directors.*—The Directors shall give notice to every active member of every meeting to be held by the Society, at least Twenty Four hours before the same, designating time and place.

SECT. 2.—They shall also see that the honorary members receive notice of the time and place of annual meetings.

SECT. 3.—They shall tend to the lighting and warming of the room for every meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII.

SECT. 1. *Of the Museum Directors.*—They shall have the exclusive superintendance of the Museum.

SECT. 2.—They shall appoint a curator out of their number who shall be the Treasurer of the Museum funds, and shall submit a report of the state of the Museum at each quarterly meeting.

SECT. 3.—If it become necessary to remove the Museum, they, with a majority of the officers of the Society, shall have power to procure another suitable place for the same.

SECT. 4.—They shall annually submit a full report of the pecuniary affairs of the Museum, additions to the same, &c., to be read at the general meeting.

SECT. 5.—They shall acknowledge, through the Corresponding Secretary, the receipts of all curiosities sent to them.

ARTICLE IX.

Of the Board of Directors.—Any bequests made to the Society, together with the addition of ten dollars annually, it shall be in the power of the Board of Directors to invest in the manner they think best, such funds to bring lawful interest of the State of Pennsylvania, and to be termed a “*Sinking Fund.*”

ARTICLE X.

SECT. 1. *Of the Members.*—Every person desirous of becoming an active member of the Society, shall make application to the President.

SECT. 2.—Every active member must be unmarried, and not under the age of sixteen.

SECT. 3.—Every active member shall contribute quarterly, not less than Twelve-and-a-half Cents.

SECT. 4.—Any member may become an honorary member of the Society upon application to any of the active members and by paying the annual contribution of not less than Twenty Five Cents, the first contribution to be paid when admitted.

SECT. 5.—Honorary members shall attend no meetings of the Society with the exception of the general meetings in January.

ARTICLE XI.

SECT. 1. *Of the Meetings.*—The stated meetings of the Society shall be held in the first week of every month, at such a time and place, as shall be determined upon by the Directors.

SECT. 2.—The order of proceedings at meetings shall be as follows: first, singing and prayer; second, reading of the minutes of the proceeding meeting; third, reading of missionary accounts, &c., by the Auditors; fourth, Treasurer’s Report; fifth, Corresponding Secretary’s Report; sixth, Curator’s Report; seventh, miscellaneous business; eighth, singing.

SECT. 3.—The prayer may be offered up by any member and the reading be interrupted by proper questions from any member.

SECT. 4.—Members when speaking shall invariably rise and address the President, and no more than one member shall speak at a time.

SECT. 5.—Meetings shall be regularly adjourned before the members disperse.

SECT. 6.—One third of the members, residing here, shall constitute a quorum, and may transact business.

SECT. 7.—At special meetings, the business for which the Society was convened only shall be considered.

SECT. 8.—Besides these meetings, an annual meeting shall be held on or about the sixth of January, (the day to be determined by the Auditors,) for the purpose of giving the Honorary members an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the state and progress of the Society.

ARTICLE XII.

SECT. 1. *Of the Museum.*—The expenses of the Museum shall be borne by the funds of the same, and the balance on hand, with the exception of Five Dollars (which shall be kept as a fund for the payment of any unforeseen expenses,) shall be annually handed over to the Treasurer of the Society, for which the latter shall give a receipt.

SECT. 2.—Curiosities lent to the Museum, shall be carefully numbered and registered by the Director.

ARTICLE XIII.

SECT. 1. *Of the Disbursements of the Funds.*—There shall be annually \$10 added to the Sinking Fund of the Society.

SECT. 2. The *interest alone* of the Sinking Fund shall be at the disposal of the Society.

SECT. 3.—An appropriation may be made at any stated or special meeting.

Adopted, December 16th, 1851.

