A Covenant for the 2nd Church of Christ in Brookfield

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, inhabitants of the Town of Brookfield in New England, knowing that we are very prone to offend and provoke God the most high, both in heart and life, through the prevalency of sin that dwelleth in us, and manifold temptations from without us, for which reason we have great reason to be heartily and unfeignedly humbled before him from time to time, do in the name of our Lord Jesus, with dependence on the gracious assistance of the Blessed Spirit, solemnly enter into covenant with God, and one with another as follows:

1. That having taken the Lord Jehovah to be our God, we will fear him, cleave to him in love, and serve him with all our hearts in truth, giving up ourselves to be his people, in all things to be at his direction and sovereign disposal, that we may have and hold Communion with him as members of Christ’s Mystical Body according to his revealed will, to our lives end.

2. We also bind ourselves to bring up our children in the fear and knowledge of God, by his holy institutions, according to our best abilities, and in special by the use of Orthodox Catechisms, that the true religion may be maintained in our families while we live, and after we are dead.

3. Furthermore we promise to keep close to the truth of Christ with due affection towards it, and will heartily endeavor to defend it against all opposers of it, as God shall call us at any time thereunto; and that we may thus do, we promise to use the Holy Scriptures as our platform, whereby we may discern the mind of Christ, and not follow the new found inventions of men.

4. We also engage to have a careful inspection of our hearts, endeavoring by the virtue of the death of Christ, the mortification of all sinful passions, worldly frames, and disorderly affections which may draw us away from the living God.

5. Moreover we oblige ourselves in faithful improvement of our abilities and opportunity to worship God, according to all the particular institutions of Christ for his church under gospel administrations, namely to give reverent and diligent attention unto the word of God at his house, to pray unto him, to sing his praise, and to hold communion with each other in both the Seals, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

6. We likewise promise peaceably to submit ourselves to the holy discipline of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to his gospel, and agreeable to the constitution of Congregational Churches.

7. We also bind ourselves to walk in love one towards another, endeavoring our mutual edification, visiting, exhorting and comforting one another as occasion serveth, warning any brother or sister who offends, not divulging offenses irregularly, but heedfully following the several precepts laid down for church discipline by Christ in Matthew 18: 15, 16, 17. Willingly forgiving all that manifest to a judgment of charity that they truly repent of all miscarriages.
At a meeting of a number of Brethren living in the Second Precinct in Brookfield in order to embody into a Church State. A sermon to the occasion was preached by [Minister] Eli Forbes after which prayers being made [said] Brethren chose [Joshua] Eaton who was at the request present moderator of [said] meeting. The Brethren then offered the Sitter of --- mission from the Respective Churches they did belong to which being Publicly read together with the Covenant above and no objection being made imbodying into a Church said Brethren Publicly and Solemnly owned and Subscribed said Covenant.

Attes: Joshua Eaton moderator

These Following Subscribed at the time:
Eli Forbes
John Watson
Jabeth Ayers
Ebenezer Witt
Noah Barnes
John Cutter
Benjamin Adams
Abram How
Ammiel Weeks
Ichabod How 1766
Abner Tyler
Thomas Hall
Uriah Gilbert
Joseph Stone
Moses Ayers
Charles Adams
Moses Barnes
Jason Bigelow
Nathan Stevens
Thomas Taylor
Ephraim Cutler
Daniel Newall
Jonathan Gilbert
Aaron Barnes
Isaac Cutter
John Witt

The following withdrew since admitted Church:
Thomas Bartlett
Oliver Hayward
Josiah Converse
John Beacon
Tomas Slayton
John Batchelor
Hubert Gould
Samuel Gould

The following are --- from other Churches
Mehetable Gould
Hannah Gould

The following are new members added to the Church since its imbodying:
Benjamin Gilbert 1753
Peter Lamson
Samuel Gould, Jr. 1757
Jen Woodbury 1757
Jedediah Deland
Jeremiah Gould April 13, 1766
Mat Bittlet 1753
Daniel Gilbert
Abrahim Smith dead 1755
William Ayers --- 1754
Andrew Kimball
Joseph Manning --- May 7, 1763
Nathan Gould 1757
William Watson 1752

Females:
Sussanah Watson 1752
Hannah Bartlett 1754
Boithiah Witt
Make (sp) Lamson
Rebecca Kimball
Abigail Bigelow 1753
Rebecca Newall
Rhoda Smith
Rebecca Bartlett 1753
Jerusha Woodbury 1757
Rachel Ayers 1754
Sarah Gould
Eliza Barnes
Rachel Hain
Dina Hinds
Abigail Woolcot
Martha Rice
Ellis Hinds

Males Omitted new members
Ruben Hamilton
David Barnes
Thomas Riggs
Obediah Bartlett
E--- How
John Lamson
----- Ayers