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HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

HEBDEN BRIDGE

WEST YORKSHIRE

Church

Covenant.

1777

CHURCH COVENANT

“One shall say, I am the Lord’s; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel.”—Isaiah xliv., 5.

“We whose names are hereunto subscribed, having first given our own selves to the Lord, do give up ourselves one unto another by His Divine will, with deep humiliation for our past sins, and earnest prayer to God, for pardoning mercy, and assisting, preserving, and persevering grace; we say with our hearts, we are the Lord’s, and we solemnly subscribe to Him with our hands.

We take the ever blessed Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for our covenant God, and everlasting portion, and we devote ourselves to Him alone for His peculiar people, in a perpetual covenant never to be forgotten.

We receive and submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, as our only Saviour, Prophet, Priest, and King, in whom alone we trust for wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

We devote and consecrate ourselves as living temples to the Holy Ghost our Sanctifier, Guide, and Comforter, whose gracious operations and heavenly conduct we desire daily more and more to enjoy, experience, and follow. In dependence on Him and hoping for His Divine help, we covenant with God, each for ourselves, and jointly together, to observe the commandments and keep the ordinances of God as He has delivered them to us; to be subject to that Divine order and discipline which Jesus Christ, our only King and Law-giver, hath appointed in His Church; and not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together for the public worship of God in its appointed seasons, but to fill up our place duly in the House of God; to contribute towards the support of His precious gospel among us, according to the ability wherewith God has blessed us, and as occasion may

require; not taking advantage of being absent, or making other trifling excuses, to exempt ourselves from bearing a proper share in the expenses that may come upon us.

We likewise purpose, through Divine help, to watch one another’s conversation; to walk with each other in all humility and brotherly love; to stir up one another to love and good works; to warn, rebuke, and admonish one another as the case requires; to sympathise one with another in all conditions, both inward and outward, into which God, in His providence, may bring us; as also to bear with one another’s weaknesses, failings, and infirmities, and particularly to pray for one another, and jointly and separately wrestle with God, that the gospel and the ordinances thereof may be blessed to the edification of our souls, and for the gathering in of others to Christ, besides those who are already gathered.

We will also make it our care, through the aforesaid help, to walk before the Lord in our own houses with upright hearts, by daily prayer and praise to God, and diligent reading of the Holy Scriptures; to teach our children and servants, if any, the way of the Lord and command them to keep it, setting before them an example worthy of their imitation, and praying to God for their conversion and salvation.

We will also endeavour, by the grace of God, to keep ourselves pure from the sins and vices of the times and places wherein we live; to walk in wisdom towards them that are without; to exercise a conscience void of offence towards God and men by living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, that none may have occasion given by our unholy lives to speak evil of God’s most holy ways.

And all this under an abiding sense that we must shortly give up our account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead: unto which solemn covenant we set our hands in the presence of the all-seeing, heart-searching God.”