

# UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF VINEYARD HAVEN

**New Rules of Organization of Steven's Memorial Chapel** considered by a quorum on members, and recommended for passage at Special Meeting of August 30, 1942

I. That Steven's Memorial Chapel be maintained and services planned with one purpose, namely: as a summer chapel with meetings and services of worship to present, maintain and rouse allegiance to the principles of liberalism, i.e., Unitarianism, on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

II. That for the purpose in Paragraph I there shall be elected an Executive Committee consisting of a chairman and as many members (not more than five nor less than three), and a treasurer as shall be for the most efficient accomplishment of this purpose.

A. The members of this Executive Committee shall be, if possible, bona fide members of the Society.

B. Membership shall mean the signing of the Book of Membership and contribution to the treasury of the Society.

C. This Committee shall be (rotating, decided by the Chairman. (Amended August 29, 1949 to read: elected annually by the membership.)

III. The annual meeting of Steven's Memorial Chapel shall be held at the end of each summer season, in order to:

Consider the budget;

Appoint a minister for the coming year, if possible:

Election of members of the Executive Committee ("when necessary" • is crossed out and the officers' inserted in script.):

Treasurer's Report: and,

Any and all other business of the Society.

IV. The Adoption of the above rules shall be entered upon the books of the Steven's Memorial Chapel and shall supercede all previous articles and rules of the Society.

The sense of the above paragraphs recommended by a meeting of the members held August 23rd, 1942.

A special meeting of the Society legally called for Sunday, August 30, 1942, for adoption or rejection of these rules.

Chairman, Mr. Dudley Howland

Secretary, Miss M. Smith

**The Executive Committee of the Unitarian Society of Vineyard Haven met August 31st, 1942.**

Present: Mrs. Florence Mann, Capt. Ralph M. Packer, Mr. Dudley Howland, Mrs. B. C. Cromwell, Sr., Miss Maud Perry Mills.

It was moved and seconded that the time of the Sunday morning Service at the Unitarian Chapel, be changed from 10:30 a. m., to 11 o'clock, which was unanimously carried.

It was moved and seconded that Captain Packer be nominated the Treasurer of the Society for the ensuing year, and he was unanimously elected.

Mrs. Florence Mann was asked to take charge of raising the budget for the coming year: the Committee expressed to Mrs. Mann its appreciation of what she had already achieved in this important matter. Mrs. Mann accepted this responsibility, for which she had proved herself so entirely adequate.

Mr. Dudley Howland was requested to act as Chairman of the Committee, and he was unanimously elected to perform this important service.

It was moved and seconded that Miss Mills act as Secretary of the Society for the coming year; which was unanimously carried.

Miss Eleanor Tower was asked to serve as Organist the following summer (1943) and Mrs. B. C. Cromwell was requested to engage her services with a compensation of \$3 per Sunday.

The Secretary was asked to write a letter to Mrs. Cuno expressing the Society's appreciation of her generous gift of a new minute book.

Secretary, Maud Perry Mills

**The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society of Vineyard Haven was held on September 5, 1943 at the Stevens Memorial Chapel.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary, Miss Mildred Smith, and accepted. The roll call of membership was read by Miss Maud Perry Mills, ten (10) members were present at this meeting.

The Rev. McKarl Neilsen made a report of what had been accomplished for the season of 1943.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Neilsen's report be accepted. The motion was carried and the report placed on file.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Nielsen be given seventy-five (\$75) dollars additional for this intensive work. This motion was unanimously carried.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Mrs. Florence Mann reported that she had talked with twenty (20) people in raising money for the budget, which had resulted in contributions of two hundred fifty-five (\$255) dollars, and had found a generous response to the appeal.

It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Mann be nominated as Chairman of the Executive Committee for the coming year, also, that she be empowered to appoint the members of a Committee to dispose of the matter of raising funds for the ensuing year. The vote was carried unanimously. Mrs. Mann took the chair.

Dr. Edward Greene was proposed as a member of the Executive Committee and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be given Ralph Packer, Jr. for his interested services to the church, both inside and outside, during the year, and that his bill be paid. The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that a written report be sent this month to the Secretaries of the Channing Conference and the American Unitarian Association, consisting of the following data:

The increase in membership from 1941 to 1943.

