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RAVENSWOOD FIRST CONG. CHURCH · 1876

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MANUAL

OF THE

(2)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AND

SOCIETY,

OF

RAVENSWOOD, ILLINOIS.

(2)
1876.

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CULVER, PAGE, HOYNE & CO., PRINTERS.
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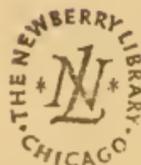
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1870

This Church was Organized April 20th, 1876.

ORGANIZATION AND RULES.

The name of this church shall be THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RAVENSWOOD.

This church is independent,—subject to no authority or government, except the votes of its members, and amenable only to Christ; but extending to other evangelical churches, and inviting from them, Christian fellowship and co-operation.

This church is unsectarian; in that it does not require of its members uniformity of opinion in matters concerning which members of evangelical churches do honestly differ, but rather insists upon Christian character and life, and a devout adherence to those grand doctrines of the Holy Scriptures, which are held to be essential by all evangelical churches; in that it is self-governing; and, also, in that it seeks the fellowship and co-operation of all evangelical churches, thus aiming to promote visible and Scriptural oneness.

DOCTRINAL STANDARD.

The following compend is adopted as substantially a statement of the doctrines held by this church:

WE believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Being of absolute perfection, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the universe; Who so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten

Son for its redemption; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was in the beginning with God and was God; who became man and suffered to take away the sins of the world; in whom we have redemption, being justified freely through faith in His blood; who rose from the dead, and ascended on high, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead, punishing the wicked with everlasting destruction from His presence, and receiving His people into His everlasting kingdom: and in the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, through whom alone we, being by nature children of wrath, are renewed and sanctified; by whose inspiration the Scriptures are given; who, with the Father and the Son, together one God, is supremely to be loved, and served, and alone to be adored; and in one Church on earth and in heaven; and in one Baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life immortal. AMEN.

COVENANTS.

“Keep, therefore, the words of this covenant and do them.”

—*Deuteronomy xxix, 9.*

COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP.

DEARLY BELOVED—You are here before God and many witnesses, to confess the Lord Jesus Christ. We trust that you discern the solemnity and the blessedness of this confession, and that He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it, until the day of Jesus Christ.

In the presence of God and of this assembly, you do now freely and cordially enter into the everlasting covenant of grace.

You do confess the Father Almighty your Maker and Preserver, the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior and Master, and the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier and Guide, to be your God.

You do trust only in His Sovereign Grace, and Almighty Power.

And you do promise that you will henceforth faithfully endeavor to keep His commandments, and follow Him in all things; to walk with His disciples in love, and denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the Great God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This you truly confess and heartily engage?

COVENANT OF BAPTISM.

HAVING thus confessed your faith in Christ, you will now seal this good confession according to our Lord's commandment by the ordinance of Baptism, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

[Do you who have never been baptized, now with faith receive this Sacrament] [and]

[Do you, who in childhood, by the faith of believing parents, were entered into the covenant of promise, now in your own faith, assume the baptism then administered]

As the badge of your discipleship, the symbol of the washing of regeneration, and the seal of the everlasting covenant, in which you inherit the sure mercies of God, and dedicate [yourself] [yourselves] forever to a holy life?

Baptism here administered to those not baptised, and those joining by Letter now present themselves.

Do you now cordially unite [yourself] [yourselves] to this Church of Christ, promising to walk in compliance with its rules, to co-operate with us in the worship of God, and in the work of the Gospel, and earnestly to endeavor to promote the peace, welfare and usefulness of this Church?

We, then, the members of this Church [rising], in the name of Christ, affectionately welcome you to our communion, to a participation in the duties and privileges of this Church; and we faithfully promise to watch over you, with Christian affection and tenderness, highly esteeming you in love, for Christ's sake.

This we do, looking to the great Shepherd of Israel, our Lord and Redeemer, that both we and you may receive wisdom and grace, to be faithful to these covenants, and to glorify Him with the holiness which becometh His house forever.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. AMEN.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, remain with you always. AMEN.

COVENANT OF INFANT BAPTISM.

