

**A REPRINT OF THE
DISCIPLINE OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH FOR 1787**

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A reprint of the discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 1787 by Various

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VARIOUS

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\$1.00

W. G. Augustus

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OF THE

July 20 1906.

DISCIPLINE

Min.

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOR

1787.

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NOTE.

This is a verbatim report of the third edition of the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal church, the edition of 1787. But one copy of the original is known to exist. Dr. Emory was unable to obtain one when he wrote his *History of the Discipline*. Afterwards a single copy was found and is now in possession of Mr. Wilbur Ketcham, of New York. A few years ago he republished in the original form 50 numbered copies and sold them at \$5.00 each. The present edition is in the original form as far as can be made with modern type.

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A
FORM OF DISCIPLINE
FOR THE
Ministers, Preachers, and Members
OF THE
METHODIST Episcopal CHURCH
in AMERICA.

Considered and approved at a
CONFERENCE

Held at BALTIMORE, in the State of MARYLAND,
On Monday the 27th of December, 1784 :

IN WHICH

The Reverend THOMAS COKE, L.L. D. and
the Reverend FRANCIS ASBURY, presided.

Arranged under proper HEADS, and METHODIZED
in a more acceptable and easy Manner.

NEW YORK :
Printed by W. ROSS, in BROAD STREET.
M. DCC. LXXXVII.



11-6-57
A FORM OF DISCIPLINE, &c.

SECTION I.

*Of the Rise of Methodism (so called) in Europe
and America.*

Quest. 1. **W**HAT was the Rise of Methodism,
so called, in Europe?

Answ. In 1729, two young Men, reading
the Bible, saw they could not be saved without
Holiness, followed after it, and incited others
so to do. In 1737, they saw likewise, that Men
are justified before they are sanctified; but still
Holiness was their Object. God then thrust
them out, to raise an holy People.

Quest. 2. What was the Rise of Methodism,
so called, in America?

Answ. During the Space of thirty Years
past, certain Persons, Members of the Society,
emigrated from England and Ireland, and set-
tled in various Parts of this Country. About
twenty Years ago, Philip Embury, a local
Preacher from Ireland, began to preach in the
City of New York, and formed a Society of
his own Countrymen and the Citizens.
About the same Time, Robert Strawbridge,
a local Preacher from Ireland, settled in
Frederick

Frederick County, in the State of Maryland, and preaching there formed some Societies. In 1769, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor, came to New York; who were the first regular Methodist Preachers on the Continent. In the latter End of the Year 1771, Francis Asbury and Richard Wright, of the same Order, came over.

Quest. 3. What may we reasonably believe to be God's Design, in raising up the Preachers called Methodists?

Answ. To reform the Continent, and spread scripture Holiness over these Lands. As a Proof hereof, we have seen in the Course of fifteen Years a great and glorious Work of God, from New York through the Jersies, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, even to Georgia.

SECTION II.

*On the Method of holding a Conference,
and the Business to be done therein.*

IT is desired that all Things be considered as in the immediate Presence of God. That every Person speak freely whatever is in his Heart.

Quest. 1. How may we best improve our Time at the Conference?

Answ. While we are conversing, let us have an especial Care to set God always before us.

2. In the intermediate Hours, let us redeem all the Time we can for private Exercises.

3. Therein let us give ourselves to Prayer for one another, and for a Blessing on our Labour.

Quest.

Quest. 2. What is the Method wherein we usually proceed in a Conference?

Answ. We enquire.

1. What Preachers are admitted?
2. Who remain on Trial?
3. Who are admitted on Trial?
4. Who desist from travelling?
5. Are there any objections to any of the Preachers? Who are named one by one.
6. How are the Preachers stationed this Year?
7. What Numbers are in Society?
8. What is collected for the contingent Expenses?
9. How is this expended?
10. What is contributed toward the Fund for the supernannated Preachers, and the Widows and Orphans of the Preachers?
11. What Demands are there upon it?
12. Where and when shall our next Conference begin?

Quest. 3. Is there any other Business to be done in Conference?

Answ. The electing and ordaining of Bishops, Elders and Deacons.

SECTION III.

On the Nature and Constitution of our Church.

WE are thoroughly convinced, that the Church of England, to which we have been united, is deficient in several of the most important parts of Christian Discipline; and that (a few Ministers and Members excepted) it has lost the Life and Power of Religion. We are not ignorant

ignorant of the Spirit and Designs it has ever discovered in Europe, of rising to Pre-eminence and worldly Dignities by Virtue of a national Establishment, and by the most servile Devotion to the Will of temporal Governors; and we fear, the same Spirit will lead the same Church in these United States (tho' altered in its Name) to similar Designs and Attempts, if the Number and Strength of its Members will ever afford a Probability of Success; and particularly, to, obtain a national Establishment which we cordially abhor as the Great Bane of Truth and Holiness, the greatest Impediment in the World to the Progress of vital Christianity.

For these Reasons, we have thought it our Duty to form ourselves into an Independent Church. And as the most excellent Mode of Church Government according to our maturist Judgment, is that of a *moderate Episcopacy*; and as we are persuaded, *that the uninterrupted Succession of Bishops from the Apostles*, can be proved neither from Scripture nor Antiquity; we therefore have constituted ourselves into an *Episcopal Church*, under the Direction of *Bishops, Elders, Deacons, and Preachers*, according to the Forms of Ordination annexed to our Prayer Book, and the Regulations laid down in this Form of Discipline.

SECTION IV.

On the Constituting of Bishops, and their Duty.

Quest. 1. **H**OW is a Bishop constituted?

Answ. By the election of a Majority of the Conference, and the laying on of Hands of a Bishop, and the Elders present,

Quest.