

HISTORY

In the year 1855, George L. Greene and Samuel G. Stacy came to Des Moines with a view to locating here—Mr. Greene from Detroit, Michigan, and Mr. Stacy from Madison, Wisconsin. They met on the cars between Chicago and Rock Island, and learned each other's plans. Both had left home with the well-settled determination to secure, if practicable, the organization of a Congregational Church wherever they might settle, in case they should not find one already established.

In the following year, having decided to make this place their home, and having been joined by their families, they agitated the question of organizing a church at once.

They found one or two former Congregationalists here, who expressed sympathy with the movement, but thought that the time had not yet come, when, under Providence, a church could be successfully established. Rev. O French, a Congregational minister, formerly a missionary in India, then residing in Knoxville, Iowa, being here during that year on a visit, consultation was had with him, and he discouraged the enterprise as premature. So the matter rested until the following year (1857.) Other Congregationalists who had come here about the same time were, E. W. Barnum (a son-in-law of Mr. Greene), and his wife, Mary E. Barnum, and Levi Richardson, who, though he became a member of the N. S. Presbyterian Church in this place by profession, (Oct 5-6) was by preference a Congregationalist, and became one of the original members of this Church.

The others named above being desirous of uniting with some church of Christ until it should be thought expedient to undertake the formation of a new church of their own order, after consultation with each other and the Rev. T. Bird (pastor of the Cent. Pres. N. S. Church,) decided to present their letters to that Church: upon condition that they should be free to go out from it for the formation of a Congregational Church, whenever, in their opinion, it might come to be expedient to do so. They were accordingly received into the Central Presbyterian Church, in the following order: Samuel G. Stacy, and wife, Terese G. Stacy, by letter from the Congregational Church in Madison, Wisconsin, Nov. 1856; George S. Greene and wife, and E. W. Barnum and wife by letter from the Congregational Church, Detroit, Mich., January 1857.

Deacon Henry A. Bigelow came to this City to reside in July, 1857. He was a member of the North (Congregational) Church in Portsmouth, N. H., and he, too, had come west with a similar design. Shortly after he came, the question of forming a church was again discussed, but the brethren thought it best to defer the organization until Providence might open the way, and increase their strength, still further. Mr. Stacy's health failing, he went East, and died shortly after at Syracuse N. Y., (October 24th 1857.) During the same fall, Rev. J. T. Cook, who had been editing a paper at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, came to Des Moines, and engaged in teaching, as principal of the Public School. He was a Congregationalist, and became much interested in the proposed enterprise of forming a church here. He expressed a willingness to preach, in connection with his other labors, without charge to the

Society for six months, and a few other Congregationalists having settled in the City, it was regarded as a favorable time for the organization of a church.

To this end, letters of dismission were requested and received from the Cent. Pres. Church by those who had united with it, and a church, consisting of ten members, was organized under the name of the "Plymouth Church," by the Rev. J. T. Cook, as set forth in the following certificate:

"This is the Record of the fact that on the 6th day of December, 1857, at their own voluntary request, I, a regularly ordained minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a member of the Des Moines River Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers organized the following persons into a Congregational Church, known and styled as the "Plymouth Church" of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, by the adopting of the "Articles of Government", "Articles of Faith", and "Covenant" of record herein, and by ordaining all the customary usages known as belonging to such organizations among the Primitive Churches. Names as follows: George S. Greene and his wife Irene Greene. E. W. Barnum and his wife M. E. Barnum. Levi Richardson and his wife J. B. Richardson, Henry A. Bigelow, Mrs. Jermina Lovejoy*, J. T. Cook, and his wife M. A. Cook, and they are hereby declared to be a regularly constituted Church having all the qualifications, rights, and privileges, of any of the Sister Churches of the same order, to the fellowship of all of whom it is most cordially recommended."

Attest:

J. T. Cook, Pastor

December 7th 1857.

*Mrs. Lovejoy was received on profession, as by letter, having been a Presbyterian member, but having no letter from the Church to which she formerly belonged. She was one of the original members.

