**Half Way Covenant**

Let it be understood by all in attendance, that this Vote to be taken today in this Church is designed to increase membership. Whereas we judge it agreeable to the Mind of Christ as revealed in the Gospel, that adult Persons “understanding the Doctrine of Faith and publickly professing their Assent, not being scandalous in their daily Life, and solemnly entering into the Covenant before the Church, wherein they give up Themselves to God, and subject Themselves to Ecclesiastical Watch and Discipline; Such persons who offer themselves for Baptism are to be admitted to this church for membership. Although they may not have Light or Jesus in their heart at present, yet we don’t see sufficient cause to deny Baptism to such Persons in a Judgment of Charity. Resolved therefore that the Practice of this Church for the future be altered accordingly.

Samuel Sewell March 16, 1662