

Spiritualism

CONSTITUTIONS

OF

Local Societies and County Circles

OF

Spiritualists

OF THE

STATE OF MICHIGAN.

NEW THEOLOGICAL
LIBRARY

"Slave to no sect, who takes no private road,
But looks through Nature up to Nature's God."—POPE.

LANSING:

JOHN A. KERR & CO., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS AND BINDERS.

1868.

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INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Call a meeting of citizens; appoint a Chairman and Secretary.
2. Adopt Articles of Association, and sign them.
3. Appoint two Tellers, or Inspectors of Election.
4. Elect Trustees, (not less than three, nor more than nine,) *by ballot.*
5. Tellers execute Certificate of Election of Trustees, and acknowledge the same, which Certificate, together with Articles of Association, must be filed with the County Clerk.
6. Trustees elect out of their number a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF THE

Society of Spiritualists.

DECLARATION.

WE, the undersigned, feeling the necessity of a Religious Organization free from the trammels of sect or dogma, while we seek after all truths in Science, Philosophy and Religion, and believing that in unity and associative action, under proper system and order, these aspirations can be most successfully reached, hereby band ourselves together as a free religious body, under the following Articles of Association:

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. The name of this Association shall be the,.....
.....Society of Spiritualists.

SEC. 2. The place of business meetings of this Society shall be (at (township, village or in) the County, State of Michigan.

SEC. 3. Any person may become a member of this Society by signing these Articles of Association, thereby manifesting a desire to live a purer and better life; and any member may at any time withdraw from this Society without being required to give a reason therefor.

SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS.

SEC. 4. Nine members of this Society, of the legal age, shall constitute a quorum in all business meetings.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The Annual Meetings of this Society shall be held on the.....day of....., in each year.

SEC. 2. The regular Monthly Business Meetings of this Society shall be held on the..... of each month, at which time the Board of Trustees shall lay before the meeting such business as may be deemed necessary for its action, together with a statement, in writing, of all transactions had by them on behalf of the Society since the last previous report, including the state of the treasury at the period of said report.

SEC. 3. Special Business Meetings may be called by the President, when deemed necessary by him, and shall be called upon the written request of five members, which request and call shall state the purpose of said Special Meeting: *Provided*, That no business shall be considered at such meeting other than that set forth in said call.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. At the first meeting of this Society there shall be elected Trustees, who shall proceed to classify and allot to each the term of office, the full term being for three years, so that about one-third of said Trustees shall be elected each year. Trustees shall thereafter be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Society, to fill vacancies caused by expiration of term of office, or from any other cause. Vacancies occurring in said office of Trustees may be filled by election at any regular meeting, due notice having been previously given, as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. All elections of Trustees shall be by ballot, two Inspectors of Election being selected from among the numbers thereof, to receive and count the ballots and declare the result. Notice of any election of

SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS.

Trustees, other than the first, shall be proclaimed by the President or some member at the regular meeting of the Society next preceding said election.

SEC. 3. Said Trustees shall be of lawful age, and chosen from among the lay members of the Society. It shall be the duty of the Inspectors of the first election of Trustees, after the adoption of these articles, to file with the Clerk of the County wherein said Society shall be located a duly certified copy of these articles, together with the names of the charter members, the duly elected first Board of Trustees, and the classification of the term of office of each.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for business; and they shall choose from among their number a President, Secretary and Treasurer whose terms of office shall be for one year, and until their successors are elected.

SEC. 2. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Trustees and business meetings of the Society, and only have the casting vote on all motions before each body. He shall also perform all other functions belonging to that office. Any member of the Society may be called to the chair in all other meetings.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall faithfully record all transactions of the Board of Trustees and business meetings of the Society, which transactions shall conform to the requirements of the laws of Michigan, under which this Society is chartered. All funds received on behalf of this Society shall be entered in the Secretary's record, and by that officer paid over to the Treasurer, taking receipt therefor. Said Secretary shall also perform all other functions belonging to the office.

SEC. 4. The Treasurer shall enter into bonds with the Board of Trustees, for and in behalf of the Society, in such sum as may from time to time be fixed by said Board, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of said office of Treasurer, and shall pay out the funds of the Society only on orders duly executed by the President and Secretary.

SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. This Society, by due vote thereof, or of the Board of Trustees, may grant certificates of ordination, conferring the functions and powers of ministers of religious societies upon any of its members, according to the laws of Michigan in such cases made and provided.

SEC. 2. These articles may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any regular meeting of the Society: *Provided*, that a notice in writing, embodying the proposed amendment, be read at a regular meeting of the Society one month preceding such action. A certified copy of any amendment of said articles shall be filed with the County Clerk of the county in which said Society may be located.

SEC. 3. By-laws, not conflicting with these articles, may be adopted at any regular meeting of the Society. The Board of Trustees may also establish rules regulating their business meetings and transactions.

Adopted at....., in the
County of....., State of
Michigan,.....

INSPECTORS' CERTIFICATE.

This certifies that at a meeting of the above named members of the Society of Spiritualists, held in the..... of
County, Michigan, on the..... day of.....
Also, that the foregoing Articles of Association were adopted. Also, that the undersigned were chosen Inspectors of Election, and ballot being had, the following named individuals were duly elected Trustees of said Society, who, upon allotment, were classified into terms of office as follows:

....., for three years;
....., for two years;
....., for one year.

SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS.

In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names, this
..... day of....., A. D. 186....

In presence of
.....
.....

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss.

COUNTY OF.....

I hereby certify that....., of
....., County and State
aforesaid, personally appeared before me, a.....
..... in and for said County, and acknowledged
their signatures to the above certificate, which they aver to be a true
statement of the transactions therein set forth.

Given under my hand, at the..... day of
....., in said County, this.....
....., A. D. 186....

FORM OF CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that the religious organization entitled the.....
..... Society of Spiritualists, reposing full confidence
in our..... the
a member of this Society, has this day conferred upon h.....
powers and functions of a Minister of this religious organization; and

SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS.

.....is therefore duly ordained, according to the forms of said Society, and endowed with all the rights, functions and powers of Ministers of religious organizations, according to the laws of the State of Michigan.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names, thisday of....., A. D. 186...., at....., County of....., and State of Michigan.

Attest.

....., *President*.
....., *Secretary*.

CONSTITUTION OF.....CIRCLE,
STATE OF MICHIGAN.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be known and designated as.....auxiliary to the Michigan State Spiritual Association, without detriment to its individuality.

ARTICLE 2. The object of this Society is to bring the Spiritualists of.....County into co-operation in teaching publicly the Principles and Philosophy of Spiritualism, by voluntary contributions for sustaining Lecturers and Mediums, and in such other ways as may be deemed advisable.

ARTICLE 3. All members of Local Societies and isolated Spiritualists in.....County may become members of this Circle, and entitled to speak and vote upon all questions.

There shall be four meetings per year of this Circle, as follows: on the.....Saturday and Sunday of.....

The first shall be known as the Annual Meeting, at which time there shall be elected, by ballot, nine Directors, agreeably to the pro-

SOCIETY OF SPIRITUALISTS.

visions of the Compiled Laws of the State, section five (5), chapter sixty-eight (68); and the said Directors shall immediately proceed to elect from their number a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; and they may also elect any other officers provided for in said laws, or by them deemed necessary.

ARTICLE 4. The duties of such officers shall be such as usually pertain to such in all societies, and may be provided for in the by-laws.



CIRCULAR.

TO THE SPIRITUALISTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

THE undersigned, your "Executive Board," appointed to officiate the present year, in organizing and bringing the progressive minds of the State into co-operative effort, respectfully report progress and unlooked for success in our work.

We issued a circular in November last, giving you the general plan we proposed for the organization of Societies and County Circles. From it we quote as follows:

"Each County in the State to be designated a CIRCLE. The several Spiritual Societies in each Circle to be organized into one Association, with a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, constituting its Executive Committee, and designated as 'Ionia Circle,' 'Oakland Circle,' or 'Lenawee Circle,' as the case may be; the several Circles to have meetings quarterly, one of which shall be the Annual Meeting, at which time the officers shall be elected."

The above plan is designed to inaugurate a movement for co-operation, and *not a dictatorial* work; and to bring the Spiritualists of each and every County together, for acquaintance and mutual improvement,

CIRCULAR.

which we are confident will eventuate in a wise system for the promulgation of the Spiritual Philosophy.

