

MANUAL

OF THE

First Pentecostal Church

OF

LYNN, MASS.



PROVIDENCE,
PENTECOSTAL PRINTING CO.,
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UNITED WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES OF AMERICA.

FEB. 3, 1897.

IN DOCTRINE, WESTERN;

IN ORGANIZATION AND POLITY, INDEPENDENT
AND CONGREGATIONAL.

PREFATORY.

First—By divine authority we understand that God has one living Church on earth, composed of all who believe in Christ and do his will.

Second—We learn by the writings of the Apostles, that local churches were established for mutual benefit and convenience; and wherever there are Christians who meet in any place for the worship of God, and to attend to the ordinances of the gospel, they do constitute such a church, being in harmony with the Apostolic plan.

Third—Therefore, we who have been and are accustomed to meet together for the worship of God, do, by the order of the gospel, hold ourselves to be an established church, located in Lynn, Mass.

Fourth—We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is

profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works." We, therefore, whose names follow, agreeing to take the word of God as our rule of faith, do mutually and solemnly covenant:

COVENANT.

FIRST—That we will exercise a mutual watch over one another, and help bear each other's burdens; so fulfilling the law of Christ.

SECOND—We will attend to the ordinances of the gospel as taught in the New Testament, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but will meet for prayer, for praise, and exhortation, "so much the more as we see the day approaching."

THIRD—We do covenant to "follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Seeing, "that none render evil for evil unto any man," repentment.

bearing that, "though we walk in the flesh we do not war after the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

FOURTH—We will not credit nor circulate any report to the injury of our brother or sister founded upon rumor, but visit them upon the first opportunity and ascertain upon the truth in the matter.

FIFTH—We 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, and will not follow nor be led by them; but will yield ourselves to God in constant obedience to all the divine requirements.

SIXTH—We will contribute of our means to the support of the church.

SEVENTH—The object of this church is the upbuilding of its members in holiness, the entire sanctification of believers. The conversion of sinners. This to be ob-

tained by preaching and teaching the whole word of God, giving to all their meat in due season. Also by the use of such other means and agencies as shall best secure these results.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

ARTICLE I. We believe there is one only living and true God, infinite in all his attributes; the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe, revealed in the Scriptures as the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; that these three are the one God, the same in essence, and equal in every divine perfection.

ART. II. We believe the Holy Bible, containing the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the revelation of divine truth, and the record of God's will, from whence we derive all correct knowledge of religious truth and duty; and that it is the only sufficient rule of a Christian's faith and practice.

ART. III. We believe man was created

holy; that he fell from that state by transgression, and that, in consequence of the fall, mankind are by nature destitute of holiness, and inclined to evil, and that continually, and in all their moral actions sinners against God, and under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

ART. IV. We believe that Jesus Christ is both God and man; that by his sufferings and death he made an atonement for sin, sufficient for all mankind; and that through him salvation is freely offered to all, on condition of repentance and faith; that no one can merit or obtain this salvation, yet good works are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ and spring out of a true and living faith, inasmuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

ART. V. We believe that all who truly repent of their sins, and believe in Christ are justified on account of Christ's atoning sacrifice and are regenerated by the special

influence of the Holy Spirit, whereby the soul is freed from the dominion of sin and brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

ART. VI. We believe that entire sanctification is that act of the Holy Spirit whereby the justified soul is delivered from inbred sin and made pure in heart; that it is receivable now, by simple faith, enabling the believer to love God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength, which implies no wrong temper, none contrary to love remains in the soul; that all the thoughts, words and actions are governed by pure love; that entire sanctification does not exclude ignorance or mistake, nor an involuntary transgression of some unknown, divinely precept.

ART. VII. We believe that Christ has a visible church in the world; that its ordinances are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; that the Christian Sabbath and the Gospel Ministry are institutions of divine appointment, and that it is the duty of Christians

to unite with this visible church and observe its sacred ordinances.

ART. VIII. We believe that the outward sign of Baptism is water applied in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; that the inward grace signified in this ordinance is a death unto sin and a new birth unto righteousness.

ART. IX. We believe that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was ordained by our Lord Jesus Christ for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and of the benefits that we thereby receive; that the outward sign is bread and wine; and that the inward grace of this sacrament is the communion of the body and blood of Christ, whereby we are reunited of his sacrificial death and spiritually strengthened to do his will.

ART. X. We believe that the religious observance of the Sabbath is binding on all, and that any indulgence or avocations on that day that sin at worldly gain or pleasure, rather than at moral and religious

improvement, involve a violation of Christian duty.

ART. XI. We believe in the second coming of Christ at the end of the world; the resurrection of the dead; that God hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained, and that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I—OFFICERS.

The officers of this church shall consist of a Pastor, two Deacons, a Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall, except the pastor, be chosen at the annual meeting.

SECTION 1.—The pastor shall have full control of the preaching services, prayer and covenant meetings, and preside at all business meetings; also, full liberty to introduce such order of worship, or subjects, as in his judgment the needs of his congregation as a whole demands, without hindrance or dictation from any member. He shall visit the members of this church, and as many others as he may have time, or seems desirable.

