

(NORTH) PARMA PENTECOST BANDS

VIVIAN A. DAKE

Local Pentecost Bands

1st The object of these bands is to furnish an organized plan of cooperation for those interested in the success of our Pentecost work,

2nd Membership in any evangelical church shall be no bar to membership in our local bands.

3rd Local bands shall be named by the place where the band resides, instance: the first local Pentecost Band was organized at Hanover, Mich. Hence the local Pentecost Band of that place is Hanover "Local Pentecost Band."

4th The officers of local bands shall be a leader and asst.-leader who shall be nominated by the Commander or Divisional Commander and shall be elected by the local band by acclamation. The Commander of Divisional Comm. shall have power to change the leaders, at any time.

5th It shall be the duty of the leader to look after the spiritual state of members of his band, to visit, pray with, reprove, and instruct them and lead them all on to that "holiness" without which no man shall see the Lord. To hold Pentecost meetings where they do not interfere with the regular church in the divine life, and shall report the names of any that he has taken into the local band.

6th It shall be the duty of the assistant leader to, at all times, assist the leaders and to perform the duties of the leader in his absence or inability to do the same.

7th It shall be the duty of each person joining a local Pentecost Band at the time of the monthly praise meeting to make a free will offering of at least (six) cents, and more according to their ability, for the pushing forward of our Pentecost work and answer the following questions which shall be asked by the Commander, Divisional Com. or leader of regular bands and when neither of these is present by the leader of the local band and after organization shall be received by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Pentecost Band present:

continued

- 1st Have you the witness of sins forgiven?
- 2nd Have you experienced that *Death* to the carnal mind which by faith results in heart purity, if not, will you earnestly seek until you find?
- 3rd Do you believe in the doctrines and precepts taught by the Pentecost Bands? and will you live by them?
- 4th Do you love Pentecost Band work and will you with your influence your time and money aid in pushing it forward?

The local bands contemplated in the foregoing were organized into Free Methodist Chapel sometime in winter of 1886. Rev. A. (Owens) was appointed preacher in charge..."

The above is a transcription of an extant holograph document relating the organization of the Pentecost Bands on November 25, 1885 in Parma, Michigan. The original is on file in the Free Methodist Historical Society, Winona Lake, Indiana.

Words unclear or missing are indicated by () brackets.

Joe Culumber
October 7, 1977