

# Constitution

## Article I.

This society shall be called  
the Reed's Mills Young  
People's Society of Christian  
Endeavor.

### ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

Its object shall be to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to make them more useful in the service of God

### ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

1. The members shall consist of three classes, active, associate, and affiliated or honorary.

2. **ACTIVE MEMBERS.** The active members of this society shall consist of all young persons who believe themselves to be Christians, and who sincerely desire to accomplish the objects above specified. Voting power shall be vested only in the active members.

3. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.** All young persons of worthy character, who are not at present willing to be considered decided Christians, may become associate members of this society. They shall have the special prayers and sympathy of the active members, but shall be excused from taking part in the prayer meeting. It is expected that all associate members will habitually attend the prayer meetings, and that they will in time become active members, and the society will work to this end.

4. **AFFILIATED OR HONORARY MEMBERS.\*** All persons who, though no longer young, are still interested in the society

\* This class of membership is provided for Christians of mature years, especially for those who have been active members, and who desire to remain throughout their lives connected with the society. Young persons who can be either active or associate members should in no case be affiliated members.

and wish to have some connection with it, though they cannot regularly attend the meetings, may become affiliated members. Their names shall be kept upon the list under the appropriate heading, but shall not be called at the roll-call meeting. It is understood that the society may look to the affiliated members for financial and moral support in all worthy efforts (For special class of honorary members see Article IX.)

5. These different persons shall become members, upon being elected by the society, after carefully examining the Constitution and upon signing their names to it, thereby pledging themselves to live up to its requirements

### ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS

1. The officers of this society shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen from among the active members of the society.

2. There shall also be a Lookout Committee, a Prayer-Meeting Committee, a Social Committee, and such other committees as the local needs of each society may require, each consisting of ~~at least~~ active members. There shall also be an Executive Committee as provided in Article VI.

### ARTICLE V.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

1. **PRESIDENT.** The President of the society shall perform the duties usually pertaining to that office. He shall have especial watch over the interests of the society, and it shall be his care to see that the different committees perform the duties devolving upon them.

2. **VICE-PRESIDENT.** The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence

3. **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.** It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to keep the local society in communication with the United Society and with other local societies, and to present to his own society such matters of interest as may come from the United Society, from other local societies, and from other authorized sources of Christian Endeavor. This office shall be permanent, and the name shall be forwarded to the United Society.

4. **RECORDING SECRETARY.** It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of the members, and to correct it from time to time, as may be necessary, and to obtain the signature of each newly-elected member to the Constitution;

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also to correspond with absent members, and to inform them of their standing in the society; also to keep correct minutes of all business meetings of the society; also to notify all persons elected to office or to committees, and to do so in writing, if necessary.

5. TREASURER. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to safely keep all moneys belonging to the society, and to pay out only such sums as shall be voted by the society.

## ARTICLE VI—DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

1. LOOKOUT COMMITTEE. It shall be the duty of this committee to bring new members into the society, to introduce them to the work and to the other members, and to affectionately look after and reclaim any that seem indifferent to their duties as outlined in the pledge. This committee shall also by personal investigation satisfy itself of the fitness of young persons to become members of this society, and shall propose their names at least one week before their election to membership.

2. PRAYER-MEETING COMMITTEE. It shall be the duty of this committee to have in charge the prayer meeting, and to see that a topic is assigned and a leader appointed for every meeting, and to do what it can to secure faithfulness to the prayer-meeting pledge.

3. SOCIAL COMMITTEE. It shall be the duty of this committee to promote the social interests of the society by welcoming strangers to the meetings, and by providing for the mutual acquaintance of the members by occasional sociables, for which any appropriate entertainment, of which the church approves, may be provided.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.\* This committee shall consist of the pastor of the church, the officers of the society, and the chairmen of the various committees. All matters of business requiring debate should be brought first before this committee, and by it reported either favorably or adversely to the society. All discussion of proposed measures shall take place before this committee and not before the society. Recommendations concerning the finances of the society shall also originate with this committee.

