

PREAMBLE

Believing as we religiously do in the duty and importance of Church organization, and desiring to promote by this and every other laudable means the knowledge of the Gospel, and the fruits of holy living, we unanimously adopt the following Constitution, Confession and Covenant.

CONSTITUTION

ART. I. The Church shall be called THE SECOND UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

ART. II.

1. The Officers of the Church shall be a Pastor, four Deacons, a Clerk, and a Treasurer. The minister in charge of the Second Universalist Society in New-York shall be pastor ex officio, while the Deacons, Clerk and Treasurer shall unless they resign, continue in office during the pleasure of the Church.

2. The Pastor shall, besides his other duties, be Moderator and preside at all meetings; but in case of his death or absence one of the Deacons shall preside.

3. The Deacons shall assist the Pastor in the general supervision and care of the Church; they shall receive applications for membership, and make the necessary inquiries with respect to the candidate's Christian faith and character; and it shall be their duty to distribute the charities of the Church among the poor, according to their discretion.

4. The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the Church, and of the names of its members, and the book kept for this purpose shall always be open to the inspection of all members. He shall notify all meetings, give certificates of membership—which shall also be signed by the pastor—receive all monies of the Church and pay them over to the Treasurer, and do whatever else properly belongs to his office.

5. The Treasurer shall keep all the funds of the Church and pay them out only at its direction, or on the order of one of the Deacons, whose order shall always specify the purpose to which it is to be applied; and he shall render an account whenever called for by the Church.

ART. III. This Church shall hold regular monthly meetings for religious worship and the transaction of business on the Thursday evening preceding the first Sunday of each month. Special meetings may be called by the Clerk, at the request of three members, by giving notice from the pulpit on at least two public services on Sunday, or by giving personal notice to the members individually.

ART. IV. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be celebrated in this Church on the first Sunday in each month, unless oftener directed by the Church, but as conscientious scruples respecting the perpetual obligation of this ordinance are entertained by some Christians, a participation in it shall not be deemed essential to our Christian fellowship.

ART. V. Any person wishing to become a member of this Church, may make application to the Pastor or one of the Deacons, who shall lay such application before the Church at its next regular monthly meeting. If any member knows aught that should exclude the applicant, it shall be his or her duty to apprise the Deacons of the same, but if no such objection is preferred, and the Deacons are satisfied of the applicant's Christian faith and character, they shall, at the next monthly meeting, announce their decision that the candidate be admitted. And on the next communion, or at the first convenient opportunity, the candidate shall be publicly received in the manner which is or may hereafter be customary in the Church.

ART. VI. Any member may withdraw from this Church at pleasure, by making known his or her intention to one of the Deacons or the Clerk, and shall be entitled to a letter expressive of his or her character and standing in the Church; such letter having been first read and approved by the Church at some regular meeting of the same, and signed by the Pastor and Clerk.

ART. VII. This Church disclaimed all right to deal with disorderly or immoral persons except in such manner as directed in Matt. xviii:15-17. But it shall have the power of striking from its books the name of any member who shall have, for an undue length of time, neglected without sufficient cause the meetings of the Church, and the public worship of God with us, and have thus given us good reason to believe that he or she has virtually withdrawn from us and wishes no longer to maintain the connexion of Church fellowship.

ART. VIII. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any meeting duly called for that purpose by a vote of two thirds of the members present.

Before being publicly received, the candidate for membership shall have assented to the foregoing Constitution, and before receiving the right hand of fellowship shall have answered in the affirmative the following questions, implying a Confession of Faith, and Covenant, which shall solemnly be put to him or her by the Pastor.

#### CONFESSION

In becoming a member of this Church do you sincerely profess faith in the Holy Scriptures as the word of God, and do you receive the Bible as your only and sufficient rule of faith and practice?

#### COVENANT

Do you promise that you will strive to walk with this Church in the spirit of charity and brotherly love, doing your duty faithfully, and endeavoring so to live that you may, in all things, adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour?

[Second Universalist Church, New York City]

CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP

THIS MAY CERTIFY, *THAT*

\_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the SECOND UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, and is entitled to all the  
privileges of the same.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pastor.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk.

*New-York,* \_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_\_\_

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