

Covenant
of the
Novitiate Members of the North Family
or Junior Order

of the
United Society of Believers
New Lebanon, Columbia Co. N.Y.

Preamble

Whereas We, Brethren & Sisters, and novitiate Members of the Junior Order of the Society of Believers generally known by the name of Shakers, residing in the Town of New Lebanon County of Columbia, & State of New York, having received faith in the gospel of Christ's second Appearing, as received and taught by the leading authority of the Society, and family, to which we have united, for the purpose of mutual protection of our persons and services, & our exp-

part and improvement, in things both spiritual and temporal, agreeably to the practice of the primitive Christian Church, have formed ourselves into a united body or Christian Family.

Therefore, in agreement with the leading authority of this junior family, of the Society aforesaid, duly appointed and sustained, according to the established order of the institution, of which it forms a part, We do ordain and declare the following Articles of agreement, to be kept and maintained by us, both in our collective and individual capacity, as Covenant, or Constitution, which shall be security against any invasion of our rights and privileges, as members of the Community, and for the safe and sure protection & defense of the same, under all circumstances, here with connected; and, for the mutual security and improvement of the interests of the united Society or family of Believers in this place.

Article II.

Declaration and Acknowledgement of the Members.

We hereby covenant and agree, that we receive and acknowledge those ministers of the gospel who have been or may be duly appointed by the leading authority of this society, as the leading Elders & Eldesses of this family; and, as such, we hereby agree to submit ourselves

to their authority, as our spiritual guides and teachers, and, to yield obedience to the precepts of the gospel as taught by them, conformable to the established faith and principles of the society, of which this family, denominated the North Family, or Junior Order, of the Society of New Lebanon, forms a part.

Article III. Concerning Wages for Personal Service

As we esteem the mutual possession and enjoyment of the consecrated interest, privileges and benefits of this society, in which we freely participate a valuable consideration, fully adequate to the compensation of personal interest, labor or service, ^{rendered} devoted or consecrated by any individual of this community.

We therefore, Covenant and Agree, in conformity with a long established principle of our religious community, that no member of this society, nor any person whoever, under its care, and protection, and claiming any relation to its religious association, shall be employed in its service for wages of any kind, on his or her personal or individual account, nor hold any such demand of wages, for any service rendered, or alleged to have been rendered, to the society aforesaid, while in connection with it, and also, that no ground is, or can be afforded, for the recovery of any

rendered
property or service, devoted or consecrated as aforesaid.

Article III.

This Covenant to be a Witness.

We do 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, or any part of our labor or services, by our residence with this society rendered, or by this Covenant devoted, as aforesaid.

In confirmation of the aforesaid statements and covenants, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, as witnessed by the authorities present, and our hands & seals duly acknowledged.

Witnessed
Dec 29th 1861.