

IN THE BEGINNING: Sunday, January 16, 1765

On the day the church officially came into being-- "gathered" was the word in use at the time--it was called "The Church of Christ in New Gloucester." On that day the Rev. Samuel Foxcroft, of Boston, Harvard graduate and son of a prominent Boston pastor, was ordained in the blockhouse by an Ecclesiastical Council made up of representatives from the churches in Falmouth(now known as Portland), North Yarmouth(being north of Yarmouth, MA--what is now known as Yarmouth, ME), Windham, Pepperell-borough(Saco), and Biddeford. With the clergy and lay delegates of those churches present, 8 residents of New Gloucester, including Rev. Foxcroft, entered into the following covenant:

We whose Names are hereunto subscribed, apprehending ourselves called of God into the Church state of the Gospel; do first of all confess ourselves unworthy to be so highly favor'd of the Lord; & admire that free & rich Grace of his, which triumphs over so great unworthiness & then with an humble Reliance on the aids of Grace therein promise for such as in a sense of their Inability to do any good thing, do humbly wait on him for all; we now thankfully lay hold on his Cov'nant & chuse the things that please him.

We declare our serious Belief of the christian Religion as contain'd in the sacred scriptures; & with such a View thereof as the Confession of Faith in our Churches has exhibited; heartily resolving to conform our Lives unto the Rules of that holy Religion as long as we live in the world.

We give up ourselves unto the Lord Jehovah, who is the Father & the Son & the Holy Ghost, & avouch Him this Day to be our God our Father, our Saviour & our Leader, & receive him as our Portion forever.

We give up ourselves unto the blessed Jesus, who is the Lord Jehovah; & adhere to him as the Head of his People in the Cov'nant of Grace, & rely on him as our Priest & our Prophet & our King, to bring us unto eternal Blessedness.

We acknowledge our indispensable obligations to glorify our God in all the Duties of a godly, a sober & a righteous Life, & very particularly in the Duties of a Church State, & a Body of People associated for an Obedience to Him in all the ordinances of ye Gospel, & we thereupon depend upon his gracious Assistances for our faithfull Discharge of the Duties thus incumbent on us.

We desire & intend & (with Dependance on his promis'd & powerful Grace) we engage to walk together as a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Faith and Order of ye Gospel, so far as we shall have the same reveal'd unto us: conscientiously attending the public Worship of God, the Sacraments of the New Testament, the Discipline of his Kingdom, & all his holy Institutions, in Communion with one another, & watchfully avoiding all sinfull stumbling Blocks & Contentions, as becomes a People whom ye Lord hath bound up together in a Bundle of Life.

At the same time we do also present our offspring with us, unto the Lord, purposeing with his Help, to do our Duty in the Methods of a religious Education, that they may be the Lords.

And all this we do, flying to the Blood of the everlasting Cov'nant for the Pardon of our many Errors, & praying that the glorious Lord who is the great Shepherd, woud prepare & strenthen us for evry good work to do his Will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight. To him be Glory for ever & ever. Amen.

Samuel Foxcroft, John Tufts, Jabez True, Daniel Merrill, Moses Woodbury, William Stevens, Ebenezer Mason, Peleg Chandler

Transcribed by Rev. Linda K. Gard from the oldest of the congregation's record books, labeled Church Records, 1765-1853, New Gloucester. This volume is held in the Archives of the New Gloucester Historical Society.

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