Articles of Government and of Faith, and a Covenant, were adopted by the Church the same day, and one member (John B. Robertson) received upon profession of faith. Upon the same day, also, George S. Greene and Henry A. Bigelow were elected Deacons, and on the following Friday evening (Dec. 11th) Levi Richardson was elected Clerk, and George S. Greene, Treasurer, of the Church. On Sabbath, Jan. 10th 1858, the Church was increased by the addition of nine new members namely: Mrs. T. G. Stacy (widow of Samuel G. Stacy), Miss Mary A. Whittemore, Mrs. Eliza R. Ramson, Mrs. Andrew W. Rollins, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Bailey, Galen T. Kilburn, and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Carr. Mrs. Carr united upon profession of faith, the other members were received by letter. Mrs. Rachel W. Bigelow united with the Church by letter in March following, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Teisdale were received by letter in May, of the same year. During the period of two years following, but four new members were received while more of its members were lost by removal and death, leaving the Church small and feeble.

On Monday evening, Jan. 18th 1858, a meeting was held for the purpose of forming a society "to act in connection with the church in sustaining the gospel in this place", and on February 1st Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were adopted by the Society. The names of the corporate members of the Society, not then members of the Church, are as follows: F. H. Waterman, Joseph A. Stickney, Oliver H. Baker, James L. Smith, Stacy Johns, George W. Cleveland, C. C. Dawson and Franklin Woodruff. The two last named have since united with the church, and all the others with the exception of Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Johns, have removed from the City.

At the same meeting, Society officers were elected, as follows: George L. Greene, President, and Mssrs. Teisdale, Greene, Waterman, Dawson and Carr, Trustees.

The meetings of the sixth December were held in the room over Mr. Allen's Bank, in "West's Block", the room having been neatly fitted up and furnished, mainly by the liberality of Deacon Greene. No meetings for worship had been held prior to this date. The church continued to worship here until the 6th day of May, 1858, and on the 13th of that month commenced worshipping in Sherman Hall.

The Church occupied the Hall for this purpose only one month, after which public services were discontinued until the completion of our present place of worship. This was completed in October, 1858. *when public services were immediately resumed. The Church was publicly dedicated to the worship of God by appropriate services, November 7th, 1858.**

*[margin note] The building there stood on hired ground, on the north side of Court Avenue, between Fourth and Fifth Streets, and remained there until its removal and enlargement, July-August, 1868-- C. C. Dawson.

** The following hymn, written for the occasion, by Mr. C. C. Dawson, was sung at the dedication of the Church:

I.

When Abram to the valley came
That lies in Hebron, calm and fair,
His pious hands, to Thy good name,
O Lord, an altar builded there.

II.

Lo, when our shores, in by-gone days,
Were first by Christian Pilgrims trod,
They owned Thee worthy of their praise,
And built an altar to their God.

III.

To this fair valley led by Thee,
Here, Lord, behold our altar stands,
Let this Thine earthly temple be,
And bless the offering of our hands.

IV.

Here, in this consecrated place,
Abide, and nevermore depart.
But let Thy presence chiefly grace,
O Lord, each waiting Christian's heart.

V.

So may Thy name ere long be known
To every land beneath the skies,
Till all shall bow before Thy throne,
And everywhere Thine altars rise!

Rev. J. T. Cook resigned his situation in the public school soon after the organization of the church, and devoted himself entirely to its interests. On February 8th, 1958, the church voted to invite him to become their pastor, and George L. Greene, W. A. Bigelow and W. L. Bailey were appointed a committee to extend the invitation to him, and to make arrangements for the installation.

Mr. Cook's letter, accepting the invitation, was as follows:

Des Moines, February 22d 1858.

To the Plymouth church, through its Committee:

Dear Brethren and Sisters —

After a solemn and prayerful consideration of the subject, I have come to feel it my duty to accept your call to the Pastorate of the Plymouth Church. I do it with a trembling soul. I am unfit and unworthy, every way. Surely if you felt and saw my unfitness as I feel and see it, you could not have thus committed such solemn responsibilities to my charge. But in God alone is my wisdom and my help. "When I am weak then am I strong". I shall only hope to succeed in the faithful discharge of my solemn duties as I am borne up and sustained by your prayers, your united sympathies, and co-operative action. "United we stand, divided we fall."

I humbly accept the solemn trust you so unanimously tender me. I feel this act to be the most solemn of my life. I trust I have some remote conceptions of the solemn significance of the term "Pastor", and I can but say, "Who is able for these things?"

Truly none in their own strength. But verily, "through God strengthening me I can do all things." I meekly put my trust in Israel's God, and go forward. May God add His benediction.

