

**MANUAL FOR THE USE OF  
THE CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH IN WEST  
RUTLAND, VT.**

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Manual for the Use of the Congregational Church in West Rutland, Vt. by Various

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# MANUAL

FOR THE USE OF THE

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

IN

WEST RUTLAND, VT.

Adopted and Published by Order of the Church.

"Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant  
that shall not be forgotten."—JER. 50: 5.

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## CHURCH MANUAL.

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### **The Church, and Candidates for Membership.**

A Christian church is an association of professed Christians, united together for the worship of God and the celebration of religious ordinances, with the design of promoting their own growth in grace, and the interests of Christ's kingdom.

The members of this church, having united together for these purposes, cordially invite those dwelling among them, who hope they have "passed from death unto life," and who can accept the following confession of faith as substantially in accordance with the word of God, to unite with them in this holy service and fellowship.

To such as may be enquiring whether they are proper subjects for church fellowship, the following queries are proposed as aids in that self-examination to which we are called by the apostle, "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves: 2 Cor. xiii. 5."

1. Do I hate sin, heartily repent of it, and earnestly desire to be free from it?
2. Sensible of my own sinfulness, do I look to Christ alone for salvation, trusting in his atoning sacrifice?
3. Do I love holiness, and am I aspiring after likeness unto the character of Jesus Christ--making it my purpose and aim to do, and to be conformed to his will in all things?
4. Do I delight in secret prayer and communion with God?
5. Do I love the word of God, long for the ordinances of his house, and take pleasure in social worship?

6. Do I love the people of God, being attached to them by reason of their relation to Christ, and according to the measure of his image which they bear?

7. Do I feel drawn towards the people of God with a desire to enter into covenant with them to be the Lord's; and to cast in my lot with them, hoping thereby to be bound more strongly to a life of godliness? And is my love for Jesus such that I feel constrained to acknowledge him openly, and solemnly to bind myself to his service?

8. Is it my deliberate purpose, whatever may be my circumstances, to consecrate myself—time, talents, property and services to him who laid down his life for me?

9. Do I approve of the modes of worship practiced by this church, and can I heartily accept its confession of faith, and feel that henceforth this is my religious home?

10. Feeble as I am, can I sincerely trust my Savior for the sufficiency of his grace to fulfill these holy vows, saying in truth:—

“To this dear covenant of thy word,  
I set my worthless name;  
I seal the engagement to my Lord,  
And make my humble claim?”

All who are considering the question whether it may not be their privilege and duty to profess their faith in Christ, are requested to make known their feelings to the pastor.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH.

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ARTICLE 1. You believe in the eternal existence of Jehovah,<sup>a</sup> Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,<sup>b</sup> the Creator of all things; and that all his accountable creatures ought to render him perfect obedience forever.<sup>c</sup>

(a) Ps. 90: 2. 1 Tim. 1: 17. James 1: 17. Mal. 3: 6. Job 9: 7, 8, 9, and 28: 14.

(b) Math. 28: 19. 2 Cor. 13: 14. 1 John 5: 7. John 1: 14, 18. Acts 6: 3, 4.

(c) Deut. 6: 5. Ps. 13: 3. Isa. 6: 3. Mark 12: 30, 32.

ART. 2. You believe that Jehovah is possessed of infinite moral excellence, and that he administers a perfect moral government over the universe;<sup>a</sup> that he administers also a providential government, which extends to all events, great and small;<sup>b</sup> that to him alone belongs the glory of the saved: "according as he hath chosen them in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy, and without blame before him in love: having predestinated them unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,"<sup>c</sup> (Eph. 1: 4, 5,) and that the impenitent in sin perish through their own voluntary perverseness.<sup>d</sup>

(a) Ps. 45: 6, 7. Deut. 23: 20. Ps. 45: 6, 7. Prov. 21: 1. Isa. 44: 6, 7. Dan. 4: 34, 35, and 7: 14.

(b) Math. 10: 29, 30. Math. 6: 26. Jer. 5: 22. Ps. 104: 27-31. Isa. 40: 22-28; 45: 7. Job 14: 5.

(c) James 1: 18. Eph. 2: 8, 9, 10. Rom. 9: 15. John 6: 37, and 17: 6, 9. Rom. 9 chap., and 11: 5-7. 2 Thess. 3: 13. Eph. 1: 11, 12, and 3: 10, 11. 1 Pet. 1: 2.

(d) Deut. 30: 19. John 5: 4. Prov. 9: 12. Ezek. 33: 11. Prov. 1: 24-26. John 3: 17, 19. Ps. 31: 11-14. Isa. 48: 17, 18. Prov. 22: 17.



**ART. 3.** You believe that the Bible is given by inspiration of God, and that it contains the perfect and only infallible rule of faith and practice.\*

(e) 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17. 2 Pet. 1: 19-21. Eph. 2: 20. Rev. 22: 18, 19. Isa. 8: 20. Rom. 15: 4.

**ART. 4.** You believe that the Gospel of Christ finds mankind in a state of sin and condemnation, utterly destitute of that holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord,<sup>f</sup> and that, consequently, all must be renewed by the Holy Ghost, in the temper of their minds, before they can enter the kingdom of God.<sup>g</sup>

(f) Eph. 2: 1, 2, 3. Rom. 8: 7, 8. Gen. 6: 5. Rom. 8: 10, 11, 13. John 8: 6. 2 Cor. 5: 14. Ps. 59: 3, 4, 5. Rom. 5: 12-20. Jer. 17: 9. Eccl. 7: 20. Gal. 3: 10. Eph. 4: 18. Prov. 21: 4.

(g) John 8: 8, 5, 6, 7. John 1: 12, 13. Tit. 3: 4-7. 1 Cor. 3: 14. 2 Cor. 5: 17. 1 Pet. 1: 22, 23. James 1: 18. Acts 3: 19. Heb. 13: 14. 1 John 2: 29. John 3: 36.

