

in Livery Street Meeting-House in a very unusual degree, we feel convinced that it is our duty to encourage, as much as we can, a continuance of the preaching of the Gospel there. The numerous congregation that has collected and the much good that has been done; the increasing pleasure we felt while attending, and the great encouragement we have to believe that yet greater good will be done in that place, are all the effects of the blessing of God on your valuable ministry. To whom then, Dear Sir, can we apply so properly as to you? Or who can have such encouragement to attend to our request as yourself? In addition to these considerations we hope you will not forget the uncommon glow of affection and firm attachment that your hearers have so lately evidenced towards your person and ministry. While we recommend these circumstances to your consideration, it is our earnest prayer to God that He would direct your mind and if it please Him incline it towards us.

Signed by 48 members of the Church assembling in Carr's Lane (including John Wilkes), and by 164 subscribers to the Church assembling in Carr's Lane (including Henry Phillips).

This was followed in June 1803 by the following declaration, which prefaces the earliest church registers:

The undersigned persons having for substantial reasons withdrawn themselves from the relationship in which they stood to the Society of Professed Protestant Dissenters meeting at Carr's Lane in the town of Birmingham, sensible of the obligations under which they lay of formally and publicly devoting themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ as his disciples, at a meeting held for consultation upon so serious a subject unanimously agreed to the following resolution:

Being well convinced that our happiness as individuals and our welfare as a Church of Christ considerably depends upon our obedience to the laws of our Lord and Master, as they are laid down in the New Testament, we whose names are hereunto subscribed having, we humbly hope, "given ourselves to the Lord," do now most solemnly give up ourselves to "one another by the will of God," being determined through the grace that has and may be given unto us to do what we can for the promotion of the Divine glory, the furtherance of the Gospel, and the edification of each other.

Having seen much of the licentious effects of the want of discipline upon the one hand, and of an impious domination upon the other, in order by the blessing of God to prevent such evils amongst us, we agree to the following rules for the government of our church as a Society of Independent Protestant Dissenters:—

1. None to be admitted as members of our religious society but such as afford satisfactory evidence that they are the subjects of Divine grace.

2. All church members regularly to fill up their places at all stated times of Divine worship, and at all church meetings, unless prevented by the dispensation of Providence.

3. Every member punctually to attend the Sacrament for the commemoration of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ unless prevented as in Rule 2.

4. The officers of the church, whether ministers or deacons, to be elected by the majority of members, and the same mode to be adopted in the admission of members.

5. Every decision to be made by a majority of members, both men and women, no one attempting to "lord it over God's heritage" but that there may be an equality.

6. Members of other Christian churches of a persuasion different