

HISTORICAL MATERIAL
Reference Headquarters
MANUAL

OF THE

UTICA AVENUE
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH

OF

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

REVISED BY
PENTECOSTAL PRINTING COMPANY

1905

M A N U A L

OF THE

UTICA AVENUE

PENTECOSTAL

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HISTORICAL

The Utica Avenue Pentecostal Church was organized in a store on Schenectady Avenue, in January, 1894

Rev. William Howard Hoople was the organizer and elected first pastor. Soon after the organization, the spirit to "rise up and build" took possession of the people, and the pastor and Brother Richard Ryons walked about the neighborhood, and finally were led to the spot on which the Church building now stands.

Like all other Churches on the Pentecostal line, this one was called into existence for the spread of Bible holiness.

Brother Hoople was ordained early in the history of the Church, Rev. Edgar M. Levy, D.D., preaching the ordination sermon. Rev. M. D. Collins, of precious memory, preached the dedicatory sermon of the Church building.

Brother Hoople resigned the pastorate, taking effect Jan. 1, 1904, and Rev. C. Howard Davis entered upon the pastorate, Jan. 31st.

PREFATORY.

FIRST—By divine authority we understand that God has one living Church on earth, composed of all who believe in Christ and do his will.

SECOND—We learn by the writings of the Apostles, that local Churches were established for mutual benefit and convenience; and wherever there are Christians who meet in any place for the worship of God, and to attend to the ordinances of the Gospel, they do constitute such a Church, being in harmony with the Apostolic plan.

THIRD—Therefore, we who have been and are accustomed to meet together for the worship of God, do, by the order of the Gospel, hold ourselves to be an established Church, located in Brooklyn, N. Y.

FOURTH—We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works." We, therefore, whose names follow, agreeing to take the word of God as

our rule of faith, do mutually and solemnly covenant :

OUR COVENANT.

•(To be read, the congregation standing, at the reception of members, and before the hand of fellowship is given.)

As we believe we have received, through Divine grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, and have given ourselves wholly to Him and on profession of our faith have united ourselves to His Church, we do now solemnly and joyfully, in the presence of God, angels, and men, covenant with each other, and, by the assistance of the Holy Ghost, engage—

That we will walk together with brotherly love, exercising a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and with true affection rejoicing with those who rejoice, and with tender sympathy bearing one another's burdens and sorrows.

That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together at the communion, the preaching services, the prayer meeting, and other appointed meetings, but seek and pray for the spirituality, harmony and prosperity of this Church.

That we will cheerfully contribute of our

means as God has prospered us for the support of a faithful evangelical ministry among us ; for the relief of the poor ; and for the spreading of the Gospel over the earth.

That we will maintain family and secret devotions, religiously educate our children, seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, walk circumspectly in the world, be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, abstain from the very appearance of evil ; seek to honor God, win souls to Christ and hold fast our profession till He shall come and receive us unto Himself. We do covenant to " follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Seeing, " that none render evil for evil unto any man," remembering that, " though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

We will not credit nor circulate any report to the injury of our brother or sister founded upon rumor, but visit them upon the first opportunity and ascertain the truth in the matter.

We renounce the devil and all his works,

the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, and will not follow nor be led by them ; but will yield ourselves to God in constant obedience to all the Divine requirements.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

ARTICLE I. We believe there is one only living and true God, infinite in all His attributes ; the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe, revealed in the Scriptures as the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost : that these three are the one God, the same in essence, and equal in every divine perfection.

ART. II. We believe the Holy Bible, containing the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the revelation of divine truth, and the record of God's will, from whence we derive all correct knowledge of religious truth and duty ; and that it is the only sufficient rule of a Christian's faith and practice.

ART. III. We believe man was created holy ; that he fell from that state by transgression, and that, in consequence of the fall, mankind is by nature destitute of holiness, and inclined to evil, and that continually, and

in all their moral actions sinners against God, and under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

ART. IV. We believe that Jesus Christ is both God and man; that by His sufferings and death He made an atonement for sin, sufficient for all mankind; and that through Him salvation is freely offered to all, on condition of repentance and faith; that no one can merit or obtain this salvation, yet good works are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ and spring out of a true and living faith, inso-much that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

ART. V. We believe that all who truly repent of their sins, and believe in Christ are justified on account of Christ's atoning sacrifice and are regenerated by the special influence of the Holy Spirit, whereby the soul is freed from the dominion of sin and brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

ART. VI. We believe that entire sanctification is that act of the Holy Spirit whereby the justified soul is delivered from inbred sin and made pure in heart; that it is receivable

now, by simple faith, enabling the believer to love God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength, which implies no wrong temper, none contrary to love remains in the soul; that all the thoughts, words and actions are governed by pure love; that entire sanctification does not exclude ignorance or mistake nor an involuntary transgression of some unknown divine precept.

ART. VII. We believe that Christ has a visible Church in the world, that its ordinances are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; that the Christian Sabbath and the Gospel Ministry are institutions of divine appointment, and that it is the duty of Christians to unite with this visible Church and observe its sacred ordinances.

ART. VIII. We believe that the outward sign of Baptism is water applied in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; that the inward grace signified in this ordinance is a death unto sin and a new birth unto righteousness.

ART. IX. We believe that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was ordained by our Lord Jesus Christ for the continual remem-

brance of the sacrifice of His death, and of the benefits that we thereby receive; that the outward sign is bread and wine; and that the inward grace of this sacrament is the communion of the body and blood of Christ, whereby we are reminded of His sacrificial death and spiritually strengthened to do His will.

