

Figure 1:

**EARLY METHODIST SMALL FORMATIVE GROUP STRUCTURES:
THE CLASS, BAND, AND SELECT SOCIETY**

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Class Meeting</u>	<u>Band Meeting</u>	<u>Select Society</u>
Community Defined:	Rules	Rules	Rules
Essential Experience [and Theology]:	Desire for God [Convincing Grace]	New Birth [Justifying Grace]	Love of God [Sanctifying Grace]
Formational Focus:	Mind	Will	Heart or Affection
Music:	Beginning & end	Beginning & end	Beginning & end
Prayer:	By leader	Everyone can pray	Everyone can pray
Noetic Focus:	Finding the Way	Overcoming Sin	Love of Christ
Praxeological Context:	Outwardly obey the Three Rules	Inwardly practice the Means of Grace	Live in love and obedience
Affective Focus:	Desire for God	Repentance & forgiveness	Love of God and Neighbor
Meeting Place:	Neighborhood	Anywhere	Anywhere
Gender and Marital Status:	All Together	Gender and Marital Status Specific	All Together
Number of Members:	12 to 36	4 to 8	6 to 65
Leadership:	Appointed by the Wesleys	Shared	Shared
Expected Response:	Outward Obedience	Growth in Christian Discipleship	Love and Service/ Spiritual Leadership
Key Scripture:	Luke 11:9-13	James 5:16	Rom. 5:5

This table adapted from "*Heart Religion*" in *the Methodist Tradition and Related Movements*, ed. Richard B. Steele (Scarecrow Press, 2001) p. 46.