

**CONFESSIONS OF FAITH,
CREED, COVENANT,
CONSTITUTION, AND
NAMES OF MEMBERS
OF THE**

**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH,
GEORGETOWN, MASS.**

REV. WARREN FRANCIS LOW, PASTOR.

1903.

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.

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.

MALES.

Dea. Stephen Searle	Richard Tenney
Dea. Thomas Merrill	Nathaniel C. Moore
Caleb Jackson	Charles Higley
Benjamin Merrill	Rev. John Bordman
William Stevens	George W. Chaplin
Dea. John Platts	Sumner Spofford
Nathan Phillips	Lewis Austin Merrill
Dea. Asa Nelson	Thomas A. Merrill
Asa Bradstreet	Jeremiah G. Scates
Rev. Milton P. Braman	Luther P. Palmer
Asa Hardy	Edwin C. Spofford
Jacob F. Jewett	Albert Carlton
Charles S. Tenney	Alison H. Palmer
Moses Merrill	James H. Trask
Dea. Sylvanus Merrill	Stephen Searle, Jr.
Phinehas Merrill	Albert Grant
William Varney	Luther P. Tidds
Daniel Conant	John M. Palmer
George J. Tenney	George W. Grant
Jeremiah Russell, Esq.	Augustus M. Spofford
John A. Lovering	Thomas Dole
Caleb Jackson, Jr.	Joseph J. Currier
Isaac Adams	Edwin Carr
Abel Spofford	Paul Kent
Moses Carter	E. P. Thompson
Charles H. Adams	David C. Smith
Samuel Adams	Lewis H. Bateman
Haskell Perley	John Bias
Andrew Homer	John Bagley
Ralph Dole	Newman B. Hardy
Daniel Palmer	Rev. Enoch Pond, Jr.
Jacob Searle	

FEMALES.

Mehitable Burbank	Mary Homer
Elizabeth Dresser	Deborah P. Palmer
Hannah Jackson	Lucy M. Hardy
Betsy Stickney	Hannah Dole
Mary Dole	Lydia Phillips
Sally Spofford	Phebe Weston
Mary Hazen	Pamela Carlton
Elizabeth Pingree	Silena Bradstreet
Almira P. Carter	Susan N. Tenney
Mary T. Savary	Louiza Elliot
Martha P. Dole	Rebecca Moore
Hannah Parker	Charity Howe
Nabby Perley	Abigail Perley
Betsy Mighill	Lydia Pratt
Mary Spofford	Harriet N. Perley
Lydia Tyler	Hannah Nelson
Ruthy Nelson	Lucy F. Merrill
Elizabeth N. Tenney	Lucy Carter
Mary L. Merrill	Dorothy Searle
Sarah Pickett	Martha J. Merrill
Sally Peabody	Harriet B. Bordman
Sarah Jackson	Sarah Perley
Louiza Price	Ann M. Cross
Nancy Swett	Eunice D. Merrill
Lucy Conant	Mary Merrill
Sally Nelson	Martha L. Palmer
Silena Winter	Aphia Ann Merrill
Maria Varney	Dorcas D. Howard
Mehala Pickett	Aphia S. Tenney
Nabby Perkins	Sarah Hawley
Eliza Lovering	Sarah E. Carr
Rooxbe Lincoln	Susan R. H. Nelson
S. Jane Platts	Sally Adams
Abby H. Noyes	Olive Jane Pingree

Ann Jewett
Sarah Abigail Perley
Lucy T. Dole
Mary Searle
Almira D. Spofford
Sarah B. Coffin
Mary Hood
Harriet B. Tidds
Martha F. Palmer
Ruth Tidds
Eliza Dresser
Emeline Dole
Eliza Bagley
Olive Ann Currier

Cynthia Phillips
Sarah S. Searle
Abigail Spofford
Mary Tidds
Jane Maria Spofford
Louiza P. Smith
Mary W. Weller
Lucy Ann Spofford
Mary S. Bradstreet
Sarah N. Platts
Phebe Hood
Hannah White
Caroline B. Braman
Sarah B. Braman

This Covenant was first publicly consented to by eighteen men from the church in old Rowley, October 4, 1732, thus founding the first church in this town. The wives came after by letter. This Covenant was re-adopted March 28, 1864, and is now the one in use by the church.

