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Constitution

OF THE

American Sabbath Union

I. **NAME**—The name is The American Sabbath Union.

II. **BASIS**—The basis of this American Sabbath Union is the Divine authority and universal and perpetual obligation of the Sabbath, as manifested in the order and constitution of nature, declared in the revealed will of God, formulated in the Fourth Commandment of the Moral Law, interpreted and applied by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, transferred to the Christian Sabbath, or Lord's Day, by Christ and the Apostles, and approved by its beneficent influence upon the personal and national life.

III. **OBJECT**—The object of the American Sabbath Union is to preserve the Christian Sabbath as a day of rest and worship.

IV. MEMBERSHIP:

1. **Representative Members**—The representative members shall be such persons as have been or may be appointed by the various Christian denominations of our country that accept our basis; and four representatives from each denomination, with an extra representative for each one hundred thousand members, or major fraction thereof, in the denomination.

2. **Honorary Members**—Eminent workers for the promotion of Sabbath observance may be elected to honorary membership. Persons contributing \$1,000 or more in any one year to the work of the American Sabbath Union, shall be known as Life Directors; those so contributing \$500, as Life Patrons; those so contributing \$250, as Life Members; those so contributing \$125, as Supporting Members. *1400 500*

3. **Corresponding Members**—One representative of each Sabbath Association, committee, department, or other body that is engaged in preventing Sabbath desecration, may be elected by his association, subject to the confirmation of this Union, or may be elected by this Union, on its own nomination, as a corresponding member.

4. **Annual Members**—Any person who accepts the "Basis," and expresses the desire to become a member, and agrees to pay \$1 per year as a membership fee. All persons becoming members of any District Sabbath Union upon the above terms, shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership in this American Sabbath Union. All classes of members shall be equally entitled to the privileges of membership.

V. **OFFICERS**—The officers shall be, a President, three Vice-Presidents-at-Large, and one Vice-President representing each religious denomination which has officially appointed representative members, and one Vice-President from each State and Territory of the Union—the Presidents of State and Territorial Sabbath Associations or bodies, so far as they exist and are in co-operation with the American Sabbath Union, being preferred. There shall be three General Secretaries, to be known respectively as the General Secretary, Secretary of Publications, and Corresponding Secretary. The General Secretary shall keep the records of the Union, receive and consolidate the reports of the several District Secretaries, and he shall also have charge of the publication of "The Pearl of Days." The Publication Secretary shall have charge of the preparation and publication of the documents of the Union under the supervision of a Committee Upon Literature, to be appointed by the Executive Committee. He shall also principally be associated in the national legislative work. The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the general correspondence of the American Sabbath Union, especially with reference to the raising of funds. The Executive Committee shall direct the work of each of the Secretaries. The Corresponding Secretary shall also be the District Secretary for District No. 1. The General Secretary shall be the District Secretary for District No. 2. The Publication Secretary shall be the District Secretary for District No. 3. There shall also be a Treasurer and one District Secretary for each District, and a State Secretary for each State and Territory, and one or more Honorary Secretaries. The duties and compensation of these officers, with the exception of the State and District Secretaries, shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

VI. **COMMITTEES**—The President, Vice-Presidents, General Secretaries, Treasurer, and fifteen or more other members, to be chosen at the annual meeting, shall be the Executive Committee, which shall have full control of the general work of the Union in the interim of its annual sessions. There shall be a District Committee in each of the Districts, which shall consist of the officers of the District, and the President and Corresponding Secretary of each State Sabbath Association or body embraced within the District, and seven other members, to be chosen at the annual meeting of the District Union. The District Committee shall have full charge of the work in its District, and the District Secretary shall be responsible to, and work under the direction of the District Committee, which shall fix and provide his compensation. Such other committees as may be necessary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee or at the annual meeting of the American Sabbath Union, and the Executive Committee shall have power to fill all vacancies.

VII. **DISTRICTS**—The following Districts are established:

First District—New England.

Second District—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Third District—Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

Fourth District—South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Fifth District—Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Indian Territory, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky,

Sixth District—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin.

Seventh District—Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

Eighth District—Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

Ninth District—California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Alaska.

VIII. **MEETINGS**—There shall be an annual meeting of the American Sabbath Union, at such time and place as the Union may designate, or as, in default thereof, the Executive Committee may designate. Special meetings of the Union may be called by the Executive Committee, or by the President, on written application of ten members. Each District Union shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as the District Committee shall designate. Whenever possible the annual meetings of the District shall be held at least one month before the meeting of the General Union, so that the reports of their work may be forwarded to the General Secretary in season to be incorporated in his report to the annual meeting of the American Sabbath Union. Members who attend a regularly called meeting of the American Sabbath Union, or of any of the District Unions, or of any Committee, shall constitute a quorum.

IX. **VOTING**—Votes for Officers and for Honorary and Corresponding Members, shall be by written ballot, except by unanimous consent to the contrary.

X. **AMENDMENTS**—This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that one month's previous notice of the proposed change shall have been given to the Executive Committee.

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W. ALFRED SHIP.