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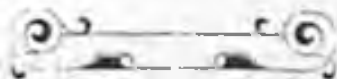
Beulah Pentecostal Church,

OF

HOPEWELL JUNCTION,

NEW YORK.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. :
PENTECOSTAL PRINTING CO.
1901.



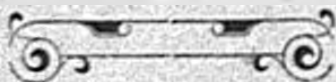
Organized January 5, 1897.

Incorporated December 31, 1898.



IN DOCTRINE: Wesleyan; or Governmental Armenianism.

IN ORGANIZATION AND POLITY: Independent and Congregational.



DEFINITION OF CHURCH.

A Church is a body of believers who have united themselves together, by a public profession of the Christian religion, and by mutual covenant, to pray together and watch over one another in love; to maintain the worship and service of God and the ordinances and discipline of the Gospel.

Such a company of believers possess all the power which the Lord Jesus Christ has given to his church, and is warranted in exercising, in his name, the authority which he has given in the Scripture for the maintenance of its peace, order and prosperity.

The church has a right in and of itself to choose and appoint its own pastor and such other officers as it may deem necessary in order to its due organization and for its spiritual improvement.

Acknowledging the foregoing as embodying the general principles of church organization and government, we therefore, whose names are enrolled as members, do now unite in the covenant to be known as the Beulah Pentecostal Church of Hopewell Junction, New York.

OUR COVENANT.

[To be read at the reception of members, and before the hand of fellowship is given; the congregation standing.]

As we believe we have received, through divine grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, and have given ourselves wholly to him, and on profession of our faith do now unite ourselves to his Church, we do now solemnly and joyfully, in the presence of God, angels and men, covenant with each other, and by the assistance of the Holy Ghost, engage—

That we will walk together with brotherly love, exercising a Christian care and watchfulness over each other with true affection, rejoice with those who rejoice, and with tender sympathy, bear one another's burdens and sorrows.

That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together at the communion, the preaching services, the prayer meeting, and other appointed meetings, but seek and pray for the spirituality, harmony and prosperity of this Church, and give all its claims a sacred pre-eminence over all organizations of human origin.

That we will cheerfully contribute of our means, as God has prospered us, for the support of a faithful evangelical ministry among us; for the relief of the poor; and for the spreading of the Gospel over the earth.

That we will maintain private and family devotions, religiously educate the children who may be committed to our care, and, in purity of heart, newness of life and good will toward all men, seek to honor God, win souls to Christ, and hold fast our profession till he shall come and receive us unto himself.

[The minister shall then ask: "Relying on the grace of God, do you thus covenant and promise?" It is expected that all will respond: "By the grace of God, I do."]

BAPTISMAL COVENANT.

Do you believe in the doctrines of the Bible as they are stated in the Confession of Faith of this Church?

Ans. I do.

Will you now submit to the government of Christ in his Church and to acquiesce cheerfully to such rules and regulations as may be adopted for the welfare of the whole Church, always endeavoring to promote charity, unity, purity and love among the entire membership?

Ans. I will.

Will you now covenant to attend the worship of God, and the ordinances of the Gospel with this Church, and to contribute to its support regularly and freely of your means, according to your ability, so long as you are (a) member(s) of it, and God continues you in this place?

Ans. I will.

[Then shall the pastor say in the act of baptism: Brother —— (or Sister ——), because of your confession of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, I now baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.]

[Then shall the following hymn be sung]:

As we believe we have received, through divine grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, and have given ourselves wholly to him, and on profession of our faith do now unite ourselves to his Church, we do now solemnly and joyfully, in the presence of God, angels and men, covenant with each other, and by the assistance of the Holy Ghost, engage—

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[Then shall the following hymn be sung]:

Jesus, thine all victorious love,
 Shed in my heart abroad;
 Then shall my feet no longer rove,
 Rooted and fixed in God.

CHORUS.

O Spirit of faith and love,
 Come in our midst to-day,
 And purify each waiting heart;
 Baptize us with fire, we pray.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

ADDRESS TO CANDIDATE.

Beloved: In the presence of Almighty God, and this congregation, you now appear to make a profession of your religious experience, to enter into covenant with this Church and to offer yourself a living sacrifice to the Lord Jesus Christ. By partaking of these memorials (the Lord's Supper), in obedience to the commands of Christ, you acknowledge and commemorate his death on the cross as the only ground for your pardon, sanctification and eternal life. You may, therefore, declare your faith and purpose by giving your assent to the following questions:

Do you wholly renounce the service of Satan, the vain glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them, and to yield yourself to God in constant obedience to all the divine commandments?