Sec. 2.—The deacons shall act officially with the pastor, and assist him in every way possible in carrying on the work of the church.

Sec. 3.—The clerk shall keep the membership roll, a record of all business transactions, and such other matters as will be of interest in the history of the church.

Sec. 4.—The treasurer shall hold, and with the advice of the Official Board, disburse the funds of the church.

ARTICLE II—MEETINGS.

The meetings shall consist of an annual meeting, business, prayer, covenant, and such extra meetings as shall be judged best by the Official Board.

SECTION 1.—The annual meeting shall be held the third Monday evening in December.

Sec. 2.—The covenant meeting should be held the last Friday evening before the first Sunday in every month, and the Holy Communion should be celebrated on the succeeding Lord's day.

Sec. 3.—The business meetings other than the annual one shall be subject to the call of the clerk or pastor, due notice being given from the pulpit.

ARTICLE III—COMMITTEES.

The committees of this church shall consist of a Standing Committee, an Official Board, Committee on Sick and Poor, Committee on Hospitality, and a Tract Committee.

SECTION 1.—DUTIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.—This committee shall have charge of the church property, and attend to all legal matters.

Sec. 2.—DUTIES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD.—The Official Board shall have general charge of all business matters, have oversight of the sexton, see that the place of worship is properly kept, lighted, heated, etc. They shall have charge of the finances. They shall receive applications for membership, recommend to the church such as are approved, look after those who fail to live up to the covenant, and make recommendation to the church according to their best judgment. They shall examine candidates for baptism,

making necessary arrangements for the same.

Sec. 3.—COMMITTEE ON SICK AND POOR—This committee shall provide watchers for the sick, as far as possible, when desired, and shall minister to the sick and poor according to the New Testament teachings. The chairman shall be treasurer of the funds.

Sec. 4.—COMMITTEE ON HOSPITABILITY—This committee shall seek out strangers visiting the church, extend to them a cordial welcome, introducing them to the pastor and other members of the church and congregation; also inviting others from without to attend the services. Besides, they shall see that visiting brethren at any extra meeting or protracted session are provided with the necessary accommodations.

Sec. 5.—TRACT COMMITTEE—This committee shall purchase, with the approval of the pastor, tracts, leaflets, cards, etc., for free distribution, and shall seek in this

way to spread the gospel. They shall also see that all the church services are well advertised.

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1.—Persons desiring to unite with this church by letter shall come before the Official Board, who shall consider their case, and if satisfactory, recommend to the church at any regular covenant or business meeting properly called. They must receive a two-thirds rising vote of the members present. If accepted, the pastor shall extend to them the right hand of fellowship.

Sec. 2.—Any applicant for membership without a letter, or whose letter or experience is not satisfactory to the Board, may, on recommendation of the Board, be received on probation; if their six months' probation shall be considered satisfactory, they may be received according to Sec. 1.

Sec. 3.—Any person in good and regular standing desiring to leave this church with the purpose of uniting with some other

evangelical church, may be given a letter of dismissal and recommendation to such church, but the order of procedure shall be according to Sec. 1.

Sec. 4.—If any of the members of this church shall be guilty of misconduct of life, such persons shall be kindly labored with, and if, after such labor, they persist in such a course, the Official Board shall consider their case, and recommend that their names be dropped, which shall be done by a two-thirds rising vote.

RULES AND BY-LAWS.

1. No person shall become pastor of this church unless he has previously become a member, and is clearly in the experience of entire sanctification.
2. No person shall be chosen deacon, or be eligible to office in the Standing Committee, or the Official Board who is not clearly in the experience of entire sanctification.
3. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting. A quorum being present, all questions shall be decided by a majority vote, except the changing of the Constitution, Confession of Faith, Covenant, and By-Laws, which shall require a two-thirds rising vote, with one month's notice from the pulpit.
4. As this building has been dedicated to the worship of God, no fairs, festivals,

or dramatic exercises, or so-called socialles shall be held in it, believing these things to be incompatible with the spirit of the Gospel.

5. The Standing Committee shall consist of the pastor, clerk, treasurer, and two others, who shall be chosen at the annual meeting, by ballot.

6. The Official Board shall consist of the pastor, deacons, clerk, treasurer, and six others, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting.

7. The number of the committee on Sick and Poor, Hospitality and Tracts shall be decided at the time of election at the annual meeting.

8. The pastor may, if he sees fit for the best interests of the church, submit a list of officers and committees to be elected at the annual meeting.

9. This church shall maintain a Sunday-school for the dissemination of Bible truths, especially those set forth in our Articles of Faith.

10. A superintendent, assistant superintendent, and treasurer shall be chosen by ballot by the church at the annual meeting.

11. A vacancy in any office of the church or school may be filled at any business meeting of the church, by giving one week's notice from the pulpit.

12. The Sunday school shall be governed by such rules as they may see fit to adopt, provided they do not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the church.