5. Each committee, except the Executive, shall make a report in writing to the society, at the monthly business meetings, concerning the work of the past month.

\* The object of this committee is to prevent waste of time in the regular meetings of the society, by useless debate and unnecessary parliamentary practice, which are always harmful to the spirit of a prayer meeting.

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## ARTICLE VII—THE PRAYER MEETING.

1. All the active members shall be present at every meeting, unless detained by some absolute necessity, and each active member shall take some part, however slight, in every meeting. To the above all the active members shall pledge\* themselves, understanding by "absolute necessity" some reason for absence which can conscientiously be given to their Master, Jesus Christ. The meetings shall be held one hour, and at the close some time may be taken for introduction and social intercourse if desired.

2. Once each month a consecration or experience meeting shall be held, at which each active member shall speak concerning his progress in the Christian life, or renew his vows of consecration. If any one chooses, he can express his feelings by an appropriate verse of Scripture or other quotation.

3. At each consecration or experience meeting the roll shall be called, and the responses of the active members who are present shall be considered as a renewed expression of allegiance to Christ. *It is expected that, if any one is obliged to be absent from this meeting, he will send a request to be excused by some one who attends.*

4. If any active member of this society is absent from this monthly meeting and fails to send an excuse, the Lookout committee is expected to take the name of such a one, and in a kind and brotherly spirit ascertain the reason for the absence. *If any active member of the society is absent and unexcused from three consecutive monthly meetings, such a one ceases to be a member of the society, and his name shall be stricken from the list of members.*

## ARTICLE VIII—BUSINESS MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

1. Business meetings may be held at the close of the evening prayer meeting, or at any other time in accordance with the call of the President.

2. An election of the officers and committees shall be held once in six months. Names may be proposed by a Nominating committee appointed by the President.

## ARTICLE IX—RELATION TO THE CHURCH

This society being a part of the church, the pastor, deacons, elders or stewards, and Sunday-school superintendent shall be *ex officio* honorary members. Any difficult question may be laid before them for advice.

\* For form of pledge see By-Laws, ART V.

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## ARTICLE X.—WITHDRAWALS.

Any member who may wish to withdraw from the society shall state the reasons in writing to the Lookout committee and pastor, and if these reasons seem sufficient, he may be allowed to withdraw.

## ARTICLE XI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Any other committees may be added and duties assumed by this society which in the future may seem best.

### AMENDMENT.

(The following amendment was proposed by Rev. F. E. Clark, and recommended to the societies by vote of the National Conference held in Chicago, July 5-8, 1888.)

Since it would in the end defeat the very object of our organization if the older active members, who have been trained in the society for usefulness in the church, should remain content with fulfilling their pledge to the society only, therefore it is expected that the older members, when it shall become impossible for them to attend two weekly prayer meetings, shall be transferred to the honorary membership of the society, if previously faithful to their vows as active members. This transfer, however, shall be made with the understanding that the obligation for faithful service shall still be binding upon them in the regular church prayer meeting. It shall be left to the Lookout committee, in conjunction with the pastor, to see that this transfer of membership is made as occasion requires. Special pains shall also be taken to see that a share of the duties and responsibilities, both of the prayer meeting and of the general work of the society, shall be borne by the younger members.

### SPECIMEN BY-LAWS GIVEN AS HINTS FOR THE REGULATION OF LOCAL SOCIETIES

If it is thought that these rules and regulations are unnecessarily long, it should be borne distinctly in mind that these specimen By-Laws are simply suggestions. It is not recommended that they be adopted entire, as in the case of the Model Constitution, for all of them would not be adapted, perhaps, to the need of any one society, but from them all valuable hints may be derived for the government of local organizations. The fundamental principles of the society are exceedingly simple, and only so many of these By-Laws need be adopted as seem necessary to the easy working of this plan for Christian nurture. Undue attention to rules and parliamentary law is to be

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