The increase in collections for 1943.

That a statement be made describing the Thursday Evening Meetings and the splendid reaction of our community to this weekly session.

On Motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED: to adjourn.

Maud Perry Mills, Secretary.

**The Executive Committee of the Unitarian Society of Vineyard Haven met September 7, 1943.** The members present were: Mrs. B. C. Cromwell. Sr., Mrs. Florence Mann, Captain Ralph Packer, Maud Perry Mills, Dr. Edward Greene

It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Cromwell should take charge of the flowers for the ensuing year. The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Cromwell have supervision of the opening and cleaning of the Chapel. The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Chairman be authorized to arrange for an organist for the season of 1944. The motion was carried.

The Chairman was requested to communicate with Rev. Richard Seabold of the Westminster Unitarian Society of Providence, Rhode Island, in regard to securing Wayside Pulpit bulletins.

The Secretary was requested to send copies of the letter sent to the Secretaries of the Channing Conference to Mr. Nielsen.

The Chairman was requested to send a Christmas Greeting Card to the members of the Society and others actively interested.

The meeting was adjourned. Maud Perry Mills, Secretary

**The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society of Vineyard Haven was held August 27th, 1944, with Mrs. Mann in the chair.**

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Miss Mildred Smith and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read, and accepted, as follows: cash on hand, September 4, 1943, \$633.70; donations received, \$313.09; collections for Sunday services, \$161.81; and for evening meetings (Book Reviews), \$163.43; totaling receipts of \$1272.03; expenditures amounted to \$443.21; balance in bank, August 26, 1944, \$818.82.

Miss Parrish read an account of the last meeting of the Alliance, held at the home of Mrs. B. C. Cromwell, Sr., July 9, 1942. She stated that the Alliance had been dissolved on account of the very small membership and attendance, and that the funds were turned over to the meeting.

Mr. Nielsen presented a scrap book showing interesting items as to his work on the Vineyard during the summer. He recommended that the keeping of this book be continued as a permanent record of activities for each year, with some illustrations.

The Chapel has had its record year, as some 440 persons attended the ten morning services, and 898 attended the evening Forums, when r. Nielsen reviewed a number of interesting and important books. The total attendance for the summer was 1338, being 500 more present at the Chapel than during the previous summer. The Guest Book records 61 names from nine different states.

A motion was made and seconded, that a Committee be appointed to study the possibility of creating a summer membership, due to the large attendance by members from denominations other than the Unitarian. This motion was tabled.

It was moved and seconded, that Mr. McKarl Nielsen be requested to serve as the Minister of the Unitarian Chapel during the coming summer of 1945. The motion was unanimously carried.

It was voted that a gift of \$75.00 be presented to Mr. Nielsen in appreciation of his good work and the marked increase in attendance during the season; and that \$20.00 be presented to Mrs. Rich, for the delightful organ music which she has furnished to generously during the summer.

The Executive Board worked very well and smoothly under the leadership of Mrs. Mann. The flowers were beautiful every week, contributed by different members. We were grateful to the Treasurer, Captain Ralph M. Packer, for extra chairs for the Chapel from the Seaman's Bethel, which were badly needed.

There was a social tea and garden party for all members of the Chapel and their friends, at the home of Mrs. Florence Mann, to celebrate the 84th birthday of Mrs. Emma Cromwell, the

President of the Martha's Vineyard Alliance for many active years. A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Mann for the attractive Christmas cards which she sent out last year.

We have to record with sadness the death of a valuable and energetic member of the Alliance for many years - Mrs. Eugene Carpenter.

Mrs. MacGregor made a motion that Mrs. Roy Smith be sent to the Boston May Meeting (1945) as delegate, and Mrs. Ralph M. Packer be appointed as alternate, and, further, that the sum of \$15.00 be appropriated toward expenses. The motion was carried.

Mrs. Marian MacGregor and Mrs. Christine Coleman, daughters of the Rev. Charles B. Elder, wished to express to Stevens Memorial Chapel their profound appreciation of the lovely spray of yellow chrysanthemums sent November 28, 1943. The flowers were put in a place of honor, as Mr. Elder would have wished, in recognition of his long and happy association with this Chapel.

