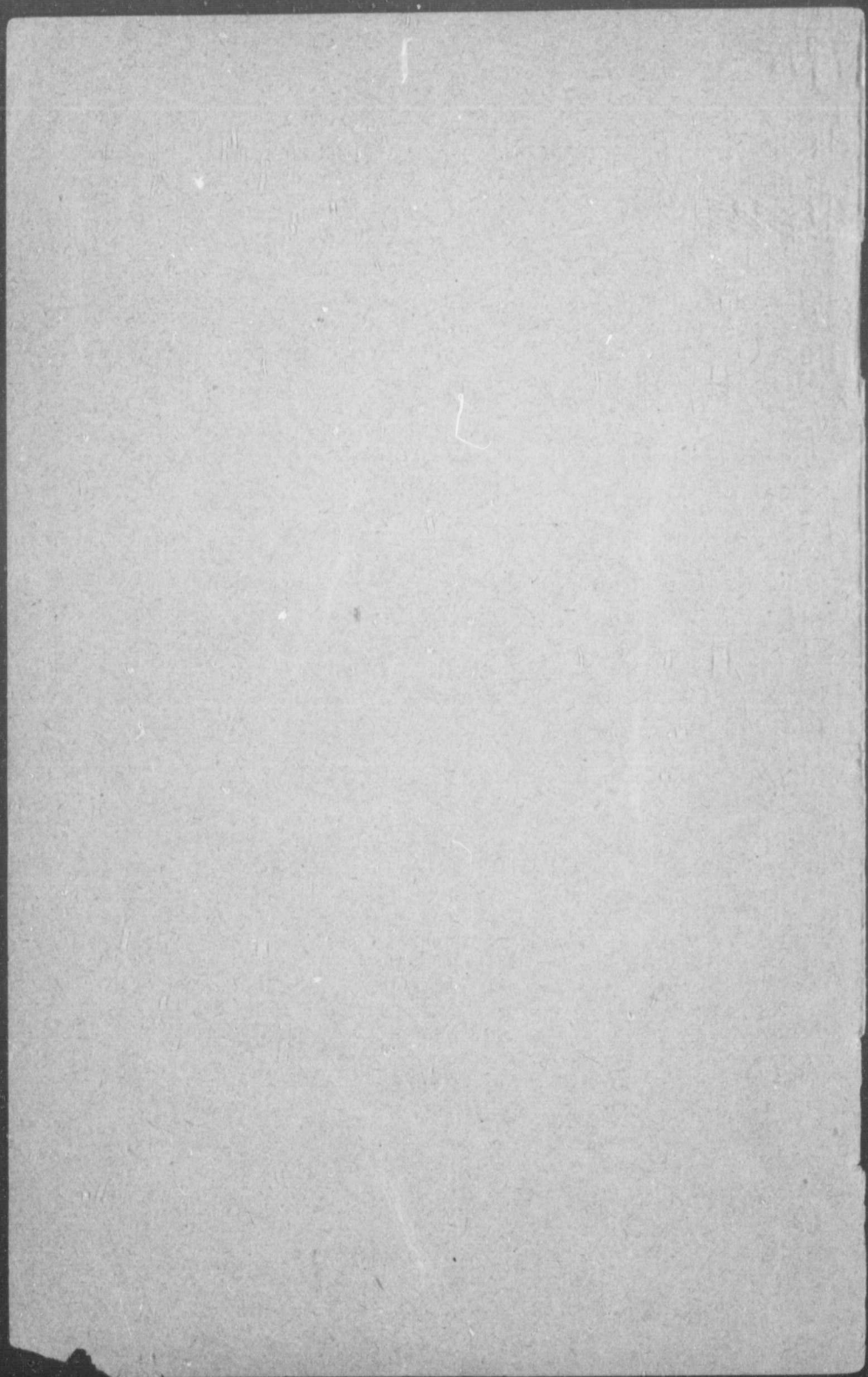


RULES
OF THE
VANCOUVER
CHRISTADELPHIAN
ECCLESIA



1919



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RULES OF THE VANCOUVER CHRISTADELPHIAN ECCLESIA

Rule 1. That we are a Christadelphian Ecclesia.

