

## 20 History of Brantford Congregational Church

from ours who appear to be possessed of vital religion to be admitted amongst us as occasional communicants.

7. Every person wishing to join our community shall be required to sign with his or her hand these regulations, a copy of which shall be given them in due time to enable them to form their determination.

8. That the number of deacons be four.

9. That in order to prevent undue influence, and to maintain the strictest independency possible, the method of electing deacons shall be by ballot and that each member shall give in such ballot by June 30th.

10. That Jehoida Brewer be requested to take upon him the pastoral care of us as a church of Christ.

Resolved unanimously, Birmingham, June 16th, 1803.

Signed by 45 people, including John Wilkes and Jehoida Brewer.

The following minute appears to have been adopted at a very early date, and is interesting as it shews the attitude of the new Society towards Baptists, who though conservative as respects the sacrament, were independents in their form of church government, and the spirit which dictated the minute is also explanatory of the close intimacy which continued for many years between the executives of the Ebenezer and Cannon Street Sunday School.

"It was unanimously agreed that serious persons of Baptist persuasion should be admitted to all the privileges of church fellowship, and enjoy all the rights of such except a vote in the choice of a minister."

During the ministry of Rev. J. Brewer at Carr's Lane and Livery Street Chapels from the 5th February, 1796, to August 24th, 1817, 321 were baptised.

During his ministry at Livery Street Chapel, inclusive of those who first formed the Society, 95 persons were admitted to church fellowship, including Henry Phillips, one of the earliest deacons and father of a later Henry Phillips, also a deacon.

The enthusiasm of the new society and the popularity of Mr. Brewer attracted so many that the "Union Meeting," Livery Street, soon became too small. In order to consider the matter a meeting of members and subscribers was called together—Monday, October 4th, 1813,—and the following resolutions were passed:

That it appears highly expedient and desirable to the meeting that a new place of worship should be erected sufficiently large for the congregation in some suitable situation hereafter to be fixed upon.

That in order to accomplish this object a fund should be raised for the purpose, and a subscription now entered into, the amount of which shall be paid in the course of three years from the present time by quarterly instalments, the first to commence on the 3rd January next.

That the congregation in general, consisting of all persons who have sittings, be requested by public notice next Sabbath to meet here on the morrow and enter into weekly subscriptions in aid of the building fund.

That Mr. John Dickenson be appointed treasurer and that he be desired to pay all monies received by him into the banking house of Messrs. Spooner, Attwood & Co. every quarter, keeping account of the same.

That Mr. John Angus be appointed secretary in order to arrange and keep the different subscription books, appoint collectors for the subscriptions, and receive the monies so collected, paying the same into the hands of the treasurer.

That the following friends be appointed a committee for managing the above business (16 names), five of whom are competent to act.

At a meeting, October 13, 1813, subscriptions were reported to have reached £2,662. Twelve persons, for the most part young men, willing to