Mr. Nielsen voiced the usual regret that the time for closing the Chapel approaches, but we have the hope that next summer on the Blessed Isle will find us all together again, and the peace of the world shining, a living real light, over all the earth.

The meeting was adjourned on motion.

Maud Perry Mills, Secretary

**The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society of Vineyard Haven was held Sept. 5, 1945 with Mrs. Florence Mann in the chair.**

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted as follows: Balance of cash on hand \$828.82; Donations received \$207.50, Collections for Sunday services \$292.09, Collections at evening Forums \$184.44. Total: \$1512.85.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary and approved.

Mr. Karl Nielsen read an interesting report of his ministry for the fourth consecutive summer on the Vineyard. A new high record of attendance was noted, as follows: From July 1 to September 2, a total attendance at the morning services of 526, and the candle-light forums had an attendance of 1197, or a total attendance of 1723. Mr. Nielsen stated that the Guest Book showed 67 names from several different states and Canada.

The membership of the Summer Chapel was increased by the following new members: Mrs. Faulkner, Miss Stevens, Mr. Kenny and Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Kenny.

Upon motion of Mrs. McGregor it was voted that appreciation of the unusually beautiful flower arrangements at the Sunday morning services be expressed to the following ladies: Mrs. Charles Cuno, Miss Maud Perry Mills, Mrs. Norman Fuller, Mrs. Dean Mann, Mrs. Ralph Packer, Mrs. Royal E. Smith, Miss Mildred Roberts, and Miss Mabel Tilton.

Miss Stevens suggested the flowers in the vestibule be placed there in Memoriam.

Mrs. Packer moved that the illumination of the Wayside Pulpit be repaired for 1946.

Motion was carried.

Mrs. Packer moved that a committee be appointed to attend to the lighting inside the church for the evening lectures., Motion was carried.

It was voted that Mr. Nielsen be requested to select a proper desk light for the evening meetings.

Captain Packer provided as many extra chairs as could be accommodated. All were used and more needed.

Captain Packer moved that hurricane damage insurance be taken out and added to the insurance coverage.

There was much general discussion as to some method of making the inside of the chapel more attractive. Mr. Nielsen suggested that every spot of color adds beauty, and it was voted that two flags be purchased - the flag of the United States and the church flag. It was voted tht the Chairman appoint a committee for this purpose.

Mr. Nielsen was unanimously elected as Minister of the Unitarian Chapel for the coming season, and it was voted that he be presented with \$75 in appreciation of his good work for the season of 1944 (sic). Miss Rich was also presented with \$20 as expressing our gratitude for the delightful organ music during the Sunday morning services and as a prelude to the evening meetings.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted to adjourn.

Maud Perry Mills, Secretary

**The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society of Vineyard Haven was held on August 28, 1946 with Mrs. Florence Mann presiding.** Mrs. Mann spoke of the improvements at the church as told by Mr. Nielsen on opening Sunday - the flags, the ivy decorated sconces, the shell reading lamp, the repairs made. Mrs. Mann reported that our church had sent in more that its quota to the United Unitarian Appeal.

There was discussion of the clock for the Wayside Pulpit. All agreed that its use was important. Miss Parrish who originally gave the clock generously offered to finance (to \$25 or \$30) the repair. Captain Packer agreed to take care of the matter. He and Mrs. Packer graciously consented to maintain the Wayside Pulpit during the winter.

The report of the secretary was read and accepted.

The report of the treasurer was read and accepted as follows: Balance on hand September 5, 1945 \$863.30; donations received \$101.00; collections Sunday services \$162.10, mid week book reviews \$112.80; by will of Mrs. Lucy Holbrook \$300; sale of old silver \$25 for a total of \$1564.20. Expenditures \$533.55. Balance on hand August 28, 1946 \$1030.65

Mr. Nielsen reported bills of \$18.80. It was voted that these be paid by the treasurer.

Mrs. Faulkner reported that she had, with Mr. Nielsen's consent, given 40 copies of the Vineyard Hymn to the Yacht Club on the Lagoon. There ensued many expressions of appreciation of this hymn written by Mr. Nielsen.