

CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE ORPHANAGE SOCIETY  
OF THE  
Methodist Episcopal Church,  
IN THE  
PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.

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**Whereas** a number of ladies, impressed with the importance of providing a suitable Home for such children as by the death of one or both of their parents have been and may be deprived of support under the parental roof, have associated themselves together for the purpose of establishing an Orphanage.

**And Whereas,** the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, without knowledge of the existence of such association, did appoint a committee of seven with full power to make all necessary arrangements for the establishment of an Orphan Asylum, under the control of said church.

**And Whereas,** at a Sunday School Convention, called to consider the subject of establishing an Orphanage under the direction of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday Schools, and held on the Twelfth day of June, A. D., 1873, a *committee of seven* was appointed to co-operate with the aforesaid ladies, and said Conference Committee, with a view of enlarging the basis and scope of said Association.

**And Whereas,** a committee from said Ladies' Association has met said Conference and Sunday School Committees, for the purpose of uniting and concentrating the energies and efforts of each and all; and a joint Committee of three from each of the above mentioned bodies have carefully considered the subject, and have recommended the adoption of the following:

Now therefore the said Orphanage Society hereby accept and adopt the following:—

# CONSTITUTION.

## ARTICLE I.

### NAME AND OBJECT.

The Name of this Society shall be "The Orphanage Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the Philadelphia Conference." The Institution shall be styled "The Methodist Episcopal Orphanage." Its object shall be to provide a Home where orphan children may be received, provided with wholesome nourishment, comfortably clad, attended in sickness, taught the rudiments of an English education, have their moral character carefully developed, and habits of regularity and industry established, so that they may become useful members of Society.

## ARTICLE II.

### MEMBERSHIP.

Any person or Sunday School Class paying a sum of money, not less than One Dollar per year, shall be a Member of this Society, and shall be entitled to a vote at elections for managers. Any person, Sunday School, or Sunday School Class, paying the sum of Twenty Dollars at one time, shall be entitled to name a person who shall thereupon become a Life Member; and any person or Sunday School class contributing the sum of One Hundred Dollars at one time, shall be entitled to name a person who shall thereupon be styled a Benefactor.

## ARTICLE III.

### MANAGERS AND OFFICERS.

*Sec. 1.* The property, estate, government, and control of this Society shall be vested in a Board of Managers, composed of fifteen Ministers, who shall be elected annually by the Philadelphia Conference, of one representative from each charge in said Conference to be elected either by the Auxiliary Society or by the Quarterly Conference of such charge, as the members of this Society in such charge may direct, and of one representative from each Sunday School in said Conference, to be chosen in such manner as said Sunday School shall direct: said representatives may be either ladies or gentlemen. It shall be the duty of said Managers to collect money for this Society from the Sunday Schools and members of the Church with which they are connected, form Auxiliary Societies, and report to the Board of Directors at least once every three months.

*Sec. 2.* The Board of Managers shall elect annually, by ballot, or otherwise, from their own number a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of Thirty Directors, three-fourths of whom shall be members in

good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and may make such By-Laws as they may deem proper. The officers of said Board of Managers shall also be, *ex-officio*, members of said Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE IV.

### DIRECTORS.

The Board of Directors shall have the supervision, management, direction, and control of the internal affairs of said Orphanage, subject to such regulations as the Board of Managers may adopt. Said Board of Directors shall meet regularly on the third Wednesday of each month, and shall have power to appoint from their own number such Committees as they may deem necessary, and shall fill all vacancies that may occur by death, resignation, or otherwise. The officers of the Board of Managers shall be, *ex-officio*, officers of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE V.

### MEETINGS.

The *Annual Meeting* of the Society and of the Board of Managers shall be held during the session of the Philadelphia Conference, and at the place where said Conference is held, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Managers. *Special Meetings* of the Board of Managers may be held, when deemed necessary by the Board of Directors, of which two weeks' notice shall be given. At all meetings of the Board of Managers, *twenty-five* shall constitute a quorum. *Special meetings* of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or Vice-Presidents, or by the Secretary, at the written request of any three members.

## ARTICLE VI.

### INMATES.

The inmates of said Orphanage shall be received at such ages, on such terms, restrictions, conditions, and limitations, and shall remain for so long a time as the Board of Directors may determine.

Whenever said Board shall require it, those received into said Orphanage shall be surrendered and given up to the sole control, care, supervision, and custody of the Board of Directors, and shall request that one of the officers or members of the Board shall be appointed a guardian of the person and property of the children so received.

## ARTICLE VII.

### AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution shall not be altered or amended except at a special meeting called for that purpose, at which thirty or more Managers shall be present. The call for such meeting shall be issued at least one month previous thereto, and shall state the alterations and amendments proposed to be made to this Constitution.

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OF  
**THE ORPHANAGE SOCIETY**

OF THE  
Methodist Episcopal Church

IN THE  
PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE,

*ADOPTED BY THE SOCIETY,*

And presented to the Public at the  
Centennial Jubilee,

AT THE  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC,

*July 16, 1873*