Ans. I do.

Has God for Jesus' sake forgiven all your sins?

Ans. He has.

Do you now engage to receive in love the pure doctrines of the Gospel as they are taught in the Holy Scriptures, and promise to earnestly and prayerfully look to God for full deliverance from all sin, so that you may serve him in holiness and righteousness all the days of your life?

Ans. I do.

RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH.

We rejoice in the blessings of divine grace, vouchsafed unto you, through which you have been thus delivered from your sins and enabled to publicly assume these obligations of the Gospel. As you have made this solemn covenant this day, before the Lord, we cordially receive you into our midst, and welcome you to the fellowship of the Church of God. Beloved, henceforth you are to be of our number, to share with us in the labors and blessings of the Gospel. May God grant that you may be (a) faithful member(s) of the Church on the earth all the days of your life, that when the day of your departure shall come, you may be received into fellowship with the Church in Heaven, and fully realize the glory of your "inheritance among them which are sanctified."

PRAYER.

HAND OF FELLOWSHIP.

STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. This Church shall be known by the name of Beulah Pentecostal Church of Hopewell Junction, New York.

2. No person shall become pastor of this church by ordination or installation without previously becoming a member of it.

3. The terms of membership shall be a satisfactory evidence of conversion, a public profession of faith in Christ and an agreement with the Church in its articles of faith and covenant.

4. All members received into the Church by letter, must subscribe to the Covenant of the Church.

5. Persons who have been members of other churches, but who have, in consequence of peculiar circumstances, been unable to obtain regular letters of dismission, may be received by vote of the Church.

6. All applications for membership by letter or otherwise, shall be made to the pastor, elders or deacons previous to their reference to the Church for action.

7. Those desiring to unite with the Church on the profession of their faith, shall be assigned to one of the classes by the Standing Committee, where they shall continue six months on trial with all the privileges of members, except the right to hold office and vote in business meetings; at the end of that time, they may, if they are approved as suitable

candidates, unite with the Church in full membership, according to the adopted form of admission.

8. A member wishing to unite with some other church may be given a letter of commendation, if in good standing, and the relations of the member with this Church shall cease.

9. Requests for dismissal must be announced in writing to the pastor, or elders or deacons, and they must submit the same to the Standing Committee for consideration. If they deem proper, the request shall be brought before the Church for final decision by a majority vote of the members.

10. The object of discipline is the recovery of offending members, the removal of scandals and the purification and edification of the Church, and it is the duty of the members of the Church to deal kindly with their brethren concerning many minor offenses which ought not to be brought before the Church.

11. In cases of some extraordinary offense, and where the Church may suffer by delay, direct and summary discipline may be used; in all ordinary cases, however, the process of discipline shall carefully conform to the rule Christ has given (Matt. 18: 15-18), and members with offenses shall be held innocent until found guilty.

12. Manifest violation of some moral precept found in the Scriptures; of some covenant vow; the profession of opinions opposed to or subversive of the Confession of Faith, or any part of it, the neglecting family prayer; wilful absence from the

means of grace; devoting any part of the Sabbath to purposes of unnecessary work or worldly pleasure; the refusing to contribute toward the support of the Church; the sale or use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; the attending any institution, association or place which would encourage the vicious and operate against the good name of the Church are grounds for Christian admonition and discipline.

13. Every member shall contribute his or her proper quota towards the support of public worship. This rule is understood as opposed, on Scriptural and spiritual grounds, to all entertainments, sociables, suppers, etc., for raising money for the support or enlargement of the Church of Christ. The raising of revenue for Christ's cause can, and must, depend on the unmercantile, free and loving offerings of the people.

14. The office of the Pastor shall be to faithfully preach and expound the Word of God; to take the general superintendence of the Church; to prevent, as far as possible, all schisms and divisions; to be instant in season and out of season, and to exercise a wise authority and gracious discretion in building up the cause of Christ.

15. In Church trials no personal witness shall be received from outside of the Church membership.

16. No charge shall receive attention if brought against a member of this Church by any one who is not a member, and if any member of the Church brings a charge against another member, the Stand-

ing Committee must decide, if said member bringing the charge be in good and regular standing, before the said charge shall receive attention.

17. A charge brought against any member of this Church, deemed by the Standing Committee worthy of attention, shall be brought to trial in not less than twelve or more than twenty days, and disposed of by a majority vote of the membership present.

18. The number of Elders shall be regulated by the needs of the Church and the advice of the pastor. It shall be their duty to exhort, to teach, and do the work of an evangelist. They shall also serve at the Lord's table, visit and comfort the sick, and strengthen and assist the pastor in his labors.