13. Violating some moral precept found in the Scriptures; some covenant vow, the profession of opinions opposed to, or subversive of the Confession of Faith, or any part of it; neglecting family prayer, unnecessary absence from any of the church services, devoting any part of the Sabbath to unnecessary work or worldly pleasures, refusing to contribute toward the support of the church, the sale or use of intoxicating liquors, attending any institution, association, or place which would encourage

the vicious, and operate against the good name of the church, refusing to conform to the Scriptures (see I Tim. 2: 8, 9, 10; I Peter 3: 1-5.) in the matter of dress, are grounds for admonition and discipline, and if not renounced, are sufficient cause for dismissal from the church.

14. No person shall become a member of this church who votes for license, license parties, or license candidates.

15. No person shall be received on probation who uses tobacco.

16. Probationers shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of members, except to hold office, or take part in the government of the church.

17. No person or persons shall be allowed to introduce into the meetings any controversy, or personal retaliatory thrusts or any controversial doctrines which shall be considered by the church as not conducive to the best interest of the cause of Christ. The pastor shall be supported by the church in properly carrying out this rule.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I. NAME.—This school shall be known as the First Pentecostal Church Sunday School of Lynn, Mass.

ART. II. OBJECT.—The object of this school shall be the conversion of the unsaved, the devout sanctification of believers, and the devout study of the word of God.

ART. III. SESSIONS.—This school shall assemble on each Sabbath, and hold its session in the place provided for the purpose.

ART. IV. MANAGEMENT.—This school shall be under the management of a Sunday-school Board, consisting of the pastor, the officers and teachers of the school.

ART. V. OFFICERS.—The officers shall consist of the pastor, a superintendent, assistant superintendent, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, librarian and assistant librarian.

ART. VI. ELECTIONS.—1. The superintendent, assistant, and treasurer shall be elected by the church.
2. Subordinate officers and teachers shall be

chosen by the school on recommendation of the superintendent.

3. The term of officers shall expire at the end of the church year, or when their successors are elected.

ART. VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.—1. Superintendent. The duty of the superintendent shall be to preside at the weekly sessions, and have general oversight of the school, and shall be chairman of the Board.

2. Assistant Supt. The duty of the assistant superintendent shall be to assist in the management of the school, and preside at the weekly session in the absence of the superintendent.

3. Secretary. The duties of the secretary shall be to keep a correct record of attendance, and the collection of each session. He shall be the secretary of the Board, keeping a record of its meetings.

4. Assistant Sec. The assistant secretary shall, in the absence of, or the inability of the secretary, perform the duties of the office.

5. Treasurer. The treasurer shall hold, and with the advice of the Board, disburse the funds of the School, and shall report at the regular meeting of the Board, and to the annual meeting of the church.

6. Librarian. The librarian shall have charge of the library, keeping an account of the books distributed each week, and to whom, and report at the annual meeting of the church the condition of the library, number of books distributed during the year, number added, and number lost.

7. Assistant Librarian. The assistant librarian shall when needed, or in the absence or inability of the librarian perform the duties of the office.

ART. VIII. SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOARD.—The Board shall advise with the superintendent when he desires, examine and approve all books to be placed in the library. They shall see that the records of the school are properly kept. They shall interest themselves in the young converts of the church, and in strangers; cordially invite all to attend the services of the church and school and see they are made welcome. They shall labor to keep the interest of the church in the school warm and devout, and shall seek to have the members of the school attend the church services.

ART. IX. BUSINESS MEETINGS.—The business meetings of the Board shall be held the second Monday in each quarter. Seven members shall constitute a quorum. Extra meetings may be called by the superintendent.

ART. X. VACANCIES—Vacancies not otherwise provided for, may be filled by the school on recommendation of the superintendent.

ART. XI. AMENDMENT—This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the school (such alterations having been approved by the Board) with one week's notice.

BY-LAWS.

1. No person shall be elected an officer or teacher who is not clearly in the experience of entire sanctification.
2. All permanent teachers shall be members of the church.
3. No person shall be allowed to teach any doctrine contrary to our Articles of Faith.
4. A missionary collection shall be taken once a month.
5. The teachers shall do all in their power to assist the superintendent in conducting the school in an orderly manner.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

DEARLY BELOVED: You have come hither seeking the great privilege of union with the Church of God—the Church which Jesus died to sanctify and cleanse, that it might be present to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. It is proper that you should confess your faith, and declare your purpose in the presence of God and these witnesses.

Do you know your sins are all forgiven?

Have you the witness of the Spirit to the fact?

Are you now in the experience of entire sanctification?

Have you the witness of the Spirit to this experience?

Do you believe in the doctrines of Holy Scripture as set forth in the Articles of Faith of the first Pentecostal Church?

Have you read our BY-LAWS?

Will you cheerfully be governed by the rules

of the First Pentecostal Church, hold sacred the ordinances of God, and to the best of your ability, seek to promote the welfare of your brethren and the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom?

Will you contribute of your means, according to your ability, to the support of the church?

Do you now covenant to attend the worship of God and the ordinances of the Gospel within this church?

Will you keep the covenant of this church?

Brethren, these persons have given satisfactory answers to our inquiries, have any of you reason to allege why they should not be received as members of this church?