DEARLY BELOVED—Accepting the promise of God, which is to you and to your offspring, you do now dedicate [this] [these] little [one] [ones] to God. You now covenant and engage to train up [this child] [these children] in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by scriptural precepts, and a godly example, to keep [it] [them] in the love of Christ. God's covenant is to renew and sanctify your [child] [children] and so to bless the faithful nurture which you promise, with the help of his Holy Spirit, that your [child] [children] shall grow up unto Christ in all things.

Do you, in faith, join this gracious covenant, and honor the baptism of your [child] [children] as the symbol of the washing of regeneration and of Christian nurture, and as the seal of the covenant of grace, by which your [child is] [children are] set apart to be the Lord's?

COVENANT OF OFFICERS.

DEARLY BELOVED—You have been duly elected to positions of responsibility by the members of this Church, who now, formally and affectionately, commit to you, as to under-shepherds, the

official care of its precious interests and its important work, earnestly believing that you will assume these trusts, as solemnly called to them of God, to whom you will give account of your stewardship. We invite your assent to this official covenant.

You do now solemnly promise faithfully to perform the duties of the offices to which you have severally been appointed, to maintain the doctrine, order and discipline of this Church, and in good faith, by all proper means, to promote its spiritual and visible prosperity and usefulness. So you promise and engage.

May you be indued with the wisdom and power which cometh from above, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. AMEN.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Church shall be a Pastor, two or more Deacons, two or more members of the Pastoral Committee, a Superintendent of the Sunday School, and a Clerk who shall also be Treasurer.

Deacons and members of the Pastoral Committee shall be elected for four years, or for a shorter term, to prevent a disproportionate number of vacancies occurring at the same time.

The Superintendent of the Sunday School and the Clerk shall be elected annually.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The PASTOR shall "preach the Word," conduct public religious services, preside in the business meetings of the Church, exercise general oversight of the Sunday schools, religious meetings and other operations of the Church, and labor, by all proper means, to promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

The DEACONS shall assist in the administration of the sacraments; in the absence, or at the request of the Pastor, provide a

temporary supply for the pulpit and conduct religious meetings; take up public collections, distribute the charities of the Church, attend to the courteous reception and comfort of all, and particularly of strangers, who assemble for public worship, and act as advisors and assistants of the Pastor in the general care and oversight of the congregation.

The SUPERINTENDENT shall appoint teachers and conduct the exercises of the Sunday school, with the assistance of such officers as shall be elected by the school.

The CLERK shall keep the records of the Church and minutes of the meetings of the Pastoral Committee, conduct correspondence, receive the funds of the Church and disburse the same on the order of the Deacons. He shall present, at the annual meeting, a statistical summary of the condition and operations of the Church, including the Sunday school and all other organizations connected with the Church.

The officers of the Church shall constitute a PASTORAL COMMITTEE, which shall make preliminary inquiries concerning applications for membership and concerning other important business, and shall report the same to the Church with such recommendations as they may deem wise. The members of this committee are especially charged to promote the social well-being of the Church, to seek out and minister to the sick and the poor, and any in affliction who may need sympathy and help.

This committee shall, from time to time, and especially at the annual meetings, make such communications and recommendations concerning the work of the Church as they may deem advisable.

MEMBERS.

ADMISSION.

Candidates for membership should confer with the Pastor and present themselves at a meeting of the Pastoral Committee.

Members elect shall assume the vows of baptism and assent to the covenant of membership.

DISMISSION.

Members in good and regular standing may, at their own request, be dismissed by vote and letter to other Evangelical Churches. No letter of dismission is valid for more than one year from its date, and no member's covenant relations with this Church ceases until he has entered into covenant with the Church to which he has been dismissed.

Absent members are entitled to letters of dismission, dated back to the commencement of their absence; and letters of more recent date may be given them upon satisfactory evidence of the continued correctness of their Christian life. Members who have been absent three years or more may be communicated with by the Clerk, and if no satisfactory reasons are obtained for their continued neglect to ask letters to and connect themselves with other churches, they may be excluded by vote.

Members purposely and habitually absenting themselves from the stated meetings and ordinances of the Church, members who refuse to pay any pecuniary obligation to the Church or Society, and members under any censure by vote of the Church, or who are disobedient to any admonition of the Church, are not in good and regular standing.

EXCLUSION AND DISCIPLINE.

Excommunication of a member may follow his conviction of any public or private offense, except he do works "meet for repentance." Discipline shall be conducted according to Congregational usage, as directed in Matthew xviii, 15-17.

