

ORIGIN,
CONFESSION OF FAITH,
CONSTITUTION,
AND
GENERAL RULES
OF THE
REPUBLICAN UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.

PRINTED AT THE EVANGELICAL REPUBLICAN OFFICE
NASHVILLE, INDIANA,
January 1858.

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PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

AT a meeting of the Preachers, Exhorters, Stewards and Classleaders, in behalf of ther Classes, on Franklin Circuit, of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, assembled at Dowell Meeting House, on said Circuit, on the 8th day of March, A. D., 1848.

The meeting was organized by calling Br. Titsworth to the Chair, and Br. William Taggart appointed Secretary.

On motion of Br. Taggart, that all the Ministers, Exhorters and officers of the Methodist Episcopal, and other Churches, who may be present, be admitted as advisory members of the Convention, which was adopted.

And on motion of Br. Jones, a committee of three brethren were appointed to draft a preamble and resolutions expressive of the sense, and object of this meeting, to-wit:

Brethren Thomas W. Jones, Benjamin

Comeforth, and Samuel Hemphill were appointed said committee, who after a short absence, returned the following preamble and resolutions, which were un-animously adopted:

Whereas, by the action of our late White River Annual Conference, Brother P. C. Parker, a member of said Conference, was expelled from the ministry, on a charge of public immorality, for volunteering in the service of his country in the war with Mexico; and upon this charge alone, was he expelled, for there was no other charge of mal conduct in any shape or form preferred against him except the act of volunteering as aforesaid, and which that body declared to be public immorality, and excluded him against the wish of his brethren, and especially those of his acquaintances; and upon examination we have been unable to find any rule, either in our Bible, or the Discipline of the Church, for or against a man's volunteering in the service of his country. We hold that, where there is no law, there is no transgression; and if Conference has the power to make such a law after the offense has been

committed, and then inforce its execution, to the expulsion of a brother, we confess that we know not from whence they derive it, nor can we admit it to be just. And if such volunteering be public immorality; then are there many, who are guilty, first of all, of those who have volunteered, not only of the United Brethren, but also of every religious denomination, and as we conceive that the accessory is equally guilty with the principal. It follows that all those who encouraged others to volunteer, and who believe the just, on the part of our government, are equally guilty, and we are led to believe, there are few if any, who are honestly attached to their country and its institutions, who have made themselves acquainted with the real causes of the war but do believe it just, on the part of our government. Thus to admit the principle acted out by said Annual Conference, to be just, at one fell sweep we condemn a large majority of all professed Christians in the United States. Moreover, we conceive that we have national rights which have been handed down to us, scaled with the blood of our Revolutionary

Fathers, sanctioned, as we believe by the God of Heaven. Now, he that opposes an honorable maintenance of these liberties, privileges, when he has grown up under them is unworthy the confidence of a Christian people.

1. Resolved therefore, That in the opinion of this meeting, each individual, in the absence of a divine precept, has a right to act according to the dictates of his own conscience, as regards volunteering in the service of his country; and it is not becoming in any officer or Lay-member to traduce his brother when engaged in these matters.

2. Resolved, That in our opinion, the act of Conference was wholly unauthorized, either by the word of God, or the Discipline of the Church; therefore, we consider ourselves under no obligation to abide by said decision, but to oppose its proceedings in this respect, with all Christian energy; for we believe such principles, when perfected, to be *Anti-Republican, Anti-Christian and dangerous*.

3. Resolved, That the expelling of Br. Parker from the Church, was, in our opinion, illegal and without a precedent in

the history of the Church, and that he is not bound by its decision; and we therefore request him to retain his credentials, and not to give them up until the case is fairly adjusted by the General Conference.

4. Resolved, That in our opinion, this is a grave subject, not so much on account of the injustice it inflicts on the liberties of Br. Parker, as on account of the principle it involves. And we call the attention of the religious community to speak out on this subject: for should the action of Conference become an established rule, then will our liberties have received a fatal shock.

5. Resolved, That it is our sincere desire, and determination to cultivate a spirit of religious toleration and forbearance toward our own brethren, and others, who may differ in opinion with us; yet at the same time we cannot conscientiously bid God speed to those, or recognize them as our teachers and pastors who have thus openly taken a stand against their own country, and in favor of the public enemy, by dissuading their fellow citizens from volunteering in its

service and anathematizing their brethren who have.

6. Resolved, That so soon as satisfaction is made, by said offending brethren, they will again be cordially received, on the circuit, by their brethren.

7. Resolved, That the course pursued by our late Annual Conference, has, in our opinion, a tendency to prolong the war with Mexico, by giving aid and comfort to the enemy; for such proceedings soon reach them through the public journals, and are republished by them; by which means their citizens are informed that they have many friends in this country, by which our government is prevented from consummating the so much desired peace.

8. Resolved, That in our opinion, the decision of the late Annual Conference, not only does great injustice to the living but is calculated to cast odium upon the memory of the dead, who fell in their country's service, and whose memory we fondly cherish, and whom we hope to meet in heaven.

9. Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to brethren for the

manner in which they opposed the late illegal and unjust proceedings of the Annual Conference, and their conduct on that occasion, will be remembered with feelings of the liveliest gratitude, while their traducers will be classed with those of former days who attempted to make their opinions a rule to bind men's consciences.

