

General rules

This item, titled General Rules for the regulation of the Fort Wayne Mission Family, details the various rules adopted by the Baptist missionaries at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the winter of 1822. Essentially, this document establishes the guidelines by which the Baptist missionaries at Fort Wayne are going to live by as they work to spread Christianity among the Native Americans in the area. Robert Simerwell was among the first group of missionaries to Fort Wayne, and he was part of the group that established the rules governing their actions at the fort.

Creator: Simerwell, Robert, 1786-1868

Date: February 15, 1822

Callnumber: Robert W. Simerwell Coll. #500, Box 1 Correspondence and reports, 1822

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 219025

Item Identifier: 219025

www.kansasmemory.org/item/219025

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



[Feb. 14, 1842]

3737

General Rules For the regulation of the Fort-Wayne Mission Family.

We whose names follow, being appointed Missionaries to the Indians, by the General convention of the Baptist denomination for missions, deem it expedient for our comfort & usefulness to adopt in the fear of the Lord the following general rules for the regulation of the mission family. viz.

1st We agree that our object in becoming missionaries is to meliorate the condition of the Indians & not to serve ourselves; therefore;

2nd We agree that our whole time, talents & labours shall be dedicated to the obtaining of this object, & shall all be bestowed gratis, so that the mission can not become indebted to any missionary for his or her services.

Third.

General rules

3rd We agree that all remittances from the Board of missions, & monies & property accruing to any of us by salaries from government, by schools, by Smiths shops, by donations, or from whatever quarter it may arise, shall be thrown into the common missionary fund, & be sacredly applied to the cause of this mission; and that no part of the property held by us at our stations is ours or belongs to any of us. But, excepting the claims of the Government of the U.S. & it belongs to the General convention which we serve & is held in trust by us so long as the said society shall continue us in their employment.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any to private inheritance &c

4th We agree to obey the instructions of our patrons & that the superintendant shall render to them from time to time, a faithful account

General rules

account, of our plans, proceedings, prospects, receipts & expenditures; & that the accounts of the mission together with the mission records, shall at all times be open for the inspection of any of the missionaries.

5th We agree that all members of the mission family have equal claims upon the mission for equal support in similar circumstances. The claims of widows & orphans not to be in the least affected by the death of the head of the family.

6th We agree that when any missionary shall not find employment in his particular branch of business, it shall be his duty to engage in some other employment as circumstances shall dictate.

7th We agree that agreeably to their strength & ability all the female missionaries should bear an equal part of the business of domestic

General rules

domestic labours & cares, lest some should sink under the weight of severe & unremitted exertions. making the necessary allowances for the school mistress.

8th We agree to be industrious, frugal and economical at all times to the utmost extent of our abilities.

9th We agree that missionaries labouring at the ~~stations~~ different stations belonging to this mission, are under the same obligations to each other as though resident in the same establishment.

10th We agree that it is the duty of missionaries to meet statedly at their respective stations, for the purpose of preserving peace & harmony among themselves, of cherishing kindness & love for each other, love to God, & zeal in the cause of missions.

Eleventh.



Art. 11th. We agree to feel one general concern for the success of every department of the mission, for the happiness of every member of the mission family, & to feed at one common table (except in cases of bad health & in which cases the person thus indisposed shall receive special attention, & shall be made as comfortable as our situation will admit.

12th. We agree to cherish a spirit of kindness & forbearance towards each other, & as the success of our labours depends on the good providence of God, it is our duty to live near to him in public & private devotions, & to walk before him with fear, & in the integrity of our hearts — Conscious that he ever sees us, & that by him actions are weighed, realizing that we are at best, only instruments in his hand & hoping that when we shall have finished the work given us to do, we will dwell together in Heaven, in company with fellow labourers from other parts of



of the vineyard - with those for whom we are now
strangers & sufferers in this wilderness, & to crown
our happiness, shall gaze eternally on him whose
religion we are now striving to propagate, to
whom shall be ascribed all the glory of the
accomplishment of our present undertaking.

Feby. 15th 1892

Signed at different periods
as missionaries connect them-
- selves with the mission.