CHARTER

OF THE

WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY

WITH IMPORTANT NOTES

Showing the Management of the Society to be in the hands of the Board of Directors

☞ *Preserve this for present and future use*

CHARTER

OF THE

WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY

WITH IMPORTANT NOTES APPENDED

Be it Known, That the subscribers, having associated themselves together for the purpose of the dissemination of Bible Truths in various languages, and being desirous of becoming incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of certain Corporations," approved the Twenty-ninth day of April Anno Domini, one thousand and eight hundred and seventy-four, and its supplements, do hereby declare, set forth and certify that the following are the purposes, objects, articles and conditions of their said association for and upon which they desire to be incorporated:

I. The name of the Corporation shall be Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society.

II. The purpose for which the Corporation is formed is the dissemination of Bible truths in various languages by means of the publication of tracts, pamphlets, papers and other religious documents, and by the use of all other law-

ful means which its BOARD OF DIRECTORS, duly constituted, shall deem expedient for the furtherance of the purposes stated.

III. The place where the business of the said Corporation is to be transacted is the City of Allegheny, in the County of Allegheny, and State of Pennsylvania.

IV. The Corporation is to exist perpetually.

V. The names and residences of the subscribers are as follows: (Names omitted.)

The Corporation has no capital stock. Each donation of Ten Dollars to the funds of said Corporation shall entitle the contributor, or his assigns, to one non-forfeitable, non-assessable and non-dividend bearing share, and to one vote for every such share in said Corporation. Certificates of membership, so acquired, shall be issued by the Secretary, countersigned by the President, to the persons entitled thereto.

VI. The Corporation is to be MANAGED BY A BOARD OF DIRECTORS consisting of seven members, and the names and residences of those already chosen Directors are as follows:

Those serving at the present time are:

JOSEPH F. RUTHERFORD	J. D. WRIGHT
A. N. PIERSON	A. I. RITCHIE
W. E. VAN AMBURGH	R. H. HIRSH

ISAAC F. HOSKINS

VII. The said Corporation, *by its Board of Directors*, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, *shall have full power and authority to make and enact by-laws, rules and ordinances*, which shall be deemed and taken to be the law of said Corporation, *and do any and everything useful for the good government and support of the affairs of said Corporation;* provided that the said by-laws, rules and ordinances, or any of them, shall not be repugnant to this charter, to the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Constitution of the United States.

VIII. The said Corporation shall have as officers a President, who shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors, a Vice-President, who shall preside in the absence of the President, and a Secretary, who shall also be Treasurer; and these officers shall be chosen from among the members of the Board of Directors annually on the first Saturday of each year, by an election by ballot to be held at the principal office of the Corporation in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. The members of the Board of Directors shall hold their respective offices for life, unless removed by a two-thirds' vote of the shareholders, and vacancies in the Board occasioned by death, resignation or removal, shall be filled by vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board, who shall meet for that purpose within twenty days from the time when such vacancy, or vacancies, shall occur, and in the event of a failure to fill such vacancy or vacancies, in the manner aforesaid, within thirty days from the time when such vacancy, or vacancies, shall occur, then the said vacancy, or vacancies, shall be filled by the appointment of the President, and the person, or persons, so appointed shall hold his, or their, office, or offices, until the next annual election of officers of the Corporation, when such vacancy, or vacancies, shall be filled by election, in the same manner as the President, Vice-President, and Secretary and Treasurer are elected.

The persons entitled to vote at annual elections of the Corporation shall be those who hold certificates of membership acquired in the manner aforesaid.

IX. The said Corporation, under the name, style and title aforesaid, shall have full power and authority to make, have and use a common seal, with such device and inscription as they may deem proper, and the same to alter and renew at their pleasure; and by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall be able in law and equity to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any Court or Courts, before any Judge or Justice of the Peace, in all manner of suits and complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands whatsoever, and all and every matter or thing

therein to do in as full and complete a manner, and as effectually, as any other person, or persons, bodies politic or corporate within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, may or can do.

X. The said Corporation, by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall have the right, power and authority to take, receive and hold in fee simple, or any less estate, all such messages, lots, lands, buildings, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises and hereditaments as may be necessary and proper for its purposes; and to sell, lease, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of the same or any part thereof; and it shall have the same right, power and authority to take, receive and hold, and to sell, lease or dispose of any and all kinds of personal property and money.

Witness our hands and seals this 12th day of November A. D. 1884: (Seven names follow)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania }
County of Allegheny } ss:

Before me, the subscriber, Recorder of Deeds of the County of Allegheny, personally appeared Charles T. Russell; Maria F. Russell and Jos. F. Smith, three of the subscribers to the above and foregoing certificate of incorporation of the Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society; and in due form of law acknowledged the same to be their act and deed. Witness my hand and official seal this 12th day of November, A. D. 1884.

WM. H. GRAHAM (Official Seal)
Recorder.

In the Court of Common Pleas, No. 1, of Allegheny County, September Term, 1884.