The Church Covenant.

I. We do in some measure of sincerity this day give up ourselves and our offspring unto the Lord Jehovah, the One True and Living God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be his forever, promising by the help of grace to live unto and upon this God, hoping at length to live with Him forever.

II. We do likewise give up ourselves one to another in the Lord, engaging with Divine Aid as a Church of Christ, to submit to the discipline, order and government of Christ in his Church, and to submit to the guidance of such as are or shall be over us in the Lord, and that watch for our souls, and to watch over one another according to the rules of the Gospel so long as we shall continue in this relation to each other.

III. We promise also to admit to our communion such as shall desire to join themselves to us, if, by a profession of their faith and repentance

and unblamable walk and conversation, they may in charitable discretion be accounted qualified for it, and to walk in all regular and due communion with other churches of our Lord Jesus Christ, and cheerfully to support and observe the pure Gospel Institutions of our Lord Redeemer so far as He shall graciously reveal to us His will concerning them.

IV. We take the Word of God for our rule and resolve uprightly to study what is our duty and to endeavor to practice it, and wherein we fall short in the discharge of it, we will humbly betake ourselves for pardon to the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant, and that we may inviolably keep this Covenant forever, being sensible of our own impotency, we humbly implore that the help and grace of our Redeemer may be sufficient for us, entreating that He, being the great Shepherd of our souls, would lead us into the paths of truth and righteousness for His name's sake, and at last receive us all into His Heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed (altho' unworthy of a name in this place), apprehending ourselves to be called by God to embody ourselves into a distinct society for the better attendance upon the worship of God, according to the rules of His holy word, being persuaded in matters of Faith according to the Catechism of the Assembly of Divines, unto the substance of which we do submit.

SUBSCRIBERS

James Chandler	Will ^m Fisk	Sam ^l Herriman
Richard Boynton	Will ^m Searl	Will ^m Adams
John Adams	Thomas Burpe	Rich ^d Thurston
Thomas Phenner	Dan ^l Woodberry	Jeremiah Chaplin
Jon ^a Boynton	Jon ^a Thurston	Job Pingry
John Brocklebank	David Pearson	Ebenezer Burpe

This covenant the Rev. Mr. Hale of Byfield read over, with the names of the subscribers, and asked their consent to it, which they (who were all standing together whilst it was read) declared by ye most usual sign on such and like occasions, that of lifting up the hands; whereupon he declared that they were a Church of Christ, regularly constituted and founded according to Gospel Order.

The following is the creed of the church, adopted
July 11, 1877.

REV. CHARLES BEECHER,
Senior Pastor.

REV. ALFRED F. MARSH,
Junior Pastor.

ARTICLE I. We believe in God the Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost.

ARTICLE II. We believe the Scriptures of the
Old and the New Testaments to be the Word of
God to men, necessary to be received and obeyed
by them.

ARTICLE III. We believe in the depravity of
our entire race, a complete atonement by Christ,
as a result of which man is left free to accept or
reject salvation.

ARTICLE IV. We believe that all may be justi-
fied freely by grace through faith in Christ.

ARTICLE V. We believe that baptism and the
Lord's Supper are ordinances, instituted by Christ,
to be faithfully kept in His church.

ARTICLE VI. We believe in the resurrection
of the dead, a final judgment, and that the wicked
shall go away into everlasting punishment and the
righteous into life eternal.

Constitution of the Church.

PREAMBLE.

Believing that God has furnished the world in Jesus Christ a true and sufficient revelation of His relation to men, and the true conception of life, and the true principle of conduct, and that only by coming into sonship to God through Christ does man find a true salvation from his sinful and selfish life, we associate ourselves in a Christian church for the purpose of bringing men into divine sonship, and training them therein by exalting the person and work of Christ, enforcing His teachings and exemplifying His character and spirit. As means to these ends, we hold to the importance of public worship, the Christian sacraments, expounding of the Scriptures, religious and ethical instruction, the practical work of discipleship in the ways of personal helpfulness and social improvement.