10. Resolved, That our confidence in Br. P. C. Parker is unshaken, and we believe he committed no immorality in volunteering in his country's service, and that we have ample testimony of his good moral conduct during the entire campaign, and that we deeply sympathize with him for the wrong and injustice he has received from the Annual Conference.

11. Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to invite brethren Stuart, Crow, Smith, McCarty, Hook and other ministers, whom they may know to be in favor of an honorable maintenance of our country's rights to visit this Circuit during the coming summer, and have protracted meetings, at such times and places they, or the brethren shall deem most

expedient. Whereupon, brethren Wm. Taggart, William A. Cardwell and Jesse L. Hubbard were appointed said committee.

12. Resolved, That the preamble and resolutions, as adopted by this Convention, be given to Brother M. M. Hook, our preacher in charge, and by him forwarded to the printing establishment of our Church, with an earnest request that our editor give them a place in the "Religious Telescope," and thereby place them before the reading community of our Church.

Whereupon the meeting adjourned.

PETER TITSWORTH,


Chairman.

WM. TAGGART, *Sec.*

N. B. The brethren wish the reasons given, if you should not publish.



Refusal to Publish the foregoing—The Proceedings of Conference.

 It will be remembered that the preamble and resolutions, as adopted by the foregoing Convention, were forward-

ed, as requested in the 12th resolution, to the printing establishment, by Br. M. M. Hook, but the editor refused to give them a place in the organ of the Church, and refused to give his reasons for so doing.

We admit that there are some things in them that are hard; nevertheless the emergency of the case demanded them.— We then wrote other letters and memorials, expressive of our grievances, in as mild a form as we were able. They also shared the same fate.

Thus the door of the press being shut against us, we folded our arms and sat down, and concluded to wait awhile and see if General Conference would not set this matter right.

In the mean time, we had the assurance of some of the official brethren, that all would be made right by General Conference.

Conference met, all parties were anxious to see and hear what the result would be. News at last came, that the decree passed on Br. Parker was confirmed.— They, the General Conference had passed the Anti-War Resolution, as they

called it, but when the Discipline came out, it was only to be found in a small portion of them, the remainder printed without. But the resolution was printed on slips of paper, equal to the size of the Discipline and paged—that when you bought a Discipline, if you liked the resolution, you could take the slip, and tack it in; and if not, you could have one without.

To this course of bandy playing in the government of Christ's Church, we again objected; and informed our brethren, that although we had lived in the Church for many years, and had strong ties there, if such a course was pursued, we could stand it no longer.

Matters passed on, and we were advised, by friends, to wait till the next General Conference in—, 1853. We waited patiently, and praying that matter might pass off right. Conference again met, after the lapse of four years, and confirmed the Anti-War Resolution by refusing to repeal it, and establishing the doctrine of Natural Hereditary Complete Depravity, to be the doctrine of the Church, which is as follows:

“1st. By Depravity, is meant, not guilt, nor liability to punishment, but the absence of Holiness; which, therefore, unfits man for heaven. 2d. By Natural, is meant, that man is BORN with this absence of Holiness. 3d. By Hereditary, is ment, that this unholy state is inherited from Adam. 4th. By Complete, is meant, that a man or CHILD cannot become more unholy; or that he is irrecoverably unholy, nor that he is a mass of corruption, but this absence of holiness must be predicated of all the faculties and powers of the soul.”

That doctrine we cannot believe; and on the receipt of the foregoing news, on the Franklin and Morgantown Circuits, the following proceedings wore adopted, to-wit:

Brown County, Ind., June 11th, 1853.

At Br. Taggart's Meeting House, in quarterly meeting assembled, Br. William Hamblin offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a meeting be held, at Taggart's Meeting House, on the second Saturday in July next, to consist of one member from each class, to select five delegates to attend a General Conven-

tion for the purpose of organizing a Republican United Brethren Church: those selected to be three Lay-men, and two official brethren.

July 9th, 1853.

Convention met according to previous arrangement. Four classes represented: the classes at Dowell's, Taggart's, Mc Kinney's and Wolf Creek; and also four members from Clifty Circuit. Decatur county, came to sit in council with us, to-wit: Samuel McKee, Edward Kurr, Richard Corwin and Frederick Sheppurt.

The Convention was organized by calling Br. Cox, a Baptist Minister, to the Chair; for the following reason: to give the opponents of the separation, a fair chance in debate, upon the reasons assigned as grounds for a separation in the Church, who had appeared for that purpose.

Br. Samuel McKee, from Clifty Circuit, appointed Secretary.

The following reasons were then assigned as the cause of separation:

1st. Bishops have too much power, and they together with the members of General Conference, by passing the War Resolution, have come in conflict with the Constitutional powers of the civil government.

2d. By passing the Total Depravity Resolution, as it conflicts with the Constitution of the Church.

3d. By passing the Total Depravity Resolution of the Church.

4th. The raising the salaries of Church officers.

After a lengthy debate of both sides of the above questions between the parties, it was left to the vote of the congregation to say whether we had just grounds for a separation or not, which was decided by an unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The meeting then adjourned to meet again at 4 o'clock P. M.

House Met Pursuant to Adjournment.

On motion, Br. Taggart was called to the Chair.

