

**THE OLD SOUTH COUNCIL
CALLED FOR THE INSTALLATION
OF THE REV. GEORGE A.
GORDON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2,
1884; PP. 6-49**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649303403

The Old South Council Called for the Installation of the Rev. George A. Gordon, Wednesday,
April 2, 1884; pp. 6-49 by Various

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VARIOUS

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THE OLD SOUTH COUNCIL

FOR THE

INSTALLATION

OF THE

Rev. GEORGE A. GORDON

APRIL 2, 1884

⊙ *Synagogical Churches, of the South*
for the year 1884.

THE OLD SOUTH COUNCIL

CALLED FOR THE

INSTALLATION

OF THE

Minister
Rev. GEORGE A. GORDON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1884

CUPPLES, UPHAM & CO.
283 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON
1884

~~III. 2500~~
U.S. 13189.78.59

1884. May 19.

By mail,

"THAT YOUR FAITH
SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WISDOM OF MEN,
BUT IN THE POWER OF GOD."

NOTE.

THE Committee of Arrangements for the installation of the Rev. George A. Gordon, requested Mr. J. M. W. Yerrinton to be in attendance at the meeting of the Council, and to make an exact report of all that was said and done. The statement of religious belief read by Mr. Gordon, and the cross-examination which followed, were given at the time in the daily papers, and were widely made known by the very large sale which both the regular and supplementary issues of these papers had; but it is believed that no full list of the members of the Council has yet been printed, and other particulars have been wanting to make the record complete. It seems desirable also, that the record should be put into form for permanent reference and for future use. The following pages are therefore presented, under the authority of the Standing Committees of the Old South Church and Society.

BOSTON, April 21, 1884.

FROM
THE CREED
REPORTED BY THE CREED COMMISSION
DECEMBER 19, 1883

X. WE believe . . . that these churches under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures and in fellowship with one another, may determine—each for itself—their organization, statements of belief, and forms of worship: may appoint and set apart their own ministers, and should co-operate in the work which Christ has committed to them for the furtherance of the gospel throughout the world.

Greenwich at the time. This answer was communicated to the Church and Society respectively; and by both, the letter was recommitted to the committee appointed to communicate the call, with instructions to confer further with Mr. Gordon, "with a view to bringing him to us as our pastor at the earliest practicable time."

The call was renewed in writing, January 4th, 1884, and was accepted by Mr. Gordon, in a letter dated January 11th, the pastorate to begin on the first Sunday in April next following. The letter of acceptance was laid before the Church and Society, and a joint committee was chosen to decide, in conference with the pastor-elect, upon the time of installation, to select the Council, to prepare and issue a letter-missive, to lay before the Council the proceedings and correspondence relating to the call, and to make all arrangements for the installation services. At the weekly meeting of the Church, Friday Evening, March 7th, Mr. Gordon was formally received into the membership, in compliance with an ancient rule requiring that the pastor-elect shall become a member before installation. He presented a letter of dismissal and recommendation from the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Boston,¹ and made a statement of his belief and experience, after which he was admitted by hand vote of the brethren, and welcomed in behalf of the Church by the senior deacon.

On the first of April Mr. Gordon arrived in Boston and took possession of the Old South parsonage,

¹ On the day after the Council, the elders of the Fourth Presbyterian Church called at the Old South parsonage to congratulate Mr. Gordon on his installation, and to make a valuable present of books.

which had been made ready for him. In the meantime the following letter-missive had been issued :

The Old South Church, Boston,

To the

SENDETH GREETING.

DEAR BRETHREN :

The Great Head of the Church having graciously united our hearts in the choice of the Rev. George A. Gordon, now pastor of the Second Congregational Church, Greenwich, Conn., as our pastor and teacher, and he having accepted our call to this office, an Ecclesiastical Council for installation and recognition will be held on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, the second day of April next. You are hereby cordially invited to participate, by your pastor and a delegate, in the proceedings of this Council, which will be convened in our Meeting House, Boylston Street, Boston, on the day aforesaid, at three o'clock P. M., when the action of the Church and Society, and the correspondence in connection with the call, will be laid before you, and the pastor-elect will make a statement of his religious belief, preliminary to the usual public services in the evening.

In behalf of the Old South Church and Society,

EVERY PLUMER,
SAMUEL JOHNSON,
RICHARD H. STEARNS,
HAMILTON A. HILL,
GEORGE R. CHAPMAN,

Committee of the Church.

ALPHEUS HARDY,
SAMUEL R. PAYSON,
JOSEPH H. GRAY,
LINUS M. CHILD,
Committee of the Society.

BOSTON, March 10, 1884.

This letter, it will be seen, in its tenor and spirit, was in harmony with the letters-missive for installations