



MANUAL

OF THE

Pilgrim Congregational Church

OF

DULUTH, MINNESOTA.

DULUTH, MINN.

PRINTED AT THE TRIBUNE BOOK AND JOB OFFICE,

1872.



CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

The name of this Church shall be the Pilgrim Church of Duluth.

ARTICLE II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it, whose majority vote is final. It is amenable to no other ecclesiastical body. It acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head, and receives the Scriptures as its only infallible guide in matters of Faith, Order and Discipline.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. All persons wishing to make a profession of religion and to unite with this Church, shall be examined with reference to their Christian experience and doctrinal views. For this purpose the Pastor and Deacons, and two others, to be chosen annually by the Church, shall be constituted a Standing Committee, who shall report the substance of the examination to the Church for approval.

SEC. 2. After such examination, any person who may be approved, shall be propounded at least one Sabbath before admission.

SEC. 3. No person shall be received into the Church but by a vote of the Church, which vote shall be taken on the day of the Lecture, or at some time previous to the Communion, but the Confession of Faith and Covenant shall be publicly read and assented to on the Communion Sabbath.

SEC. 4. All persons who may come recommended to this Church by letter, may be examined by the Standing Committee, and before they are admitted shall give their assent to the Confession of Faith and Covenant of this Church, and shall also be propounded at least one Sabbath previous to admission.

ARTICLE IV.—DISMISSION.

Letters of dismission and recommendation to Evangelical Churches, shall be given by vote of the Church to all members in good and unimpeachable standing, who desire them. Members who remove their residence beyond the reach of this Church, should, if practicable, at once transfer their relation to some other Church. If such do not apply for letters within one year from the time of leaving, satisfactory reasons must be given for the delay of the application before the dismission will be given.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of this Church shall be a Pastor and two or more Deacons, a Clerk, Treasurer, five Trustees, and a Committee for the examination of members.

The Deacons to be elected for a term of three years; the Clerk and Treasurer to be elected annually; and the Trustees to be so elected that two shall go out the first year, two the second, and one the third.

SEC. 2. All officers shall be elected by ballot. All elections shall be determined by a vote of the majority of the members of the Church present and voting, except in the election of Trustees, who shall be elected by a majority vote of a regularly called meeting of those qualified to vote under the act of incorporation. All officers, except the Pastor, shall serve until their successors are appointed.

SEC. 3. The Pastor, who as soon as practicable should become a member of the Church, shall have control of the pulpit, and the exercises of public worship, shall preach the Word, shall ordinarily be the Moderator in the meetings of the Church, shall take the spiritual oversight of the flock, and shall administer the sacraments. In calling a Pastor the Church shall always act first, after which the qualified voters in the congregation, including females, shall vote to concur or not to concur. In the installation of the Pastor the Church shall act by an Ecclesiastical Council, called in the usual manner; and such a Council shall be mutually called by the Pastor and Church to act upon the question of his dismission, whenever the Pastor shall desire it, or the Church shall so vote in a meeting notified on the preceding Sabbath for that specified purpose.

SEC. 4. The Deacons shall aid the Pastor in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, shall take the charge of the communion service and of providing for the communion table, shall have the oversight of the poor members for visitation and relief, and shall assist the Pastor generally in the spiritual care of the congregation.

SEC. 5. The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of all business meetings of the Church, and shall submit the same for revision and correction at each meeting preparatory to the Communion. He shall keep a register of the Church members, with the date of their reception and of their removal, and a record of all baptisms. He shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the Church, keep on file all correspondence, all written official reports, and all other valuable papers of the Church; shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer, and shall make an annual report.

SEC. 6. The Treasurer shall receive the funds of the Church; the charitable contributions he shall dispense under the direction of the Deacons; the benevolent contributions he shall forward to their respective destinations; and the funds for the support of the Church he shall disburse upon the order of the Trustees, and shall make an annual report to the Church.

SEC. 7. The Trustees, a majority of whom must be members of the Church, shall see that they are legally incorporated according to the laws of the State; shall hold the property of the Church, superintend the raising of the minister's salary, provide for the incidental expenses, subject always to a directing vote of the Church; shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, or transfer property, without a specific vote of authority by the Church, and shall make an annual report of their doings to the Church.

ARTICLE VI.—DISCIPLINE.

The Church censures are: Admonition, Suspension, and Excommunication. The rule of discipline, except in cases of immorality demanding immediate action, shall be the law of Christ recorded in Matthew xviii: 15-17. Every member cognizant of the offense should labor to bring the offender to repentance.

In cases of discipline, one week's notice shall be given to the Church before final action; and the accused shall be furnished with a written copy of the charges at least ten days before the trial. No vote of censure shall be passed, except upon the concurrence of two thirds of the members present at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VII.—MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the Church shall be held on the second Tuesday in January, when the annual reports shall be rendered and the regular elections made.

SEC. 2. Business may be transacted at any regular meeting of the Church, or at a special meeting called from the pulpit on the preceding Sabbath, by the officers of the Church, or by the written request of five adult members of the Church.

SEC. 3. A weekly Prayer-Meeting and a monthly Concert of Prayer for the conversion of the world, will be appointed at the discretion of the Church.

SEC. 4. Contributions shall be solicited in the congregation for the leading objects of Christian beneficence, according to a schedule adopted by the Church from time to time.

ARTICLE VIII.—ORDINANCES.

SECTION 1. The Lord's Supper shall ordinarily be celebrated on the first Sabbaths of January, March, May, July, September and November. It shall be preceded by a preparatory service during the week previous.

SEC. 2. Baptism will be administered in connection with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Children may also be presented for baptism before the communion.

ARTICLE IX.

SECTION 1. This Constitution, the Confession of Faith and the Covenant, may be altered at a meeting, of which due notice shall be given on the preceding Sabbath, with a statement of the proposed alteration, by a majority of the resident members of the Church, or by two thirds of those present: provided the change does not infringe upon the organic principles of this Church.

SEC. 2. By-laws to carry out the provisions of this Constitution, may be enacted at any business meeting.