Amen, and Amen.

Yours in Jesus Christ our Lord.

J. T. Cook.

The installation of the pastor took place on the 10th of March, 1858. In January following, he tendered his resignation of the pastoral office, which was not accepted.

He again tendered his resignation, February 20th, 1859, and the same was accepted at a meeting of the society, on Wednesday evening, February 23rd.

The Church, although weakened by the removal and absence of valuable members (among them George L. Greene, one of the most devoted officers), determined, if possible, to supply the place vacated by Mr. Cook. A Committee being appointed for that purpose, correspondence was opened with several clergymen in the East and West. An invitation was finally extended to Rev. Mr. Fifield, of Northern Iowa, to visit Des Moines, with a view to settlement as Pastor of the Church. Mr. Fifield at first concluded to come, and accepted the invitation, but his own people were so earnest in their opposition to his departure, he reluctantly withdrew his letter of acceptance, in a letter expressive of strongest regard for the Plymouth Church, and the hope that circumstances would ultimately enable him to gratify his wish to visit the Church and labor into it in the cause of Christ.

The Church remained without a Pastor from the resignation of Mr. Cook, until the following August, when a call was extended to our present Pastor, and accepted by him.

Meanwhile, the pulpit was supplied by the several ministers of the City in alternation, and by the occasional service of Pastors from abroad, so that public services were sustained nearly every Sabbath.

It is not deemed necessary to continue the history of the Church further at the present time, as from the date last mentioned the records of both Church and Society are quite full and complete. (1860.)

ARTICLES OF GOVERNMENT.
ADOPTED DECEMBER 6TH 1857.

1st Name.

This Church shall be called the Plymouth Church.

2d. Rights of the Church.

This Church claims the right of self government and holds itself amenable to no other ecclesiastical body except by its own consent, in accordance with the established usages of the Congregational Churches.

3d. Rights of Members.

All members of this Church shall have an equal voice in the choice of its officers in the exercise of its discipline and in all matters that concern the Church.

4th. Officers of Church.

The permanent officers of this Church shall be a Pastor, and one or more Deacons, a Clerk and Treasurer, the Clerk and Treasurer to hold office one year, and the deacons two years.

5th. Officers of Society.

The annual officers of the society shall be a board of five Trustees to be elected annually by ballot, three of whom shall be members of the Church. Said board to keep a record of all its proceedings and report as often as required by the Society.

6th. Admission of Members.

Every candidate for admission to this Church will be expected to give satisfactory evidence of personal piety, and assent to its faith and Covenant. Candidates after having been examined in such way as the Church may appoint shall be publicly propounded except in extraordinary cases two weeks before being received to communion, and the question of admission shall be taken by vote at a regular business meeting of the Church. Applicants for admission from other Churches will be required to present themselves before the Pastor or Committee for approval. All applicants for admission to this Church, will be required strictly to abstain from the use of and traffic in ardent spirits except for purposes connected with Medicine or the Arts, also to give satisfactory evidence that they are neither in theory or practice Slaveholders.

7th Connection with other Churches.

This Church will in ordinary cases abide by the decisions of Mutual Councils and extend to other churches the usual reciprocities of fellowship, advice and transfer of Members. It will grant recommendations and dismissions according to

Congregational usages, but requires its members on removing from this City either to transfer their Church relation within one year or to assign the reason for further delay, and it will admit members of other Churches resident among us to occasional communions not longer than one year without satisfactory reasons for delaying to transfer their relation and a certificate of their good standing. It will also give recommendations and dismissions to any evangelical Church, or for the purpose of forming an evangelical Church, if requested in a proper spirit and manner but all other ways of withdrawing from its communion and care will be deemed irregular and censurable.

8th Seasons of Communion.

The Lord's Supper preceded by a Preparatory Lecture or some other appropriate service, shall be celebrated on the first Sabbath of every second month.

9th Censurable Offences.

Any immoral conduct, breach of Covenant, neglect of religion or relative duties or denial of any fundamental doctrine held by this Church, and professed by its members at the time of their admission.

10th Evidence.

The confession of the accused, the concurrence of two credible witnesses or circumstantial evidence to the same amount, shall be requisite to a conviction.

11th Censures.

