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Reasons for thinking I have a divine call to the
Ministry -

Because I have had from the first moment this idea
~~took~~ took possession of my mind a most ardent de-
sire "a special kindling within, concentrated in this
particular point" constraining me to undertake
it - and this too when I have well considered
and felt the difficulties to be encountered and
while I have always had with it a deep, ^{& prevailing} sense
of my unworthiness and unfitness - The work of
the ministry has been to me more desirable than
every earthly good, so that even under the pres-
sure of an overwhelming sense of its difficulty
I could never relinquish it, unless it were man-
ifestly the will of God that I should do so -

This desire has not been sudden - has arisen
from no impulse or merited affection, but was
first merely a strong inclination at a time when
I was surrounded with many worldly comforts, but
I did not presume to think seriously of it, so in-
capable did I think myself - The idea however
recurred more & more frequently, and at last settled
~~down~~ into an earnest & abiding longing - It was laid
down in the summer of 1834 for a short time, in consequence
of a season of deep despondency produced by some new
& to me appalling views of the depravity of my heart -
but during the whole time I abandoned it, I suf-
fered and at last the desire was brought home to
me by a peculiarly strong impression while read-

ing the Rev Mr Smith, "Human Heart" contain-
ing some reproachful remarks upon addressed to
those who were declining the work of the Ministry - As
this desire has been constantly from that period
increasing and has been permanent - I have
had long seasons of despondency and severe
mental exercise, yet I have never as far as I can
recollect had a single moment in which my
desire further work has wavered - And in the darkest
hours & most oppressive pangs, I have been willing
to exchange all that the world could offer me for
the service of God, no matter how painful to the flesh
it might be - So that his personal presence were
with me - This desire has been most intense
in my most humble & spiritual hours and since I
began the study the thought of turning back again
into the world and passing my life in any other
way than in the immediate & direct service of God
has brought with me the most bitter anguish of mind -
Because - I have no mixture of personal ease - indul-
gence or interest to gratify in entering upon the
ministry - but have on the contrary made a sacrifice
in a worldly sense by adopting this profession -
I have been gradually weaned from the world
until I have been enabled from my inmost heart
to renounce it - not however trusting at all to my
own steadfastness - a resolution, but praying daily
for grace to live here as a fervent & considerate stranger

and continually making supplications that
I may be always defended & preserved from
possession of or indulgence in worldly riches,
pleasures, & honors - I have within me
that which would seek great things for myself
and a desire for reputation among men, which
is, I can truly say, the most grievous burden I have
to bear - destroying my comfort & my spirituality -
but which I keep God - I rather - and I do have prayed
to him for a year & more past, daily, that I
may be wholly delivered from self seeking and all
desire for human applause - I think my pray-
ers further have ^{been} more intense than many other desires -
If I can judge at all of my own heart, my deliberate
judgement is that amidst a world of corruption
which I find in myself - yet my prevailing & absorbing desire is
to be given up wholly to God and that I may have
grace to live always as his faithful servant, glo-
rifying him who has bought me with his own blood
in every thought, word, & deed - and by his grace
I am ready to make every sacrifice of personal
comfort & ease for the welfare of souls -
Because while I have been in great affliction of mind at ^{my} the
incapacity for so momentous a service and directly ~~suffer~~
at the remembrance of the shameful neglect &
neglect of my mental faculties and their enfeebled
state in consequence ^{of this misdeed} ~~of this~~ Still by persevering study
& constant prayer I find my mind invigorated

for I ^{the} have never given up my mind improved since
I began the study - and being also by grace en-
abled to receive a prompt steady faith in ~~the~~
promise that his race is different from, shall
that future study will continue to serve and
assist my health ~~the~~ another at least in
which they live in my early youth -

Because the leading of Providence seem to have "that"
me up "to the mark of the ministry" - All previous
plans for a future course of study have been ~~disposed~~
of, and modestly answered have been unacceptably
prophetically closed up - After I have finished my
study they have been a state of inequality and sleep

~~of the~~ condemnation, in which I had all my life
lived utterly regardless of the spiritual state, my in-
firm faith in New York - I was then led to the country
to which I was previously attached. I have been the
highest degree of my heart to that my day in rural
retirement - I had two years of great happiness
and great opportunities for reading, reflection and

for my desire in the ministry just opened a new
and character - But the idea of going into a country like
has almost insupportable - Now I again met with
accident, and at the very moment when I was about
looking out for some ~~for~~ some of the, a variety of cir-
cumstances, to one which I have already, continued

to view of my mind from my desire - I have been
and have been ever since led to resume all my former
desire - I have naturally very much to society - and of the
which - I have been ever since led to resume all my former

like disputation or controversy - and moreover
 impatient of severe mental labour - I have thus
 in seeking ^{the ministry} found counts to all my former habits
 & wishes, and the greatest blessing I covet is to
 pass my days in self denying & single minded
 labour in the cause of the Gospel -