On motion of Br. McCarty, the house proceeded to the election of Delegates to the General Convention, which resulted in the election of Brs. William Taggart, William Hamblin, Charles McCarty, Daniel McKinney and Benjamin Commaford.

It was moved by Br. McCarty, that the Convention be held at Union Chapel, Decatur county, Indiana, Aspach's settlement, on the 8th day of January 1853, commencing at 9 o'clock A. M., which was agreed to.

The Convention then resolved itself into a Quarterly Conference by calling Br. William Hamblin to the Chair, and electing Brother Samuel McKee Secretary.

The following members were present: Elder Charles McCarty, preacher; Wm. Hamblin, exhorter: Benjamin Commaforth, Elias Weddle, Joseph Rice, Leaders; William Taggart, Daniel McKinney, Francis Whittington, Stewards.

On motion, a general examination was

gone into, and all found to be in good standing.

Br. Hamblin moved, that Br. Charles McCarty be received in his official capacity, as he formerly stood, which was agreed to.

Br. Rice moved, that Br. Wm. Hamlin be received in the same standing he formerly had, which was agreed to.

Mr. McCarty moved, that Br. Comforth be received in the same capacity he formerly stood as an exhorter; and also to preach as occasion may present, which was agreed to.

Br. McCarty moved, that Br. William Hamblin, at as early a day as possible, start on his official duties; and that he organize as many classes as possible, and to form a circuit, and report to the next quarterly conference, which was agreed to.

It was moved and carried, that Brothers William Taggart, Jesse Hamblin and Pleasant G. Weddle, be elected as Trustees for meeting houses.

Where shall our next quarterly Conference be held? Answer; at Brother

Whittington's on Wolfe creek, Oct. 8th,
1853, 11 o'clock A. M.

Conference adjourned,

WILLIAM HAMBLIN,

Chairman.

SAMUEL MCKEE, *Sec.*

UNION CHAPEL, Decatur Co., Ind., Sept., 8, 1853.

9 o'clock A. M.—House called to order,
—reading by Br. Stuart, 17th Psalm.

According to previous appointment the
Convention proceeded to organize by
calling B. William S. Stuart to the Chair,
and Br. William Taggart as Secretary.

Certificates of elections of Delegates
were called for, the following brethren
answered to their names as delegates
when called by the Secretary, to wit:
Richard Corwin, Samuel McKee, Jacob
Anspach, Solomon Leffler, Fredrick
Sheppurt, Edward Kurr, Absalom Bay-
court, William S. Stuart, Charles Mc-
Carty, William Hamblin, to fill the va-
cancy of Br. McKinney, W. Taggart,
and Josiah Coen.

Two Delegates absent: E. G. Bay-
court and Br. Ward.

Br. Stuart moved that the following rules govern the action of this Convention, which carried by consent.

Rules of Decorum to govern the Convention.

RULE 1. The House shall elect a Chairman, who shall preside during the Convention.

2. The House shall then proceed to elect a Secretary by ballot, who shall have the right to choose an assistant.

3. The hours of opening shall be half after 8 and one each day; and the hours of adjournment 12 and 4. The opening in the morning by reading a portion of Scripture and singing and prayer. Singing and prayer in the afternoon service, and at the close.

4. First, Letter of commendation shall be called for by the chair, and read in the presence of the house, and all the names of the members of said Convention that were appointed, or admitted, shall be enrolled in the journal of the Convention, and if the house approve the design of the Convention, the house shall then proceed to business.

5. Every member shall have equal

rights *to* speak and vote but no member of the house shall have the right to speak more than once till all have spoken.

6. The business of each day shall be committed to writing, and to be read and approved by the house each day at the close of the business of the day.

7. Each and every resolution to be presented to the house, shall be in writing, with the mover and seconds names to it.

8. Every member of this Convention shall fill his seat in the house during business hours, Unless unavoidably prevented.

9. No business of the house shall be confirmed but by a majority not less than two-thirds of the house.

10. There may be preaching every day, at a given time, after the first day, if it be thought advisable; and also, every night at candle-lighting.

On motion of Br. Stuart, the following was received as the design of this Convention is the glory of God, and peace and harmony with believers.

2. It is to call in question and design

of former Conventions which were held in Brown county, Indiana, viz; The 1st, held on the 8th of March, 1848; the 2d, held on the 9th of July, 1853, composed of official and lay members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, which terminated in a secession from that church, and the constituting a new body, bearing the name of Republican United Brethren Church, and the appointing of this Convention, to ratify the actions of the former Convention, or to make such change or amendments as may be thought advisable; and if the house think the subject demands further action, it should then proceed to appoint a committee to draft a preamble, setting forth some of the causes of separation.—Adopted by consent.

On motion of Br. McCarty, brother Farmer, minister of the Christian Union Church, and Br. William Read, of the M. E. Church, were received as advisory members.

On motion of Br. McCarty, a committee of three were appointed to draft a preamble setting forth some of the

reasons for a separation: whereupon, Josiah Coen, Benjamin Comeforth, and Wm. Taggart, were appointed said committee to report at 3 o'clock, P. M.

On motion of Br. Taggart, the house adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.—Prayer by Br. Farmer.

Three o'clock, P. M.—House met according to adjournment—Prayer by Br. Smith.

It was moved by Br. Taggart, that Br. Joel Smith, a minister of the Christian Union Church, be received as advisory member, which was agreed to.