Those consisting of admonition suspension or excommunication are in each case to be administered by special vote of the Church, the principle of making the separation co-ex-tensive with the injury done by the offender.

12th Process of Discipline.

Offences strictly personal and private should be immediately settled according to the direction of Our Saviour in the 18th Chapter of Matthew but for public and notorious offences members may without any previous admonition in private be disciplined in such way as the Church may think proper. In all cases however the following rules are to be observed:

1. No individual shall bring an accusation before the Church, without having given the accused previous notice and an opportunity to satisfy his brother without any further steps of discipline.
2. No member shall without his consent be tried during the same meeting at which charges are proffered against him.
3. The accused shall be furnished with a copy of the charges against him and be entitled to a fair investigation and defense.

4. The accusers and other persons implicated shall be excluded from voting in such cases.

5. It will be deemed censurable for one member to report disciplinable offences of another without having previously taken the steps prescribed by the Gospel to reclaim him.

13th Meetings.

The regular meetings of this church shall be a meeting for devotional exercises on some evening of each week except in special cases; and at the first of such meetings in each month, any business pertaining to the Church may be transacted.

14th Articles of the Above.

The second Article of the above shall never be altered.

15th Ditto.

These Articles (except the second.) may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the Church, by a vote of two-thirds of members present, notice having been given of the proposed amendment or alternation at a previous meeting of the Church.

16th Meetings for Business.

The annual meeting of this Church shall be holden on the first Monday of January in each and every year.

RULES OF BUSINESS.

Adopted December 6th 1857.

- 1st. All business meetings of the Church shall be published on the Sabbath, at least three days before the time of holding such meetings.
- 2d. It shall be the duty of the Pastor or in his absence one of the Deacons to publish all meetings of the Church.
- 3d. A meeting of the Church shall be called at the discretion of the Pastor or by the written request of two members of the Church in good standing, stating definitely the object of such meeting, and such business shall be first in order at the meeting.
- 4th. The Pastor or in his absence one of the Deacons shall preside over the meetings of the Church, but in case of their refusal or disqualification the Church may elect by ballot a Moderator pro.tem. and proceed with the business of the meeting.
- 5th. The Clerk shall keep a true record of the acts of the Church, which should all be open for inspection to every member who may desire it.
- 6th. All meetings of the Church shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- 7th. The minutes and proceedings of the preceding meeting and the rules of business shall be read immediately after the opening prayer.
- 8th. Any member may present business for the action of the church.
- 9th. No item of business shall be considered before the church without a motion.
- 10th. No motion shall be offered for discussion until seconded, and every motion on being seconded shall if requested by the Moderator be reduced to writing by the mover.
- 11th. No member shall speak more than twice to the same motion without leave of the Church.
- 12th. All motions of business not otherwise provided for may be decided "viva voce", but upon the request of any member, the yeas and nays shall be taken by the Clerk.

Articles of Faith
Adopted December 6th 1837.

1st. We believe there is one God, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the universe, a Spirit self-existent, immutable, infinite in power, knowledge, wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, mercy, and truth.

2d. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, that they contain a complete and harmonious system of Divine truth, and are the only perfect rules of religious faith and practice.

3d. We believe that God governs all things according to His Eternal and infinitely wise purpose, so as to render them conducive to His own glory and the highest good of the Universe, and in perfect consistency with His hatred of sin, the free agency of man, and the importance of the use of means.

["4th" omitted as number]

5th We believe that the Law of God, requiring perfect holiness of heart and life is benevolent and wise and is obligatory as a rule of duty upon all mankind.

6th We believe that God created Man holy and upright, that he fell from this state by sinning against God, and that in consequence of that fall, Mankind are by nature destitute of holiness and at enmity with God, and so continue until regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7th We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten and well-beloved Son of God, was made Flesh, and dwelt among Men, that He perfectly obeyed the law of God, suffered, the Just for the unjust making an Atonement sufficient for all Mankind that God can now consistently exercise mercy towards sinners, and that He will pardon all those who repent and believe the Gospel.

8th. We believe that while the invitations of the Gospel are such that all who will may come and partake of the water of Life freely, the wickedness of the human heart is such that none will come unless drawn by the influence of the Holy Spirit.

9th. We believe that in order to Salvation [sic] the Sinner must be born again, and that regeneration is a moral change produced by the Holy Spirit operating on the mind through the truth.