19. The number of Deacons shall be regulated by the exigencies of the Church. It shall be their duty to take care of the temporalities of the Church, acting in the capacity of Trustees of the same. One of their number shall be treasurer, who shall be designated by the Church at its annual meeting. He shall keep a true and fair book of accounts, and shall report at the annual meeting, and as often as requested by the Church. The term of service of the Deacons shall be controlled by the expressed wish of the Church.

20. There shall also be a Clerk elected at the annual meeting, who shall keep a faithful record of all the proceedings and decisions of the Church, and take charge of all the records, and keep a register of all its members.

21. The regular meetings of the Church for business shall be held quarterly. Other meetings for business may be called for by the pastor, as the case may require. But the meeting house shall not be used except for the worship of God and the transaction of business concerning Christ's kingdom. The annual meeting of the Church shall be held the first Friday in March, at which time all vacant offices shall be filled. Any office becoming vacant in the interim shall be filled temporarily by the pastor: the one appointed shall serve until his successor is elected by the Church at the next annual meeting.

22. The decision of all questions that shall come before the Church for consideration, except as otherwise provided, shall be made upon the majority vote of those present. In the matter of the appointment or dismissal of a pastor, the question shall be considered and approved by the Standing Committee before it shall be deemed proper business for Church consideration.

23. A member shall be considered in good and regular standing only as he shall bear practical witness to the Articles of Faith of the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.

24. No alteration shall be made in the Confession, Covenant, Sunday School Constitution, Standing Rules, or rules relating to the duties of officers, and committees except by a vote of three-fourths of the members of the Church, such alteration having been approved by the Standing Committee, and public

notice of the proposed change having been given from the pulpit for three Sabbaths preceding such action.

25. The Church edifice shall be opened statedly on each Lord's Day, and at such times during the week as may seem profitable for the Church and Pastor, when it shall be the duty of every member to be present unless providentially prevented.

26. The class leaders shall be appointed by the pastor, dependent on the advice of the Standing Committee subject to the will of the class.

27. No member of the Church can, or shall, continue to hold office unless in good and regular standing, so considered by the Standing Committee.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Church shall be a Pastor, a Clerk and a Treasurer, also Deacons and Elders, a Sabbath School Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Every officer of this Church shall be elected by ballot, their names being previously given to the Annual Meeting by the Nominating Committee. Their term of office shall begin and end with each annual election, or otherwise, as the Church may determine in harmony with the by-laws and regulations.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members: two of them to be appointed by the pastor

and one to be chosen by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

The officers of this Church shall be considered a Standing Committee, whose duties shall be to determine what questions shall, or shall not, be brought before the Church for consideration.

COMMITTEES.

For the efficient prosecution of the work, the Church shall annually appoint a committee of three on Sunday School; of three on Care of Sick; and three on Finance: the pastor and elders shall constitute a committee on Baptism. Each committee after their election shall meet as early as possible and appoint one of their number as chairman for the year, and afterwards meet as often as practicable for the earnest prosecution of the work committed to their charge. The chairman shall be responsible for the working of his committee and report annually to the Church. In case of vacancy in any of the committees during the year the place may be filled by the Standing Committee.

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

The Annual Church Meeting shall be held on the first Friday in March of each year, at which time written reports shall be given by the pastor and officers and chairmen of the several committees of the

work that has been done in connection with the duties of their respective offices. Special meetings of the Church shall be called by the clerk when so directed by the Standing Committee; notice of all such meetings shall be given from the pulpit on the preceding Sunday, and it shall be the duty of the clerk to see that, as far as practicable, all members receive such notice. In all Church meetings for business, members present shall constitute a quorum. The pastor shall be chairman of all meetings, but in his absence a chairman may be chosen *pro tem*.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

PASTOR.

In addition to the usual work of the ministry the pastor shall preside in all business meetings; he shall be *ex-officio* member of the regular committees and co-operate with them in their work, and shall visit as often as practicable all resident members of the Church, seeking always to build them up in that "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." He shall present a written report of his work at the annual meeting.

CLASS LEADERS.

The class leaders, who must be men of piety and in love with the doctrines of holiness, shall consult with the pastor for the welfare of the Church. It shall be the duty of the class leaders to take charge of the class meetings, to inquire of each member of

and fidelity to covenant. They shall give special attention to inquirers after Christ, and to young and their class concerning their spiritual life and work inexperienced Christians in the Church, counseling and encouraging them. They shall aim to promote Christian activity and devotion in the membership; shall be observant of such members as appear to be losing their love for Christ and the Church, and see that they are admonished; they shall also seek to prevent and heal any strife in the Church; try to recall the erring, and labor with those disregarding their covenant and Christian vows, and report cases of continued and unconfessed sin to the Church. They shall keep a list of members of their classes and their residence in a suitable book which shall be provided by the Standing Committee for that purpose, the date and name of those who join on trial, and give notice to the Standing Committee of the time when they should be eligible for full membership. Each leader shall make a full report of his work quarterly to the Standing Committee and annually to the Church.