Rule 2. That we accept and profess the doctrines and precepts of Christ, as taught in the Apostolic Writings, and defined (positively and negatively) in the Annexed Statement of Faith, and epitome of the Commandments of Christ.

X Rule 3. That we recognize as Brethren, and welcome to our Fellowship, all who have been immersed (by whomsoever) after their acceptance of the same doctrines and precepts.

Rule 4. That we meet every 1st day of the week for the Breaking of Bread, Worship and Exhortation and for the Exhibition of the Truth in its invitation to the stranger to become Fellow-heirs of the Hope of the Gospel, also on the evening of one day of the week for the study of Holy Oracles, when the meeting is not otherwise engaged, also that we meet the first Wednesday evening in March, June, September and December to receive and consider the reports of the Arranging Bre, and at special meetings as may be required, the last Quarterly Meeting to be also the Annual Meeting of the year, for any Annual business that may require to be transacted.

Rule 5. That we mutually engage to submit to the order and arrangements preferred by the greater number.

Rule 6. That Brethren holding offices among us shall be described as "Serving Brethren" and that the denomination of each particular office shall have "Brother" or "Brethren"

associated with it for the sake of preserving the family character of the assembly.

X Rule 7. That in the appointment of these we shall have in view and strive always to follow the directions given by Paul as to the qualifications that ought to exist.

Rule 8. That our Serving Brethren shall consist of 1 Arranging Brethren, 1 Recording Brother, 1 Assistant Recording Brother, 1 Finance Brother, 6 Presiding, 6 Exhorting and 6 Lecturing Brethren and 1 Superintendent of the Sunday School and that the Arranging Brethren appoint Brethren and Sisters, to serve in the other offices necessary for the working of the Ecclesia.

Rule 9. That various appointments to be for one year and if at the end of the year, there is no call for a fresh election, they shall be considered re-elected for a similar period on the simple reading over of their names. A call for a fresh election must be made by motion at the ordinary week night meeting (the last but one in October). The motion shall be put to the meeting without discussion and a vote taken by show of hands. If the show of hands is in favor of a fresh election, the Rec. Bro. will call for nominations and make fresh arrangements in accordance with Rule 11. If the show of hands is against a fresh election, the re-election of the Serving Brethren shall follow at the Annual Meeting in the way prescribed.

Rule 10. That no Bro. shall be eligible for appointment as Arranging Bro., Presiding Bro., Speaking Bro., Recording Bro. or Finance Bro. for the first two years after his immersion (or resumption of Fellowship in case he has been separated) except by the unanimous consent of the Arranging Brethren, but any qualified Brother may be elected for any number of times who has not lost the Scriptural qualifications.

Rule 11. That the mode of election shall be by ballot, before which there must be a nomination or nominations, in writing, proposed and seconded by 2 Brethren and handed to the Rec. Bro. to be read by him at the 2nd week night meeting in November. There shall be no canvassing for votes. Votes obtained by canvassing shall be invalid. Nomination shall not be necessary in the case of retiring Bre. whose previous service shall stand in lieu of nomination. All names nominated (together with the names of retiring Brethren) shall be submitted in a voting form to the Brethren and Sisters, who shall be required to put a X before the names of those Brethren whom they desire to be appointed. Election to take place in those having the highest number of votes. In all elections of

Serving Brethren by vote, it shall require the voice of at least one-third of those voting before a Brother be considered appointed to any office. In case of failure of election in any case from the application of this rule, or from any other cause, the Arranging Brethren shall have power to fill the vacancy.

Rule 12. That the function of the Arranging Brethren shall be to arrange for the conduct of the meetings, fix speaking appointments, and decide all matters affecting the working of the Ecclesia.

Rule 13. That the Arranging Brethren shall meet once a Quarter viz:—on the Monday previous to the Quarterly business meeting, but they meet as much oftener as they find it necessary. Any Brother desiring a special meeting of the Arranging Brethren to be held during the Quarter, shall be at liberty to convene such meeting, by handing a written request to the Rec. Brother signed by 3 Brethren specifying the nature of the business requiring attention. (This not to apply to cases of personal accusation, unless accusers have first taken the course prescribed by Christ.)