On motion, the following was read by the Secretary.

We the committee to whom was referred the matter which gave rise to the separation, in the United Brethren church, beg leave to make the following report:

1st. As God has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has placed certain incentives in our nature, and given us, certain relations, to-wit;

Natural, Moral or Religious, which we hold to be sacred, for it secures unto us the right of conscience, to form opinions, and to express the same to whom we wish, and when we please.— But the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, has assumed to herself, the power of Dictatorship; and has refused us the right to enjoy our opinions in that way we think the word of God, and the Constitution of the States, and the United States secure unto us. We believe that they secure unto us the right of conscience on all moral questions and moral reform, and more particularly those whom the Son make free, shall be free indeed.

2d. The powers delegated to the Bishops, presiding Elders, and Stationing committee we object to.

3. The War resolution, which we believe to be detrimental to the peace and safety of our nation, if they as a christian, nation were to endorse the sentiment contained in said resolution. We also believe, that it conflicts with the Constitution of the States, and of the United States.

4th. The establishing the doctrine of total Depravity, to be the doctrine of the Church, which we believe conflicts with the constitution of the church and with the articles of faith.

5. Raising the salaries of church officers, and requiring its members to pay, or cause such sums to be paid without consulting the church on the subject.

QUESTION: What is the doctrine of Depravity that we object to?

ANSWER. Do you believe in natural hereditary complete Depravity as held by the Church?

1st. By Depravity, is meant not guilt nor liability to punishment, but the ABSENCE OF HOLINESS WHICH THEREFORE UNFITS MAN FOR HEAVEN.

2d. By Depravity, is ment that man is BORN with this absence of holiness.

3d. By hereditary, is meant that this unholy state is inherited from Adam.

4th. By Complete, is not meant that a man or CHILD cannot become more unholy, nor that he is irrecoverably unholy, or that he is a mass of corruption, but that this absence of holiness must be

predicated of all the faculties and powers of the soul. Book of Discipline of 1853, page 26.

We do not believe in the doctrine of infant regeneration to fit it for Heaven, but that the child while in a state of infancy stands justified from original condemnation through the atonement made by Jesus Christ, and is a fit subject of the kingdom of Heaven; for by the disobedience of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life, Romans 5th: 18th, and any one dying in possession of this justification is sure of heaven, as expressed by the Savior saying, "suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God," Mark 10: 14.

Br. William Hamblin moved, that the report be laid on the table till to-morrow morning, which was agreed to. So the report was laid on the table.

Br. McCarty offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association be

called the Republican United Brethren Church.

Laid on the table till to-morrow morning.

On motion, the house adjourned till to-morrow morning. Carried by consent.

Prayer Br. Comeforth.

WM. STUART,

Chairman.

WM. TAGGART, *Sec.*

FRIDAY MORNING, 8 1/2- O'CLOCK.

House met pursuant to adjournment. Reading and prayer by Br. J. Coen.—Isa. 53.

Preaching last evening at candle-lighting by Br. Eli P. Farmer—19th Psalm.

B. McCarty moved that Br. Herron, a minister of the reformed church be received as an advisory member, which was agreed to.

Br. Wm. Hamblin moved, that the resolution offered by Br. McCarty, on yesterday, naming this association, be taken from the table, which was agreed to. So

the resolution was read a second time, and after some discussion, passed to a third reading.

Br. McCarty moved, that the resolution be read a third time, which was read a third time and passed.

Br. McKee moved, that the report of the committee on preamble and reasons, be taken from the table, which was agreed to.

On motion of Br. Corwin, the house adjourned until 1 o'clock P. M.

One o'clock—House met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Br. McCarty.

The report of the committee on preamble and reasons for a separation being before the house, and the question being called for by Br. McKee, and passed to a third reading.

Br. McKee moved, that the rules of the house be suspended, and that the port be read a third time now, which was agreed to. So the resolutions were a third time and passed.

Br. McKee moved, that a committee of three be appointed to say who shall preach at the preaching hour, which was carried by consent.

Whereupon the chair appointed Brs. McKee, Corwin and Anspach said committee.

Br. McCarty moved, that the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on government, and after some time spent therein, the committee rose without reporting.

Br. Taggart moved, the house do now adjourn till to-morrow morning, which was agreed to.

Singing and prayer by Br. William S. Stuart.

WM. STUART,
Chairman.

WM. TAGGART, *Sec.*

SATURDAY MORNING, 8 1/2 O'CLOCK.

House met pursuant to adjournment.
Prayer and reading the 77th Psalm, by
Br. Hamblin,

There was preaching last evening by Br. Willim Hamblin, from James 1st, 26.

Br. McKee moved, that a committee of three be elected upon rules of government: whereupon the house proceeded to ballot, which resulted in the election of Brs. Stuart, Taggart and McCarty..

Br. Wm. Hamblin moved, the rules on prayer be suspended, inasmuch as the hour of public preaching had arrived, which was agreed to.

Br. Taggart moved, that the house do now adjourn till Monday next, for the purpose of giving the committee on rules of government an opportunity to report, which was agreed to.

So the house adjourned.

WM. S. STUART,

Chairman,


WM. TAGGART, *Sec.*

MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 12, 1853.

House met pursuant to adjournment.
Reading and prayer Br. McKee from the 75th Psalm.

