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HISTORY,

CONFESSIO OF FAITH, COVENANTS,

AND

STANDING RULES,

OF THE

Center Church, Fair Haven, Ct.

TOGETHER WITH A

CATALOGUE OF ITS OFFICERS, MEMBERS,

AND BAPTIZED CHILDREN,

TO JANUARY 1, 1856.

THE PROPERTY OF THE
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE,

W. B. LEE, PASTOR.

NEW HAVEN:

T. J. STAFFORD, PRINTER.

1856.
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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

JANUARY 1, 1901

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1900

ALBANY: J.B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PRINTERS.

NEW YORK

STATE OF NEW YORK

1901

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

THE CENTER CHURCH of Fair Haven was organized on May 3d, 1853, by an Ecclesiastical Council, consisting of the following members :

Rev. EDWARD HOOKER, D. D., *East Windsor,*

“ LYMAN H. ATWATER, D. D., *Fairfield,*

“ D. WILLIAM HAVENS, *East Haven,*

“ BURDETT HART, *Fair Haven,*

“ E. L. CLEAVELAND, D. D., *New Haven,*

“ N. HEWITT, D. D., *Bridgeport,*

together with Delegates from the Churches of which the above were Pastors ; and Deac. J. Russel, Delegate from the Church in Branford.

There were thirty-eight members of the Church at its organization, who had taken letters, in regular form, from The Second Congregational Church in Fair Haven, in order to establish a Church upon the basis of a thoroughly Calvinistic or Pauline Theology.

The first meeting, for public worship, of the above mentioned thirty-eight, with the congregation accompanying them, was at Granniss Hall, on the first Sabbath in April, 1853. On the second Sabbath in the same month, they met in Walworth Hall, on Grand

street, where Public Worship was regularly maintained until their Church edifice was completed and dedicated, Sept. 6th, 1854.

On Aug. 9th, 1853, Rev. W. B. LEE was Ordained and Installed as Pastor of The Center Church, by a Council consisting of eleven Pastors, with Delegates from their several Churches, and eleven other Clergymen, who were invited to sit as corresponding members. The Services on the occasion of the Installation, were opened with Prayer by Rev. LYMAN H. ATWATER, D. D.

Sermon by Rev. BENNETT TYLER, D. D.

Ordaining Prayer, by Rev. NATHANIEL HEWIT, D. D.

Charge to the Pastor, by Rev. T. P. GILLETT.

Right Hand of Fellowship, by Rev. E. L. CLEVELAND, D. D.

Charge to the People, by Rev. E. W. HOOKER, D. D.

Concluding Prayer, by Rev. C. A. G. BRIGHAM.

Benediction by the PASTOR.

It has pleased the Lord graciously to be present with us by His Spirit ; and, giving all the praise and glory to His marvelous grace, we believe that we can, in truth, joyfully and gratefully make the record : " The Lord added unto the Church such as should be saved."

W. B. LEE, *Pastor.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

I. You believe in the one only living and true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; who is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, power, knowledge, presence, wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness and truth; that it is the duty of all His intelligent creatures to serve and to worship Him in spirit and in truth; that He created all things; that He preserves and governs all His creatures, and overrules all their actions for His own Glory; and that in whatsoever comes to pass, He is accomplishing His eternal purposes, according to the Council of His own will, in such a way that man is a free agent and accountable for all his actions.

II. You believe that God created man upright; that our first parents freely sinned and fell, and that all mankind in a state of nature, and before regeneration by the Spirit of God, are dead in trespasses and sins, without holiness and true love to God, and are justly exposed to all the miseries of this life and to the pains of hell forever.

III. You believe that God in His mercy has not left all mankind to perish forever, but out of His mere good pleasure, has, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life; and that He has covenanted to deliver them from sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.

IV. You believe that the only Redeemer of men is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is very God and very man; that taking upon Him our nature, He freely suffered and died on the cross, making atonement for sin; that He arose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, where He ever liveth to make intercession for His people; that "there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved," and that all who are saved are justified through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

V. You believe that without a change of heart wrought in the unregenerate, by the special agency of the Holy Spirit, who is very God, no one can be an heir of eternal life, and that the soul which is once made partaker of renewing and saving grace will never be permitted so to fall away as finally to perish.

VI. You believe that adoption, repentance, justification, sanctification and perseverance, are not bestowed as the reward of any merit in him who receives them, but all flow from the free and unmerited Grace of God.