For the purpose of insuring uniformity in organization, the State Association—convened at Jackson, January the 24th—unanimously agreed to recommend Constitutions for Local Societies and County Circles, which are now ready, in pamphlet form, and can be obtained of the President or Secretary of the Association, for the use of Societies, twenty-five copies costing one dollar. In it will be found *no creed to fetter the mind* or circumscribe belief. It is brief, merely defining the duties of officers, and making only such provisions as seem necessary to form and perpetuate an Association for the objects specified.

Again would we urge upon the Spiritualists of Michigan the necessity of immediate organization. "In union there is strength." We must provide for the social demands of our nature. Hundreds of Spiritualists go back to the churches, and thousands yet remain there, *merely for want of a Society that shall ensure them the kind sympathies and support of brothers and sisters of the same faith.* Oh! how keenly have we, isolated as we have been for the last few years, *felt this deficiency*; hence we earnestly recommend association as above.

Our MISSIONARY WORK, too, is a success. We have now two General Missionaries, and we hope to have four during the current year. By this instrumentality we are disseminating the facts and the philosophy of Spiritualism over the new and sparsely settled portions of the State. As soon as Societies and Circles are organized they become self-sustaining. We do most cordially recommend our General and Local Missions to your kind regard, and we ask for them your sympathy and aid. Open your hearts and homes to them; and we ask, too, that you open your purses, and contribute to our Missionary Fund, to aid us in keeping them in the field. Do not wait for them to come round, but get up a subscription, asking every liberalist in your vicinity to sign it, with the amount he can pay per annum, to be paid quarterly, in advance, for this object. Send the subscription lists to our Secretary, and any money you collect to the Treasurer, JAMES C. WOOD, Esq., at

CIRCULAR.

Jackson, Michigan, or hand the same to our General Missionaries. Pay no money for above purpose to any one who cannot show you their authority, signed by the President and Secretary of our State Association. You may be fully assured that every dollar will be used for the purpose indicated. Every officer of the Association is working without pecuniary remuneration. Missionaries and speakers throughout the State are requested to forward to the Secretary, immediately, the names of all officers of Societies organized by them.

As soon as County Circles are formed you are prepared to co-operate in the employment of speakers, with a great *saving of expense to yourselves*, and time and labor in traveling to the speakers.

We realize the want of a good Weekly Paper, as the organ of our Association, through which we can correspond, and you can communicate with every Spiritualist in the State. We have the "BANNER OF LIGHT" and other papers, at a distance, good and true to our cause, but so crowded are the columns of all that it is difficult for us to get inserted a condensed report of our Annual Conventions. We want a MICHIGAN SPIRITUAL PAPER, that shall not be partizan in its character, but an exponent and defender of our principles; having also a department for Literary and Family Reading, a summary of Political News and General Intelligence, and a column or two devoted to the Agricultural and Manufacturing Interests of the State. A paper that shall be made a welcome visitor in every family circle. Efforts are now being made for the establishment of a Publication Company for this object, for which we ask your aid.

Finally, we congratulate our friends upon the newly awakened interest in our cause all over the State. The facts and beautiful teachings of our faith are obtaining a deep hold in the hearts of the people.

In no more efficient way can we accomplish good for the future than by organization of "CHILDREN'S PROGRESSIVE LYCEUMS." Wherever twenty or thirty children can be congregated, let a Lyceum be instituted, thus withdrawing our young from under the influence of those who teach of a God of wrath, total depravity, a personal Devil,

CIRCULAR.

to tempt poor fallen humanity, and a hell of torment, to eternally punish the finally incorrigible. From all such teachings may good angels deliver us.

D. M. FOX, President, Lyons, Mich.

Mrs. S. D. CORYELL, Vice President, Lansing, Mich.

S. F. BREED, Vice President, Paw Paw, Mich.

L. B. BROWN, Secretary, Dewitt, Mich.

JAMES C. WOOD, Treasurer, Jackson, Mich.

Dr. J. K. BAILEY, Adrian,

C. C. RANDALL, Detroit,

LEWIS BASCOM, Jackson,

Mrs. E. A. PRATT, Ovid, Branch Co.,

} Trustees.