Br. Ward, a delegate from Milford, appeared and took his seat.

Preaching, on Saturday last, at 11 o'clock, by Brother McCarty, from 42d Psalm and 11th verse, and at candle-lighting by Brother Coen from the 50th Psalm, 14 and 15th verses.

 Here, about sixteen pages of our Journal were lost or mislaid so they cannot be got.

Br. Stuart offered the following, as the bounds of Annual Conference, the world shall be our bounds, to be divided hereafter as circumstances may require.—Passed by consent.

The Committee appointed to assign the ministers their different fields of labor, made the following report:

MILFORD Circuit; Br. William Hamblin.

WHITE CREEK CIRCUIT; Br. Charles McCarty.

The report was received by the Conference.

On motion of Br. Coen, the Conference arose.

Br. McCarty moved, that Br. William S. Stuart be appointed to prepare a co-

py of a Hymn Book for the Republican United Brethren Church, and report to the next Annual Conference, which was agreed to.

On motion, that a committee of two be appointed to prepare the proceednigs of this Convention for the press. The House proceeded to elect Brs. Charles McCarty and William Taggart said Committee.

Br. William Taggart moved, that this Convention adjourn SINE DIE, which was agreed to. So the House adjourned.

WM. STURAT, Chairman.

WM. TAGGART, Sec.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

IN the name of God, we declare and confess before all men that, We believe in the only true God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost: That these three are One: the Father in the Son, the Son in the Father, and the Holy Ghost equal in essence or being with both: That this Triune God created the heavens and-

the earth, and all that in them is, visible as well as invisible; and furthermore, sustains, governs, protects and supports the same.

We believe in Jesus Christ: That He became incarnate by the power of the Holy Ghost, in virgin Mary, and was born of her: That he is the Saviour and Mediator of the whole human race, if they with full faith in him, accept the grace proffered in Jesus: That this Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for us, was buried, arose again on the third day, ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, to intercede for us: and that he shall come again at the last day to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Ghost; that He is equal in being with the Father and the Son and that he comforts the faithful, and guides them into all truth,

We believe in a holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

We believe that the Holy Bible, old and new Testaments, is the word of God:

That it contains the only true way to our salvation: That every true christian is bound to acknowledge and receive it with the influence of the spirit of God, as the only rule and guide: and that without faith in Jesus Christ, true repentance, forgiveness of sins, and following after Christ no one can be a true christian.

We also believe, that what is contained in the Holy Scriptures, to wit: The fall in Adam, and redemption through Jesus Christ, shall be preached throughout the world

We believe that the ordinances, namely, baptism, and the remembrance of the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, are to be in use, and practised by all christian societies: And that it is incumbent on all the children of God, particularly, to practise them: but the manner in which, ought always to be left to the judgment and understanding of every individual: Also, the example of washing feet, is left to the judgment of every one, to practice or not; but it is not becoming for any of our preachers or members to traduce any of their brethren whose

judgment and understanding, in this respect, are different from their own, either in public or private. Whosoever shall make himself guilty in this respect, shall be considered a traducer of his brethren, and shall be answerable for the same.

PREFACE.

WE the members of the Republican United Brethren, in the name of God, do for the work of the Ministry, for the edifying of this branch of the Church of Christ, as well as to produce and secure a uniform mode of action in faith and practice; and also, to define the powers and business of Quarterly and Annual Conferences, as recognized by this branch of Christ's Church, do ordain the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

SEC. 1. The word of God shall be received by us, as the surest rule of our Christian Faith and Practice, for therein is contained the revelation of God's will

to man; and in obedience to that will, he secures to himself an inheritance amongst the sanctified.

Spcial Conference.

ARTICLE II.

SEC. 1. All delegated power granted to make or repeal any ordinance or rule of decorum, involving either Spiritual or Temporal interest of the Church, is vested in a Special Conference, which shall be called by an Annual Conference or Conferences, which shall consist of Ministers and Lay-members,

SEC. 2. The members composing said special Conference, shall consist of Delegates elected by each Annual Conference from their own body, to be five Laymen to every three Clergymen.

SEC. 3. Said Special Conference when convened, shall call one of its members to the Chair, and appoint a Secretary pro-tem, and two tellers, the House then shall proceed to elect a Chairman by ballot, whose duty it shall be to preside over the deliberations of the Conference, and give the casting vote in case of a tie; they shall also at the same time elect a Secre-

tary, who shall have a right to call such assistance as he may think expedient.

SEC. 4. But no Special Conference shall ever be called without the consent of a majority of all the Conferences.

Annual Conference.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. Each and every Annual Conference shall have the right of entire jurisdiction over its own body.

SEC. 2. Who are the members of Annual Conference? All the Clergy within the bounds of said Conferences, as acknowledged by them, including five Laymen to every three Ministers.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of Conference to make the dividend of Lay-delegates entitled to seats in Annual Conference, and apportion them aqually amongst the different fields of labor; and in case of fractional delegates, they shall always be apportioned to the Circuit or station having the largest number of members.— And to enable the Conference to ascertain that fact, it shall be the duty of the

preachers in charge of their different fields of labor, to report the number of members upon their respective charges.

Election of Delegates.

