ORIGIN, DOCTRINE, CONSTITUTION, AND DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

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Origin, Doctrine, Constitution, and Discipline of the United Brethren in Christ by United Brethren in Christ

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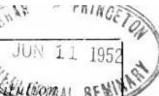
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CONTENTS.

PART I.

THE CHURCH.

CHAPTER	SCHOOL SCHOOL SCHOOL SCHOOL	PAGE
I.	ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH	9
II.	Confession of Faith	13
III.	Constitution	16
	PART II.	
	MEMBERSHIP, GOVERNMENT, AND MINISTRY.	
IV.	Members	19
	Reception of Members	19
	Duties of Members	21
	Trial of Members	25
	Transfer and Withdrawal of Members	27
V.	GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH	30
	Classes	30
	Class-Leaders	30
	Class-Stewards	31
	Church Deacons	32
	Church Clerk	32
	Official Boards	33
	Quarterly Conference	34
	Annual Conference	37
	General Conference	39
	General Church Treasurer	44
2020	Orphabages and Old People's Homes	11
VI.	MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH	46
	Lay Preachers	46
	Quarterly-Conference Preachers	46
	Annual-Conference Preachers	48
	Reception of Preachers from Other	51
	Churches	51
	Elders	52
	Conference Superintendents	54
	Bishops	55
	Trial of Preachers	59
	Marriage-Who May Solemnize	62
	Preachers' Duties in General	62

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	P	AGE
VII.	ITINERANCY	64
	Itinerants	64
	Duties of Itinerants	65
	Preachers' Salaries	69
	Preachers' Pension Bureau	70
VIII.	Deaconesses	73
	In Local Churches	73
	Deaconess' Homes	74
	Course of Study	74
	German Course of Study	75
IX.	Courses of Study	77
23381	For Quarterly-Conference Preachers	77
	For Annual-Conference Preachers	78
	German Course of Reading	82
	Completing the Course	83
X.	Appeals	84
	From the Decision of a Class	84
	From the Decision of a Quarterly Con-	
	ference	81
	Court of Appeals	84
	PART 111.	
	MORAL REFORM.	
***	THEORY CONTROL CONTROL OF THE CONTRO	86
X1.	Special Rules	86
	Social Service	87
	Temperance	SS
		88
	Slavery	88
	Secret Combinations	88
	War	S9
	The Family	S9
	PART IV.	
	PROPERTY.	
XII.	CHURCH-HOUSES AND PARSONAGES	90
	BOARD OF CHURCH TRUSTEES	94
ALLI.	DOARD OF CHURCH INCOLUMN THE THEFT IS THE	

PART V.

DEPARTM	TENTS FOR CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION AND TRAIN	NG.
CHAPTER	0.75	AGE
XIV.	SUNDAY SCHOOL, BROTHERHOOD AND YOUNG	
	People's Work	95
	Constitution of Board of Control	95
	Sunday-School Work	99
	Constitution for a Sunday School	99
	Brotherhood Work	101 101
0.50	Constitution for Brotherhood Work Young People's Work	104
	Constitution of Christian Endeavor Society	104
	Constitution for Junior Society	111
	Constitution for Conference Branch En-	
	deavor Union	115
XV.	CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION	118
	PART VI.	
DH	ENEVOLENT AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.	
XVI.	HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY—Constitution	124
XVII.	FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY-Constitution.	130
XVIII.	Woman's Missionary Association	138
	General Constitution	138
	Branch Constitution	144
	Local Constitution	146
	Constitution of Chapter of Otterbein	
	Guild	149
XIX.	Women's Aid Societies	153
XX.	Church Erection Society	155
XXI.	PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT AND CHURCH PUB-	
	LICATION	160
	Printing Establishment	160
	Church Publications	162
XXII.	Education ,	164
	Constitution of the Board of Education	164
	Academies	168
	Colleges	168
	Bonebrake Theological Seminary	169
XXIII.	HISTORICAL SOCIETY	173
	General Conference Approval	173
	Constitution	173

PART VII. BOUNDARIES.

CHAPTER		PAGE
XXIV.	BISHOPS' DISTRICTS	177
XXV.	ANNUAL-CONFERENCE DISTRICTS	178
	Foreign Mission Conferences	187
	PART VIII.	
	FORMULAS AND FORMS.	
XXVI.	FORMULAS Reception of Members The Baptism of Adults The Baptism of Children The Holy Communion Ordination of Elders Consecration of a Home Missionary Consecration of a Foreign Missionary Consecration of a Deaconess Laying Corner-Stone Church Dedication Parsonage Dedication Marriage Ceremony Marriage Ceremony with Ring Burial of the Dead	188 189 190 190 191 193 194 196 198 202 204 204 206
	The Lord's Prayer	207
	The Apostles' Creed	207
XXVII.	FORMS	208
	Certificates and Licenses	208
	Requests	210
	Reports	$\frac{212}{222}$
		223
	General Officers and Standing Commissions	
INDEX	General Olice's and Standing Commissions	227

DISCIPLINE

PART I

The Church.

ORIGIN OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

In the eighteenth century it pleased the Lord our God to awaken persons in different parts of the world who should raise up the Christian religion from its fallen state and preach the gospel of Christ crucified in its purity.

About the middle of said century, the Lord, in mercy, remembered the Germans in America, who, living scattered in this extensive country, seldom had an opportunity to hear the gospel of a crucified Savior preached to them in their native language.

Among others, he raised up WILLIAM OTTERBEIN and MARTIN BORHM, in the State of Pennsylvania, and George A. GUETHING, in the State of Maryland, armed them with spirit, grace, and strength to labor in his neglected vincyard, and to call, among the Germans in America, sinners to repentance. These men obeyed the call of their Lord Their labors were blessed, and they estaband Master. lished in many places excellent societies and led many precious souls to Jesus Christ. Their sphere of action spread more and more, so that they found it necessary to look about for more fellow-laborers to toil in the vineyard of the Lord; for the harvest was great and the laborers were few. The Lord called others, who were willing to Such persons were devote their strength to his service. accepted by one or another of the preachers as fellowlaborers.

The number of members in the society in different parts of the country continued to increase as time passed, and the gracious work of reformation spread through the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Several great meetings were appointed and held annually. On such occasions Otterbein would hold particular conversations with the preachers then present, and represent to them the importance of the ministry and the necessity of