And now this 13th day of December, 1884, the within Charter and Certificate of Incorporation having been presented to me, a Law Judge of said County, accompanied by due proof of publication of the notice of this application as required by the Act of Assembly and rule of this Court in such case made and provided, I certify that I have examined and perused the said writing and have found the same to be in proper form and within the purposes named in the first class specified in Section Second of the Act of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of Certain Corporations" approved April 29th, 1874, and the supplements thereto, and the same appearing to be lawful and not injurious to the community, I do hereby on motion of Weir and Garrison, Attorneys for the within-named subscribers and their associates, order and direct that the said Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society aforesaid be and the same is hereby approved, and that upon the recording of the same and of this order the subscribers thereto and their associates shall be a Corporation by the name of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society for the purposes and upon the terms therein stated. F. H. COLLIER, *Associate Judge, etc.*,
Common Pleas No. 1, Allegheny Co., Penna.

From the Record.
J. O. BROWN (Court Seal)
Prothonotary.
Recorded Dec. 15th, 1884.

CHANGE OF TITLE OF THE SOCIETY

In re petition for change of name of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society to Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society } No. X September Term, 1896

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, No. 1, of Allegheny County:

The Petition of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, respectfully represents:

That it is an Association incorporated under the laws

of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by the Court of Common Pleas No. One (1) of said County, on the 13th day of December, 1884, for the purposes specified in Section Two (2) of its charter, which reads as follows:

II. The purposes for which the Corporation is formed is the dissemination of Bible Truths in various languages by means of the publication of tracts, pamphlets, papers, and other religious documents and by the use of all other lawful means which its Board of Directors, duly constituted, shall deem expedient for the furtherance of the purposes stated.

That said purpose is embraced within the Corporations of the first class, specified in Section Second, of an Act of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, entitled, "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of Certain Corporations," approved the 29th day of April, A. D. 1874.

That in pursuance of the provisions of the said Act of the General Assembly, the said association is desirous of changing the name, style and title by which it was incorporated, and at a meeting of the said Corporation duly convened, the following changes in the name, style and title as set forth in said charter was duly adopted:

That the name, style and title of said Corporation be changed from "Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society," to "Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society."

In Witness Whereof, the said Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society has hereunto affixed its corporate seal, attached by its President and Secretary, this 8th day of August, A. D. 1896. Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society,

CHARLES T. RUSSELL, (Corporate Seal)
President.

John K. Ewing

County of Allegheny } ss:
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania }

Be it remembered that on the 10th day of August, 1896, before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, personally came Charles T. Russell, President of said Corporation, and Maria F. Russell, Secretary of said Corporation, who, being duly affirmed, did say that they were personally present at the execution of the within petition and saw the common seal of said Corporation, Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, affixed thereto, and that said seal is the common and corporate seal, and that the foregoing petition was signed, sealed and duly delivered by, on and for the act and deed of said Corporation, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and that their signatures thereto are in their own proper handwriting, and that the facts set forth in said petition are correct and true as they verily believe.

CHARLES T. RUSSELL,
MARIA F. RUSSELL.

Affirmed and subscribed before me, the day and year aforesaid.

Witness my hand and notarial seal.
JOHN K. EWING (N. P. Seal)
Notary Public.

INTERLOCUTORY DECREE

And now, to wit, August 24th, 1896, the foregoing petition for change of the name, style and title of the charter of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, having been duly presented to this Court, in order that the same might be deemed and taken to be part of the charter of the said Corporation, and it appearing that such change in the name, style and title of said Corporation, is lawful and beneficial, and does not conflict with the requirements of the Act of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, entitled, "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of Certain Corporations," approved the 29th day of April, 1874, nor with the Constitution of this State, and proof having been produced to this Court, showing that notice of the foregoing application has been duly given to the Auditor General of the State of Pennsylvania, it is hereby ordered and decreed that notice of this application shall be given by publication in accordance with the statute in such case made and provided.

By the Court.

FINAL DECREE

And now, to wit September 19th, 1896, the within petition for the change of name of the within designated Corporation, having been presented to this Court, accompanied by due proof of publication of notice thereof, and no cause having been shown to the contrary, it is on motion of Charles W. Dahlinger, Esq., ordered and decreed that upon the recording of the name, that the name, style and title of "Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society" be changed to "Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society," and said change shall be deemed and taken to be part of the Charter of said Corporation.

BY THE COURT

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania } ss:
County of Allegheny }

Recorded on this 22d day of September, A. D., 1896, in the Recorder's Office of said County in Charter Book, Volume 22, page 415. Given under my hand and the seal of the said office, the day and year aforesaid.

(Signed) GEO. B. von SORNSHORST,
Recorder.

(Seal of the Recorder's Office,
Allegheny County, Pa.)

