
Constitution of the Christian Socialist Fellowship:

Adopted at the 4th General Conference, Toledo, OH — May 29, 1909.

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Article I — Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Christian Socialist Fellowship.

Article II — Objects.

Recognizing that the social message of Jesus applied in an age of machine production means Socialism, we declare the objects of our Fellowship to be:

To proclaim Socialism to churches and other religious organizations; to show the necessity of Socialism to the complete triumph of Christianity; to end the class struggle by establishing industrial and political democracy; and to hasten the reign of justice and brotherhood — the Kingdom of God on earth.

Article III — Membership.

Section 1. Its members shall be active and associate.

Section 2. Its active members shall consist of those who are both Christians and Socialists, who shall agree to the objects as stated in Article II, be duly elected, be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws, and pay dues.

Section 3. Its associate members shall be those who are in sympathy with the purposes of the Fel-

lowship, and shall be duly elected. They shall have the privilege of a voice, but no vote.

Section 4. Where local Centers exist, they shall constitute the electing body, to which all applications for membership shall be made. Where no Center exists, applications for membership shall be made to the General Secretary, with membership fee, and shall be voted upon by the General Executive Committee.

Article IV — Dues.

Membership dues shall be 15¢ per month.

Article V — Local Centers.

Section 1. Three or more persons within a city, town, or village, in which no Center of the Fellowship already exists, may form such a Center upon declaring their adherence to the objects of the Christian Socialist Fellowship.

Section 2. Applications for permission to organize local Centers shall be made upon a form provided for that purpose by the General Secretary. Every such application shall be accompanied by the names, addresses, and occupations of the proposed members, and one month's dues to the General Secretary, as provided in Articles III and IV.

Article VI — Officers.

Section 1. Its officers shall consist of a General Secretary, a General Treasurer, and a General Executive Committee of 25 members — not more than 3 of whom shall be from any one state, to be elected annually by the General Conference and to serve until their successors are elected.

Section 2. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

Article VII — Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The duties of the officers shall be those usually devolving upon their respective offices.

Section 2. The General Secretary shall issue monthly dues stamps to Center Organizations at 5¢ each and to members at large at 15¢ each.

Section 3. The General Secretary and General Treasurer shall make complete monthly reports to the Fellowship.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall meet in regular session annually during the month of April, at the place of and immediately preceding the General Conference.

Section 5. Special meetings may be called at any time by a majority of the Executive Committee to act upon such business as the call specifies.

Section 6. All meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Fellowship shall be called to order by the Secretary, and the President shall be elected for the session.

Section 7. The General Secretary shall submit to the members of the Executive Committee, by correspondence, all special business of importance in the interim of Executive Committee meetings.

Section 8. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a legal quorum for business by correspondence. Ten members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting

of which all the members have been duly notified.

Section 9. The salaries of officers shall be fixed by the General Executive Committee.

Article VIII — General Conference.

Section 1. The General Conference of the Fellowship shall be held in April of each year at such date and place as the preceding Conference shall have determined. In default of such action by the Conference, the place and date shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The General Conference shall consist of delegates elected upon the following basis: 1 delegate at large for each organized state, to be elected by the State Committee; 1 delegate for each Center, having 10 members or less, with additional delegates for each additional 10 members or fraction thereof.

Article IX — Vacancies.

Vacancies occurring between sessions of the General Conference in the membership of the Executive Committee, or any office, may be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Article X — District Organizations.

Section 1. The General Secretary shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint District Secretaries at convenient centers of population.

Section 2. Each District Secretary shall endeavor to advance the objects of the Christian Socialist Fellowship by increasing its membership, circulating literature, obtaining dates for lectures, securing subscriptions for *The Christian Socialist* and other Socialist publications, and organizing Centers within his territory.

Section 3. He shall call a Conference of all who are interested at some convenient place in his District at least once a year. This Conference

must proceed in harmony with the general Constitution.

Section 4. For the purpose above stated the District Secretary may use 1/3 of all membership fees collected by his office and all donations obtained by his office expressly for use in his District.

Section 5. Each District Secretary shall render monthly reports to the General Secretary concerning the amount and character of work done in his District, amounts collected from all sources, and the itemized expense of the District office.

Section 6. In the event of the abandonment of any District Organization, any balance remaining in the District treasury must be forwarded to the General Treasurer.

Article XI — State Organizations.

Where several Centers exist in any state, they may form a State Organization, subject to the approval of the General Executive Committee, and elect their State Secretary, in which case 1/3 of the membership dues from all such Centers shall be paid to the State Organization.

Article XII — The Referendum.

Section 1. All acts of the General Conference and of the General Executive Committee shall be subject to a referendum vote of the entire membership whenever a demand for such referendum shall be made in writing by not less than 5 percent of the paid-up membership of the Fellowship.

Section 2. The active members shall always have the right of the Initiative, Referendum, and Imperative Mandate upon petition of 10 percent of their number.

Article XIII — Amendments.

This constitution may be amended at any General Conference by a 2/3 vote of the delegates present — provided that notice of any such amendment shall have been submitted to the General Executive Committee 2 months prior to the meeting of the Conference, or at any time by a referendum vote of the entire membership.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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