VII. You believe that there will be a general resur-

rection of the righteous and the wicked, and a general judgment, at which all the righteous will be admitted to everlasting happiness and all the wicked sentenced to misery without end.

VIII. You believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the Sacraments of the New Testament, and that Baptism is to be administered to adults upon their public confession of faith in Christ, and to the children of visible believers.

IX. You believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God, and are the sufficient and only rule of faith and practice.

Thus you sincerely profess and believe.

COVENANT.

You do now, in the presence of God, and of this assembly, and, as you hope, with sincerity, dedicate yourself to God in Christ Jesus, humbly confessing and repenting of your sins.

You do publicly acknowledge and choose the only living and true God, to be your God, the Lord Jesus, your Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, your Sanctifier.

You covenant and promise that by the strength of Divine Grace, you will make it your endeavor to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world, hoping that you have a love of benevolence toward all mankind, and intending to do good as you have opportunity, especially to those of the household of faith.

You do also covenant with this Church, that so long as you continue a member of the same, you will walk with it in Christian fellowship; and in a due attendance on all the institutions of Christ.

Thus in the presence of God, you solemnly covenant and promise.

(Upon assent by the candidate, here expressed, the Church rises, while in their name and behalf, the Pastor says :)

We then, in consequence of these professions and promises on your part, do affectionately receive you as members of this Church—and in the name of Christ, declare you entitled to all its visible privileges. We welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessings of the Gospel—and on our part engage according to the opportunity and ability given unto us, to treat you with Christian affection, watch over you with tenderness, and seek your edification in Christ, so long as you shall continue among us. And may God enable us to be mutually faithful to this solemn covenant, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory forever—Amen.

COVENANT,

TO BE USED AT THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN.

As a member (or members) of the Church of Christ, professing faith in the doctrines of His word, and recognizing His right to you and all you have, you do now present yourself (or yourselves) before the Lord, to dedicate this child (or these children) to God in the ordinance of Baptism. Looking upon this child as an immortal being, (or upon these children as immortal beings,) standing in need of the atoning and regenerating grace of God, you engage to make the salvation of its soul (or their souls) an object of the deepest interest. You will seek for it (or them) first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. To this end you promise to teach this child (or these children) to read the Word of God, to instruct it (or them) in the principles of our holy religion, as revealed in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, to pray for it, (or them,) to set an example of piety and godliness before it, (or them,) and conscientiously endeavor by all the means of divine appointment, to bring up this child (or these children) in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You also engage, both by precept and example, to re-

strain this child (or these children) from those scenes or employments which are injurious to the soul; and you promise to pursue that course of Christian instruction and discipline, which your conscience and the Bible assure you are best adapted to awaken a just conception for eternal realities, and to bring this child (or these children) to an early and saving acquaintance with the Lord Jesus Christ, and prepare it (or them) for an endless career of holiness and happiness.

Relying upon the sufficiency of Divine Grace to make you faithful and to crown your efforts with success, these things you solemnly promise in the presence of the Omniscient God and this Church to perform?

STANDING RULES.

I. MEMBERSHIP.

Persons are admitted to membership either on profession of Faith, or on Certificate from other Churches. In the former case they shall be approved by the Standing Committee, as giving, upon examination, credible evidence of Christian character; and having stood propounded to the Church, a month, they may be received as members by a vote of the brethren; after which they shall give their public assent to the Confession of Faith and Church Covenant.

II.

Persons bringing letters of dismissal and recommendation from other Churches, and satisfying the Standing Committee of their soundness in the faith and Christian experience, may be received by a vote of the Brotherhood, provided the question on their reception be not taken until a month after their testimonials have been read before the Church. When received, they shall publicly assent to that part of the Covenant, commencing with the words, "You do covenant with this Church."

III. NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS.

Non-resident members are required to apply for letters of dismission and recommendation to other Churches within the first year of their absence, or notify the Officers of the Church of their reasons for not doing so. A failure to comply with this rule will be considered, in all ordinary cases, as a breach of the Covenant, subjecting the party to the discipline of the Church.

IV. MEMBERS OF OTHER CHURCHES.

Members of other Churches who reside with us more than one year, without presenting letters from the Churches to which they belong, shall not be considered as invited to our Communion, except by a special vote of the Church.

V. DISMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Application for dismission from this Church must be accompanied with a statement of the reasons for such request, which statement may be put on record as a part of the minutes in the case, and the application shall lie one month before ultimate action thereon—except in special cases, where instant action seems very desirable, and evidence of its importance is presented which is satisfactory to two thirds of the members present, so much of this rule as obliges to a delay of one month, may be suspended for the occasion.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee consists of the Pastor and Deacons, and not less than three nor more than five other members of the Church, chosen at the Annual Meeting.

The powers and duties of this Committee are as follows :

1. They are to examine candidates for admission into the Church, and propound such as they approve, to the brotherhood.

2. They are to investigate all cases of public scandal in this Church, which may be brought to their knowledge; and in cases of private offense, when the steps prescribed in Matthew xviii, have first been taken, complaint may be made to this Committee, instead of the Church. *Provided*, however, that all parties shall have liberty to bring their cause directly before the Church, if they prefer that course.

3. The Committee are to investigate the facts pertaining to every case which comes before them, and report the same to the Church, with their opinion as to the proper course to be taken.

4. This Committee is empowered to summon before them all members of this Church accused of any offense, to examine them, and give them such Christian counsel, as in their judgment the case requires.

5. This Committee shall, at the Annual Meeting, present a written Report, respecting the history and general state of the Church during the year.

To prevent misapprehension, this Church deems it proper to declare, that the great object of this Committee is simply to prepare matters of business for the hearing and action of the Brotherhood; and that it leaves in full force the obligations of individual Church members to watch over and admonish one another.

VII. SABBATH SCHOOL.

1. The Sabbath School shall be under the direction and care of the Church; its rules shall be prescribed and its Officers chosen by the Church, with the consent and approbation of the teachers.

2. The Officers of the School shall be a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent and a Librarian, who shall be annually elected. The Superintendent shall make an Annual Report to the Church of its history and condition.

3. A Committee, consisting of three, chosen annually, is charged with the duty of coöperating with the Superintendents and Teachers, by advice and assistance in all matters pertaining to the Library, the course of study, and the general interests of the School.

VIII. LIBRARY.

1. The Church Library is to be held as the sole property of the Church, for the use of the whole congregation. It is to be strictly religious in its character. No person (the Pastor excepted) is allowed to draw or retain more than one volume at a time.

2. The Library Committee consists of three, including the Pastor, and chosen at the pleasure of the Church.

It is empowered to make all purchases, to determine what books shall be received, and to appoint the Librarian.

IX. MODERATOR.

At all Business Meetings of the Church, when the Pastor is absent, the oldest Deacon present shall preside. If no Deacon be present, then a Moderator shall be chosen in the usual manner.

X. ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of this Church shall be held immediately after the Preparatory Lecture antecedent to the first Communion of the New Year.

XI. SPECIAL MEETINGS.

It shall be the duty of the Pastor, or, in his absence, of one of the Deacons, to call a Meeting of the Church

at the written request of one fourth of the resident male members in regular standing.

XII. ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

No alterations or amendments shall be made in the Confession of Faith and Covenant of this Church, unless the same shall have been proposed in writing, a month previous, and is agreed to, by two thirds of the members present in a meeting of the Church especially warned for that purpose.

The Standing Rules may be altered by a majority of votes, after a month's written notice.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

I. Preaching the Word, Prayer and Praise, Morning and Afternoon, every Sabbath Day.

II. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated in the Afternoon of the first Sabbath in January, March, May, July, September and November.

III. A Sermon, preparatory to the Lord's Supper, is preached on the Friday Evening preceding the Communion season.

IV. Expository Preaching, or Religious Lecture, on Tuesday Evening of each week.

V. Monthly Concert of Prayer on the Sabbath Evening preceding the first Monday of each month.

VI. A weekly Prayer Meeting on Friday Evening.

VII. Sabbath School Instruction in the interval of Public Worship, on each Sabbath Day.

VIII. Religious conversation with the Pastor in his Study, at any time desired.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH, 1855.

PASTOR,
W. B. LEE.

DEACONS,
HARVEY ROWE, AUGUSTUS Y. CONKLING.

STANDING COMMITTEE,
W. B. LEE, WILLIS BARNES,
HARVEY ROWE, WILLIS MALLORY,
A. Y. CONKLING, JARED MALLORY.

CATALOGUE OF MEMBERS TO JAN. 1, 1856.

A.