In cases of unquestionable breach of covenant vows, or of notorious immorality, the Church may proceed without trial to admonish the offender; and if admonition prove fruitless, to excommunication.

BAPTIZED CHILDREN

Are under the watch and care of the Church. It is confidently expected that they will in early youth profess Christ, on their own faith, and voluntarily assume the covenant vows of the Church.

Parents chiefly, and the Church largely, are responsible for a Christian nurture being so judiciously and constantly exercised, that through the covenanted help of the Holy Spirit, each baptized child shall grow up into Christ.

SACRAMENTS.

The Lord's Supper is administered on the first Sabbaths of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Baptism is administered immediately before the Lord's Supper, and at other convenient times.

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

The annual meeting shall be held on the second Monday of January. A regular meeting shall be held on the Wednesday next preceding each communion service. Ordinary business may be transacted at any general prayer meeting, or, in an emergency, at other meetings.

Special meetings may be called by the Pastor, and the Clerk shall call a special meeting at the written request of five members. Special meetings shall be published on the Sabbath preceding from the pulpit, or by posting on the church building. Business meetings shall be conducted according to the generally approved rules of deliberative bodies. The Order of Business at the annual meeting shall be :

- I. Hearing, correction and approval of the records.
- II. Report of the Clerk.
- III. Communication from the Pastoral Committee.
- IV. Election of Officers.
- V. Appointment of Committee on Music.
- VI. Adoption of Plans for Benevolent Contributions for the year.
- VII. Miscellaneous business.

This order may be changed by vote.

All members of the Church above fifteen years of age, in good and regular standing, are entitled to vote, and eligible to office.

Regular officers shall be chosen by ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to election.

AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to this organization and rules may be proposed and discussed at any regular business meeting, but shall not be adopted before the succeeding regular meeting.

Rules for the Joint Action of the Church and Society.

A majority of the Trustees of the Society shall be members of the Church, in good and regular standing.

The Pastor shall use the church edifice for religious purposes at his discretion. The Church may also use it for religious purposes.

The care and control of the buildings, in other respects, shall be with the Society.

The Deacons of the Church shall provide a supply for the pulpit, in the absence of the Pastor.

A Pastor may be elected either permanently or for a specified time.

A call to the pastorate must originate in the Church, and receive the concurrence of the Society. The same order must be observed in vacating the pastorate.

A committee of five persons to provide for singing and church music shall be appointed by the Church.

These rules of joint action can be amended by a separate vote of the Church and Society, each body being governed by the rule for amending its own organization.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY.

NAME AND OBJECT.

The name of this Society shall be THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY OF RAVENSWOOD.

Its object shall be to co-operate with the First Congregational Church of Ravenswood in providing for and maintaining the public worship of God.

MEMBERSHIP.

All persons above sixteen years of age, who are attendants on public worship with this church, and who contribute regularly in good faith directly or representatively to the revenue of the Society, are members of the Society, and qualified to vote at its meetings; but no person shall be entitled to vote who refuses to pay any of his pecuniary obligations to the Society.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Clerk, three Trustees, and a Treasurer to be appointed annually by the Trustees from their own number. The officers (excepting the Treasurer) shall be chosen by a majority ballot.

The President and Clerk shall hold office one year, or until their successors are chosen. Trustees shall be elected for three years, or until their successors are chosen; but may be elected for a shorter term to prevent several vacancies occurring at one time.

The President shall preside at meetings, audit the Treasurer's report and accounts, and certify to the condition of the same at the annual meeting.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of the funds and valuable papers of the Society, collect all moneys and revenues, and make

a report exhibiting clearly the financial condition of the Society at the annual meeting.

The Clerk shall issue calls for meetings, make and preserve a record of the proceedings of meetings, including abstracts of important reports, and file and preserve reports and other papers.

The Trustees shall have control and management of financial affairs. The real estate and other property shall be vested in the Trustees, who shall hold, manage and dispose of the same to promote the objects of the Society, according to the laws of the State of Illinois, and subject to the rules and orders of the Society.

MEETINGS.

The annual meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of January; but if it should fail to be held on that day, it shall be called as other meetings.

The Clerk shall call special meetings of the Society at the order of the Trustees, or at the written request of five persons who are qualified to vote.