ART. X. We believe that the religious observance of the Sabbath is binding on all, and that any indulgences or avocations on that day that aim at worldly gain or pleasure, rather than at moral and religious improvement, involve a violation of Christian duty.

ART. XI. We believe in the second coming of Christ at the end of the world; the resurrection of the dead; that God hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained, and that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1—OFFICERS.

The officers of this Church shall consist of a Pastor, three Deacons, a Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall, except the Pastor, be chosen at the annual meeting.

SECTION 1. The Pastor shall have full control of the preaching services, prayer meetings, and preside at all business meetings; also, full liberty to introduce such order of worship, or subjects only, as are in harmony with the word of God and our articles of faith, as in his judgment the needs of his congregation as a whole demand, without hindrance or dictation from any member, and shall be *ex-officio* member of all societies, bands and committees formed or appointed by authority of the Church, and shall co-operate with them in their work. The Pastor shall also keep the membership roll.

SEC. 2—The Deacons shall act officially with the Pastor, and assist him in every way possible in carrying on the work of the Church.

SEC. 3—The Clerk shall keep a record of all business transactions, and such other matters as will be of interest in the history of the Church.

SEC. 4—The Treasurer shall hold, and with the advice of the Official Board, disburse the funds of the Church.

ARTICLE II—MEETINGS.

The meetings shall consist of an Annual Meeting, business, prayer, class and such extra meetings as shall be judged best by the Official Board.

SECTION 1. The Annual Meeting shall be held the last Monday evening in March.

SEC. 2—The business meetings other than the annual one shall be subject to the call of the Clerk or Pastor, due notice being given from the pulpit.

ARTICLE III—COMMITTEES.

The committees of this Church shall consist of a Board of Trustees, an Official Board and a Committee on Sick and Poor.

SECTION 1. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES—The Trustees shall have charge of the Church property, and attend to all legal matters.

SEC. 2—DUTIES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
—The Official Board shall have general charge of all business matters, have oversight of the sexton, see that the place of worship is properly kept, lighted, heated, etc. They shall have charge of the finances. They shall receive applications for membership, recommend to the Church such as are approved, look after those who fail to live up to the covenant, and make recommendation to the Church according to their best judgment. They shall examine candidates for baptism, making necessary arrangements for the same.

SEC. 3—COMMITTEE ON SICK AND POOR—
This committee shall provide watchers for the sick, as far as possible, when desired, and shall minister to the sick and poor, according to the New Testament teachings. The Chairman shall be Treasurer of the funds.

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. Persons desiring to unite with this Church, by letter, shall come before the Official Board, who shall consider their case, and if satisfactory, recommend to the Church at any regular covenant or business meeting properly called. They must receive a two-thirds rising

vote of the members present. If accepted, the Pastor shall extend to them the right hand of fellowship.

SEC. 2—Any applicant for membership, without a letter, or whose letter or experience is not satisfactory to the Board, may, on recommendation of the Board, be received on probation; if their six months' probation shall be considered satisfactory, they may be received according to Sec. 1.

SEC. 3—Any person in good and regular standing desiring to leave this Church, with the purpose of uniting with some other evangelical Church, may be given a letter of dismissal and recommendation to such Church, but the order of procedure shall be according to Sec. 1.

SEC. 4—If any of the members of this Church shall be guilty of misconduct of life, such persons shall be kindly labored with, and if, after such labor, they persist in such a course, the Official Board shall consider their case, and cause their names to be dropped from the Church roll, and report their action to the Church.

RULES AND BY-LAWS.

1. No person shall become Pastor of this Church unless he has previously become a member, and is clearly in the experience of entire sanctification.

2. No person shall be chosen Deacon, or be eligible to office in the Board of Trustees or the official Board, who is not clearly in the experience of entire sanctification.

3. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting. A quorum being present, all questions shall be decided by a majority vote, except the changing of the Constitution, Confession of Faith, Covenant and By-Laws, which shall require a two-thirds rising vote, with one month's notice from the pulpit.

4. As this building has been dedicated to the worship of God, no fairs, festivals, or dramatic exercises, or so-called sociables shall be held in it, believing these things to be incompatible with the spirit of the Gospel.

5. The Board of Trustees shall consist of

six members, who shall be chosen at the Annual Meeting by ballot.

6. The Official Board shall consist of the Pastor, Deacons, Clerk, Treasurer, Superintendents of the Sunday-School, Chairman of the Sick and Poor Committee.

7. The number of the Committee on Sick and Poor shall be decided at the time of election at the Annual Meeting.

8. The Pastor may, if he sees fit for the best interests of the Church, submit a list of officers and committees to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

9. This Church shall maintain a Sunday-School for the dissemination of Bible truths, especially those set forth in our Articles of Faith.

10. Violating some moral precept found in the Scriptures, some covenant vow, the profession of opinions opposed to, or subversive of the Confession of Faith, or any part of it, neglecting family prayer, unnecessary absence from any of the Church services, devoting any part of the Sabbath to unnecessary work or worldly pleasures, refusing to contribute toward the support of the Church,

the sale or use of intoxicating liquors, attending any institution, association, or place which would encourage the vicious, and operate against the good name of the Church, refusing to conform to the Scriptures (see I Tim. 2: 8, 9, 10; I Peter 3: 1-5) in the matter of dress, are grounds for admonition and discipline, and if not renounced, are sufficient cause for dismissal from the Church. —

11. Probationers shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of members, except to hold office, or take part in the government of the Church.

12. No person or persons shall be allowed to introduce into the meetings any controversy, or personal retaliatory thrusts or any controversial doctrines which shall be considered by the Church as not conducive to the best interest of the cause of Christ. The Pastor shall be supported by the Church in properly carrying out this rule.