The subsequent leading of Providence appears
 to me to be equally decisive - By my last misfor-
 tune I was left destitute, but ~~for~~ during the whole
 time I have been preparing for orders about a year &
 three months I have ^{been} helped along by a continued
 chain of what I cannot help thinking providen-
 tial interference in my behalf assistance coming
 in unobtruded & unexpected from various sources,
 from which I had no reason to expect anything -
 And as when I become a candidate I gave myself
 up in simple faith to God, so have I found myself
 continually supported by him - nearly a dozen
 times have I had occasion to bless him for some re-
 markable interference at a period of great need - There
 all have encouraged me - Moreover, I & my family
 have found an asylum in the dwelling of the kindest
 friends where all my wants have ^{been} most affectionately
 ministered unto - where I have had every comfort
 of home without any of the trials or distractions that
 would always be incident to the care of a household -
 so that my facilities for retirement, tranquillity & study
 have been most extraordinary -

A week ago might perhaps also be done in
as indicated for clearing the church where I
might be useful, what situation I have heard
ought, but as the contrary have declined - still
so numerous have been my various friends -
the father concerned - the agent of the and
also that the may prefer to look upon as
a spiritual clearing - although I can't say they
but little those upon it -

Because alive are my friends and constant prayer
for three years I became a candidate have been that
he more gradually figure me my preparation of
shall soon vary, and that what has not called me
he need almost my cause & turn me with some other
part - I have at various times frequently been put
inordinate & intense carried within myself - partly
may regard myself to be in a measure lost - I
within the in a month past I have fearfully created
crying into and in direction - that I might clearly dis-
cern my path and not make so fatal an error
and have ~~many~~ ventured to pray daily that he would
turn me off by afflicting a conscience in that I
may never perform the satisfactory - ~~that my heart~~
is of doctrine that after all these various share
enumerated I have no confidence in myself - and so
now therefore as I have been often done before give
myself at liberty to do, making ^{an} entire reformation
generally - my but many ~~that~~ share with

his hands - desiring to be no more my own
in any sense whatever, but to be in faith
single minded pursuit all the days of my
life - and as I have the reputation of a
preacher, and as I know that he is a
faithful as he is merciful - to do I believe that
he will keep that which I have thus in faith
committed with him - praying most earnest
that if I am not called by the Holy Spirit
may yet be reported - yet mercifully forgiven
and if I am thus called that I may have
seen to serve him with all humbly &
glad. I desire this from [continually both]
myself in my past mistakes and daily
[and previous [displeasure] all the day
and now to with the Lord and
myself - and now to with the Lord and
the for the Holy Spirit - to be his attending
my Holy Spirit - Amen -

May 10, 1836.

Dear Sir,

The following from Dr. Henry's self-enquiry at
the time of his ordination I can truly adopt for my
own in every word.
1. What am I?
I have been concerned of my condition and have
humbled for my sin? Have I really given myself
to Christ? Have I a real heart for him & love of himself
[Heaven in heaven of looking & so often strain in snare of myself
yet I have no doubt that I can, with all sincerity & heartily action
on them in the afterlife.]

II. What have I done?

Time trifled! Opportunities lost! Engagements ~~un-~~
~~profitable~~ broken! Conversation unprofitable! forgetful-
ness of God and my duty!

[Woud I could stop here - but I have to acknowledge
myself all "leprosy" - "wounds & bruises & putrifying
sores" - finding "no health in me" - but I have gone
again & again to the fountain opened for sin
& uncleanness & trust that in time my prayers
will be fully granted - for I know that God
willeth my Sanctification & that he is able as
he is willing - & that is the right hand which
supports me in all my perplexities & conflicts.]

III. From what principles do I undertake this work?

I trust from a persuasion of the Divine Institu-
tion of the Ministry, of the necessity of a divine
Call, & of my Call to the work: from zeal to
God and love to precious souls.

IV. What are my ends in this work?

Not taking it as a trade to live by; not to ^{get} ~~gain~~
myself a name, or maintain a party; but aiming
at the glory of God and the good of souls.

V. What do I want?

That God woud fix my heart in dedication
to the work; that he woud be with me at my ordi-
nation; that he woud fit me for my work with
the gifts of knowledge, utterance & prudence; &
with all ministerial graces, especially Sincer-
ity and humility; & that he woud open a

door of opportunity³ to me

[Every one of these I do pray for most heartily]

VI. What are my resolutions?

To have nothing to do with Sin;

To abound in gospel obedience;

To consider my Ordination vows in the

- employment of my talents,

- the maintenance of the truth,

- the charge of my family,

- the superintendence of my flock, &

- the endurance of opposition

[These by the help of the Lord I will keep - I desire nothing else, I know]

Reasons ~~given~~ for the
leaving I have a divine
call to the ministry drawn
up prior to my being ordained
Decr. 1836

Aug 16. 1836

Reverenced with much de-
lightful remembrance of me and
prior to my ordination as
West. May. 1837

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and appears to be a list or series of entries, though the specific words are illegible due to the bleed-through effect.