Rule 14. That all the meetings shall be announced beforehand to the Ecclesia, except when the nature of the business does not admit of delay, and the Brethren and Sisters shall be at liberty to attend but the Brethren only can take part in the deliberation that may take place, but not to vote in the decisions that may be taken.

Rule 15. That their decisions shall have immediate effect, but may be reversed at the Quarterly meeting, only however, in so far as they affect the future.

Rule 16. That the Arranging Brethren shall (by the Rec. Bro.) read the minutes of their proceedings every three months to the Brethren and Sisters, in Quarterly Meeting assembled, for confirmation or otherwise.

Rule 17. That the Rec. Brother, Assistant Rec. Bro. and Finance Brother shall attend all meetings of the Arranging Brethren, and have power to vote in their decisions and be considered as Arranging Brethren.

Rule 18. That the Presiding and Speaking Brethren shall do duty week by week in Alphabetical rotation, or provide substitutes from their own number; the Brother presiding on Sunday to preside at all meetings during the subsequent week except at tea meetings and business meetings, for which the Arranging Brethren shall make special appointments the

duties of the Presiding Brethren to be limited to the conduct of the assemblies.

Rule 19. That the Rec. Brother shall (a) keep a record of all the proceedings of the Ecclesia; (b) receive and communicate all applications intended for the Ecclesia or the Arranging Brethren; (c) to remind the Ecclesia of meetings to be held, or other matters affecting them, and Presiding and Speaking Brethren of their several appointments; (d) to take note of all monies received by the Finance Brother and (e) generally keep the working machinery of the Ecclesia in motion.

Rule 20. That the Finance Brother shall receive and disburse the funds accruing in any way to the Ecclesia, with the co-operation and cognisance of the Rec. Brother and to report quarterly to the Ecclesia for confirmation.

Rule 21. That the following order be observed at the MEMORIAL SERVICE:—(1) Singing; (2) Reading two of the Scriptural selections for the day by the Bible Companion; (3) An interval for brief Fraternal Announcements; (4) Prayer; (5) Singing; (6) Presiding Brother's remarks directed to the Memorials and not to exceed 15 minutes; (7) Breaking of Bread and drinking Wine after Thanks for each; (8) Collection; (9) Singing; (10) Exhortation, not to exceed 30 minutes; (11) Singing; (12) Prayer.

LECTURE:—(1) Singing; (2) Reading; (3) Prayer; (4) Singing; (5) Lecture; (6) Singing; (7) Prayer.

Rule 22. That no business be introduced for consideration at any Sunday meeting, unless considered by the Arranging Brethren to be very urgent, and that the doors be always closed during Scripture Reading and Prayer.

Rule 23. That special meetings may be convened by the Rec. Brother at the request of the Arranging Brethren or by the written requisition of 5 Brethren whose requisition however, before it shall have force, shall be submitted without discussion, to the vote of the ordinary week night meeting of the Ecclesia. If the vote is against it, the meeting shall NOT be held. At all special meetings it shall require a third part of the Ecclesia to form a quorum.

Rule 24. That all applications for immersion or admission must be reported to the Rec. Brother whose duty it shall be to announce the same to the Ecclesia at the first Memorial Meeting thereafter and to make arrangements for the prelimi-

nary examination necessary, after which, in the absence of objection, immersion or admission to take place. This rule not to apply to persons from a distance passing on.

Rule 25. That the duties of the Visiting Brethren and Sister shall be to communicate at least every four weeks, with Brethren and Sisters absent from the Breaking of Bread with a view to ascertain the cause of absence, and administer comfort in case of sickness, exhortation in case of indifference or help in case of need, that they shall report to the Rec. Brother who shall report to the Ecclesia, anything coming under their notice which the Ecclesia ought to know, also the Visiting Brethren shall render any assistance that may be required upon the occasion of the immersion of a Male Believer, and the Sisters in the case of a Female Applicant for Baptism.

