

**THE DOCTRINES AND DISCIPLINE
OF THE UNITED EVANGELICAL
CHURCH, FORMULATED BY THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1894,
HELD IN NAPERVILLE, ILL. 1908**

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CONTENTS.

Introduction.	7-10
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PART I.

The Church.

Chapter.	Page.
I. Articles of Faith.	13
II. Christian Perfection.	22
III. General Rules.	27
IV. Special Rules.	30
Temperance.	30
Slavery.	31
Christian Giving.	31
Marriage.	34
Divorce.	33
Thoughts on Singing.	33
Thoughts on Prayer.	34
Bible Study.	35
V. Membership.	37
Reception of Members.	37
Transfer of Membership by Certificate.	38
Certificate of Membership and Dismissal.	38
Certificate of Reception.	39
Classes and Class Officers.	40
Stewards and their Duties.	42

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CONTENTS.

Chapter.	Page.
Sunday-Schools and Their Officers.	43
Young People's Societies,	45

PART II.

The Conferences.

I. The Conferences,	49
II. Quarterly Conference,	50
III. Annual Conference,	53
IV. General Conference,	57
Special General Conference,	58

PART III.

The Ministry.

I. Ministerial Qualifications and Work.	65
General Directions,	65
Spiritual Qualifications,	67
Evidences of a Call to Preach,	68
Hints and Directions,	71
Effective Preaching,	73
Preaching Places,	74
II. Reception and Station of Ministers, ..	75
Recommendation,	75
Questions to Applicants,	76
Ministers from Other Churches, ..	77
Deacons,	77
Elders,	78
Presiding Elders,	78
Bishops,	78
Itinerants,	79
Local Preachers,	79

CONTENTS.

Chapter.	Page.
Superannuated Preachers,	79
Supernumerary Preachers,	79
Evangelists,	80
III. Duties of Preachers,	81
Duties of a Local Preacher,	81
Duties of a Traveling Preacher,	81
Duties of a Preacher in Charge,	82
Duties of a Presiding Elder,	84
Duties of a Bishop,	85

PART IV.

Church Trials.

I. Trial of Lay-members,	89
Neglect of Duty,	89
Imprudent and Sinful Conduct,	90
Gross Immorality,	91
Causing Dissension,	91
Arbitration,	92
Appeal of Lay-members,	93
Right to Challenge,	94
Appointment of Plaintiff,	94
President of a Trial,	94
II. Trial of Ministers,	95
III. Trial of a Bishop,	101
IV. Court of Appeals,	103
V. Jurisdiction and Evidence,	104
Charges,	105
Withdrawal Under Charges,	105
Evidence Admissible at Trials,	106

PART V.

The Ritual.

Chapter.	Page.
I. Administration of Baptism,	109
Baptism of Infants,	109
Baptism of Adults,	111
II. The Lord's Supper,	114
III. Matrimony,	118
IV. Burial of the Dead,	121
V. Ordination,	124
Ordination of Deacons,	124
Ordination of Elders,	129
VI. Laying of a Corner Stone,	141
Dedication of a Church,	143

PART VI.

Temporal Economy.

I. Support of Ministers,	149
II. Church Property,	151
III. Articles of Incorporation,	154
IV. Support of Missions,	158
V. Publishing Interest,	159
VI. Constitution of the Missionary Society,	162
VII. Charter of the Charitable Society, ..	169
VIII. Church Extension Society,	176

PART VII.

The Lord's Prayer,	185
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INTRODUCTION.

In the year 1796, Jacob Albright, yearning for the salvation of his spiritually neglected German-speaking brethren, started out, as a humble layman, to preach to them the Gospel of Christ. His labors extended over large portions of Pennsylvania, and into parts of Maryland and Virginia, and resulted in the saving of many souls. He had, originally, no thought of founding a new religious organization, but finally, in 1800, he yielded to the oft-repeated and urgent requests of those whom he had led to the Lord, and began the work of organization. Three classes, in six many counties of Pennsylvania, were then organized. In November, 1803, at a council composed of Mr. Albright, his two assistants and fourteen of the leading men of the Association, Mr. Albright was, in the name of the whole Association, declared "*a genuine evangelical preacher*," and solemnly ordained as such.

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were then declared their rule of faith and practice. The need of a church discipline was soon recognized, and the conference in 1807 directed the Rev. Jacob Albright to formulate it. Failing health, terminating in death a few months thereafter, prevented him from carrying out the instructions of the conference, and the work was then undertaken by the Rev. George Miller, and the first edition of the discipline was published by him in 1809. It was largely taken from the disciplines of other churches, notably that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was issued in the German language. A second edition, prepared by John Dreisbach and Henry Niebel, appeared in 1816, and frequent editions, with many amendments, thereafter.

In the course of time, earnest differences of opinion as to the powers of the General Conference and of the episcopacy, more especially the latter, arose in the church. In 1827 the General