SEC. 4. Delegates thus apportioned to each Circuit, shall be elected by the membership of the Circuit; and to establish a uniform mode of action in the Church, it shall be the duty of the several Class-leaders to call a meeting of their classes, and take the vote, which shall be by ballot; seal up the result, and hand it over to the preacher in charge, on or before the third Quarterly meeting, who shall lay the same before the Quarterly Conference; whereupon the Secretary shall brake open, count the votes in the presence of the Conference, and declare the result and give a certificate of election to those receiving the highest number of votes, which certificate shall entitle the holder to a seat in the Annual Conference, and to speak and to vote upon all subjects comming before that body.

SEC. 5. The business of each and every Annual Conference shall be to call in questions the Spiritual and Temporal in-

terests of the Church, that are under their jurisdiction, which shall be presented through their Ministers and Messengers, who shall have the right of decision on all matters referred to them.

SEC. 6. They shall also have the right to grant license to any one to preach the Gospel among us, who comes well recommended by the Church, and confirmed by Quarterly Conference of which he is a member.

SEC. 7. Also to receive Ministers who come to us from other Churches, in the same relation they held in their former Churches, not inconsistent with this Constitution and Confession of Faith, provided they come well recommended.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. There shall exist an Itineracy, in the Church, composed of all the Ministers who are willing to engage in the work.

SEC. 2. The Stationing Committee shall consist of three Clergy and one Lay Delegate from each Circuit or Station, elected by Conference.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the

Minister to take charge assigned to him by the committee, to preach the word, to administer the Ordinances of the Church, to do the work of an Evangelist, make full proof of his Ministry, to-wit:

To organize classes which shall consist of not less than two or three members, who shall elect from their own or some other Class, a Class-Leader, and Class-Steward; who shall annually thereafter, within thirty days after Annual Conference, elect a Class-Leader or Leaders, Class Steward; and in case of a vacancy in either of the offices aforesaid, the preacher in charge shall call the class together and urge them to elect suitable persons to fill such vacancies; and in case any Class should refuse to comply with said rule, the preacher in such case shall report such Class to Quarterly Conference, who shall make such disposition of said Class as to them may seem right.

ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Class-Leaders to meet their Classes in prayer or Class meetings as often as once a week, if not conflicting with pub-

lic preaching or other unavoidable hindrance.

SEC. 2. The Class shall also have the right of jurisdiction Over its Spiritual and Temporal concerns, so as not to conflict with this Constitution.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the Leader to sit as Chairman, and to give the casting vote when a tie in all church trials, except he, himself, shall be involved in the controversy; and in that case, the class shall have the right to call some other member to the Chair, and in all matters involving Church trials, they shall be governed by the eighteenth chapter of Matthew.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Stewards to use all laudable means in their power, to collect quarterage for the traveling preachers, on or before the Sabbath preceding quarterly meeting, and to make their returns to Quarterly Conference; and also, to provide Sacramental Elements when used in his Class.

ARTICLE VI.

SEC. 1. There shall no rule ever be passed to bind men's consciences on sub-

jects of moral reform, or that will conflict with the Constitutional provisions of the civil government, or the word of God.

SEC. 2. This Constitution shall not be so construed as to prevent a change in it when requested by two thirds of the whole Church, except the preceding section, which never shall be altered.

ARTICLE VII.

SEC. 1. Quarterly Conference shall consist of all the licentiate Ministers, Exhorters, Leaders, Stewards and Trustees living in the bounds of the district, whose duty it shall be to report to Quarterly Conference the various interest of the Church under their several jurisdictions.

SEC. 2, The Exhorters, Class Leaders, Class Stewards and Trustees shall be held amenable to Quarterly Conference for their official and moral conduct.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Circuit Preacher to preside at Quarterly Conference, and if absent, the Conference shall have the power to appoint one of its own body to sit as Chairman, whose official acts shall be valid.

SEC. 4. The right of appeal shall be inviolate.

SEC 5. The Quarterly Conference shall try all appeals and references that may come regularly before it; and also to license preachers or exhorters, who come recommended by a majority of their class.

SEC. 6. Any member dissatisfied with the decision of his class, and desiring to take an appeal to Quarterly Conference, shall set forth his reasons in full, and hand them over to the preacher in charge, at least thirty days before Quarterly Conference; the preacher shall then notify the parties concerned, and make return of the whole matter to Quarterly Conference.

SEC. 7. Any member dissatisfied with the decision of the Quarterly Conference, and desiring to take an appeal to the Annual Conference, shall notify the Secretary of his intention to take an appeal by setting forth his reasons in writing, at least thirty days before the Annual Conference; the Secretary shall then notify the adverse party immediately, if in his

power so to do, and transmit the proceedings of the whole matter to the Superintendent, on or before the second day of Annual Conference, who shall lay the same immediately before the Conference.

SEC. 8. But no person shall be allowed to vote upon an appeal who had previously voted upon the same subject.

ARTICLE VIII.

SEC. 1. There shall be one order of Elders in the Church, from which the Superintendent shall be annually elected by Annual Conference, in conjunction with two assistants, elected from the Lay Delegates, preside over the deliberations of said body, and give the casting vote in case of a tie.

SEC. 2. He shall also take the oversight of the Spiritual interest of the Church within his Conference district, to fill vacancies that may occur in the different fields of labor, by death or resignation or otherwise, by and with the consent of the membership of such vacated Circuit or Station, to be ascertained in Quarterly Conference.