CLERK.

The clerk shall record the doings of business meetings, keep a chronological register of all the members showing name and date of those baptized, or admission, dismissal or death of members, showing date of the event; to notify members of their appointment to any office or work, to issue letters of recommendation or dismissal, to conduct the corre-

spondence of the Church, to call special meetings when so required and to present to the annual meeting a report on the state of the Church, including such items as will show the religious interest and changes in membership.

TREASURER.

The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Church and shall have charge of its finances, subject to the order of the Standing Committee. He shall execute in the name of the corporation all instruments duly authorized by the Church or the Standing Committee. He shall hold special collections subject to the call of the Standing Committee. He shall report each quarter to the Standing Committee, and to the Church at the annual meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The superintendent, who must be a member of the Church, shall have general oversight of the School at the regular weekly session, and of all matters pertaining thereto, to see that the classes are supplied with suitable teachers; to preside at all the business meetings of the Sunday School Board, and to be *ex-officio* member of the Sunday School Committee and of all committees appointed by the Sunday School Board. He shall make a full report of the condition of the School at the annual meeting of the Church.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

This committee shall examine and approve all

books to be placed in the library, and designate the kind of periodicals to be taken by the school. They shall examine the records of the school and see that they are properly kept; visit the families connected with the Church and School and such others in the community as neglect the house of God; they shall interest themselves in the young converts of the Church and strangers coming into the place, and freely invite all to attend the services of the Church and School, and when present to see that they are made welcome there; they shall labor to keep the interest of the Church in the school warm and devout, and shall seek to have the members of the school to attend the worship of the Church. The superintendent and librarian shall be *ex-officio* members.

SICK AND DESTITUTE.

This committee shall visit the sick, the infirm and the destitute, especially of the Church. They shall furnish watchers for the sick, when necessary, as far as possible, and from the funds at their disposal they shall provide for the needy the things essential for their comfort, and when any are out of employment they shall, if desired, assist them to a situation to labor.

FINANCE.

This committee shall carry out any plan for raising money that may be adopted by the Church or Standing Committee, and seek to increase the finances of the Church by securing as many regular

contributors as possible; they shall keep a correct account of the weekly offerings and all other moneys received for the Church, pay the same to the treasurer and receive his receipt therefor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. NAME. This School shall be called the BEULAH PENTECOSTAL SUNDAY SCHOOL of HOPEWELL JUNCTION, N. Y.

ART. II. OBJECT. The object of this School shall be the promotion of Christian holiness through the devout and diligent study of the Word of God.

ART. III. SESSION. The School shall assemble on each Sunday and hold its session in the place provided for the purpose at 10 A. M.

ART. IV. MANAGEMENT. The Sunday School shall be under the supervision of a Sunday School Board, consisting of the pastor, the Sunday School Committee appointed annually by the Church, and the officers and teachers of the School.

ART V. OFFICERS. The officers of the School shall be a superintendent and assistant superintendent, the secretary and assistant secretaries, the treasurer, the librarian and assistant librarians.

ART. VI. ELECTION. SECTION 1. SUPERINTENDENT. [See officers of the Church.]

SEC. 2. OTHER OFFICERS. The other officers shall be elected annually by ballot at a meeting of the Sunday School Board to be held on the first Friday in March of each year.

SEC. 3. TERM OF OFFICE. The term of all officers of the School shall expire on the first Sunday after the first Friday in March, and their successors shall assume the duties of their respective offices at this time, continuing one year or until their successors are elected.

ART. VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS. SECTION 1. SUPERINTENDENT. [See Church Rules.]

SEC. 2. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT. The duties of the assistant superintendent shall be to assist in the management of the School. In the absence of the superintendent or in case of vacancy in the office the assistant shall perform his duties.

SEC. 3. SECRETARY. The duties of the secretary shall be to keep a correct record of the attendance and collection of each session of the School; he shall be the secretary of the Sunday School and keep a record of the meetings in a suitable book to be provided for the purpose.

SEC. 4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY. The assistant secretary shall fill the office of secretary when the secretary is absent, and in case of any special or more than the usual business shall assist in the work of the secretary.

