



CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

Gallatin Church of Christ

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Property for a New Building (1910)

In February of 1910, we began the purchase of property on East Main Street on which to build a new church building. Our minister at the time was I. C. Hoskins. Our elders were H. C. Rutledge, Harris Brown, N. Penn, and J. T. Baskerville.

The deed reads as follows (Deed Book 62, pp. 279-281):

“For and in consideration of the sum of Twenty nine hundred (\$2900) dollars paid and to be paid as hereinafter set fourth [sic]:

“We, Mrs. Helen Talbot [pictured to the right] and husband C. H. Talbot have this day bargained and sold and do hereby transfer and convey to H. C. Rutledge, Harris Brown, N. Penn and J. T. Baskerville, elders of the Church of Christ at Gallatin Tennessee and their successors in office as Trustees, to hold, have, manage, and control the said property hereinafter deccribed [sic] for the use and benefit of the congregation worshipping at said church, as more fully hereinafter set out;



“The following described house and lot situated in the 3d civil district of Sumner County Tennessee and within the <corporate?> limits of the Town of Gallatin and bounded on the North by the property of Mrs. Helen Talbot, on the East by Boyers Street, on the South by East Main Street, and on the West by the property of E. S. Payne, and said lot fronts on East Main Street one hundred feet and runs back between parallel lines one hundred and fifty two (152) feet to the lot of Mrs. Helen Talbot, and being a part of the property conveyed to Mrs. Helen Talbot by Mrs. Cora G. Morningstar et als by Deed dated Nov. 9, 1906 of record in the Registers office of Sumner County, Book 59 page 498. To have and to hold said above described property forever together with all the right, title, interest and appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the said H. C. Rutledge, Harris Brown, N. Penn and J. T. Baskerville and their successors in office as Trustees for the congration [sic] or members of the Church of Christ at Gallatin Tennessee, to be held, used, occupied and enjoyed by said congregation or members as a place of worship or a parsonage or any other use or purpose for which said congregation may desire to utilize the same.

“In the event of the death of any one of the Elders above named as Trustees, the title to said property herein conveyed shall be and is hereby vested in the surviving elders or Trustees and their successors in office. And in the event said congregation shall appoint or elect any other, different or additional elders the title to said property shall open and vest also in him or them as trustee or Trustees together with the other elders and Trustees for the uses and purposes above specified, it being the intention that the title to said property, herein conveyed shall be and remain in the elders of said Church or congregation and their successors in office and them only as trustees for the said church or congregation always. And that never any time [sic] shall the title or interest of any elder or Trustee descend to or vest in his heirs or representatives. Full power and authority is hereby vested in said Church of Christ, and the elders of the same to sell the said property at any time or

for any purpose and a majority of said elders or Trustees shall have and are hereby given full power to convey the same, power and authority is further given to said Church of Christ or the elders thereof to mortgage or otherwise encumber the property herein conveyed for the purposes of building thereon or otherwise improving the same, and a majority of said elders or Trustees shall have are hereby given full power and authority to convey the same by mortgage or otherwise.

“Under the system of doctrine now believed and practiced by the said congregation of the Church of Christ the use of all organs or other instrumental music is opposed and it is therefore expressly stipulated and provided that there shall never at any time be placed in any house of worship erected on the premises herein conveyed any organ or other musical instrument for use in the worship, nor shall any organ or other instrument of music ever be used in the worship by said congregation, and in the event that there should at any time be any division in the congregation on the question of instrumental music the title to the property herein conveyed shall be and remain in that portion however large or small who shall be opposed to the use of said instrumental music in the worship.¹

“We covenant with the said grantees as aforesaid that we are lawfully seized and possessed of said property, have a good right to convey the same and that it is unincumbered [sic]. We further covenant and bind ourselves, our heirs and representatives to forever warrant and defend the title to said property unto the said grantees their successors and assigns against the lawful claims of all persons. The said consideration of Twenty nine hundred (\$2900.00) dollars is paid and to be paid to us as follows: One Thousand (\$1000.00) dollars cash, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, There is yet due from the Grantors herein one note for One thousand (\$1000.00) dated Nov. 9, 1906, due two years after date executed to Mrs. Cora G. Morningstar et als as part payment for the property herein conveyed as appears from deed dated November 9, 1906 from said Mrs. Cora G. Morningstar and others to Mrs. Helen Talbot of record in Register’s office of Sumner County, Book 59 page 498 on which interest has been paid to Nov. 9, 1909, and the Grantees herein has [sic] assumed and agree to pay said one thousand dollar note and for the balance of Eight hundred and Eighty-two and 50/100 dollars (\$882.50) the grantees herein have executed to Mrs. Helen Talbot [sic] a note for said \$882.50 due two years from this date, with interest from date and to secure these deferred payments a lien is hereby expressly retained on the property herein conveyed.

“In testimony whereof we hereunto attach our signatures,

“This the 21st day of Feby. 1910.

“Mrs. Helen Talbot

“C. H. Talbot.”

(Pictured is East Main Street, with the two-story house at the left sitting on the property sold to us in 1910. The house at the right sits where Anderson Funeral Home now is, next door to us.)



¹ This is an example of what a professor of mine once called “the creed in the deed.” Churches of Christ do not have written creeds, but their deeds frequently have included doctrinal statements. In this case, a written expression of doctrine (“creed”) is given the force of legal rights—that of property ownership.