

MEMORIAL 3

CREATION OF SACRAMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Whereas The Wesleyan Church believes proper administration of sacrament is a core component of a church (240, 242),

Whereas the need for understanding and intent on the part of the individual overseeing a sacrament is important to ensure proper alignment with scripture and proper engagement by those participating with the means of grace being offered,

Whereas communion is considered by Wesleyans as a means of grace that is an important and essential component of a healthy church both individually and corporately and communion is encouraged to be taken at least once a month and required to be taken at least once every three months in our churches (293, 5600),

Whereas smaller expressions of the church may be led by equipped and commissioned Lay Missionaries and may not have an ordained or licensed minister as a part of their fellowship,

Whereas this creates a situation depriving smaller expressions of church from a sanctioned means to partake of the means of grace within The Wesleyan Church polity,

Whereas scripture is clear on the need for order in the worship and sacrament, however it is silent on the credentials of the one overseeing that order.

Resolved, that there be a creation of a Sacramental Certification with the addition of paragraph 2338:5 as follows:

(5) Create and oversee a sacramental certification process. Those with a Lay Minister, Lay Missionary or Supply Pastor credentialing may undertake a brief course on sacramental theology and practice. Upon satisfactory completion they will be granted a Sacramental Certification certifying them to oversee baptism and communion within The Wesleyan Church. Course material and certification will be overseen by the Ministerial Study Course Agency, and may be administered by any Ordained Minister. Sacramental Certification runs concurrent with credentialing as a Lay Minister, Lay Missionary, or Supply Pastor and expires if that credentialing is relinquished.

Resolved that 725:6 be adjusted as follows:

(6) Administer, if an Ordained (313:1), Commissioned (3059:2a), or Licensed Minister (3044:1), the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Each pastor is encouraged

to provide for the observance of the Lord's Supper at least once each month, but is required to do so at least once every three months (293). A supply pastor shall secure the services of an ordained (313:1), commissioned (3059:2), or licensed minister (3044:1) who is a pastor, for such observance (3260:2), except when authorization has been granted by a district superintendent as provided in 3260:2, **or have completed the sacramental certification (2338:5).**

Resolved that 3260:2 be adjusted as follows:

(2) A supply pastor shall be appointed temporarily to fill the pulpit and to provide a spiritual ministry. They do not have **inherent authority** to administer the sacraments or to perform marriages unless that authority adheres on some other basis. **A supply pastor may complete the course on sacramental theology and practice and obtain a sacramental certification authorizing them to oversee sacrament as provided for in 2338:5. A supply pastor** shall not perform the administrative function of the pastor except in filing of reports unless authorized to do so by the district superintendent (1310:8, 25). If a supply pastor is serving a congregation isolated from Wesleyan ministers, making it difficult to provide for administration of the sacraments (725:6), the district superintendent may grant the supply pastor special authorization to administer them.

Resolved, that 3440 be adjusted as follows:

3440. Regulations for a Lay Minister.

(1) A lay minister has no authority to solemnize marriages or to administer the sacraments, except as provided for in 3260:2, **or if they have obtained sacramental certification as provided for in 2338:5,** nor any vote in the local board of administration nor in the district conference unless elected thereto.

Resolved, that 3490 be adjusted as follows:

3490. A lay member who has been appointed to service under the Global Partners Division, or under the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, shall be commissioned by the district conference (1180:27f) as a lay missionary. The commissioning shall include a solemn act of consecration as set forth in 5855 (1405; 3091), and the issuance of a commission signed by the General Superintendent, the district superintendent, and the district secretary (6400; 1310:23; 1332:4; 1935). The commission shall be continuous with the period of service. The missionary shall be a

nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:6). The missionary shall be amenable in keeping with the provisions of 2272, **and may oversee sacraments upon completion of sacramental certification in keeping with 2338:5.**