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Whereas, we the subscribers of New Lebanon, (Columbia County, and State of New York, being members of the United Society called Shakers, having received faith in the testimony of Christ's Second Appearing according to the principles and practice of the aforesaid Society, and having according to our faith and voluntary choice at different times, gathered into a family under the care and protection of Ebenezer Bishop and Calvin Green, whom we acknowledge to be our elder brethren and leading members in our family and order, and having at the time of our gathering entered into covenant (verbally) with the said Ebenezer Bishop and Calvin Green, and with each other, according to the well known and established principles of the said Society, which were then and from time to time made known and received and understood by us as follows: To Wit

### Article I.

All of us individually, so long as we continued with said family or Society, were to give our time, our services and labors, together with the use and improvement of all, or whatever property we brought into said family or Society, freely to be improved for the mutual support and benefit of each other, and also for the upbuilding of our respective family, and for the increase of the Gospel among the children of men, and such other pious and charitable uses and purposes as the Gospel may require.

### Article II.

We also Covenanted and agreed, that all the property and avails of our labor as aforesaid, should be holden under the care of the Deacon's or Trustee's of our respective family or order, in union with the counsel of the Elders of our family, who are, or may be from time to time appointed to the said charge by the Ministry or Eldership of the Church of our Community, to be by them religiously improved according to the principles and for the purposes declared by this Covenant.

### Article III.

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Now therefore, for the purpose of having the aforesaid <sup>verbal</sup> Covenant and agreement clearly understood and confirmed, and to the end that our will may be plainly known to all whom it may concern, especially those who might otherwise claim a right of heirship; we do by these present, enter into a written Covenant and agreement, confirming the aforesaid principles and Covenant fully, in each and every part.

### Article IV.

It is to understood further, as the privilege of each member at their option to dedicate a part, or the whole of their property if they choose so to do, fully and finally, forever to be holden as aforesaid, for the uses and purposes above named, and then in that case the property so dedicated shall be considered as consecrated forever, and can never under any pretence, be reclaimed for any uses or purposes whatever, but must all be appropriated forever, as hereby stipulated.

### Article V.

It is hereby expressly declared, that all the avails of our labor or property, as aforesaid, shall be used and improved in union, according to the second article of this Covenant, and in no other way, and for no other purposes than those hereby stated and declared, and that the use and improvement thereof shall be made in behalf of, and for the benefit of the whole family, in which each member shall share according to their individual needs. And we do by these present, solemnly and conscientiously covenant with each other, and with the Elders and Trustees aforesaid, to subject ourselves in union as brethren and sisters, according to the principles of the Gospel, to the rules, orders and regulations of our respective family, and order, and in obedience to the Elders and Trustees aforesaid, who must be regulated and governed by the faith and principles of the Gospel, according to the established rules of the Society, agreeable to the prelude to this Covenant.

## Article VI.

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As we feel that we are not called of the Gospel for the purpose of laying up a temporal interest, nor to labor for ourselves alone, but also to labor for the increase of the Gospel among other souls, we do hereby agree, that when any person or persons shall hereafter receive faith in the Gospel, and shall be desirous to prove their faith by their works, and it shall be judged expedient by the lead aforesaid, they shall on signing, and supporting this Covenant, each individual thenceforth be admitted to all its priviledges, and be considered as a member of the family. And further, in order that there should be no cause for doubt respecting the property which shall be brought in as aforesaid, it is hereby agreed, that an inventory shall be taken of all the property at the time when it shall be brought in by any individual, the use and improvement of which, is only intended to be given to the family or Society, agreeable to the first article of this Covenant; and that all property which shall be brought into the Society by any one of which an inventory is not taken, as aforesaid, shall be expressly understood as finally consecrated agreeable to the fourth article of this Covenant.

## Article VII.

We do by virtue of this Covenant, solemnly and conscientiously, as in the presence of God, jointly and individually, for ourselves, our heirs and assigns, promise, covenant and agree with each other, that we never hereafter, will neither directly nor indirectly bring any charge of debt, damage, nor demand whatever, against the said Ebenezer Bishop and Calvin Green, nor against the Deacons or Trustees aforesaid, or their Successors; nor against any member or members of the United Society called Shakers, either jointly or severally, on account of any labor or service whatever, which we may do, or have done or performed, nor on account of the use and improvement of all, or any part of our property of whatever name or nature given as aforesaid, nor on account of any property which we may have given up, and entirely devoted for the aforesaid uses and purposes, agreeable to the fourth article of this Covenant.

And lastly, we hereby publish and declare that this Covenant shall be a full and sufficient witness for us before all men, in all cases of question and law, respecting all our property, or labor, or services whatever given, rendered or devoted as aforesaid.

In testimony whereof, we have, both brethren and sisters hereunto  
set our hands and seals; beginning this twenty third day of  
October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred  
and twenty.