

CONFESSION OF FAITH,

AND

COVENANT

OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

IN

GEORGETOWN.

ANDOVER:

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1843.

THIS Church was gathered, Oct. 4, 1732, as the "Second Church in Rowley," consisting of eighteen members; and on the 18th of the same month, Rev. James Chandler was ordained Pastor. This office he sustained till his death, April 19th, 1789. On the 7th of June, 1797, after a vacancy of eight years, Rev. Isaac Braman was ordained Pastor, and still holds the office. On the 8th of December, 1842, Rev. Enoch Pond, Jr. was ordained Colleague Pastor; being one hundred and ten years from the institution of the Church.

The following Articles of Faith and Covenant were adopted by vote of the Church, Oct. 26th, 1840.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one God; of infinite perfection, the Creator of all things, and existing in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
2. We believe Jesus Christ to be both God and man, two distinct natures in one person.
3. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God to men, necessary to be received and obeyed by them.
4. We believe that God made man upright and happy.
5. We believe that our first parents by transgression fell from the innocent and happy state in which they were created, and that in the consequences of their apostasy all their posterity were involved.
6. We believe the depravity of man, as he is by nature, to be universal and entire.
7. We believe that Jesus Christ, by his obedience unto death, made atonement for sin, and opened a way, in which pardon and salvation may be consistently offered to our guilty race, and that they are freely offered to all who will repent of their sins and believe in Him.
8. We believe that all who become the obedient children of God are born again by the agency of the Holy Spirit, ordinarily in connexion with the use of means.
9. We believe that the children of God are justified freely by grace through faith in Christ.
10. We believe that all who really come to Christ

will be received and kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

11. We believe that all who come were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.

12. We believe that Baptism with water and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances instituted by Christ to be faithfully observed in his Church.

13. We believe that all men are under obligations to keep the commandments of God, so far as his commands are known to them, and that professing Christians especially are bound to adorn their profession, and commend religion by a holy life and conversation.

14. We believe that at the end of the world there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust; that all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that the righteous will be approved and the wicked condemned; the former will be admitted to a state of everlasting happiness and glory, the latter consigned to a state of misery without end.

COVENANT OF THE CHURCH.

BEING persuaded in matters of faith as above stated, we hereby solemnly covenant with the triune God, and with one another, in the manner following: We give ourselves and our offspring, if such we have, to the Lord Jehovah, to be His wholly and forever. We promise by the help of his grace to live to His glory and to seek the welfare of his kingdom in the world. We give ourselves to one another in the Lord, agreeing to walk together as a Church of Christ, promising to submit to the government and

discipline which shall be exercised in the Church according to the rules of the Gospel, and to watch over one another with christian affection. We will, as God shall enable us, be constant worshippers of Him in public, in our families, and in secret. We severally promise to consecrate our children and households to God, (if such are, or shall be granted us,) endeavoring to train them to His fear and service. We covenant with God and with one another that we will conscientiously and uniformly attend on the ordinance of the Lord's supper, and all the other institutions of the Gospel, together and in fellowship, while our life and health are continued; except we shall be removed from this place, or our connexion with this Church shall be regularly dissolved. We shall deem it our duty to be present as far as practicable at the stated and occasional weekly meetings of the Church for religious service—particularly at the Communion Lecture when one shall be appointed. We promise that we will carefully endeavor to avoid whatever would be likely to cause bitter contentions and divisions in the Church, and that we will study the things which make for the purity and peace of the Church, as becometh the disciples of the Prince of Peace. We will walk in fellowship with all other regular evangelical churches, and we will receive as members of our body from time to time such as shall desire it, provided they appear to be humble, obedient believers in Christ, and will give their assent to the Confession of Faith, and the Covenant we have adopted.

