

S P285.8.10 E-172

ARTICLES

OF

FAITH AND COVENANT

ADOPTED BY

The First Congregational Church,

IN

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK,

A. D., 1853.

ORGANIZED A. D., 1844.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

PRINTED BY GEORGE W. DAY, MARKET STREET.

1859.

ARTICLES

OF

FAITH AND COVENANT

ADOPTED BY

The First Congregational Church,

IN

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK,

A. D., 1858.

ORGANIZED A. D., 1844.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

PRINTED BY GEORGE W. DAY, MARKET STREET.

1859.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

“We believe that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the Universe ; a Being of perfect and adorable attributes.

“That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only perfect and sufficient rule of faith and practice.

“That the Godhead is revealed in the Scriptures as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ; and that these three, equal in all divine attributes, are one God.

“That God’s eternal purposes respect all actual events ; that in forming and executing them, he takes counsel only of himself, and that the principles and administration of his government, are holy, just, and good.

“That man was originally holy ; but that, by sinning against God, he fell from that state, and that, in consequence of the fall, all mankind are by nature entirely destitute of holiness, and disposed to sin.

“That Jesus Christ, by his humiliation, sufferings, and death, has made an Atonement sufficient for the redemption of all mankind ; and that pardon and eternal life are through him, freely offered to all.

“That Repentance and Faith in Christ are the only conditions on which any can avail themselves of the offers thus graciously made ; and that all, while left to themselves, do refuse to comply with these conditions.

“That the Holy Spirit, by his regenerating energies, doth influence some to comply with these conditions ; and that those whom he renews are ‘kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation.’

“We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a day of judgment ; when all mankind are to receive a sentence of retribution, according to what they have done ; and that the righteous will then enter into life, and the wicked will go away into punishment, both of which will be without end.

“Moreover, we believe that in this world the Lord Jesus Christ has a visible Church, the terms of admission to which are a public profession of faith in Christ, sustained by credible evidence. That Baptism and the Lord’s supper are ordinances to be observed in the Church to the end of the world ; that none but members of the

visible Church, in regular standing, should partake of the Lord's Supper, and that only they and their households are proper subjects for the ordinance of Baptism."

COVENANT.

You do now, in humble dependence on the Divine Spirit, whose help is promised to all who seek it, publicly consecrate yourself to the worship and service of Jehovah—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—sincerely giving up yourself to Him to be His forever; and you covenant and promise to obey the commands and walk in the ordinances of the gospel, to submit yourself to the government of this Church, and to love and watch over its members as brethren, to attend its worship, to uphold its discipline, and to promote its purity, peace, and prosperity.

Thus you covenant with this church. (The members of the church rise and covenant.)

We then, the members of this church, cordially receive you into its membership; we promise to love and watch over you, and in christian fidelity to seek your advancement in the life of Him whose name we bear.

To us and to you this should be a day to be remembered with gratitude for that mercy and grace in Jesus Christ in which we trust, and for which we bless the Lord. Let us remember that God has heard our vows and covenant; and that the record and the results will be manifested at the great day of his appearing.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance, upon you and give you peace. Amen.

PRINCIPLES AND RULES.

This church is independent as relates to its organization and the regulation of its affairs. It is amenable to no other ecclesiastical body except by its own consent.

It will extend to other christian churches that fellowship which the law of Christ requires.

The permanent officers of the church are the Pastor and Deacons.

Persons seeking to become members of this church must be examined, as to their faith and life, by a committee appointed by the church.

Upon recommendation by said committee, the candidates may, by vote of the church, be propounded for admission publicly, one fortnight before any regular communion service ; and on said communion day, having assented to the articles of faith and covenant, may, by vote of the church, be admitted into full communion.

Persons may be received from other christian churches bringing letters of dismission and recommendation ; the church reserving to itself the right of examining such applicants as regards their faith and life.

Members of this church can become non-members alone by transfer to other christian churches ; or by excommunication ; or by removal by death.

Members of this church moving from the city are required, within one year, to remove their relation to another christian church, if expedient, and if not, the church is to be informed of the difficulty in the way of said action.

This church considers immoral conduct, breach of express covenant vows, neglect of religious or relative duties, and avowed disbelief of its articles of faith, as offences deserving the censure of the church.

This church deems the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage a practice opposed to the spirit and will of Christ and accordingly to be considered an offence deserving the censure of the church.

The censures inflicted on offenders are private reproof, public admonition, suspension from church privileges or excommunication, according to the nature of the offence.

No change shall be made in these principles and rules, unless at a regular meeting of the church, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided always that when any alteration is contemplated, notice shall be given at a stated or regular meeting at least two weeks previous.

