

The Church Book
of the
Church of Christ
Cottage St.
Dorchester
Mass.U.S.

Organized Nov. 2nd, 1862

At a Meeting of Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ convened at the house of the Rev. Edmund Squire of Dorchester Mass. on the evening of the Second of November A.D. 1862 for the purpose of organizing themselves into a church of Christ. Rev'd Edmund Squire President, Frank *Wallen* Callender Scribe, the following resolutions were moved, seconded and unanimously voted. Whereupon

W.P. Callender, [jr or sr?]

Leonard Bowker

Flavel A Mosely

were *severally* nominated by the President & unanimously voted Deacons of this Church, the Rev'd E. Squire giving the charge to each, as he entered into his holy office.

After this, W.P. Callender was unanimously chosen Treasurer of this church, and

Wm P. Callender, [jr or sr?]

Flavel A. Mosely

Leonard Bowker

John H. Bird

were unanimously chosen a standing committee of this church to serve one year from the date of their election.

The meeting was one of unusual Solemnity and was opened and closed by prayer from the Pastor.

Four pages of paper (eight sides) removed

Church of Christ
Cottage Street
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Resolved,

That we the undersigned, believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and depending on Him alone for the pardon of our sins, and everlasting Life, have of late been much impressed with the evils of Sectarianism in His church.

Resolved,

That the existence of different Sects in the Church of Christ, called by different names, and separating themselves into distinct religious organisations, is contrary to the plain teachings of God's word, which exhort us "all to speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions amongst us, but that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgement."

Resolved,

That the inspired Apostle Paul, when his converts manifested this Spirit, warmly rebuked it in these solemn words, "Now every one of you Saith I am Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas and I of Christ; is Christ divided, was Paul crucified for you?"

Resolved,

That this sectarianism so universal at the present day, emanating as it does from the peculiar opinion of

Man and not from the Eternal Spirit of God in Christ, is naturally Selfish and not loving, and is therefore more prone to care for itself and for its own Church, than for the Saviour and the Spread of His universal Kingdom; hence rivalry and jealous rather than union and Love.

Resolved,

That this Spirit not only divides the Church herself, but weakens her in her warfare against Sin and the world, thus giving occasion to her enemies to speak evil of her.

Resolved,

Therefore that in view of this great evil, which is fostered and perpetuated by the human names by which the Sects are called, we, two or three met together in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God do hereby form ourselves into an unsectarian Church of Christ to be called by no other name but

_____ a Church of our Lord Jesus Christ _____

Resolved,

That the faith, mode of admission, government and discipline of this church shall be framed exclusively on the Model of the New Testament Churches, thus taking for our guide, not the traditions of man, which pass away, but the word of God which abideth forever.

Resolved,

That in the New Testament a hearty faith on the Lord Jesus

Christ, is held forth as the only and all-Sufficient requisite for Salvation to the Sinner. "God so loved the world that he sent his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." "He that believeth in me hat everlasting life" "whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of Sins" "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" "Through this man is preached unto you, forgiveness of Sins" "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son, cleanseth us from all our Sin." All these declarations of God's word, and others too numerous to be recorded, point with unerring finger to that "Lamb of God, who taketh away the Sin of the world." A sincere and hearty faith, therefore, in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world, as it is in the only creed and confession of faith of the New Testament, so is it the only creed and confession of faith of this church of Christ.

Resolved,

That in the formation of the first church, on the day of Pentecost, after Peter had preached the Gospel, it is written, "Then they that gladly receive his word, were baptised, and the same day were added unto them about three thousand Souls." Again when the Ethiopian eunuch asked Philip if he may be baptised, (that is received into the church,) Philip replied, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." Again, when at midnight Paul's jailor believed, "he took him in the same hour of the night and baptised him

and all his straitway.” So in this church, whenever a sinner heartily believes in and confesses the Lord Jesus Christ, he shall be baptised, he and all his straitway, and be received into the church with joy.

