

**THE CONFESSION OF FAITH
AND FORM OF COVENANT OF
THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH:
IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

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The Confession Of Faith And Form Of Covenant Of The Old South Church: In Boston,
Massachusetts by Various

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VARIOUS

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THE
CONFESSION OF FAITH
AND
FORM OF COVENANT,
OF
THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH,

IN
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ——— ^

WITH LISTS OF THE
FOUNDERS, THE PASTORS, THE RULING ELDERS AND
DEACONS, AND THE MEMBERS.

"One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren."

J^t
BOSTON:
PRESS OF CROCKER AND BREWSTER,
47, Washington Street.
1855.

S. 13189, 78 . 5

1856, Feb. 16.

Gilbert

Samuel A. Green, M.D.

(No. 6. 1851)

*At a Meeting of the Brethren of the Old South Church, held at the
Chapel, Oct. 10, 1854,*

Voted, That a list of the Members of the Church, together with the Church Covenant, be printed.

Voted, That a committee of five persons be chosen to attend to this subject.

Voted, That this Committee consist of the Pastor, Deacons Cutler, Stoddard and Lathrop, and Brother Henry H. Jones.

Voted, That one thousand copies of the Covenant and list of Members be printed, and that each member of the Church be entitled to a copy; also that each pew proprietor who is not a church member be furnished with a copy; and that the Pastor furnish each candidate for membership with a copy previous to a public profession.

NOTICES

OF THE

HISTORY OF THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH.

THE THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in Boston,
now usually styled THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH, was
formed at Charlestown, on the 12th and 16th of
the third month, i. e. of May, 1669, O. S.

The Original Members were

<p>William Davis, Hezekiah Usher, John Hull, Edward Raynsford, <i>afterwards</i> <i>Ruling Elder</i>, Peter Bracket, <i>afterwards Deacon</i>, Jacob Elliot, <i>afterwards Deacon</i>, Peter Oliver, Thomas Beattle, Edward Rawson, Joshua Scottoe, Benjamin Gibbs, Thomas Savage, Joseph Rocke, Theodore Atkinson, John Wing,</p>	<p>Richard Trewedale, Theophilus Frarye, <i>afterwards Deacon</i>, Robert Walker, John Aldie, Benjamin Thurston, William Salter, John Morse, Josiah Belcher, Seth Perry, James Pamberton, William Dawes, Joseph Davis, Thomas Thatcher, <i>afterwards chosen</i> <i>the first Pastor</i>,* Joseph Belknap.</p>
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* Mr. Thatcher had been Pastor of the Church in Weymouth, Mass., from which he had been dismissed, and had removed to Charlestown, and united with the First Church there, from which he was dismissed to be united with this Church at its formation.

These females are also to be regarded as among the founders of the Church. Their names are, therefore, here inserted, from the book of "Admissions."

Margaret Thatcher,	Elizabeth Gibbs,
Mary Norton,	Hanna Frarye,
Mary Salter,	Judith Hull,
Mary Savage,	Ranis Belcher,
Elizabeth Raynsford,	Sara Pemberton,
Elizabeth Thurston,	Sara Walker,
Mary Tappan,	Elizabeth Alden,
Elizabeth Rocke,	Sara Oliver,
Mary Eliot,	Mary Bracket,
Susanna Dawes,	Joanna Mason,
Alice Harper,	Rachel Rawson,
Sara Bodman.	

The names of the several Pastors, and the dates of their ordination or installation, and of their decease or dismissal, are as follows:—

