

Organization of the Church

May 3, 1885

Member's Meeting in the home of Bro. and Sister Achterberg was opened with singing, scripture reading Titus 3 and prayer by Bro. Achterberg.

Following German Baptists living in the vicinity of Madison were present:

Constituent Members

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| Bro. Wilhelm Achterberg | Sister W. Achterberg |
| " August Boeck | " Aug. Boeck |
| " Johann Koepp | " Dorothea Boeck Sr. |
| " Hermann Koepp | " John Koepp |
| " Fritz Unzelmann | " Her. Koepp |
| " Gustav Achterberg | " Jul. Koepp |
| " Julius Koepp | " Aug. Koepp |
| | " F. Unzelmann |
| | " Bertha Boeck |

1. After the reading of the letters of dismission and due deliberation, it was solemnly resolved that the above German Baptists, from this day forward constitute themselves as an independent church.
2. The following Church Covenant was adopted:

Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

- Articles of Faith
- Name
- Officers
3. Articles of Faith were adopted; those compiled by J. Newton Brown contained in Dr. G. M. Pendleton's Handbook for Church Members, published (in German) by the German Baptist Publication Society in Cincinnati, Ohio.
 4. The church is to be known by the name: First German Baptist Church, Madison, Lake Co., Dakota.
The officers of the church had been previously elected as seen by the minutes of Aug. 17, 1884 namely: Bro. W. Achterberg, pastor; Bro. John Koepp, deacon; and Bro. Aug. Boeck, Secretary.
 5. A committee was appointed consisting of Brethren Herman Koepp, H. Mueller, and W. Achterberg to take the necessary steps leading to the legal incorporation of the church.
 6. It was decided that in future the members-meeting should be held on Sunday.
 7. Resolved that the deacon be ordained in the next members-meeting.
 8. Resolved that the usual prayer service be held on Sunday evening in the home of the pastor.
 9. Resolved that prayer meetings should also be held on Tuesday and Thursday of this week.
Adjourned after singing, and prayer by Bro. and Sister Jul. Koepp.
These minutes were adopted without change.

May 17, 1885

Examintaion of Aug. Koepp

Member's Meeting held on Sunday in the English Baptist Church. At the close of the service Aug. Koepp asked to be examined by the church. The church heard his testimony and unanimously voted to baptize him according to his request and to receive him into the church as soon as convenient.
Adjourned

May 24, 1885

Exam. of Aug. Ott
Emelie Koepp
Minna Boeck

Member's Meeting on Sunday in the English Baptist Church. Moderator W. Achterberg opened the meeting with prayer. Following persons had made application for church membership: August Ott, Emelie Koepp, Minna Boeck.
The Church heard their confession of faith and unanimously voted to receive them into the church by baptism according to their desire as soon as possible.
Adjourned with prayer by Bro. Boeck.
Adopted.

June 7, 1885

Exam. of Anna Ott

After the preaching service on Sunday in Madison, Anna Ott asked to be received into the church. After the church had heard her testimony a motion carried, which was unanimous that she be received into the church by baptism as soon as opportunity presents itself.

Afternoon

Ordination of Deacon Koepp
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mueller received

Member's Meeting in the home of the pastor, Bro. Achterber opened the meeting; a hymn was sung, he read 2 Thess. 2 and led in prayer. Then followed:

1. The ordination of Bro. John Koepp as deacon.
2. Reception by letter of Bro. and Sister Henry Mueller from the church in Wayne, Wisconsin, as members.