

We will only add that we are authorized to offer you as the means of a support twelve hundred dollars, to be increased here after, as your circumstances, and the circumstances, of the Church shall render expedient.

That the great Head of the Church may guide you in your decision in such a manner as shall best promote the advancement of his cause is the prayer of yours in the fellowship of the Gospel.

Rev. A. A. Phelps

Eliphalet Kimball
Benj. Perkins
John Stinson
Robert Hartman
David Prescott

Committee of Pine Street
Church and Congregation

Invitation to
Pine St. Chh. Boston
Aug³¹ 1832.

Rev. A. A. Phelps

Presert

pointed preacher — and an active and efficient pastor.

We do not invite you to engage in this enterprise single handed. We expect you to take the lead — to guide the church in their efforts, — and be their mouth in the great congregation, — But we pledge you our cooperation and support; and engage also continually to remember you in our prayers, being well assured, that we express your full conviction, as well as our own, that the success of your labors depends altogether on God. — We are happy in knowing that our pledge of cooperation will not be received by you with indifference; but that you place an estimate on the exertions of the church, and will feel it your duty to excite and direct the efforts of the members, according to their several ability.

We are well pleased that you are disposed to call no man master, believing, as we fully do, that you bow with reverence to the authority of ~~the~~ scripture, and feel it the great business of the preacher to explain its doctrines and enforce its precepts — giving to every doctrine the same prominence which is given in the Book of God; — and insisting on no conclusions, however seemingly drawn from scriptural premises, if not themselves scriptural. —

Having these views of your qualifications for the station to which you are invited, we feel a strong confidence that our enterprise will prosper under your auspices; and your ministrations prove a blessing to us and our children; — and we trust that you will not be disappointed in your expectations of our cooperation and support. —

the present age, now in prosperous circumstances, had great difficulties to encounter at the commencement of their efforts. Our trials, however, have not been unattended with the tokens of the Divine favor.

His Spirit has attended the ministration of the word, and our numbers have been increased, if not to the extent of our hopes, yet has His blessing been granted, abundantly sufficient, to warrant the conclusion that the cause is of God, and will ultimately be prospered to the full extent of every reasonable expectation.

We cannot at present offer you the oversight of a large and wealthy church; we are still in an infant state, and our character is yet to be formed. — We rather invite you to take charge of a missionary enterprise; an arduous work, we are aware, but to a devoted servant of Christ, it is an inviting field of labor. — Our section of the city is to a great extent, unbroken ground, and it may be presumed that the Gospel, if preached with plainness and point, will, with the blessing of God, reach the conscience and the heart of persons, unaccustomed to resist the truth. — But such a population needs, also, particular pastoral attention. — It is not sufficient to preach the word on the Sabbath; the hearers must be followed to their houses, and incipient impressions must be cultivated, in order to secure the fruit of ministerial labors. — In selecting a Pastor we have been much influenced by the considerations above suggested, and are happy in the assurance that we have made choice of a man of undoubted devotedness — a plain and

20
Boston August 10, 1832

Rev^d and dear Sir,

At a meeting of Pine Street Church convened in the Vestry on the evening of the 15th Inst. — and at a meeting of the Pew Proprietors and Stockholders of Pine Street Church held on the evening of the 16th, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to extend to you an invitation to become the Pastor of the Church and Minister of the People. —

In conformity with the trust reposed in them, it is with great pleasure the Committee now present the invitation and would, unreservedly, express the hope that you may find it consistent with your sense of duty to comply with the wishes of the Church and Congregation.

The Committee would avail themselves of the occasion to say that they have great satisfaction in believing that the result is approved by the great Head of the Church, as His guidance has been constantly sought, and the indications of His providence, ^{are} so marked, as to leave little room for doubt that we have heard His voice saying to us "this is the way, walk ye in it."

The enterprise in which we are embarked, we cannot doubt was prompted by the Head of the Church, notwithstanding we have at times had our faith staggered by disappointments, and hopes deferred. — Our trials, though great, are not singular, and by no means a suitable cause for discouragement, as almost every benevolent enterprise of