

Transcriber Note: The following is a transcription from a photocopy of the handwritten constitution of The Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society of the Western Presbyterian Church, dated September 13, 1875. The photocopy was given to Betsy Lewis, church historian by church member, Norma Alsdorf. of the Constitution of the Female Bible Society of the Presbyterian Church from 1817. The original has not yet been located.

The Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society of the Palmyra Presbyterian Church -- Constitution

On the evening of the thirteenth of September 1875, a meeting of ladies in the Lecture Room of the Presbyterian church, was addressed by Mrs. Barret of Milwaukee on -"Woman's work for Woman" – Facts like the following were presented

"The women in India alone make up a fourteenth part of the human race. In China, there are one hundred and fifty millions of women. In the Turkish empire, the women are counted by millions, and all are alike mentally, morally, spiritually, and socially degraded. Christianity alone can elevate and save them. Woman only is allowed access to the homes of ? women, and nearly all missionary effort in their behalf must be carried on by her."

After Mrs. Barrett's address, a Society was organized with the following,

Constitution

1st This society shall be called,___ "The Ladies" Foreign missionary Society of the Palmyra Presbyterian Church,"___and shall be auxiliary to___"The Ladies' Board of Mission of the Presbyterian Church"___located in the city of New York.

2nd Its(?) object shall be to aid the general Society, in sustaining female Missionaries, - Bible Readers, - and Teachers, who shall labor among heathen women and children. For this purpose it shall aim to secure systematic contributions, and encourage missionary effort in our own church.

3rd Any person may become a member of this Society, by an annual contribution to its fund of a sum not less than one dollar. That while a person may donate at one time the amount she wishes to give;- yet, in accordance with the scriptured direction___"Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath ????? him"___we recommend a contribution every week of not less than two cents___the amount given to be handed in to the collector of each district once a month. While this sum constitutes membership, it is earnestly hoped that many, either from their abundance, or from the fruits of sacrifice, will uniformly exceed this, in their weekly contributions.

- 4th, Any person by the payment of twenty dollars at one time, or in annual instalments [sic] of not less than five dollars, may become a Life Member. Gentlemen may become honorary members of this society, by an annual donation to its funds of not less than one dollar.
- 5th, The regular meetings of the Society shall be held once in two months, five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 6th, The officers of this Society shall be a President, vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 7th, All donors are invited to join in the concert of prayer for our missionary work, to be observed during at least a part of the hour between five and six on Sabbath afternoons, either at church, or in their closets(?) at home.
- 8th, The formation of mission Bands and Circles among our young people and children shall be encouraged, in order to enlist their aid in this work, and to train them to self-denying efforts for the salvation of heathen woman and children.
- 9th, The Annual meetings of this Society shall be held the first week in October.

After the adoption of the above Constitution, the following officers were chosen,

President, Mrs. H. Eaton
Vice President, Mrs. Charles Kingman
Secretary, Mrs. Bailey Durfee
Treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Osborne

The Committee appointed met at Mrs. Kingman's, on Friday, Oct. 22d, 1875. It was decided that the Children in the Sabbath School should be formed into a Missionary Society, or band auxiliary to the Ladies' Society.

Each Teacher shall take charge of his, or her own class, passing the month by collections to the treasurer of the Ladies' Society.

The Teachers shall assist their class in preparing items of interest for general meeting, which shall be monthly, and do all they can to keep and foster a Missionary spirit.

If any of the classes shall choose to do fancy work or other work, the teachers are to plan and advise with the scholars.