10th. We believe that justification is of free grace through faith in the Atonement of Christ as the only meritorious cause.

11th. We believe that all who obtain salvation through Christ were chosen in Him, before the foundation of the world, and that all who truly believe in Him will be kept by the mighty power of God unto salvation.

12th. We believe that the visible church of Christ consists of Christians who publicly profess their faith in Him and covenant to walk together in the ordinances of the Gospel.

13th. We believe in the Divine appointment of the Christian Sabbath and the Sacraments of the New Testament, "Baptism and the Lord's Supper." That Baptism is to be administered only to covenanting believers and their children, and the Lord's Supper only to believers in regular standing in some Evangelical Church.

14th. We believe that at death the souls of believers become perfectly holy and that at the last day Christ will raise the dead, and judge the world in righteousness, that all who die impenitent will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into Life Eternal.

Covenant.

Adopted Dec. 6th 1857

And now, in the presence of God, Holy Angels and men, you do solemnly avouch the Lord Jehovah to be your God, Jesus Christ to be your Mediator and Advocate, and the Holy Spirit to be your Sanctifier. You covenant that you will yield up to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your soul and body, your time, talents, influence and property, and that you will employ them for His Glory as an enlightened conscience under the guidance of His hand may direct. That you will obey all His commands, and persevere in His service, steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, and make it the great business of life to grow in Holiness and every grace, until you arrive at the stature of perfect manhood in Christ Jesus.

You promise to renounce the world, its pleasures, wealth, honor, and friendship, to come out from it and be separate, and become as the peculiar Child of God. You covenant with this Church that you will seek its purity, that you will watch over and affectionately reprove its Members if they go astray, and receive reproof if kindly given, with gratitude. That you will submit yourself to its discipline faithfully administered, that you will contribute liberally of your property to support all its institutions, that you will diligently attend its appointed meetings both on the Sabbath and during the week, and will in all things endeavor by laboring in your appropriate sphere to secure the enlargement and sanctification of the whole body of believers.

Members of the Church will rise while the following is read.

Now do we the Members of this Church solemnly covenant with you to receive you to our fellowship and affection to watch over you and seek your Temporal and Spiritual good, to bear your burdens, to pray for your Sanctification and to labor with the officers of this Church to secure your complete conformity to the image of Christ.

RECORD

Dec. 6th 1857.

In the afternoon of this day the Members of Plymouth Church met for the purpose of receiving members into the Church. Rev. J. T. Cook the Pastor in the chair. Of B. Robinson presented himself as a candidate on the profession of his faith. Having been duly examined openly before all the Church, he was deemed worthy to become a member, and was received into the communion and fellowship of the Church. The Church then proceeded to the election of Deacons, when, by counting the ballots cast Bro. George L. Green was declared elected for two years, and Bro. Henry A. Bigelow for one year. Thee Brethren were then duly ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands, to the office of Deacons in the Church.

Attest, J. T. Cook.

Pastor

Dec. 11th 1857.

The Plymouth Church met in business meeting, at the close of the weekly evening prayer meeting. The Pastor in the Chair. The Pastor stated the object of the meeting to be the election of a Clerk and Treasurer for the ensuing year. Upon motion Bro. Levi Richardson was elected Clerk, and Bro. George L. Green Treasurer.

Adjourned.

Attest. Levi Richardson -

Clerk

January 8th 1858.

The Plymouth Church met on Friday evening after the weekly prayer meeting for the purpose of receiving members, when the following were received. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Carr, Mrs. Rawson, Miss Whittemore, Mrs. Stacy, Mrs. Rollins, Mr. Kilburn presented their letters and were received, also Mrs. Carr presented herself as a candidate for admission by confession of faith and having been publicly examined before the Church present was deemed worthy of admission and received into the Communion and fellowship of the Church.

Attest. Levi Richardson.

Clerk.

February 8th 1858.

Plymouth Church met for business on Monday evening, February 8th 1858. The Church was called to order by Dea. Greene. Prayer was then offered by him. Motion by Mr. Richardson to waive Article 1st of the ByLaws. Carried. Motion by Mr. Carr to extend a call to Rev. J. T. Cook to become the Pastor of this Church. Carried. Motion by Mr. Bigelow to appoint a Committee of three to

inform Rev. Mr. Cook of the same. Carried. Motion by Mr. Barnum for Mr. Green, Mr. Bigelow and Mr. Bailey to act on that Committee, also to make the proper arrangements for the Installation of Pastor. Carried.

