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## DISCIPLINE

OF

# The Congregational Holiness Church

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#### PREFACE.

Whereas: We wish to state in assembling ourselves together to organize a Congregational Holiness Church, that it is with a spirit of sorrow that such a move becomes necessary, but we do honestly feel that the Spirit of the Lord demands a move of this kind; so it is in obedience to God, and respect to His humble followers we organize a Congregational Holiness Church, setting forth the faith that is taught by the doctrines of Jesus Christ and the Apostles, which brings to one and all who accept, salvation from sin and sinning, and the Baptism with the Holy Ghost.

Our purpose is to follow the teaching of the Bible so in form of government we believe in a Congregational Government, while no actions taken by the few or many will glorify God unless we let the love of God rule in our hearts and lives. But we observe how both State and Church have suffered when a few held the reigns of government. So knowing by experience or observation the injustice and suffering that is brought on individuals when the whole assembly is not allowed a voice, we do with a feeling of duty we owe to God and his followers also with courage, organize the Congregational Holiness Church, believing a cry is already going up from many pure hearts for such a church. So it is with a purpose in our hearts to glorify God we present this form of government and articles of faith.

# THE CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH

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#### SECTION 1.

#### Faith In The Holy Trinity

- 1. There is but one living and true God, the great Creator. And there are three persons in the Godhead of equal power. The Father, the Son and Holy Ghost. Gen. 1:1-27; I John 5:7; Matt. 28:19.
- 2. We believe the Holy Bible to be the inspired Word of God. 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Tim. 3:16.
- 3. We believe we are justified when we repent of our sins, and believe in Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1; Acts 13:38-39; Mark 1:15.
- 4. We believe in Sanctification as a second definite work of Grace. St. John 17: 16-17; Eph. 5:25-27.
- 5. We believe in the baptism with the Holy Ghost, and speaking with other tongues, as the Spirit gives utterance, to be the initiatory evidence of this experience. Acts 2:4; 19:6; 10:44-46.

- 6. We believe in divine healing for the body (but do not condemn Medical Science.) Jas. 5:14; Acts 3:2-12; 9:32-43; 5:15-16.
- 7. We believe all the above experiences and divine healing are in the atonement.
- 8. We believe in the Imminent personal pre-millennial second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 1:10-11; I Thess. 4: 13-18; Rev. 1-7.
- 9. We believe all who die out of Christ will be punished eternally, but those who die in Him shall share in His Glory forever. Matt. 25:46; St. John 5:29; Dan. 12:2; Jude 7.
- 10. We believe the Bride of Christ is composed of the entire Church. I Cor. 12: 25; Eph. 4:16; Gal. 3:28-29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-33; Rev. 19:7-8.
- 11. We believe every blessing we receive from God comes through the merits of the atonement. Rom. 5:11; Jas. 1:16-17.

#### SECTION 2.

#### CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

No one shall be admitted into membership of this Church who does not know he is born of God. I John 3:9; 5:16; St. John 3:7.

He must be in harmony with Articles of

Faith, also he must abstain from the use of tobacco in every form. The use of slang language, and other things that are contrary to holy living, and take the Bible as his rule of conduct.

No one who belongs to Oath Bound Secret Societies will be received as a member of this church 2 Cor. 6:14-18; St. John 18:20; Matt. 24:26; Eph. 5:12.

#### SECTION 3.

#### WHAT WE MAINTAIN

We urge our people to dress with simplicity and modesty, as becometh Holiness; even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price. 1 Peter 3:4; 1 Tim. 2:9.

Worldly entertainments such as theatres, ball-rooms, circuses, baseball and like places, also lotteries, games of chance, and improper conduct, shall not be indulged in by our members. 2 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 12:2.

We urge our people to remember the Sabbath Day and to keep it holy. Ex. 20:8.

Even so did the Lord ordain that they who proclaim the Gospel should live of the Gospel. I Cor. 9:14.

We recognize the obligation of the church to provide for the support of the pastors, evangelists and missionaries. Luke 6:38.

We would impress the need of using hospitality one to another without grudging; having fervent charity among ourselves. I Peter 4:8-9.

#### CONCERNING WAR

While we believe that government is ordained of God, and that God's children should be "subject unto the higher powers," according to Rom. 13:1-7, yet, as the Word of God admonishes us to "Follow peace with all men," to "Love our enemies," to "Resist not evil," we believe war to be at variance with the principles of the Gospel, and that God's children should not take up arms against their fellowmen. Matt. 5:39-48; Heb. 12:14.

# SECTION 4 CHURCH ORDINANCES

#### BAPTISM

The candidate shall have liberty to conscience in the mode of water baptism.

#### FOOT WASHING

Each member of this church shall have liberty of conscience in the matter of foot washing.

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER

All Christians are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us.

#### SECTION 5

#### FORM OF GOVERNMENT

This body of worshippers shall be known as the Congregational Holiness Church. Its form of government shall be congregational.

#### ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL CHURCHES

Any ordained minister of this church has authority to organize churches where he finds as many as five persons desiring to unite with us.

#### OFFICERS OF LOCAL CHURCH

Each church shall elect three trustees of church property, one deacon for every 20 members or fractional part thereof, also secretary and treasurer.