PASTORS.

Rev. J. C. Gallaway,	1843.
“ C. Mackay,	1848.
“ H. G. Storer, (Acting Pastor,)	1856.
“ G. Schofield,	1857.
“ J. B. Thornton, (Act'g Pastor,)	1858.

DEACONS.

Alfred Smithers,	1844.
Robert Davidson,	1845.
William Barlow,	1847.
John B. Sulis,	1847.
Joseph Robinson,	1854.
William Lash,	1854.
James Horsefall,	1855.
William B. Frost,	1855.
William Thomson,	1855.
*William K. Reynolds,	1858.
*Thomas B. Barker,	1858.

* Deacons at the present time.

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

1844.	*Augusta Muir,
*James C. Gallaway,	*Maria L. Barr,
*Sarah Gallaway,	*Thomas G. Barr,
*Alfred Smithers,	*Maria Robinson,
*James Woodley,	*George Fleming,
*Janet Kinnear,	*Philip Craig,
Ann Barr,	*Emily Cody,
*Janet Crybie,	*William Halse,
*Hannah Short,	*Nancy Halse,
*Rebecca Bache,	*Barbara Fleming.
*Elizabeth Farley,	
Elizabeth Ritchie,	1845.
*Caroline Mackay,	*Robert Davidson,
*Mary Case,	*Sarah Davidson,
*Deborah Smithers,	*Mary Heneberry,
*Maria Copeland,	*Elizabeth Flagg,

* Non-members by decease or removal.

John B. Sulis,
 Alicia Sulis,
 *Joseph Robinson,
 *Mary A. Robinson,
 *Robert Comber,
 *William Barlow,
 Mary Barlow,
 *Mary Barr,
 *Alexander Robertson,
 William B. Frost.

1846.

*Elizabeth Scott,
 William K. Reynolds,
 Elizabeth Ellis,
 *Joseph Pickard,
 *Robert Lawton,
 *Catherine Copeland,
 *Deborah Galloway,
 *Philip Craig.
 *Sarah A. Garrison.

1847.

Margaret Blizzard,
 *George Ritchie,
 Jane Judge,
 *William H. A. Keans,
 *John Black,
 Mary A. H. Locke,
 *Mary E. Lawton,
 Mrs. Frost.

1848.

*Catherine Boyle,
 *Charles Mackay,
 *Mary Mackay,
 *Ann Wade,
 *James Hebden,
 *Robert Bennett,
 Mary Chase,
 *James McMillan,
 *Rachel McMillan.

1849.

*Mary Jane Sulis,
 *Margaret Wilson,

Richard Thompson,
 Elizabeth Thompson,
 *James Horsefall,
 *Mrs. James Horsefall.

1850.

*William Lash,
 *Margaret Lash,
 *Mrs. John Lash,
 *Elizabeth Clark,
 *Alice Lee.

1851.

*Margaret Stickney,
 *John Harris,
 Ruth Hawes,
 *James Couchman.

1852.

Henrietta Robinson,
 *Lucy Hamilton.

1853.

Elizabeth Foster,
 *Caroline Williams,
 *Mrs. Forrest,
 Mary Brannen,
 *Andrew Johnston.

1854.

*Alfred Harris,
 *Cecila Harris,
 Isaac Burpee.

1855.

*Mrs. Wilson,
 William Thomson,
 Caroline K. Thomson,
 Susanna B. Long,
 Thomas B. Barker,
 Rebecca E. Barker,
 *Miss Massey.

1856.

William Goodman,
 *Mary A. Goodman.

1857.

Margaret Rowan,
 Elizabeth Stickney,

Mary A. Allan,
 Jane Chubb,
 *Maria Schofield,
 Alexander Kay,
 *Mary Gregor,
 Thomas H. Clapp,
 Sarah Rubins,
 *Charles F. Smithers,
 *Mrs. C. F. Smithers,
 Emma J. Frost.

1858.

Clara J. Small,
 Margaret Blizzard,
 *Harriet M. Hennigar,
 Caroline M. Reynolds,
 Lucy Burns,

Eleanor A. White,
 Samuel L. Stickney,
 Mary A. Stickney,

1859.

Sarah Ritchie,
 Mary Leavitt,
 Eliza Phips,
 Maria V. Hennigar,
 Harriet S. Hennigar,
 Wm. Hartshorne,
 Caroline M. Hartshorne,
 Abby L. Adams,
 Ruth Wade,
 Henry Leavitt,
 Rachel Wynds,
 Mrs. George Wilson.