**ART. 5.** You believe in the divinity, incarnation, obedience, suffering and death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ;<sup>h</sup> that by his sufferings and death he hath made atonement for the sin of the world;<sup>i</sup> and that he ever liveth to make intercession for believers, "who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." 1 Pet. 1: 5.<sup>j</sup>

(h) John 1: 1, 2, 3, 14. Heb. 1: 3, 8. Isa. 9: 6. Rev. 1: 8. Rom. 9: 5. Heb. 13: 8. John 5: 23. Heb. 2: 16. Rom. 8: 3. 1 Tim. 2: 5. Phil. 2: 6-11. Ps. 40: 8. Heb. 2: 16. 1 Pet. 5: 1. Acts 2: 24. 1 Cor. 15: 17. Eph. 4: 8-10. 1 Tim. 3: 16.

(i) Heb. 2: 9. 2 Cor. 5: 14. 1 Tim. 2: 6, and 4: 10. Heb. 9: 14. Rom. 3: 25, 28. Matt. 22: 4.

(j) Rom. 8: 34. John 17: 9. 1 John 2: 1, 2. John 10: 27, 28, 29. Rom. 8: 30, 35. 1st John 2: 19. John 4: 14, and 6: 37, 38, 39. Phil. 1: 2-8.

**ART. 6.** You believe it to be the duty and privilege of Christians to make visible profession of Christianity,<sup>k</sup> receiving and applying the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, as instituted by Christ and practiced by his apostles;<sup>l</sup> that none but the cordial friends of Christ ought to partake of the Lord's supper; and that baptism is to be applied to believers and their infant offspring.<sup>m</sup>

(k) Matt. 10: 22. Acts 2: 47. Rom. 10: 10-12. Luke 9: 26, and 22: 19.  
 (l) Matt. 28: 19. Mark 16: 16. Acts 2: 39. Mat. 26: 26, 27. 2 Cor.  
 11: 28-29.

(m) 1 Cor. 12: 21, and 8: 16-17. Ps. 50: 16. Isaiah 1: 11-15. Acts  
 2: 41, -8: 12, 26, 27, -16: 15, -18: 28, and 2: 38, 39. Gal. 3: 16. 1 Cor.  
 1: 16, and 7: 14. Luke 18: 15, 16.

ART. 7. You believe that the first day of the week is the Christian Sabbath, and is to be sanctified by an holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days, and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.<sup>a</sup>

(n) Exodus 20: 8-11. Gen. 2: 3, comp. Heb. 4: 10. Rev. 1: 10. John 20: 19. Acts 20: 7. Isa. 68: 13, 14. Ps. 118: 24. 1 Cor. 16: 2.

ART. 8. You believe it to be the duty of Christians who are heads of families to maintain the daily worship of God in their families morning and evening;<sup>b</sup> and faithfully to instruct their children and others under their care in the Christian religion, and to bring them to the public worship of God on the Sabbath.<sup>c</sup>

(o) Jere. 10: 25. Ps. 55: 17. Dan. 6: 10. Acts 10: 1, 2, 30.  
 (p) Eph. 6: 4. Deut. 6: 6, 7. Gen. 18: 19. 1 Sam. 8: 18. 2 Chron.  
 20: 13. Deut. 12: 10-14; and 31: 10-13.

ART. 9. You believe that Christians, according to their several ability, are under a sacred obligation to support the preaching of the Gospel at home;<sup>d</sup> and to contribute liberally of their substance for the spread of the Gospel abroad.<sup>e</sup>

(q) 1 Cor. 9: 7, 11, 13, 14. Luke 19: 7. Mat. 10: 10. Gal. 6: 6.  
 (r) Matt. 28: 19. Rom. 10: 14, 15. Mark 16: 15. Rom. 8: 9. Com-  
 pare 2 Cor. 8: 2. 2 Cor. 8: 1-12.

ART. 10. You believe that the present life is the only state of probation for mankind,<sup>f</sup> and that there will be a resurrection both of the just and of the unjust.<sup>g</sup>

(s) Gal. 6: 7, 8. Rev. 22: 11. Heb. 9: 27. Luke 16: 22, 23. Matt.  
 10: 28.

(t) John 5: 29. Acts 24: 15. 1 Cor. 15th chapter.

ART. 11. You believe that God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus

Christ, when all will receive according to their works: that the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.<sup>a</sup>

(a) Acts 17: 31. Heb. 9: 27. Matt. 25: 31-46. Rom. 2: 6-10. Acts 10: 42. Jude 14: 15. 2 Thes. 1: 7-9.

### COVENANT.

You do now in the presence of the heart-searching God, before angels and men, avouch the great Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be your God.

You receive the Father as your Father, the Lord Jesus Christ as your all-sufficient and only Redeemer, and the Holy Ghost as your Sanctifier.

Renouncing every sinful way, you devote your all unreservedly to God, and engage to walk in all his commandments and ordinances as required in his word.

You receive the brethren of Christ in this place, as your brethren, and his friends, as your friends. You also submit yourself to the government of Christ in his church, and to the regular administration of it in this church in particular. You covenant to walk in communion with your brethren, endeavoring to promote divine worship, and Christian love and fellowship, by all the means of Christ's appointment within your power: and to live as a humble Christian, in a regular and faithful attendance on the worship and ordinances of Christ in this place, and in the performance of all your solemn engagements to God and this church, until by the providence of God you are removed.

In reliance on Divine grace, this you solemnly engage.

**NOTE.**—It is recommended that the church rise, in token of their cordial approbation, while the Minister says:—

We do now publicly declare our reception of you as a member of this Christian church, in full communion.