

Part 2: Constitution

Property Referendum

4-1

Current Wording of Constitution Article III, Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground, meeting houses, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use, benefit, and behoof of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, United States of America, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the Church aforesaid; however, local churches may be granted title to their property as provided in the Discipline of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, United States of America.

Replace with the Following:

Article III, Property

1. Local Church Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of any property, whether consisting in lots of ground, buildings and other improvements, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use and benefit of the local Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the local church.

2. Annual Conference Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of any conference property, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use and benefit of the said annual conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the annual conference.

3. US National Conference Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of any US National Conference property, including legacies,

bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use and benefit of the US National Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the US National Conference, Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA.

4. Camp/Conference Center Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground, buildings and other improvements, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use, benefit, and of the Camp/Conference Center, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the of aforesaid as long as they are self incorporated.

National Conference Referendum

4-2

Current Wording of Constitution Paragraph 11.1

1. All ecclesiastical power herein granted to make or repeal any rule of discipline is vested in a national conference, which shall consist of elders and laymen elected by the members in every conference district throughout the society. Such elders shall have stood in that capacity three years in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ; such laymen shall have been members of a local church within the conference district for six years and shall have served on the administrative board for five years.
2. The national conference is to be held every four years. All officials elected by the national conference shall be members ex officio of the national conference, the bishops to be considered presiding officers.
3. Each annual conference shall place before the society a list of nominees for election as delegates as provided in the Discipline of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, United States of America.

Replace with the following:

1. All ecclesiastical power herein granted to make or repeal any rule of discipline is vested in a national conference, which shall consist of active licensed ministers in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA, and lay people elected by the members of every congregation throughout the national conference. The laypersons shall be members of a local church within the national conference for a minimum of five years immediately prior to their election.
2. The national conference is to be held every two years. All officials elected by the national conference shall be members ex officio of the national conference, the bishops to be considered presiding officers.

(Delete item #3 in Article I of the Constitution.)

Chapter 4

Constitution

Here is the entire Constitution. The paragraphs to be replaced are struck out, and are followed by the replacement paragraph.

We, the members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, United States of America, in the name of God do, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, as well as to produce and secure a uniform mode of action in faith and practice, also to define the powers and the business of local, annual, and national conferences, as recognized by this church, ordain the following articles of Constitution:

~~11 Article I Personnel~~

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2. The national conference is to be held every two years. All officials elected by the national conference shall be members ex officio of the national conference, the bishops to be considered presiding officers.

12 Article II Duties

1. The national conference shall define the boundaries of the annual conferences.
2. The national conference shall at every session elect one or more bishops from among the elders throughout the church, who have stood six years in that capacity.
3. The national conference has authority to participate in an international United Brethren church structure, and to edit Constitutional language to reflect the same.
4. The business of each annual conference shall be done strictly according to Discipline; and any conference acting contrary thereunto shall, by impeachment, be tried by the national conference.
5. No rule or ordinance shall at any time be passed to change or do away with the Confession of Faith as it now stands.
6. There shall no rule be adopted that will infringe upon the rights of any as it relates to the mode of baptism, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or the washing of feet.
7. There shall no rule be made that will deprive local ministers of their votes in the annual conferences to which they severally belong.
8. There shall be no connection with secret combinations, nor shall involuntary servitude be tolerated in any way.

9. The right of appeal shall be inviolate.

~~13 Article III Property~~

~~—The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground, meeting houses, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use, benefit, and behoof of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, United States of America, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the Church aforesaid; however, local churches may be granted title to their property as provided in the Discipline of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, United States of America;~~

13 Article III Property

1. Local Church Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of any property, whether consisting in lots of ground, buildings and other improvements, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use and benefit of the local Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the local church.

2. Annual Conference Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of any conference property, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use and benefit of the said annual conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the annual conference.

3. US National Conference Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of any US National Conference property, including legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use and benefit of the US National Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the US National Conference, Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA.

4. Camp/Conference Center Property

The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground, buildings and other improvements, legacies, bequests, or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use and benefit of the Camp/Conference Center, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the aforesaid as long as they are self incorporated.

14 Article IV Amendments

There shall be no alteration of the foregoing Constitution unless by two-thirds vote of the national conference, provided a request of such change has come from the majority of those who elected the national conference.