SEC. 3. And to impart instructions generally, and especially when called upon so to do.

SEC. 4. It shall also be his duty to attend all the Quarterly meetings in his power, and especially when requested so to do, and to see that the Constitution is strictly observed, otherwise to report the offender to Annual Conference, and for his services shall receive the public collection of the Annual, and all the Quarterly Conferences he may attend, after deducting the ordinary expenses attending such Conferences.

SEC. 5. How shall an Elder be constituted? At any time that, the Conference in its judgment believes the Scriptures will justify, he may be solemnly ordained to the office of an Elder by the Laying on of Hands by the Superintendent and Elders.

SEC. 6. We do hereby ordain, that the functionary rights of the Ministers amongst us, are as valid as they were in their former Church, and that they are hereby authorised to exercise all their Ministerial functions in the Republican

United Brethren Church, guarantied unto them in this Constitution, and not inconsistent with the Confession of Faith.

SEC. 7. Each Minister appointed to a field of labor shall be allowed two hundred hollars, with such additions as his Brethren may see proper to give him.

SEC. 8. We also ordain that a certain course of reading be hereafter pointed out to our Ministers, by a select committee for that purpose by Annual Conference.

GENERAL RULES

DUTY OF MEMBERS.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of members of this Church, to attend to all the means of grace, as required of them in the Church: and also, in the word of God.

SEC. 2. Every member of this Society, whether believer or seeker, shall have the right to vote on all matters referred to him.

SEC. 3. Seekers of religion who come to us shall be received, and retained un-

der the watch-care of the Church, so long as they give evidence of the same.

How Shall a Class be Organized?

On the day appointed for organization, the preacher shall cause all the members to be seated together. The minister shall then proceed to read as follows:

Now, concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant, ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore, I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost. Now, there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are differences of administration but the same Lord, and there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.— But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit with all; for to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gift

of healing by the same Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophesy; to another, deservng of the Spirit; to another, divers kinds of tongues; to another, the interpretation of tongues, but all these worketh by that one and the self same Spirit, dividing to every man severally, as he will; for as the body is one and hath many members; and all the members of that one body being many, are one body. So also is Christ, for by one Spirit are we all baptised into one body whether we be Jews or Gentiles; whether we be bond or free, and have all been made to drink into one Spirit, for the body is not one member but many. If the feet shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body? Is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body was an eye, where was the hearing?— If the whole was hearing, where is the smelling?

But now, hath God set the members, every one of them in the body, as it has

pleased him, and if they were all one member, where was the body? But now, are they many members, yet one body: and the eye cannot say to the head, I have no need of thee. Again, the head to the feet, I have no need of you, nay, much more those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary; and those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor, and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness, for our comely parts have no need. But God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: that there should be no cism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another, and when one member suffers, all should suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now, ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular, and God hath set some in the Church: first, apostles; secondly, prophets; thirdly, teachers; after that, miracles; then gifts of healing, helps in governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? do all speak with tongues? do all speak interpret? but covet

earnestly the best gifts, and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. 1st Corinthian, 12th.

We then as workers together with him beseech you also, that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concern hath Christ with Belial? or what part, hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Almighty.—So readeth part of the 6th chapter, 2d Corinthians.

After which the mimister shall, by and with the consent of the members, appoint suitable persons to the office of Lead-

er, or Leaders and Stewards. This being done, the minister shall then pray.— He shall then enrole the names of all the members of the Class in a suitable book provided for that purpose, and hand it over to the Leader, who shall then take the oversight of the Spiritual interest of his Class, hold prayer and Class meetings in his Class once a week, if no interference, as laid down in the Constitution; the Class thus organized shall ever thereafter have the right to elect its officers.

How shall Annual Conference be Organized?

The Superintendent shall call the House to order by reading a portion of Scripture, singing and prayer. After which he shall call for the certificates of election of the Lay-messengers and letters of commendation; whereupon the Secretary of the past year shall proceed to open and read the Messengers' names thus producing their certificates of election, which shall entitle them to seats in Conference. After which the

Secretary shall proceed to call all the names of the members of said Conference, and enrole them in order. The Superintendent shall then proceed to deliver an appropriate address to the House expressive of the design of the Conference, and duties pertaining thereto. Whereupon the House shall proceed by electing a Secretary, and two assistant Chairmen.

Ordination of Elders.

On the day appointed for Ordination of an Elder there shall be a suitable sermon or exhortation delivered, the candidates' names shall then be called who shall come forward to the altar, and be seated; after which the Superintendent shall read the following: "An Elder must be blameless as the Steward of God, not self willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no drink; not given to filthy lucre, but a lover of hospitality, temperate, holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by

sound doctrine, both to exhort and convince the gainsayer."—Titus, 1: 7, 9.

Then the Superintendent shall say to them, do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost, to take upon yourself the office of the ministry? and are you willing to be set apart, by the seal of Ordination, to the office of an Elder in the Church? Answer, I am.

QUESTION. Will you at all times try to magnify the office of an Elder?

ANSWER. I will, the Lord being my helper. Let us pray.

Then the Superintendent with two other Elders, chosen by him, shall lay their hands upon the head of the candidate or candidates, and shall say, by virtue of our office in the Church, and the authority of God's word, we solemnly ordain you by this act to be an Elder in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, amen.

