

The Church Covenant, Westborough, 1724

Transcribed by Prof. Ross W. Beales, Jr.

The Church Covenant.

Westborough Oct. 28. 1724.

We who names have hereunto consen[torn]
-ed, knowing y^t we are very prone to of
fend & provoke y^e most high G. both in H^t
& Life, thro y^e Prevalence of Sin y^t dwelleth
in us, & manifold Tempt^{ns} from wthout us,
for which we have gr^t Reason to be unfeigⁿ
edly humbled before Him from Day to
Day; DO, in y^e name of o^r L. Jesus Christ
with Depend^{ce} upon y^e grac^s Assist^{ce} of
his holy Spt. Solemnly enter into Cov^t
with G. & one with ano^r, acc^g to God,
as follows.

1. First, That having chosen & taken y^e Lord
Jehovah to be our God, we will fear him, cleave
to him in Love & Serve him in Truth wth all our
Hearts; giving up o^rs. to Him, to be his Pp,
in all things to be at his Direction & sov^{gn}

Disposal, y^t we may have & hold Com[m]union
wth Him, as members of Chrs mystical Body
acc^g to His revealed will, unto o^r Lives End.

2. We also bind o^rS to bring up o^r Children
& Servants in y^e Knowledge & Fear of God,
by holy Instruction acc^g to o^r best Abilities;
and in Special by y^e use of Orthodox Catechisms,
that y^e True Religion may be maintaind in
our Families while we live

3. And we further promise to keep close to
the Truth of Christ, endeavouring with

lively Affection tow^{ds} it in o^r Hts, to defend
it agst all Opposers y^rof, as G Shall call us at any
time thereunto. Which y^t we may do, We Resolve
to Use the Holy Scriptures as o^r platform, w^rby
we may discern the Mind of Christ, & not y^e New-
found Inventions of Men.

4. We also engage o^rs to have a carefull In-
spection over our own H^{ts}. That is, so as to Endea-
vour by y^e virtue of y^e Death of Cht y^e Mortifⁿ of
all o^r sinfull Passions, worldly Frames & disor-
derly Affections, w^rby we may be withdrawn from
the Living God.

5. We moreover oblige o^rs in y^e faithfull Im-
provem^t of o^r Ability & Opp^{ty} to worship G. acc^g
to all y^e Partic^{lr} Institutions of Cht in His Chh
under gospel Admin^{ns}. As, to give reverent
Attention unto y^e word of G: to pray to him:
to Sing his Praise: and to hold Com[m]union each
wth other in y^e Use of both y^e Seals of y^e Cov^t of
Grace. namely Baptism & y^e Lords supper.

6. We likewise promise y^t we will peaceably
Submitt unto y^e Holy Discipline appointed

by Christ in his Chh for offenders: Obey^g

Them y^t Rule over us in y^e Lord.

7. We also bind o^rs to walk in Love one
tow^{ds} anoth^r Endeav^g o^r mutual Edificⁿ Visiting,
Exhort^g Comfort^g as Occasion serveth: and
warning any Br^r or sister y^t offendeth; not di-
vulging private Offences irregularly; but heed-
fully following y^e Several Precepts laid down
by Christ for Chh Dealing in Mat. 18.15.16.17.
Willingly forgiving all y^t manifest to y^e Judmt
of [Charity?]y^t y^y truly repent of their Miscarriages.

Where there has been a Confessⁿ

add this,

If you do thus unfeignedly
Confess y^r Sins & Transgressions,
May God most gracious & mercifull
who absolveth the penitent &
heals the broken-hearted, have
Mercy on you & forgive you; May
Her grant you His all-sufficient
Grace [^]to make you Stedfast; & finally ~~and~~ receive you to etern^l
Consolation, thrò Jesus Cht o^r L!

And upon y^r Professing and
Covenanting with us as afores^d
[the Chh Cov^t having been adminis-
tered and consented to]

We the Chh of o^r L. J. X in this
Place do heartily acquiesce in y^r
Reception into o^r Sacred Fellowship
and promise to carry it towards you
as a Member of y^e same Mystical Body
of Cht with o^r selves – praying y^t both
you & we may obtain the Grace ne-

cessary to enable us to Glorifie Him

with the Holiness which becomes

Gods House for ever!

The Solemn Covenant.

You do very Solemnly, in y^e Presen^{^ce}
of y^e Gr^t G. His holy Angels & this His Pp,
Profess a serious & hearty Belief of y^e Xtian
Religⁿ as containd in y^e Sacred script^{es} &
embraced by us in this place – You do wth y^r
whole H^t give up y^rs to y^e glor^s JEHOVAH,
w^o is y^e F. ye S. & y^e H. Spt. & avouch the
L. to be y^r G. choosing Him as y^r only Portion.
You give up y^rs to y^e L. J. X. who is the
L. JEHOVAH, as y^r only Mediator, Prophet
Priest & King for ever. Depending upon
Him alone for Accept^{ce} wth G. & Justifⁿ in His
sight. You Submit to y^e Laws of His Km
as administred here among us, promis^g
by y^e Grace of G. to conform y^r whole Life
to y^e Rules of y^e Gospel, and to do y^r utmost
to further y^r Preparⁿ for Waiting upon
y^e L. at His holy Table. [And as you do
hereby ^{^own} & recognize y^r own Baptismal
Engagem^{ts} so ^{^do} engage to give up y^r Off-
spring to y^e L. & bring ^{^vm} up in y^e Knowl.

& Fear of G.] Finally, you will endeavor
to maintain & adorn this Professⁿ till thro
div. Grace you shall be prepared for, and
admitted to eternal Glory.

Memorand^m

Westb^o Oct. 9. 1777 My Dauter Hannah
gave her Consent to this Cov^t.