SEC. 5. TREASURER. The treasurer shall keep an accurate account of the finances of the School, that is, the money received and expended, and shall report in writing once a quarter at the regular meeting of the Sunday School Board, and yearly at the annual meeting of the Church.

SEC. 6. LIBRARIAN. The duties of the librarian shall be to have charge of the library books provided for the School, and keep an accurate account of the number of books distributed each month, and to whom, and to report once a quarter to the Sunday School Board and annually to the Church the condition of the library, the number of books distributed each month and the average for each Sunday. He shall also keep a catalogue of all books placed in the library.

SEC. 7. ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN. The assistant librarian shall, in the absence of the librarian, per-

form the functions of that office, and hold himself subject to the direction of the librarian.

ART. VIII. SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE. [See Church Rules.]

ART. IX. TEACHERS. SECTION 1. APPOINTMENT. The teachers shall be nominated and elected by the Sunday School Board.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL. Any teacher guilty of improper conduct or habitually neglecting his or her duties may be removed at the discretion of the Sunday School Board after having been kindly requested to show cause why such a change should not be made, and no person shall be permitted to teach who holds views contrary to any article of the Confession of Faith.

ART. X. VACANCIES. SECTION 1. SUPERINTENDENT. In case of vacancy in the office of superintendent by resignation or otherwise, said vacancy shall be filled by the assistant superintendent until an election shall take place at a meeting of the Church.

SEC. 2. OTHER OFFICERS. In case of vacancy in these offices from any cause it may be filled at the next regular meeting of the Sunday School Board succeeding the one when the vacancy was declared, but such vacancy shall be filled for the time by the Sunday School Committee, such person to act until the election.

ART. XI. BUSINESS MEETINGS. The business meetings of the Sunday School Board shall be held on the first Friday in each quarter, and five members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. XII. AMENDMENTS. This constitution may be amended according to Rule 24 of the Standing Rules of the Church.

ART. XIII. STUDY. Every officer of the School, including teachers, shall study the Confession of Faith of the Association of Pentecostal Churches of

America, upon which they shall be given a written examination by the pastor, and in which they must pass 50 per cent. during, or at the end of the first six months, after election to office. Also, the pastor shall prescribe a course of reading in the standard Holiness literature and examine each officer and teacher of the school at least twice each year to learn their proficiency in Holiness doctrine.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION 1. As a Church we believe that the sale and use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage is contrary to the Holy Scriptures, contrary to the welfare of humanity, morally, physically and mentally, as it most certainly is financially, and that no man can put the cup of intoxicating beverage to his own lips or to his neighbor's and be guiltless before God. We also believe that no man politically can righteously cast a vote, either directly or indirectly, to sustain the liquor traffic. Our cry and purpose is the abolition of the liquor traffic; therefore, we, the members of this Church, do hereby **RESOLVE**: That any member guilty of buying or selling alcoholic liquors for use as a beverage, or using the same as a beverage, or voting for the accursed thing in any way, shall be considered guilty of wilfully breaking the Rules of this Church, and shall be expelled accordingly, unless the guilty member repents and promises amendment of life.

DRUGS.

RESOLUTION 2. As a Church we believe that the confirmed use of morphine, opium or any other drug of like character is destructive to moral and spiritual life. We also believe that the illicit sale of such drugs is a menace to society and the welfare of the

Church. Therefore, we, the members of this Church do hereby RESOLVE: That any brother or sister guilty of the confirmed use of these drugs or the indiscriminate sale of same, shall be considered as wilfully breaking the Rules of this Church and shall be dealt with as with those in reference to the liquor question.

TOBACCO.

RESOLUTION 3. As a Church we do not teach that one who uses tobacco cannot be a child of God; but we do say that the use of tobacco hinders growth in grace, and that no one can be sanctified wholly and be baptized with the Holy Ghost without first giving up the use of the foul weed. In like manner also do we regard the sale of tobacco; therefore, we, the members of this Church, do hereby RESOLVE: That it is destructive to the work of Holiness for any one to declare or affirm that they are in the experience while they continue either to sell or use tobacco, and for one of our members to so continue shall be considered sufficient grounds for discipline, and, if necessary, of the most summary character, according to the Rules of our Church.

JEWELRY AND COSTLY AND GAUDY APPAREL.

RESOLUTION 4. As a Church we do not believe that the wearing of jewelry for show, or of gaudy and stylish apparel after the manner of the world, is a conservator of Christianity. Therefore, we, the members of this Church, do hereby RESOLVE: That any of our members guilty of said extravagancies shall be dealt with after the manner already applied to members in reference to the resolution on tobacco.