Rule 26. Three examining Brethren to confer in conjunction with the Rec. Brother with persons applying to be immersed or admitted into the Ecclesia, with a view to ascertaining if the requisite qualifications exist.

Rule 27. That all funds and property belonging to the Ecclesia shall legally vest in the Arranging Brethren for the time being, as trustees for the general body, to whose direction they shall at all times be subject as to the disposal thereof.

Rule 28. That any Brother holding any office in the Ecclesia may be removed at any time by the vote of the majority of the whole Ecclesia.

Rule 29. That Behaviour unworthy of the name of Christ (see 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1) shall, when proved against any Brother, have the effect of cancelling any appointment such Brother may hold without a vote of the Ecclesia; and the appointment shall in that case be treated as vacant, and steps taken to fill it accordingly.

Rule 30. That any Brother departing from any element of the one Faith as defined by us in our Statement of Faith appended, shall, on proof of the fact being given to the satisfaction of the Arranging Brethren cease to be in Fellowship, without a formal vote of withdrawal, on the fact being announced to the Ecclesia.

Rule 31. That no accusation or matter of evil report against any brother shall be listened to in public or private, until the Brother bringing or reporting the accusation shall have taken the course prescribed in Matthew 18ch. 15 to 18v. and any Brother refusing to take this course while persisting in his accusation or in alienation on account of it, shall him-

self be considered and dealt with as an offender against the law of Christ.

Rule 32. That absence from the established assembly of the Brethren for the Breaking of Bread, except from illness or other lawful reason is an offence against the Law of Christ, unless the said assembly shall tolerate the rejection of any element of the Truth of the Gospel or shall sanction doctrines, or practises, inconsistent with the Commandments of Christ.

X Rule 33. That none shall even for a legitimate cause, separate themselves from the assembly without first stating, in writing, to be addressed to the Rec. Brother the cause, or causes of impending separation and asking same to be considered with a view to their removal at a special meeting at which they consent to be present and take part.

Rule 34. That no Brother or Sister withdrawn from by, or out of Fellowship with another Ecclesia, shall be received in Fellowship until the cause shall have been investigated and found such as to warrant the reception of the said Brother or Sister but that this investigation shall not take place without first asking the said other Ecclesia to take part in the proposed investigation, that if the said other Ecclesia should refuse their co-operation in the said investigation, the matters in question shall be investigated without them, that if on the other hand they consent to take part in it, they shall after the re-investigation conducted in their presence, have equal voting power with the first Ecclesia, and that no decision shall be valid without the concurrence of a majority of the assembly so constituted of the two Ecclesias fused together in equality of numbers; if one Ecclesia exceeds the other in number, the equality to be obtained by arrangement.

Rule 35. That in case of another Ecclesia after either of these processes, receiving into their Fellowship any Brother or Sister, from whom we have withdrawn, or who may have separated from us, we shall not consider it a cause of separation from them regarding the case as one of difference of judgment as to the facts merely, we shall be content in that case to maintain our own withdrawal from the Bro. or Sister in question. Should they on the other hand, receive such, without re-investigation, or without asking our concurrence in any re-investigation that may take place we ourselves shall apply to the said Ecclesia for re-investigation in the form defined by the last rule, and only in case of their refusal, shall we consider that their action in the case has furnished a cause of separation.

