

Orders of a Religious Society Meeting in Fetter Lane

In obedience to the Command of God by Saint James, and by the Advice of Peter Boehler, May 1, 1738, it was agreed,

1. That they will meet together once in a Week to confess their Faults one to another, and to pray for one another that they may be healed.
2. That any others, of whose sincerity they are well assured, may, if they desire it, meet with them for the Purpose. And, May 29, it was agreed.
3. That the Persons desirous to meet together for that Purpose, be divided into several Bands, or little Societies.
4. That none of these consist of fewer than five, or more than ten Persons.
5. That some Person in each Band be desired to interrogate the rest in order, who may be called the Leader of that Band. And on Monday, September 26, it was agreed.
6. That each Band meet twice in a Week, once on Monday evening, the second time when it is most convenient for each Band.
7. That every Person come punctually at the Hour appointed, without some extraordinary Reason.
8. That those that are present begin exactly at the House.
9. That every Meeting be begun and ended with Singing and Prayer.
10. That ever one in order speak as freely, plainly, and concisely as he can, the real State of his Heart, with his several Temptations and Deliverances, since the last Time of meeting.
11. That all Bands have a Conference at eight every Wednesday Evening, begun and ended with Singing and Prayer.
12. That Nine of the Clock the Names of the Members be called over, and the Absenters set down.
13. That Notice of any extraordinary Meeting be given on the Wednesday night preceding such Meeting.

JOHN WESLEY'S CLASS MEETING: A MODEL FOR MAKING DISCIPLES

14. That exactly at ten, if the Business of the Night be not finished, a short concluding Prayer be used, that those may go who are in haste, but that all depart the Room by half an Hour after ten.
15. That whosoever speaks in this Conference stand up, and that none else speak till he is set down.
16. That nothing which is mentioned in the Conference be by any Means mentioned out of it.
17. That every Member of this Society, who is a Member of any other, prefer the meeting with this, and with his particular Band, before the meeting with any other Society or Company whatsoever.
18. That if any Person absent himself without some extraordinary Reason, either from his Band, or from any Meeting of the whole Society, he be first privately admonished; and if he be absent again, reprove before the whole Society.
19. That any Person who desires or designs to take any Journey, shall first, if it be possible, have the Approbation of the Bands.
20. That all our Members who are in Clubs be desired to withdraw their Names, as being Meetings nowise conducing to the Glory of God.
21. That any who desire to be admitted into this Society be asked, What are your Reasons for desiring this? Will you be entirely open, using no kind of Reserve, least of all in the Case of Love or Courtship? Will you strive against the Desire of ruling, of being first in your Company, or having your own Way? Will you submit to be placed in what Band the Leaders shall choose for you? Have you any Objections to any of our Orders? The Orders may then be read to them.
22. That those who answer these Questions in the Affirmative, be proposed every fourth Wednesday.
23. That every one then present speak clearly and fully whatever Objection he has to any Person proposed to be a Member.
24. That those against whom any reasonable Objection appears be acquainted with that Objection, and the admitting them upon Trial postponed till that Objection is removed.
25. That those against whom no reasonable Objection appears or remains, be, in order for their Trial, formed into distinct Bands, and some Person agreed to assist them.
26. That if no new Objection then appear, they be, after two months' trial, admitted into the Society.
27. That every fourth Saturday be observed as a Day of general Intercession, which may continue from twelve to two, from three to five, and from six to eight.
28. That on Sunday Se'en-night following be a general Love-feast, from seven till ten in the Evening.

ORDERS OF A RELIGIOUS SOCIETY MEETING IN PETER LANE

29. That in order to have a continual Intercession every Member of this Society, choose some Hour, either of the Day or Night, to spend in Prayer chiefly for his Brethren.
30. That in order to a continual Fast, three of the Members of this Society Fast every Day (as their Health permits), Sundays and Holidays excepted, and spend as much as they can of that Day in retirement from Business and Prayer.
31. That each Person give Notice to the Leader of his Band how much he is willing to subscribe towards the general charge of the Bands, and that each Person's Money be paid in to the Leader of his Band once a month at farthest.
32. That no particular Person be allowed to act in any thing contrary to any Order of this Society, but that every one, without Distinction, submit to the Determination of his Brethren: and that if any Person or Persons do not, after being thrice admonished, conform to the Society, they be not esteemed any longer as Members.
33. That any person whom the whole Society shall approve may be admitted at our general Meetings, provided he correspond with the society once in a month at least.