Thomas Thatcher,	inst'd Feb. 15, 1570,	deceased Oct. 15, 1678.	Æ 59
Samuel Willard,	do. April 10, 1678,	do. Sept. 12, 1707.	" 67
Ebenezer Pemberton,	ord'd Aug. 28, 1700,	do. Feb. 13, 1717.	" 45
Joseph Sewall, D. D.,	do. Sept. 16, 1713,	do. June 27, 1769.	" 50
Thomas Prince,	do. Oct. 1, 1718,	do. Oct. 22, 1758.	" 72
Alexander Cumming,	inst'd Feb. 25, 1761,	do. Aug. 25, 1763.	" 36
Samuel Blair,	do. Nov. 26, 1766,	dismissed Oct. 10, 1769.	
John Bacon,	do. Sept. 25, 1771,	do. Feb. 8, 1775.	
John Hunt,	ord'd Sept. 25, 1771,	deceased Dec. 30, 1775.	" 31
Joseph Eckley, D. D.,	do. Oct. 27, 1779,	do. April 30, 1811.	" 61
Joshua Huntington,	do. May 18, 1808,	do. Sept. 11, 1819.	" 33
Benj. B. Wisner, D. D.	do. Feb. 21, 1821,	dismissed Nov. 12, 1832,	having been chosen one of the Secretaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He died Feb. 9, 1835, aged 40.
Samuel H. Stearns,	ord'd April 16, 1834,	dismissed March 8, 1836.	
George W. Blagden,	inst'd Sept. 28, 1836.		

The following persons have sustained the office of Ruling Elder or of Deacon of this Church.

[This list, from the manner in which the early records were kept, cannot be relied on as being perfect and entire.]

Edward Raynsford, Ruling Elder.*			
Peter Bracket, Deacon.			
Jacob Eliot, do.			
Theophilus Frarye, ord'd Deacon,†	Nov. 8, 1655.		
Nathaniel Williams, elect'd Deacon,	Oct. 15, 1693.		
James Hill, do.	Nov. 24, 1693.		
Daniel Heuchman, do.		deceased in	1761
Jonathan Simpson, do.	Aug. 7, 1733,	do.	1763
Thomas Hubbard, do.	April 9, 1739, resigned	Jan. 23, 1764	
Samuel Sewall, do.	Sept. 16, 1763, deceased	Jan. 19, 1771	
David Jeffries, do.	Sept. 16, 1763,	do.	Sept. 1756
William Phillips, do.	Feb. 27, 1764, resigned	Nov. 1793	
Jonathan Mason, do.	Aug. 20, 1770, deceased	May 5, 1795	
Thomas Dawes, do.	Oct. 20, 1796,	do.	Jan. 2, 1809
Samuel Salisbury, do.	March 24, 1794,	do.	May 2, 1818
William Phillips, Jr. do.	March 24, 1794,	do.	May 26, 1827

*Most of the churches of New England, for some time after the settlement of the country, had, besides a pastor, and a teacher, and two or more deacons, a ruling elder, or ruling elders, whose "business," says the author of Ratio Discipline, "it was to assist the pastor in visiting the distressed, instructing the ignorant, reducing the erroneous, comforting the afflicted, rebuking the unruly, discovering the state of the whole flock, exercising the discipline of the gospel upon offenders, and promoting the desirable growth of the church."

The name of but one Ruling Elder is mentioned in the Records of the Old South Church. This does not prove, however, that none others were ever chosen. There is no mention in the Records of any deacons having been chosen till Nov. 1655.

†In the early periods of the New England churches, the deacons were ordained with prayer, and the laying on of the hands of the pastor.

Joshua Salisbury, elected Deacon,	May 8, 1817,	deceased Feb. 10, 1826
Edward Phillips,	do. May 8, 1817,	do. Nov. 4, 1826
Pinny Cutler,	do. April 29, 1826.	
Thomas Vose,	do. April 29, 1826,	do. Oct. 3, 1840
Samuel T. Armstrong,	do. May 18, 1829,	do. March 26, 1850
Charles Stoddard,	do. Dec. 31, 1840.	
Oliver Dimon,	do. Feb. 16, 1847,	resigned Dec. 16, 1850
Loring Lathrop,	do. March 24, 1851.	
Henry H. Jones,	do. Dec. 12, 1854.	

R U L E S

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THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH.

MARCH 27, 1826. *Voted,* That hereafter the following shall be the method of proceeding in relation to applications for admission to this church on dismission and recommendation from other churches, viz: The applicants shall be conversed with by the pastor, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they approve of the covenant, and are disposed to conform to the faith and government of this church, and their letters of dismission and recommendation shall be examined and approved by the committee already appointed for that purpose, agreeably to a vote of this church passed January 1, 1816. If the pastor and the committee are satisfied with the results of their examinations, the names of the applicants shall be mentioned, as applying for admission to this church on dismission and recommendation from other churches, at the same times at which persons applying for