Resolved,

That the Lord says, “Whoso confesses me before men, him will I confess before the angels of God.” Therefore, the new convert, who is to be received into the church, shall stand up before all the church, and in reply to the question of the Pastor, Dost thou believe in the Son of God with all thine heart? Shall with a clear and audible voice say heartily\y, “I do.” The minister shall then baptise him, if he has not previously been baptised, and welcome him heartily into the fellowship of the church; all the believers standing to signify their welcome also; the Pastor shall then administer to him, in company with the church, the comfortable communion of that Lord, whose wounded body, and whose precious blood shall save him everlastingly, if he continue in the faith, and after the communion, each member of the church shall seek to his love & joy personally to the New Convert, because “ he that was dead is alive again, he that was lost is found.

Resolved,

That as the Lord has left no special command, as to the times for the administering the Supper, but has only said, “as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show forth the Lord's death until he comes,” that it is

expedient to administer it on the first Sabbath of every month.

Resolved,

That as both under the old and New Testament dispensations the children of believers as regarded as inheritors of the blessings of faith, into which inheritance they shall surely enter, if they do not sell their birthright. That therefore children of believers in this church of Christ shall be baptised in sign of their adoption into the church, shall be regarded with tender affection as nurselings of this Church, as such shall be watched over, trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, protected, taught in the faith and they themselves heartily believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, shall be received by Confession into the communion of the Lord, and into the full fellowship of the church.

Resolved,

That in Case any member of this church should be so unhappy as to lapse into known, habitual and willful Sin, to the scandal of the church and the condemnation of his own soul, "they who are spiritual shall first endeavor to restore such an one in the Spirit of Meekness, if perchance they may gain that brother" but if he will not hear them, then must he be expelled from the church that so she may be pure before all me; but if that brother shall afterwards heartily repent of his sin, then he shall no longer be counted as an enemy, but be joyfully received back

again, as the Father welcomes the prodigal home.

Resolved,

That the Lord says, “A new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another as I have loved you” “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another.” Love then is the beginning and the end of the church for which Christ died. A professed believer without love is no believer at all. This is the end of the faith and the fulfilling of the law, for Love *wiseth* no ill to his neighbour. A man who loves his brother keeps all the commandments, for God himself is Love. Therefore let the whole spirit and action of this church be Love; love to one another as fellow believers, to all Mankind as brethren, and even to those who love us not, as Christ died for his enemies. Let coldness and Selfishness and want of genial affection one to another be looked upon as a high Sin, and sign of relapse into the unregenerate state and especially let us “remember the *pow'r*” Let us never forget that then only can we show ourselves really converted to Christ, when we have passed out of our natural selfishness into His Love.

Resolved,

That to this end we continue in prayer that God's Holy Spirit who alone can give us this love may descend on this church and pour out upon it *His* grace, for without it, this church founded as it is on the Rock of Ages, Will be to us only a Condemnation.

Resolved,

That the apostles “ordained elders in every church,” that it is their high office and privilege to aid the pastor, as much as in them lies, in the work and fellowship of the gospel; to be “overseers of the Church of God which he has purchased with his blood” to especially delight in bringing Souls to Christ; to guide the temporal affairs of the church with discretion, to be “examples of the flock, who will esteem them very highly in love for their works Sake,” and “when the Chief Bishop shall appear he shall give them a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

Resolved,

That we the undersigned, heartily believing in these principles on which this church is founded, being those of the New Testament, having, as we trust come to Christ as the only Saviour of Sinners, and having entered into his Church, in the faith & Manner he has Himself ordained, do hereby Solemnly promise that we will strive by the help of Almighty God, given to those who pray for it, to live according to the principles and faith of this church, to continue in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ and especially to love one another, as he gave us commandment.”

Resolved,

That the following form of admission into this Church of Christ shall be always observed.

Question, Dost thou believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God with all thy heart? Dost thou henceforth receive

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[thy righteousness by faith, thine eternal salvation, thine *Alltona*]
Him as the Atonement for thy Sins, thy justification with God, thy “wisdom and righteousness and Sanctification and redemption.” thy “All in all”?

Answer I do

Question,

Wilt thou henceforth strive by God's help to live in love with all Men, even with those who love you not, and wilt thou especially love the members of this church, even as Christ has loved you and has given himself for you?

Answer I will