Adams, Wm. B. (L.) Sept. 1853.
Adams, Mary Ann, (Wm. B.) (L.) Sept. 1853.
Ames, Sarah A. (Wm.) (L.) May, 1853.

B.

Baldwin, Cornelia, (Geo. H.) (P.) March, 1854.
Baldwin, George W. (L.) May, 1853.
Baldwin, Polly Cecilia, (G. W.) (P.) May, 1854.
Barnes, Willis, (L.) Sept. 1853.
Barnes, Lavinia, (Willis,) (L.) Sept. 1853.
Barnes, Maria E. (Willis S.) (L.) Oct. 1853.

Bradley, Solomon, (L.) May, 1853.

Bradley, Lois, (Wd. Zebulon,) (L.) May, 1853.

C.

Clark, Charlotte A. (Wd. Henry H.) (L.) May, 1853.

Conkling, Deac. A. Y. (L.) May, 1853.

Conkling, Amoret R. (A. Y.) (L.) May, 1853.

E.

Eldridge, Clarissa, (Capt. Elbert,) (L.) May, 1854.

Ellis, Lydia E. (Capt. Obed,) (P.) May, 1855.

F.

Farren, John, (L.) May, 1853.

Farren, Betsey, (Capt. Wm.) (L.) May, 1853.

Farren, Statira, (Capt. Eli,) (L.) Sept. 1853.

Farren, Flavia P. (Capt. Merit,) (L.) March, 1854.

Farren, Julia Ann Janet, (P.) July, 1854.

G.

Gaylord, Gilbert, (L.) May, 1853. (Ds.)

Gaylord, Parnell, (Gilbert,) (L.) May, 1853. (Ds.)

Gillum, Mary, (L.) May, 1853.

Granniss, Hannah, (Wd. Alva,) (L.) May, 1854.

Griswold, Samuel, (L.) Jan. 1855.

H.

Hopkins, Harriett, (Elmore,) (P.) March, 1854.

J.

Jones, Moses, (P.) Jan. 1855.

K.

- Keep, Lester, M. D., (P.) March, 1854.
 Keep, Lavinia C. B. (Lester,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Keep, Harriette E. (P.) March, 1854.
 King, Sarah B. (Charles,) (L.) Sept. 1853.

L.

- Lee, Elizabeth Payson, (W. B.) (L.) Jan. 1855.
 Lewis, Capt. John, (L.) May, 1853.
 Lewis, Harriette, (Capt. John,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Lewis, Cornelia A. (P.) March, 1854.
 Leete, Hannah W. (mar'd R. W. Benton,) (L.) May, 1853.
 (Ds.)
 Leete, Anna, (Wd. Amos,) (L.) May, 1853. (D.)
 Linsley, Eliza, (Wm.) (P.) Sept. 1853.
 Linsley, Amelia, (Alfred,) (L.) Oct. 1853.
 Linsley, Julia M. (L.) Oct. 1853.
 Linsley, Harriett Maria, (P.) May, 1854.
 Lyon, Mary R. (Chas. B.) (L.) Sept. 1853.

M.

- Mallory, Jared, (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Mary H. (Jared,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Willis, (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Betsey R. (Willis,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Hannah R. (mar'd J. P. Seeley,) (P.) March, 1854.
 Mallory, James, (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Sally, (James,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Henry, (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Sarah E. (Henry,) (L.) May, 1853.

- Mallory, Eliada B. (P.) March, 1854.
 Mallory, Charlotte C. (E. B.) (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Mary Birge, (Jas. F.) (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Willard, (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Elizabeth, (Willard,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Mallory, Maria Melvina, (Jesse,) (P.) March, 1854.
 Morley, Isaac, (L.) May, 1853.
 Morley, Laura, (Isaac,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Monroe, Elizabeth, (Wd. Edmond H.) (L.) May, 1853.

P.

- Parker, Harriett, (Wd. Charles,) (P.) May, 1854.
 Peck, Lucretia, (Wm. A.) (L.) Nov. 1855.

R.

- Rowe, Deac. Harvey, (L.) May, 1853.
 Rowe, Wealthy, (Deac. H.) (L.) May, 1853.
 Rowe, Betsey, (Wd. Ezra,) (L.) May, 1853.
 Rowe, Ann L. (Wd. Lewis,) (L.) Sept, 1853.
 Rowe, John H. (L.) Sept. 1853.
 Rowe, Harriett, (J. H.) (L.) Sept. 1853.
 Rowe, Ellen N. (P.) March, 1854.
 Rowe, Ezra C. (L.) May, 1854.
 Rowe, Francis Jane, (E. C.) (L.) May, 1854.
 Rowe, Mary Jane, (P.) Nov. 1854.
 Rice, Joel Tuttle, (P.) July, 1854.
 Rose, Alvan B. (L.) May, 1853.
 Rose, Ruth L. (A. B.) (L.) May, 1853.