ARTICLE I. This church shall be called the First Congregational Church of Georgetown.

ARTICLE II. We affirm our agreement with the doctrinal ideas and ecclesiastical polity generally accepted by Congregational churches. We design that the preaching of the pulpit and the instruction in the Bible school shall be in essential accord with the commonly accepted standards of faith, and in all important questions we shall seek the counsel of sister churches.

ARTICLE III. The requirements for membership in this church are: Satisfactory evidence of a response to the work of the Holy Spirit in turning the heart towards God, and moving it with aspirations for holy living, a sincere purpose to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, accepting Him as a divine ideal and Saviour; desiring to be guided by His Spirit, and a willingness to fellowship with His believers in the work of uplifting and redemption.

ARTICLE IV. The general management of the affairs of the church (except financial) and its essential work shall be determined by the members, and carried out through them and their appointed officers and committees; but others, who may be interested in any special work of the church, can become associated with the church, as members of auxiliary societies. These societies shall be under the supervision of committees appointed by the church.

ARTICLE V. Members twenty-one years of age and older are entitled to vote on matters of business, and ten such members shall constitute a quorum. Members may be dismissed, and delegates to conferences and councils appointed, at any stated meeting of the church without respect to a quorum.

ARTICLE VI. The annual meeting for the election of officers shall take place on the Friday evening next preceding the January communion.

ARTICLE VII. The weekly meeting next preceding each communion shall be a regular meeting

for the transaction of business, and the clerk may call a meeting for business at any time, at the request of the Standing Committee or five members.

ARTICLE VIII. The regular officers of this church shall be: A Pastor, who shall be settled by council, but whose term of service can be concluded at any time after three months by a vote of the church at a meeting duly notified; the Deacons, who shall serve for a term of three years; a Clerk; a Treasurer; a Superintendent of Bible School, who shall serve one year. Also, the following committees shall be appointed annually: Finance, Musical, Missionary, Social, Reception, Young People.

ARTICLE IX. The Pastor, Deacons, Clerk, Superintendent, and Committee on Young People shall constitute the Standing Committee, which shall have general charge of the interests and administration of the church. The elected officers, together with the heads of the different committees, shall constitute an Advisory Council.

ARTICLE X. The stated meetings of the church shall be: Divine worship on Sunday morning; such service for Sunday evening as the Standing Committee may determine; a meeting for prayer, conference, or religious instruction on Friday evening; communion the first Sunday of the odd months. Any of these meetings may be omitted or changed at the discretion of the Standing Committee.

Adopted April 24, 1896.

Members of First Congregational Church,

GEORGETOWN, MASS.

Adams, Almira (Mrs. J. Frank)
Adams, Mary M. (Mrs. Mighill)
Bailey, Addie (Mrs. J. E.)
Bailey, Mary G. (Mrs. Eben)
Bagley, Miss Isabelle O.
Bagley, Lydia A. (Mrs. John)
Blake, Ella K. (Mrs. Harold F.)
Brown, Mary A. (Mrs. Charles)
Brown, Sarah L. (Mrs. Walter V.)
Carleton, Miss Lena B.
Clark, Caroline P. (Mrs. Oscar T.)
* Clifton, Elizabeth M. (Mrs. Joseph)
Chaplin, Miss Mabel C.
* Colby, Caroline A. (Mrs. Joseph)
* Comins, Mary M. (Mrs. A. B.)
* Cressy, John P.
* Cressy, Ida P. (Mrs. John P.)
Daniels, Edwin S.
Daniels, Helen H. (Mrs. Edwin S.)
Daniels, Miss Mary G.
* Davis, Clarence
Everett, Fannie (Mrs. George)
Fairbanks, Miss Clara
Furva, Irene T. (Mrs. Tamatsu)
Gaskill, Miss Stella
* Goodwin, Miss Carrie
Hale, Mehitable (Mrs. John)
* Hale, Olinda P. (Mrs. Daniel)
* Harris, John E.
Haskell, Miss Annie M.

