

RULES  
OF THE  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
GEORGETOWN:

Adopted February 15, 1849.



LAWRENCE:  
HAYES, PRINTER, COURIER OFFICE,  
1849.

# RULES.

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## I.—OFFICERS.

1. The permanent Officers of the Church shall be a Pastor, or Pastors, and Deacons. The annual Officers shall be a Scribe, and a Standing Committee of three, of which the Deacons shall constitute a part.

2. The Scribe, and one member of the Standing Committee, shall be chosen annually, at the annual meeting of the Church.

3. The Pastors shall be Moderators of all business meetings of the Church, except in cases of discipline, in which they shall be parties concerned. In the absence of the Pastors, the Deacons shall moderate, according to seniority.

4. The Senior Deacon shall act as Treasurer of the Church, take the charge of all its property, defray its necessary expenses, and, with the Pastors and other Deacon, shall be a committee to distribute its charities to

indigent members; and at each annual meeting shall give an account of the receipts and expenditures of the year preceding.

5. The Standing Committee shall be a Committee of Vigilance, and, with the Pastors, a committee for the examination of candidates for admission to the Church.

6. The Scribe shall keep a faithful record of the business transactions of the Church, a register of admissions, dismissions and deaths of members, and of all baptisms by the Pastors; and at each annual meeting this register shall be read to the Church; as also the names of all members, who have not complied with the Rules relating to the "withdrawal of members."

## II—MEETINGS.

1. The following shall be the stated meetings of the Church, which they consider it the duty of all its members to attend, according to their ability.

A Prayer meeting or Lecture, on Tuesday evening of each week. Missionary and Sabbath School Concert of Prayer, on the Sabbath evening preceding the first and second Mondays of each month.

Meetings for devotional purposes, and for the transaction of business, on the Thursday afternoon succeeding the second Monday of each month. The regular monthly meeting of January, shall be considered the annual meeting.

2. The Pastors, on in their absence, the Deacons, may call special meetings for business of which public notice shall be given on the Sabbath.



### III—RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

#### I BY PROFESSION.

Candidates may be examined, either by the Church at regular meetings, or by the Examining Committee; and if approved by the Church, shall be propounded at least two weeks before their public admission, except in extraordinary cases.

#### II BY LETTER.

Candidates, presenting regular Letters of dismissal and recommendation from sister Churches, shall be examined by the Examining Committee; and if approved, their names shall be presented to the Church for further action.

#### III FELLOWSHIP.

Members of other Evangelical Churches, in good and regular standing, shall be admitted to occasional communion. *This Church expects, however, that all such, who may wish to commune with them for more than one year, will within that time, apply for "Letters of transfer" to them, unless they shall give to the Standing Committee, satisfactory reasons for delay.*

### IV—WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP.

1. No member can leave this Church, except by Letter of transfer, or by Excommunication.

2. This Church will grant "Letters of transfer" to sister Churches, to members in good standing, upon their application in a regular way.

3. It shall be the duty of every member removing from

this town, to apply for "Letters of transfer" to some regular Church of Christ in or near his place of residence, within one year from the time of his removal, unless he shall give reasons, satisfactory to the Church, for not so doing.

4. This Church deems it irregular for its members to withdraw from them, and to unite in communion and worship with other Churches, either on account of any offence, or for better edification, without first requesting a dismission.

5. If any members residing in this town or vicinity, shall absent himself from Communion for more than six months, it shall be the duty of the Standing Committee to enquire into the cause of such delinquency, and if not satisfactory, to report the same to the Church.

#### V—DISCIPLINE.

1. Immoral or unchristian conduct, breach of express covenant vows, neglect of acknowledged religious or relative duties, and avowed disbelief of the Articles of Faith to which they have assented, shall be considered as offences demanding the discipline of the Church.

2. Personal offences, and minor offences which though not personal, are known to but one or a few individuals, must be adjusted according to the Rule of Christ in **MATT. 18: 12, 17.**

3. In gross and public offences, any member may bring a charge against the offender, before the Church:— or if general rumor be the only accuser, it shall be the duty of the Standing Committee, to take cognizance thereof, and, if they find evidence of guilt, to present the case to the Church.



4. Any member, who shall be accused before the Church, shall be duly notified in writing, of the charges against him, and entitled to a fair investigation, and an opportunity to make his defence.

5. The confession of an accused member, on the concurrent testimony of two creditable witnesses, or circumstantial evidence deemed equivalent by the Church, shall be considered sufficient for his conviction.

6. Every vote and sentence of Excommunication, shall be read before the whole Congregation, on the Sabbath next succeeding such Excommunication.