STATEMENT BY BROTHER RUSSELL

as set forth in the Booklet, "A Conspiracy Exposed and Harvest Siftings," April 25th, 1894,

IN RESPECT TO THE USEFULNESS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN THE EVENT OF HIS DEATH:

The Society was formed in 1881, at the time of the free distribution of 1,400,000 copies of the pamphlet, "Food for Thinking Christians"—now out of print. It consisted of five of the Lord's children, and its affairs were entirely in my charge. Later, 1884, at the instance of the friends of the cause, who advised that matters be put upon a legal footing so that the work might not be interrupted in case of my sudden death, the Society applied for a Charter under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, and received one dated December 13th, 1884. . . . The object in taking out a Charter is succinctly stated in The Watch Tower for January, 1891, page 16, as follows:

"This is a business association merely. It was chartered as a corporation by the State of Pennsylvania, and authorized to hold or dispose of property in its own name as though an individual. It has no creed or confession. . . . In fact, the only objects in having the corporation are:

First, to provide a channel or fund through which those who wish can employ their money talent, whether small or great, for better advantage for the spread of the Truth than if each interested one acted and published independently of the others. Secondly, the corporation was called for by reason of the uncertainty of the lives of those at present managing the fund. Some wrote that they were doing all that their present necessities permitted, but at their death desired to do more; and urged the necessity of a legal corporation, as Brother and Sister Russell also might die, and they wanted their donations to go to the spread of the Truth. . . . Having up to December 1st, 1893, thirty-seven hundred and five (3,705) voting shares, out of a total of sixty-three hundred and eighty-three (6,383) voting shares, Sister Russell and myself, of course, elect the officers, and thus control the Society; and this was fully understood by the Directors from the first. *Their usefulness, it was understood, would come to the front in the event of our death.*"

THE SOCIETY HAS EXCLUSIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT ASSOCIATION

On the removal of the Society's business and activities to the State of New York in the year 1909, the People's Pulpit Association was organized to be used by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in the transaction of its business at its new headquarters at Brooklyn, N. Y. In

order that all may clearly understand this matter, and in view of repeated threats to drop the name of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society and its Board of Directors and use only the People's Pulpit Association and its Board, contrary to our Pastor's purposes, we append the following explanation from our beloved Pastor as set forth in THE WATCH TOWER of Dec. 1, 1915, page 359:

"Question.—As to the name of the Association: Is it the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society or the International Bible Students' Association?

"Answer.—It is both. They are virtually the same thing. The International Bible Students' Association, the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society and the People's Pulpit Association are in many respects identical. Why have three names? For the same reason that there are in the various churches different Societies—the Home Missionary Society, the Christian Endeavor Society and the Epworth League etc., etc. Are they not all doing the same work and trying to help people to live a Christian life, etc.? Yes. Why have different Societies? For the reason that each has a different branch of the work to which to attend.

"So is it with us. The parent Association is the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, chartered under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania. Its purpose is to publish the Truth, to send forth missionaries, etc., etc. The property that was necessary to transact business, etc., was in its name; for no other was necessary in the State of Pennsylvania.

"When we moved here to New York, we were informed that the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society could not hold title to property here. We were told, 'You can do business in a personal way, but not as a Society. So if you want to do any business here, you must be chartered as an Association.' 'Very well, then,' we said, 'we will organize the People's Pulpit Association.' This is merely another name for the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, for New York business.

"Later on, in Great Britain, we were informed, 'Your American Charter does not count for anything here.' Consequently we took out a Charter there for the International Bible Students' Association. This reads practically the same as the Charter of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

"These three different Societies were made necessary by the law of different states and countries. For some things the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is the preferable name. It is the parent Society and the one to which contributions are made. Whoever makes a donation is expected, if he will, to make it in the name of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

"The People's Pulpit Association is the only one of the three that can do business here in New York, and the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society deals with the People's Pulpit Association as though they were two independent organizations. Nevertheless they are the same—just as with the different Societies of the nominal churches, which would have, perhaps, the same treasurer.

"Thus the whole management is by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, and these auxiliary organizations merely help in carrying on its work. We sometimes use one name and sometimes another, just as any one would have the right to use any names appropriate to his work. It is equally appropriate to say that we are the International Bible Students' Association. We are Bible students, and are helping Bible students in all parts of the world, by the printed page, by financial assistance and in other ways. It is also appropriate to use the name People's Pulpit Association in connection with persons who are engaged in preaching and are acting under guidance of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

"In other words, the People's Pulpit Association cannot transact business except through the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has the management, and the People's Pulpit Association does the work—absolutely.

"The International Bible Students' Association has no legal status except in Great Britain; the People's Pulpit Association has none except in New York State.

"We keep the 'Watch Tower' prominent in letter-heads, etc., so that the friends would not misunderstand us and think that the 'Watch Tower' has gone out of the work. We use one name or another, as would seem to be most convenient in the work. For instance, we now have on the title page of the Studies in the Scriptures the name International Bible Students' Association, instead of Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, as formerly. Here we have a distinctive name, different from others. There are Bible Teachers' Association, Tract Societies, etc., etc.; but here we have a name especially appropriate to put on our publications, because it represents exactly the thought which we desire to express."