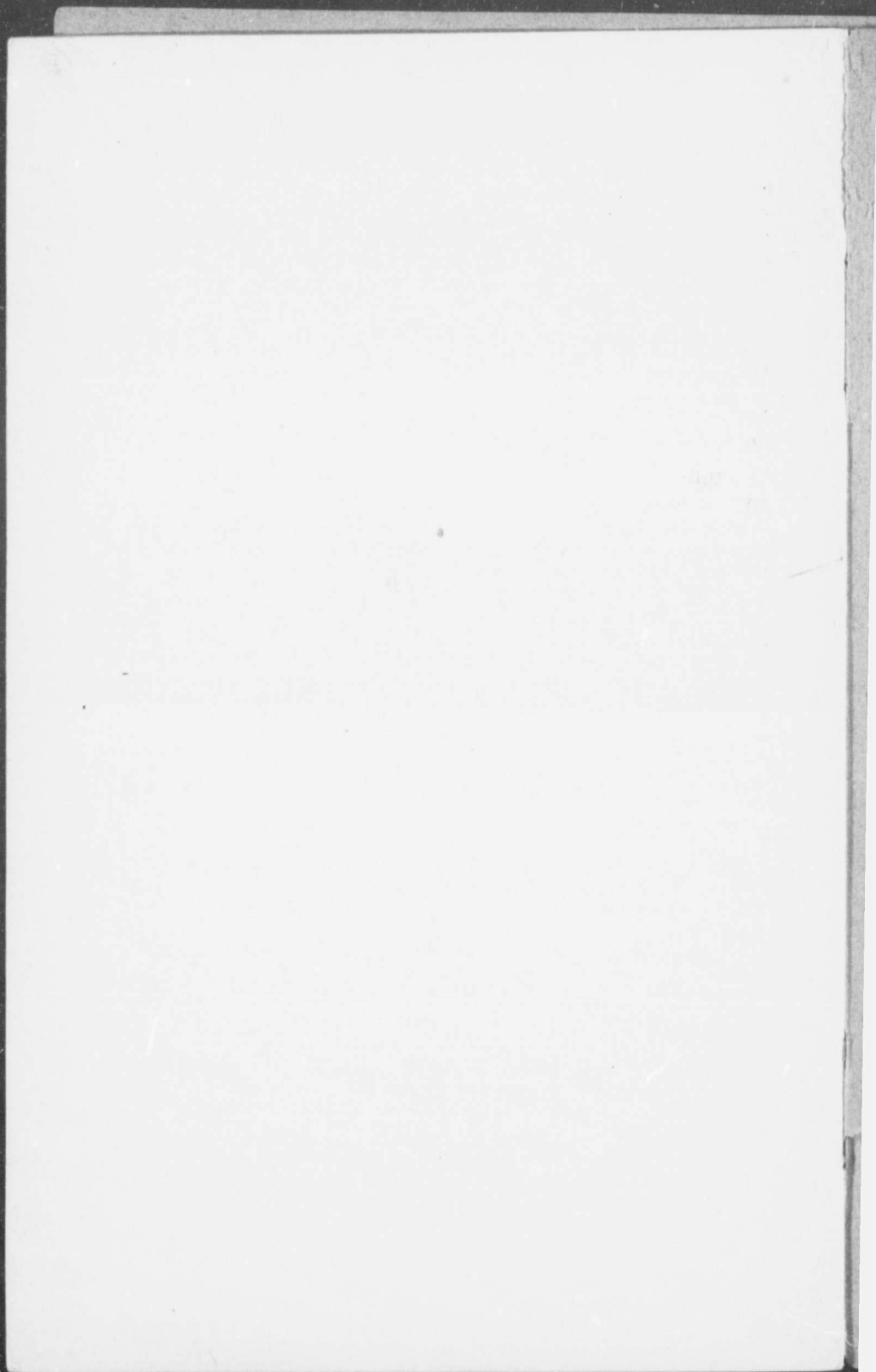
Rule 36. That marriage with the alien is an offence against the Law of Christ. That those who maintain the con-

trary are unfit for Fellowship with those who "consent to the wholesome words of the Lord Jesus." That when offence takes place in the matter, the Ecclesia shall signify their disapproval by resolution, sent to the offending Brother or Sister after which the Brother or Sister shall only retain their places among the Brethren by admitting their offence. All communications in the case to be in the form and spirit required by Clause 31.

37. That any Sunday School established in connection with the Ecclesia, shall be under the official cognisance thereof Any Brother shall have the power of appeal to a special meeting of the Ecclesia in case of objection to the Acts, proceedings or arrangements of the Superintendent and Teachers.

Rule 38. That none of the foregoing rules be altered except a month's previous notice of intention to propose such alteration be given to the Recording Brother who shall read the same and that part of the rule to which it applies at each week night meeting for four successive weeks. After which the proposition may be submitted to a business meeting of the Brethren and Sisters and the result declared by show of hands.





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