

The following transcription of the original Constitution of the West Fairlee Congregational Church (as it was known then) is faithful to the spelling, punctuation, errors, and omissions as originally written. Jon A Sanborn, 4/10/2018

Constitution of the West Fairlee Congregational union afsociation

Agreeable to Chap 85 of the Com. Statute we the undersigned form assemblies into an association for the purpose of procuring holding keeping repairing warming and lighting a Congregationalist house of worship and become bounded by the following articles, regulations, and bylaws – Urz –

Article 1st

The officers of this association shall consist of a President^{cy} -Vice President – a committee of three a Clerk and Collector –

Article 2d

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the association if present and in absence of the President the Vice President shall preside

Article 3d

It shall be the duty of the Committee to have the general supervision of the concerns of the association and shall cause all duties required by the laws of the association and not committed to the care of any particular officer to be duly performed & executed

In case of a vacancy of any office it shall be the duty of the Committee to perform the duties of such vacant office

It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of all the meetings of the association in a suitable book provided for that purpose which book shall be open for inspection at all times to the members of the association

It shall be the duty of the Clerk to warn of all meetings of the association at some public place at or near sd house, a written notice specifying the business of sd meeting, at least 8 days prior to sd meeting – It shall be the duty of the Clerk to warn a meeting at any time when requested by the Committee – It shall be the duty of the duty of the Clerk to warn a meeting when any six members of the association request to him a petition in writing specifying the object of sd meeting – The business of any meeting shall be specified in the warning for such meeting – the Clerk shall act a treasurer

At this point in the Constitution it inexplicably terminates the last line of Article 3d and resumes with Article 5th JAS

Article 5th

It shall be the duty of the Collector to collect all taxes committed to him by the Committee and paying the same into the treasury of the association

It shall be the duty of the Collector to act as Sexton

Article 6th

There shall be a meeting of the association holden annually on the first Tuesday of June at which meeting the officers of the association shall be chosen

Article 7th

Any person who has or may hereafter contribute the sum of twenty five dollars to build sd house or may hereafter own a share to that amount in sd house & subscribe his name to this Constitution shall be a member of this association as long as he may own such a share in sd house or until he shall erase his name

A majority of the members shall govern except as is herein after provided

Article 8th

No person except a minister of the Congregational order or such persons as the pastor of the Church may invite shall be admitted to the desk (if any of the members shall object) without the consent of a majority of the Committee –

Article 9th

The Committee may on week days and on the Sabbath when there shall be no stated preaching may admit any lecturer or minister of any other order to the desk.

Article 10th

No money shall be raised for the purpose of building sd house except by subscription

Article 11th

A tax may be raised from the members of the association for the purpose of repairing warming & lighting sd house at the annual meeting provided an article for that purpose be inserted in the warning for sd meeting. Sd tax shall not exceed fifty cents to each member

See Amendments

Article 12th

Any member of Committee may be chosen for building sd house

Article 13th

The pews may be appraised by a Committee appointed for that purpose and sold at auction – Whenever any money is found in the pews it shall be divided among the stockholders according to their shares of stock not taken up

Article 14th

No one of the stockholders shall be compeled to advance money for the purchase of any pews until his stock is taken up

Article 15th

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any annual meeting provided an article shall be inserted in the warning for sd meeting

At this point in the Constitution it inexplicably ends at Article 15th and resumes with Article 17th JAS

Article 17th

This association may organize at any meeting warned for that purpose

Article 18th

This house shall be of the same dimensions be finished & furnished in a similar style as the house lately erected Canton Village sd or called with alterations shall direct to be made

Article 19th

This association shall be called the West Fairlee Congregational Union Association

We the undersigned agree to pay the sums placed to our names in money to build a new meeting house at Middlebrook at or near the place where the old one now stands. We agree to pay sd money at such times as a committee appointed for that & other purposes may direct –

The money to be paid to sd Committee

Sd house to be built finished and furnished similar to the one lately erected in Canton Village