* The star signifies that the member at whose name it is placed is absent.

Henderson, James A.
Hobson, Caroline A. (Mrs. Eben)
Holmes, Charles
Holmes, Marietta F. (Mrs. Charles)
Holmes, Miss Helen A.
* Holmes, Howard F.
Holmes, C. Atherton
* Holt, Miss Lillian
Horner, Charlotte N. S. (Mrs. William)
Horner, Miss Sarah E.
Howe, Miss Harriet A.
Hoyt, Mary H. (Mrs. Horatio)
Hull, Ellen L. (Mrs. A. Baker)
Huntington, Miss Myra E.
Huse, Cora H. (Mrs. Ralph C.)
* Illsley, William H.
Jewett, Hannah (Mrs. Charles)
Jones, Miss Elizabeth N.
* Killam, Ubert A.
* Lingren, Augustus
* Lingren, Mabel T. (Mrs. Augustus)
Low, Rev. Warren F.
Low, Laura Burnham (Mrs. Warren F.)
Low, Miss Sarah A.
Mason, Mary C. (Mrs. Charles)
MacDonald, Theodore
MacDonald, Lizzie F. (Mrs. Theodore)
Merrill, Byron J.
Merrill, Jane (Mrs. Byron)
Merrill, George W.
Merrill, Margaret (Mrs. George W.)
Merrill, Eunice (Mrs. Phinehas)
Merrill, Mary L. (Mrs. Moses)
* Messenger, Percy H.
Mighill, Martha A. (Mrs. George)

Millett, Amos J.
 Millett, Lucy C. (Mrs. Amos J.)
 Nason, Edward A.
 Nason, Sarah (Mrs. Edward)
 Nelson, Rebecca H. (Mrs. Humphrey)
 Noyes, Alice C. (Mrs. H. Howard)
 * Noyes, G. Harold
 Noyes, Mary Beecher (Mrs. George W.)
 * Peabody, Susan L. E.
 * Perley, Almira C. (Mrs. Luther D.)
 * Perley, Hattie S. (Mrs. Sidney)
 Pierce, Lizzie S. (Mrs. Nathaniel)
 * Pillsbury, Miss Grace G.
 Pillsbury, Louisa (Mrs. Enoch)
 Pillsbury, Richmond
 Pingree, Sarah S. (Mrs. John W.)
 Poor, Anna S. (Mrs. George B.)
 Poor, Charles P.
 Poor, Cora B. (Mrs. Henry)
 Poor, Harriet P. (Mrs. Clarence)
 Poor, Syrena (Mrs. Abel)
 * Plummer, George A.
 Plummer, Maria W. (Mrs. Josiah)
 Plummer, Miss Rosamond A.
 * Ross, Miss Belle
 Ross, Jane (Mrs. Hugh)
 Robinson, Miss Elizabeth
 Scribner, Hannah (Mrs. James)
 Sherburne, Edna E. (Mrs. William)
 * Smith, Annie P. (Mrs. Charles)
 Smith, Margaret M. (Mrs. David C.)
 Spofford, Daniel W.
 Spofford, Miss Ellen W.
 Spofford, Sarah P. (Mrs. George M.)
 * Stocker, Arthur B.

- * Tilton, Maud F. (Mrs. A. B.)
Tyler, Miss Carolyn
- * Tyler, Miss Ellen S.
- * Tyler, George G.
Tyler, George P.
Tyler, Irene S. (Mrs. George P.)
- * Tyler, Miss Mary K.
Tyler, Roxbe C. (Mrs. Caleb G.)
Warren, Miss May
- * Weld, Esther N. (Mrs. Octavius)
White, Annie H. (Mrs. Sherburne K.)
Wilder, Miss Hattie G.
Wilder, Mary B. (Mrs. Green)
- * Young, Charles W.