Notices of meetings shall be publicly given from the pulpit, on the Sunday preceding, or if no public meeting is held on that Sunday, notice shall be posted on the church at least five days previous to the meeting called.

All meetings shall be conducted according to the rules which commonly prevail in deliberative bodies.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote, provided the proposed amendment has been presented in writing at some previous meeting, or read from the pulpit with the call for the meeting at which the vote is taken.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

PASTOR.

	Elected.	Term Expired.
Rev. W. A. Lloyd.....	1870	.....

DEACONS.

J. H. Wright.....	1870	.....
W. H. Hedges.....	1870	1875
James L. Barrows.....	1872	.....
J. N. Wilkins.....	1875	.....

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Wm. P. Jones, Jr.....	1870	1870
J. H. Wright.....	1870	1872
Wm. P. Jones, Jr.....	1872	1873
Frank P. Barrows.....	1873	1874
Charles G. Chandler.....	1874	.....

CLERKS.

C. W. Clark.....	1870	1872
Frank L. Strong.....	1872	1875
Francis W. Little.....	1875	.....

PASTORAL COMMITTEE.

Rev. W. A. Lloyd.....	1870	.....
J. H. Wright.....	1870	.....
W. H. Hedges.....	1870	1875
James L. Barrows.....	1872	.....
Mrs. J. L. Barrows.....	1873	.....
J. N. Wilkins.....	1875	.....
Mrs. J. N. Wilkins.....	1875	.....
John A. Cole.....	1875	.....
C. G. Chandler.....	1875	.....
Francis W. Little.....	1875	.....

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENTS.

	Elected.	Term Expired.
Wm. P. Jones, Jr.....	1870	1871
Rev. W. A. Lloyd.....	1871	1872
H. T. Merrill.....	1872	1873
James L. Barrows.....	1873	1876
John A. Cole.....	1876	.....

TRUSTEES.

Wm. P. Jones, Jr.....	1870	1871
W. H. Hedges.....	1870	1875
J. H. Wright.....	1870	1873
Robert Greer.....	1871	.....
John N. Hills.....	1873	.....
C. G. Chandler.....	1875	.....

TREASURERS.

W. H. Hedges.....	1870	1873
John N. Hills.....	1873	.....

CLERKS.

J. H. Wright.....	1870	1870
B. T. Chandler.....	1870	1872
William Smith.....	1872	1873
H. D. Harris.....	1873	1876
Francis W. Little.....	1876	.....

LADIES' SOCIAL SOCIETY.

This Society was organized January 26th, 1871, and has contributed largely to the social well being of the Church and community.

The amount of its revenue for the first three years cannot be definitely ascertained, but is known to have been fully as large, proportionately, as the receipts for the past three years, which were:

1873.....	\$811 34
1874.....	\$268 84
1875.....	291 85
1876, six months.....	104 94
TOTAL.....	<u>\$1,476 97</u>

PRESIDENTS.

	Elected.	Term Expired.
Mrs. Helen M. Lloyd.....	1871	1872
Mrs. Mary E. Jones.....	1872	1873
Mrs. H. T. Merrill.....	1873	1874
Mrs. Carrie S. Hills.....	1874	1873
Mrs. Frances Wilkins.....	1875	1876
Mrs. Kate P. Little.....	1876	.....

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. M. E. Jones.....	1871	1872
Mrs. Jennie E. Wright.....	1872	1873
Mrs. A. H. Angell.....	1873	1874
Mrs. M. E. Jones.....	1874	1875
Mrs. Kate P. Little.....	1875	1876
Mrs. Alice D. Chandler.....	1876	.....

SECRETARIES.

Mrs. Catherine Greer.....	1871	1872
Mrs. Alice M. Hayes.....	1872	1873

Mrs. Carrie S. Hills	1873	1874
Mrs. Ann A. Trudeau.....	1874	1875
Mrs. M. Louisa Strong.....	1875	1876
Miss Elvira Bannister.....	1876	.....

TREASURERS.

Mrs. M. A. Clark.....	1871	1872
Mrs. Catherine Greer.....	1872	1873
Miss Octavia Barrows	1873	.....

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

L signifies Received by Letter; P, Received by Profession; D, Dismissed by Letter; *, Deceased.