#### DUTY OF TRUSTEES

They shall hold in trust all property of church, and see that all deeds are properly drawn and recorded.

#### DUTY OF DEACONS

First look after spiritual welfare of church; second, financial affairs; also see that order is kept, and the church properly lighted and heated.

#### DUTY OF SECRETARY-TREASURER

Keep a faithful record of all church

proceedings and a correct roll of its membership; also account of all money paid in or out of church.

Each church shall elect its own pastor by a majority vote of its membership.

All church officers shall be elected annually.

The applicants for license shall have recommendation from local church of which he has membership to the Annual Association.

Women shall be licensed to preach, and encouraged to exercise all gifts imparted to her by the Holy Ghost, but will not be ordained.

The articles of faith, form of government and condition of membership shall not be changed until the proposed change has been submitted to each local church, and the majority voting favorably to the change.

Church trials shall be conducted on gospel principles only. Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 6:1-7; Gal. 6:1-2.

All ministers are required to hold membership in a local church.

The term of all officers of Annual Association expires at adjournment, except secretary, who holds office for coming Association year.

#### ANNUAL ASSOCIATIONS

Each Annual Association shall determine its own boundaries, time and place of sitting. It shall be composed of its ordained and licensed ministers, mission workers, and one delegate from each local church for every 25 members or fractional part thereof.

It shall be called to order at the appointed hour by its oldest minister present, and elect secretary and chairman.

#### Business Proceedings as Follows:

- 1. Enrollment.
- 2. Election of assistant secretary and chairman.
  - Fixing hour of business.
  - 4. Election of committees.
- 5. Examining and passing of characters beginning with chairman.
- 6. Hearing reports from pastors, evangelists, mission workers. Any member failing to report in person or writing for three successive years, his name shall be erased from roll.
  - 7. Hearing reports from local churches.
  - 8. Report of committees.
- 9. Examining, licensing and ordaining of applicants; also receiving ordained and licensed ministers from other Christian bodies.
  - 10. Miscellaneous business.

11. Time and place of next Association. Reading of appointments. adjournment.

#### GENERAL ASSOCIATION

This body shall determine the time and place of its sitting. It shall be composed of one clerical delegate for every 12 ministers or fractional part thereof; one lay delegate for every 50 members or fractional part thereof.

All delegates to General Association shall be elected by Annual Association.

The purpose of General Association shall be to devise such means as is deemed best for the Congregational Holiness Church.

Said Association shall be called to order by its oldest minister present, and shall elect secretary and chairman.

#### Business Proceedings as Follows:

- 1. Enrollment.
- 2. Election of assistant secretary and chairman.
  - 3. Fixing hours of business.
  - 4. Election of committees.
  - 5. Hearing reports of committees.
  - 6. Miscellaneous business
  - 7. Time and place of next sitting.
  - 8. Adjournment.

#### FORM OF LICENSE.

### Mission Worker's License.

This is to certify that the bearer hereof,
has been duly licensed as a missionary of the Congrega-
tional Holiness Church, and is highly com- mended to the fellowship of all Christians with whom he (or she) may be called to labor in the service of the Lord.
Moderator
Secretary
Date
Local Preacher's License.
This is to certify that the bearer hereof,
has been duly licensed by the Congregational Holiness Church to preach the Gospel, so long as h life and doctrine accords with the Holy Scriptures and faith of said church.  Signed,  Moderator
Secretary
Date
License of Ordination
To all whom it may concern—Greetings:  Be it known, That having complied with all the requirements of the

Congregational Holiness Church, was regularly and duly ordained in the said church, and is hereby authorized by said church, so long as his life and doctrine accords with the Holy Scriptures, to administer the Lord's Supper, to baptize, to celebrate matrimony, to feed the flock of God, taking the oversight, not as a lord over God's heritage, but being an ensample to the flock.

tage, but being an ensample to the flock. Signed,
Moderator
Secretary
Date
Form of Church Letter
This is to certify that the bearer hereof
is an acceptable
member of the Congregational Holiness
Church at
Moderator
Secretary
Date
This letter shall be void after six months.

#### SECTION 6

#### Marriage Ceremony

We are assembled in the presence of God and before these witnesses, for the purpose of joining this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted by God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that exists between Christ and His Church. If any one can show just cause why these persons may not be joined together, let him now speak, or else forever hereafter hold his peace.

(The minister shall then say unto the man):

Wilt thou have this woman to be thy lawful wedded wife, to love, honor, comfort and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

The man shall answer-I will.

(Then shall the minister say unto the woman):

Wilt thou have this man to be thy lawful wedded husband, to obey, love, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

The woman shall answer-I will.

(Then shall the minister join their right hands together and say):

Whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder. I pronounce thee husband and wife.

#### SECTION 7

### Ordinance of Baptism

(Then may the minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized severally):

Question: Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow or be led by them?

Answer-I renounce them all.

Question: Do you believe in the Holy Ghost, the Church of God in general, the communion of saints, the remission of sins, the resurrection of the body, everlasting life after death?

Answer-All this I steadfastly believe.

Question: Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Answer-This is my desire.

(The minister shall say to each candidate): I baptize you in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.