

Preliminary Statement.

As an organized body, humbly believing ourselves to be a church of Jesus Christ, we acknowledge the teachings of Christ and his apostles as our supreme authority for doctrine, conduct, organization and practice. In accordance with this declaration we believe it to be our duty as a church, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and with the aid of all such sources of information as God in his providence has opened to us, to set forth what in our judgment are the moral precepts in which a church should covenant to live, the principal doctrines of God's word, and the rules of order and discipline by which it should be governed in the transaction of business. We therefore publish in this Manual: I, Our Covenant. II. Our Declaration of Faith. III. Our Rules of Organization, Discipline and Order.

The Church Covenant.

Having been brought by divine grace to receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, we do now covenant, in humble dependence on His gracious aid;

That we will make it the business of our lives to glorify His holy name;

That we will study His word and commune with Him in prayer;

That we will walk lovingly together in the fellowship of the church as members of Christ's body, laboring for its purity and peace, respecting its authority and submitting to its discipline;

That we will deny ungodly and worldly lusts, and seek to commend our holy religion by a constant regard for justice, mercy, temperance and godliness.

That we will endeavor to bring up all who are under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and to win our kindred and acquaintances to Christ;

That we will do good according to our ability to all men, by deeds of Christian charity and especially by preaching the gospel to every creature in all the world.

The Pauline Benediction.

Declaration of Faith.

The following articles are not to be regarded as infallible statements of Christian doctrine. They set forth, so far as is possible in so brief a space, what we commonly believe to be the teachings of the Bible concerning the great subjects of which they treat. Their chief value is as an aid to Christian instruction.

I. The Bible. We believe that the Bible is a volume of Sacred Scriptures, in which the true doctrine of God and eternal life by Jesus Christ is made known.

II. The True God. We believe in one God, Jehovah, Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth, revealed in the Bible as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

III. The Lost Estate of Man. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that by his own free choice he became a sinner, and that all men are now sinful in disposition and conduct and therefore justly subject to eternal death.

IV. The Saviour of Man. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Word of God made flesh, the only Begotten Son of God, the Messiah of prophecy, who came into the world to reveal God to men, for their redemption from sin.

V. The Atonement. We believe that the suffering and death of Christ were a propitiatory sacrifice for sin, to show the righteousness of God, that man might be freed from the guilt and power of sin, and that the gifts of grace might be bestowed upon him.

VI. The New Birth. We believe that every man, in order to be saved, must be born again: that the new birth is a change of heart, or disposition, from selfishness to the love of God, wrought by the Holy Spirit, by means of the truth, in the hearts of those who sincerely and earnestly seek after God, and is proved to be genuine by a life of obedience to the precepts of the gospel.

Declaration of Sentiments

The following articles are to be regarded as unfulfilled, duties
of Christian doctrine. They are to be regarded as a
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II. The second. The second is the duty of the Christian to be
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III. The third. The third is the duty of the Christian to be
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VII. The seventh. The seventh is the duty of the Christian to be
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VIII. The eighth. The eighth is the duty of the Christian to be
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VII. The Developing Life. We believe that God of his own grace and on the grounds of the propitiatory work of Christ treats the repentant sinner as if he were righteous and by the Spirit through the truth brings him to a holy life.

VIII. The Divine Election. We believe that all, in whom the new life has been begun, fostered and developed, are personally chosen and will be kept by the power of God unto ^{in Christ} salvation, according to the gracious purpose of God, to glorify his only Begotten Son in the salvation of men.

IX. We believe in the Holy Catholic Church, as the entire company of persons in heaven and earth of whom Christ is the living and only Head. We also believe that a Christian Church is a society of believers in Christ, baptized on profession of personal faith in his name, organized according to the teaching of his word, and maintaining his ordinances for the sanctification of his people, and the conversion of the world.

X. The Symbolic Ordinances. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion, or burial, in water of a believer in Christ, and that the Lord's Supper is the use of bread and the fruit of the vine, as symbols of the body and blood of Christ, in commemoration of the death of Christ for the remission of sins.

XI. The Lord's Day. We believe that the first day of the week should be observed by Christians as the Lord's day, in commemoration of his resurrection, and as a Christian Sabbath.

XII. The Last Things. We believe in the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment of all men, the eternal blessedness of the righteous, and the eternal punishment of the incorrigibly wicked.

My dear Dr. Harper,

(44)

Low

Examine, criticize, condemn
or commend the enclosed material
for a new church manual of the
Hydr Park Church. Also answer
the question: "Can we dispense with
Articles of Faith, declaring in a brief
statement our allegiance to the
Bible, as founded in the light of all
that we know of God in nature, history
and man?"

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Low.

Oct. 31, 92 -



High School of Hager

Examiner, Critique, etc.

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for a new church, founded by the

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Article of Faith, account a brief

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Notes, published in the light of all

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Oct 31 1892

Chicago, December 7, 1906.

Dear Sir:-

As one of the members of the Hyde Park Baptist Church who were invited to a preliminary meeting of friends of the late Dr. William R. Harper, you will be interested to know that thirty men met at dinner in the University Commons last night to consider the desirability of placing in the church building some form of memorial to him. With unanimity of sentiment it was decided after free discussion that some sort of memorial was demanded because of his peculiar relationship to the church, that this memorial should be provided at once, and that a committee should be appointed to have charge of the securing of the necessary funds and to consider what should be the character of the memorial.

Further conference was followed by a resolution that the undertaking should represent an outlay of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000. Toward the first named figure pledges were made to the amount of \$650.00 in subscriptions of \$50.00, \$25.00 and \$10.00. An additional sum of \$250.00 was pledged in the event of the outlay amounting to \$2,000.

It was thought desirable before putting the matter before the membership as a whole that opportunity should be given those who were invited to attend the meeting but were unable to be present to add their pledges. If you feel disposed to join the movement it will be much appreciated if you will indicate to the committee your desires before Sunday evening next in order that as large an amount as possible may be secured before public notice is given. In view of the

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alternative propositions considered please indicate your wishes regarding the total amount to be expended and your subscription, if you feel inclined to make one, on the \$1,000 basis or the \$2,000 one. It is understood that the amount pledged is to be paid in by April 1, 1907.

The committee regrets that you were unable to be present at the meeting which was marked by expressions of sincere appreciation of the life of a man who did so much in shaping the policy of the church and made such a substantial contribution to its future in his work for the Sunday School.

Yours sincerely,

ERNEST D. BURTON,

CHARLES A. MARSH,

FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON,

FRANCIS W. PARKER,

MRS. SHAILER MATHEWS,

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KENNETH D. BURTON,

CHARLES A. WYNN,

FRANCIS W. BERTHARDSON,

FRANCIS W. PARKER,

MRS. SHARLES MATTHEWS,

Committee.