The Lord help us to be stedfast in this his covenant, guide us in the path of truth and righteousness, and finally receive us into his kingdom above, that we may enjoy his more immediate presence, and in union with the Church triumphant celebrate his praise forever. Amen.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

[Repeat the Confession of Faith, and then the Covenant in the following manner, to each of which the Candidate is to give assent.]

You do now publicly and solemnly give up yourself to the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son and Holy Ghost to be His wholly and forever. You promise, his grace assisting, to live to his glory, and to seek the welfare of his kingdom in the world. You agree to join yourself to this Christian Church, promising to submit to its government and discipline according to the rules of the gospel, and to watch over your brethren with christian affection. You will, as God shall enable you, be a constant worshipper of him in public together with this Church, and you will worship him in the family and in secret. You promise to consecrate your children and household to God, (if such are, or shall be granted you,) endeavoring to train them to his fear and service. You covenant with God and with his people, that you will conscientiously and uniformly attend on the ordinance of the Lord's supper, and all the other institutions of the Gospel, together and in fellowship with this Church, while your life and health are continued; except you shall be removed from this place, or your connexion with this Church shall be regularly dissolved. You will deem it your duty to be present, as far as practicable, at the stated and occasional weekly meetings of the Church for religious service, and particularly at the Communion Lecture, when one shall be appointed. You promise that you will carefully endeavor to avoid whatever would be likely to cause bitter contentions and divisions in the Church, and that you will study for the things which

make for the purity and peace of the Church, as becometh the disciples of the Prince of Peace. This you profess and engage.

[Ordinance of baptism now to be administered.]

In consequence of these professions and engagements, we the Church of Christ in this place, [here the members rise,] affectionately receive you as a member of our body, and acknowledge your right to all the privileges which we as a Church enjoy. We welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessings of the gospel, and engage on our part to watch over you in the Lord, and to seek your edification and growth in grace as long as we shall continue together in this sacred relation.

And now, beloved in the Lord, we pray you to consider that the vows of God are upon you, and will accompany you in all the walks of life. You have entered into a solemn covenant with God and with his people, which you are bound faithfully to keep. You cannot neglect the duties which you have now engaged to perform, nor withdraw from the watch and communion of the saints, without a breach of the covenant, and the bringing of peril to your soul. It is expected of you, that you will hold fast the profession of your faith without wavering—that you will endeavor to commend religion by a regular and holy life—and so approve yourself to God through Christ, that he will finally receive you to that blessed world, where holiness, peace and love forever reign.

PRESENT MEMBERS, JAN. 1843.

M A L E S .

Dea. Stephen Searle
Dea. Thomas Merrill
Caleb Jackson
Benjamin Merrill
William Stevens
Dea. John Platts
Nathan Phillips
Dea. Asa Nelson
Asa Bradstreet
Rev. Milton P. Braman
Asa Hardy
Jacob F. Jewett
Charles S. Tenney
Moses Merrill
Dea. Sylvanus Merrill
Phineas Merrill
William Varney
Daniel Conant
George J. Tenney
Jeremiah Russell, Esq.
John A. Lovering
Caleb Jackson, Jr.
Isaac Adams
Abel Spofford
Moses Carter
Charles H. Adams
Samuel Adams
Haskell Perley
Andrew Homer
Ralph Dole
Daniel Palmer
Jacob Searle

Richard Tenney
Nathaniel C. Moore
Charles Higley
Rev. John Bordman
George W. Chaplin
Sumner Spofford
Lewis Austin Merrill
Thomas A. Merrill
Jeremiah G. Scates
Luther P. Palmer
Edwin C. Spofford
Albert Carlton
Alison H. Palmer
James H. Trask
Stephen Searle, Jr.
Albert Grant
Luther P. Tidds
John M. Palmer
George W. Grant
Augustus M. Spofford
Thomas Dole
Joseph J. Currier
Edwin Carr
Paul Kent
E. P. Thompson
David C. Smith
Lewis H. Bateman
John Bias
John Bagley
Newman B. Hardy
Rev. Enoch Pond, Jr.