S.

- Seeley, James Platt, (P.) July, 1854.
 Sizer, Mehetable, (Wd. Lot,) (L.) Sept. 1853. (D.)

Smith, Ann Eliza, (Henry F.) (P.) Nov. 1854.

Stedman, Stephen Foot, (L.) July, 1854.

Stetson, Capt. John, (L.) May, 1854.

Stetson, Harriett, (Capt. J.) (L.) May, 1854.

T.

Thompson, Ruel, (P.) July, 1855.

Thompson, Eliza, (Ruel,) (P.) July, 1855.

Tuttle, Capt. Hezekiah, (L.) May, 1853.

Tuttle, Nancy, (Capt. H.) (L.) May, 1853.

W.

Wade, Julian J. F. (P.) March, 1854.

Wade, Maria Louisa, (Julian,) March, 1854.

Woodhouse, Charlotte, (Capt. James,) (L.) May, 1853.

Works, Prudence, (Alfred J.) (P.) March, 1855.

Total Number of Members, 90.

Propounded—Eliza Jane Peck.

EXPLANATION.

(L.) Signifies, joined this Church by *Letter* from another Church.

(P.) *Profession* of Faith.

(Ds.) Regularly *Dismissed* and recommended to some other Church.

(D.) *Died*.

(Wd.) *Widow*.

The Name in parenthesis, in connection with the name of a Married female or a Widow, is the name of *the husband* of such female.

The *Dates* denote the time of admission to this Church.

Catalogue of the Baptized Children of the Church,

Not yet giving Evidence of their Personal Faith in Christ.

Wm. Wirt Adams,
Edward Payson Adams,
Willis S. Barnes,
Augustus B. Barnes,
Lavinia S. Barnes,
Mary A. C. Barnes,
David B. B. Barnes,
George Merwin Baldwin,
Rodney Bradley,
Charlotte Bradley,
Albert Bradley,
Elizabeth R. Bradley,
William Bradley,
Nancy Eldridge,
Timothy R. Ellis,
Willis Henry Farren,
Ann Eliza Farren,
Roswell Bradley Farren,
Dennis Barnes Farren,
Mary Griswold,
J. Lester Keep,
Samuel Hopkins Keep,
Edward Trumbull Lee,
Grace Elizabeth Lewis,
John Fred'k. Lewis,
Rockwell A. Linsley,
Geraldine Linsley,
Fanny V. Lyon,
John Jarvis Lyon,
Willis E. Mallory,
James F. Mallory,
Lester P. Mallory,
Henry Lee Mallory,
Dwight D. Mallory,
Jeremiah Mallory,
Emma Maria Mallory,
Mary Mallory,
Willis F. Monroe,
Charles W. Monroe,
Caroline D. Peck,
Wm. A. Peck,
George L. Peck,

Sherman S. Peck,
Nancy A. Peck,
James H. Peck,
Emma L. Peck,
Clara M. Peck,
Frances E. Rowe,
Harriet E. Rowe,
Samuel Rose,
Orton Rose,
Sarah Rose,
Emma Rose,
Ella Rose,
Willet Rowe,
Albert Rowe,
Harriet A. Rowe,
John M. Rowe,
Mary A. F. Rowe (Luddington),
Henry B. Rowe,
Justin B. Rowe,
Wm. Sherman Rowe,
H. E. Stetson, (McDonough),
Elbert B. Stetson,
Charles M. Stetson,
Fanny Niven Stetson,
Mary Cornelia Stetson,
Charlotte M. Tuttle. (Barnes),
Almira N. Tuttle, (Townsend),
Hezekiah Tuttle,
Horace L. Tuttle,
George E. Tuttle,
John G. Tuttle,
Reumah Thompson, (Pedrick),
Reuel Thompson,
Lucy Thompson,
Marcia Thompson,
Saml. Elmore Wade,
James A. Works,
Winfield Works,
Mary Louisa Works,
William Bradley Woodhouse.

Total Number, 82