	When Received.			
William A. Lloyd.	April 20, 1870.	L.		
Mrs. Helen M. Lloyd.	May 4, 1870.	L.		
Wm. H. Hedges.	April 20, 1870.	L.	D. Feb. 18, 1875.	
Mrs. Maria C. Hedges.	“ “ “	“	“ “ “	
Jane Bowen (Sultzer).	“ “ “	“		
C. W. Clark.	“ “ “	“		
J. H. Wright.	May 4, 1870.	“		
Mrs. J. E. Wright.	“ “ “	“		
Henry Sultzer.	Sept. 11, 1870.	P.		
H. W. Carpenter.	Feb. 5, 1871.	L.	D. Oct. 1, 1874.	
Mrs. Mary Carpenter.	“ “ “	“	“ “ “	
Robert Greer.	“ “ “	“		
Mrs. Catherine Greer.	“ “ “	“		
John McMeekin.	“ “ “	“	D. April, 1873.	
Edward Hayes.	June 4, 1871.	P.		
Mrs. Alice M. Hayes.	“ “ “	L.		*1874.
Conrad Laubmeyer.	Jan. 1, 1872.	P.		
Frank L. Strong.	“ “ “	L.		
Mrs. M. Louisa Strong.	“ “ “	“		

	When Received.		
Charles Trudeau.	Jan. 1, 1872.	L.	
Mrs. Ann A. Trudeau.	" "	"	
Mrs. Ella G. Bryan.	" "	"	*July 7, 1874.
James L. Barrows, Jr.	" "	"	
Frank P. Barrows.	July 1, 1872.	L.	
Charles W. Chandler.	Nov. 1, 1872.	L.	
Mrs. Mary Chandler.	" "	"	
James L. Barrows.	" "	"	
Mrs. Hannah Barrows.	" "	"	
John J. Barrows.	" "	"	*April, 1873.
Mary E. Barrows.	" "	"	
Octavia J. Barrows.	" "	"	
Lavinia F. Barrows.	" "	"	
Christian Olson.	March 2, 1873.	L.	D. Feb. 25, 1876.
Chauncey Rheinboth.	May 4, 1873.	P.	
John A. Fishleigh.	" "	"	
Mrs. Rosella R. Gordon.	" "	L.	
Sarah A. Frost.	June 1, 1873,	P.	
Minnie A. Fishleigh.	" "	"	
Lillie H. Jones.	" "	"	
Charles Laubmeyer.	" "	"	
Hubbard D. Harris.	Sept. 7, 1873,	P.	
Mrs. Jennie A. Harris.	" "	"	
Mrs. Augusta H. Angell.	" "	"	
Mrs. Cordelia Howard.	" "	"	
William P. Jones, Jr.	" "	L.	
Mrs. Mary E. Jones.	" "	"	
James W. Andrews.	" "	"	
Mrs. Sarah Andrews.	" "	"	
Samuel W. Bassett.	" "	"	
Mrs. Mary Bassett.	" "	"	
Sarah A. Orcutt.	Jan. 4, 1874,	"	
Jessie Wilkins.	March 1, 1874,	P.	
John Wilbur Wilkins.	" "	"	
Charles H. Knight.	" "	"	

	When Received.			
Leroy C. Hedges.	March 1, 1874.	P.	D.	Feb. 18, 1875.
Albert P. Hedges.	" "	"	"	" "
Willie W. Lloyd.	" "	"		
Hattie W. Lloyd.	" "	"		
William Zeutel.	" "	"		
J. H. Bruns.	" "	"		
Mrs. Caroline E. Bruns.	" "	"		
Hale Knight.	" "	L.		
Mrs. Jennie G. Knight.	" "	"		
Nettie Turner.	" "	"		
John N. Wilkins.	" "	"		
Mrs. Frances Wilkins.	" "	"		
Andrew Brotherston.	" "	"		
Maggie Wright.	Jan. 3, 1875,	P.		
Mrs. H. M. Galloway.	May 2, 1875,	L.		
John A. Cole.	July 4, 1875,	"		
Mrs. Julia A. Cole.	" "	"		
Mrs. A. A. Wiswall.	" "	"		
Francis W. Little.	" "	P.		
Charles G. Chandler.	Sept. 5, 1875,	L.		
Mrs. A. D. Chandler.	" "	"		
Lucy Hart.	" "	P.		