Meeting was then closed by prayer by Dea. Bigelow.

Attest Levi Richardson.

Scribe

February 26th 1858.

Plymouth Church met in business meeting Feb. 26th, after the weekly prayer meeting.

Mr. Bigelow motioned that there be five members chosen to act with the Pastor as a Standing Committee to examine candidates for membership to this Church. There were nominated by sundry persons present Dea. Green, Dea. Bigelow, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Carr, and Mr. Richardson-

Persons present then went home.

Attest. Levi Richardson

Scribe

March 5th 1858.

Plymouth Church met for business on Friday evening March 5th, after the Preparatory Lecture to Communion. On motion by Mr. Greene, Mrs. Bigelow was accepted as a member of this Church. Meeting closed by Benediction by Pastor.

Attest, Levi Richardson

Clerk

Des Moines Iowa. March 11th 1858.

By letters missive from the Plymouth Church of this place, a Council of neighboring Congregational churches was convened at the rooms of the Church at 2 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of installing Rev. J. T. Cook as Pastor of the Church. There were present Rev. J. Matthews, and Bro J. C. Donald of the Church at Red Rock. Rev. O. French. And Bro. T. McMillan of the Church at Knoxville and Bro. John Myer of the Church at Newton.

The Council was called to order by Rev. O. French, when Rev. J. Matthews was chosen Moderator and Rev. O. French, Scribe.

After prayer by the Moderator the calls of the Church and Society extended to Bro. Cook were read, and also his replies to them.

Rev. George B. Jocelyn of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Wm. Remsburgh of the M. P. Church, and Rev. J. Artash of the Baptist Church being present were invited to sit as corresponding members.

Voted, that at the request of the Church, Bro. Cook be examined briefly on Theology. After his examination it was Resolved.

1st. That the papers in relation to Bro. Cook's call to the Pastorate of this Church and his examination are satisfactory, and that the Council proceed to the exercise of public Installation at 7 o'clock this evening.

2d. That the several parts be performed as follows.

Invocation and reading of Scriptures.	Rev. George B. Jocelyn.
Introductory Prayer.	Rev. Wm. Remsburgh.
Sermon	Rev. O. French.
Installing prayer.	Rev. J. Matthews
Charge to Pastor	Rev. J. B. Grinnell
Right Hand of Fellowship.	Rev. J. Matthews
Address to the Church	Rev. Mr. Merrill
Benediction.	By the Pastor

Took recess till Public Service this evening at 7 o'clock.

The services of Installation were performed as assigned and the Council adjourned sine die with prayer by the Moderator.

O. French.

Scribe.

April 30th.

Plymouth Church met for business on Friday Evening April 30th 1858, after the Preparatory Lecture to Communion. On motion by Mr. Green Mr. John Teisdale and Mary Teisdale his wife were accepted as members of this Church.

Meeting closed by Benediction by Pastor.

Attest. Levi Richardson

Clerk

May 28th

Plymouth Church met for business on Sabbath afternoon May 28th. By vote of the church George L. Green was appointed delegate to represent this Church at the Annual Association held at Dubuque, on the 2nd of June 1858.

Attest. Levi Richardson

Clerk

Dec. 31st. 1858

Plymouth Church met for business Friday Evening after Preparatory Lecture. Pastor in the chair. Mrs. Mary R. Holmes letter from Union Congregational Church Ill. Was then introduced by Pastor. After explanations by Bretheren present it was motioned by Bro Teisdale to accept Mrs. Holmes as a member into full communion and fellowship with this Church. Carried.

The meeting closed by Benediction by Pastor.

Attest. Levi Richardson

Clerk

Jan. 3d 1859.

Plymouth Church met to transact their annual business January 3d 1859. Pastor in the chair, who opened the meeting by prayer.

Proceeded to elect a Deacon. On counting the ballots Bro. Teisdale received five and Bro. Bigelow three. Bro. Teisdale declining it was motioned by Bro. Greene to release him and that Bro. Bigelow continue in office. Carried.

Motioned by Bro. Kilburn that L. Richardson continue in office as Church Clerk.

Attest. Levi Richardson

Clerk