

VIII. We believe that a company of sincere persons, being found in the faith and practices of the above said things, may truly be said to be the church of Christ. Acts 2: 41, 42.

IX. We give up ourselves unto the Lord and one another, to be guided and governed by one another, according to the word of God. 1 Cor. 8: 5, Col. 2: 19, Psalms 84: 1, 2, 4—10, Psalms 133: 1.

Then follow the names; and as they are set down alphabetically, without date, it is impossible to tell how many of them were original members of the church.

The first record on the church book, after the Articles of Faith, is as follows:—

"The church of God keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ, living in Piscataway and Hopewell, in the Province of New Jersey, being assembled with one accord, at the house of Benjamin Martin, in Piscataway, the 19th day of August, 1705—we did then, and with one mind, choose our dearly beloved Edward Dunham, who is faithful in the Lord, to be our elder and assistant, according to the will of God; whom we did send to New England to be ordained; who was ordained at the church-meeting in Westerly, Rhode Island, by prayer and laying on of hands by their elder, William Gibson, the eighth of September, 1705."*

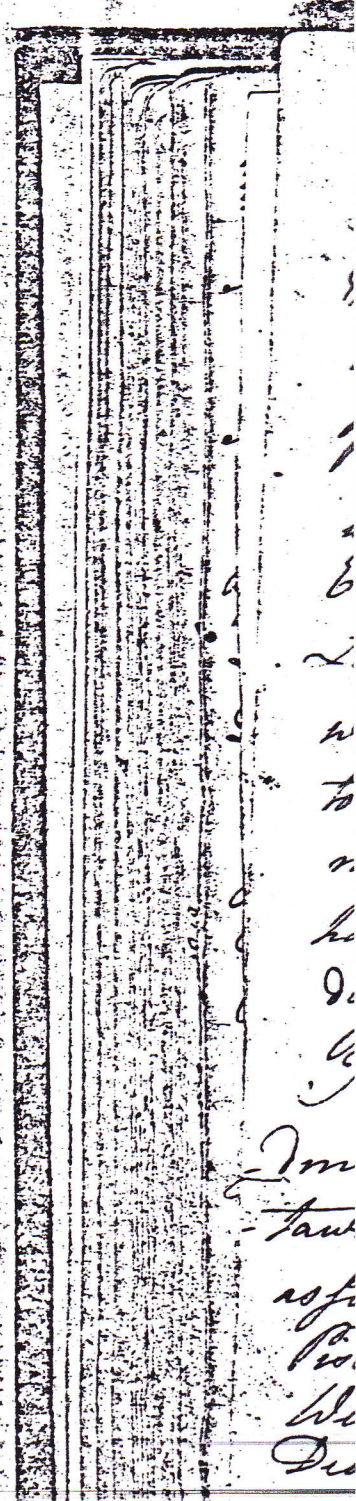
There does not appear to have been any record kept of the proceedings of the church for many years, unless at the appointment of a deacon, or something of equal importance. The members of this little church were scattered throughout the Province. There are records of church meetings in Piscataway, Hopewell, and Trenton, places thirty miles apart. Mr. Dunham, at the organization of this church, was about forty four years old. Having been a number of years a deacon and a licensed preacher, he had acquired an extensive knowledge of persons and things, which greatly assisted him in obtaining an influence over minds, and also strengthened him in so difficult a duty as that of keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ, as well as in teaching the same to others, both by precept and example. It is evident that the numbers of the church were greatly increased during Mr. Dunham's life time, but to what extent cannot be ascertained, from the manner in which their records were kept.

In 1706, at a church meeting held at Edmund Dunham's, Benjamin Martin was chosen deacon, and ordained by the laying on of hands and prayer, by the elder, Edmund Dunham, on the 29th of December.

In June, 1714, at a meeting held in Hopewell, Jonathan Curtis was chosen a deacon, and was ordained at a meeting held in Piscataway, Oct.

* According to the record of the Newport church, it was the 11th of October.

Piscataway



The Church of Christ ^{page 22}
 Keeping the Commandments of God and the
 faith of Jesus Christ Living in Piscataway
 & Hopewell in the province of New Jersey
 being assembled with one accord at the house
 of Benjamin Martin in Piscataway the
 19th Day of August 1705 We did then &
 with one mind choose our Dearly beloved
 Edmond Dunham who is faithfull in the
 Lord to be our Elder & assister according to the
 will of God Whom we did send to New England
 to be ordained who was ordained at the Church
 meeting in Westbury by prayer and laying on of
 hands by three Elders William Gibson the 11th
 day of the 9 month 1705

The Church of Christ Keeping the Comman-
 dments of God & faith of Jesus Christ Living in Pisca-
 taway & Hopewell in the province of New Jersey being
 assembled at the house of Edmond Dunham in
 Piscataway the 14th Day of December 1706
 We did then and with one mind choose our
 Dearly beloved Brother Benjamin Martin
 who is faithfull in the Lord to be our Deacon
 according to the will of God
 who was ordained at our Church meeting at
 the house of Benjamin Martin by prayer &
 laying on of hands by our Elder Edmond Dunham
 December 29th 1706

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