Then one of the Elders shall pray, all kneeling. After which all the members of the Conference shall come forward,

and extend to them the hand of fellowship while singing.

How Shall Trustees be Elected!

ANS. Any Class or Classes wishing to build a meeting House or a parsonage, or desiring to take a deed for any purpose whatever connected with the interest of the Church, shall elect three trustees (who shall hold their office till their successors in office are elected) from the Class or Classes, thus joined together for the purposes aforesaid who shall receive a deed in trust for the Classes as aforesaid, and their successors in office; and whenever any Class or Classes, as aforesaid, holding Church property becomes extinct, and no one to take charge of the same, it shall then be the duty of the Quarterly Conference having jurisdiction of the district in which such property is situated to appoint three trustees, to take charge of said property, and dispose of the same according to the order of the Conference.

And provided further, That if there shall be no Quarterly Conference having jurisdiction over the same, then the Annual Conference having jurisdiction over the district in which such property is situate shall take the same under consideration, and proceed as above directed.

Form of Deed.

By this Deed, _____
 A. B. and C. B., his wife, convey and warrant unto D. E., G. H. and I. J., Trustees, and their successors in office in trust for the Class at _____
 of the Republican United Brethren Church, the following real estate in—
 _____County, and State of Indiana, to wit:
 (Here described.)

In testimony whereof the said A. B. and C. B., his wife, have hereunto set their hands and seals, this _____day of _____A, D., 185 .

++++++

+Seal. +

++++++

++++++

+Seal. +

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STATE OF INDIANA, }
 _____County. }

BE it remembered that on this _____
 day of _____ A. D., 185 .

Before me, a Justice of the Peace, in
 and for said county, personally came A.
 B., and C. B., his wife, and each ac-
 knowledged the execution of the annexed
 deed. Given under my hand and seal,
 the day above written.

++++++

+Seal. +

C. D., ++++++

Justice,

Marriage Ceremony.

Dearly beloved, we have met to join in
 marriage this man and woman, and if any
 person can show any just cause why they
 may not be joined together, let them now
 speak, or hereafter be silent. (If no ob-
 jection.) Let them now join hands.
 (The minister shall say:) Sir, wilt thou
 have this woman to be thy wedded wife;
 to live together after God's ordinance in
 matrimony, and love, comfort, and keep

her in sickness and in health, so long as ye both shall live? (Answer; I will.) Then say to the woman; wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in matrimony; love, comfort and keep him in sickness and in health, so long as ye both shall live? (Answer; I will.) The minister shall say: those whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder; I pronounce you husband and wife.

LETTERS.

THE FOLLOWING FORM MAY BE USED:

A. B. is a member in good standing, in the Republican United Brethren Church, in his or her class, (here name the Circuit, county and State,) signed by a preacher or leader.

PRINTING OFFICE RULES.

The following rules were adopted for the government of our Printing Establishment at Nashville, Brown county, Indiana.

RULE 1. The said establishment shall be stlyed the Printing Establishment of the Republican United Brethren Church, and held as the property of the whole Church.

RULE. 2. The Legislative authority herein granted, shall be vested in a special Conference, which, may be called by the Annual Conferences, whose duty shall be, to make, repeal or amend all needful rules and regulations for the government of said Office.

RULE 3. The proceeds of said establishment, over and above the debts, and contingent expenses, of the same, shall be applied to the benefit of worn out preachers, and their widows and children. This division to be made equally and annually among the several Annual Conferences.

RULE 4. It shall be the duty of this Special Conference, to elect three Trus-

tees from the Annual Conference, for the Printing Establishment, who shall be accountable to the Indiana Annual Conference for the faithful discharge of their duties, as such Trustees; and hereafter the Indiana Annual Conference, shall elect annually said Trustees; and should a vacancy occur between the sittings of said Conference, then the Superintendent of said Conference district, shall fill such vacancy by appointment.

RULE 5. Said Annual Conference shall employ an Editor, who shall take charge of the Editorial department of the Printing Establishment. He shall be under the control of the Trustees, for the faithful performance of his duties in recess of Conference.

RULE 6. Should a vacancy occur in the Editorial department, in the interval of the Indiana Annual Conference, the Trustees shall fill such vacancy by employing a suitable person as Editor until the sitting of said Annual Conference.

RULE 7. And it is hereby made the duty of the Editor, to make settlements every six months, and report the true

condition of the Press to the Trustees.

RULE 8. The Trustees shall, together with the Editor, make out a fall report of said settlement, and a true statement of the condition of the establishment, to the Annual Conference.

RULE 9. The Editor shall strictly perform all duties devolving on him: such as making selections, examining manuscript offered for publication, writing Editorial and reading proof,

RULE 10. And should the Editor fail to discharge his duties as such Editor without some justifiable reason, the Trustees shall have power to dismiss him, and fill the vacancy.

RULE 11. The Trustees shall have power to make and enforce such by laws as they may think expedient for the better regulation of the said establishment, not inconsistent with any of the preceding rules.

Rule 12. Trustees, together with the Editor, shall, by virtue of their several

offices, shall be members of said Indiana Annual Conference.

WM. TAGGART, }
W. S. STUART, } Committee.
JOHN GLASS, }