

*2018 Hidden Hills
Sovereign Grace Baptist
Confession of Faith*

Adopted by this church at Willow, Alaska on Nov. 25, 2018.

The Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Willow, Alaska, having a need to publicly restate our beliefs and practices; and to state some current Biblical issues, began with the 1646 London Baptist Confession and have drawn heavily from it. Many articles of that confession have been copied verbatim. We have updated some of the language and have added several articles which address contemporary issues. We commend this confession to all of like faith and practice.

The 1646 London Baptist Confession – originally published in 1644 – is a confession of faith of seven congregations or churches of Christ in London, which are commonly, but unjustly called Anabaptists; published for the vindication of the truth and information of the ignorant; likewise, for the taking off those aspersions which are frequently, both in pulpit and print, unjustly cast upon them.

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1. The Existence of God

The Lord our God is one God, who exists in Himself. His being cannot be comprehended by any but Himself. He alone hath immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light. He is most holy, infinite, great, wise, powerful, loving, merciful, gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. In Him we live and move and have our being. He preserves all creatures.

1Co.8:6; Is.44:6; 46:9, Ex.3:14; 1Ti.6:16; Is.43:15; Ps.147:5; Deu.32:3; Job 36:5; Jer.10:12; Ex.34:6, 7; Ac.17:28; Ro.11:36.

2. The Trinity

In this divine and infinite Being there is the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each has the whole divine Essence, yet the Essence is undivided. The eternal Son of God was with the Father in the beginning and was, and is, truly God. The Word became flesh being born of the virgin who was overshadowed by the Holy Ghost. Thus the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, all infinite without any beginning. Therefore, there is but one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties.

1Co.1:3; Jn.1:1, 15:26, Ex.3:14; 1Co.8:6.

3. God's Eternal Decrees

God hath decreed in Himself before the world was, concerning all things which occur with all of the circumstances of them, to work, dispose, and bring about all things according to the counsel of His own will, to His glory (yet without being the author of sin, or having fellowship with any therein): in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things and His unchangeableness, power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree. And God hath before the foundation of the world foreordained some men to eternal life through Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of His grace, writing their names in the Lamb's Book of Life; and then sending His only begotten Son to save His people from their sins; having foreordained and leaving the rest in sin to their just condemnation to the praise of His justice.

Is.46:10; Eph.1:11; Ro.11:33; Ps.115:3; 135:6; 1Sa.10:9, 26; Prv.21:1; Ex.21:13; Pv.16:33; Ps.144; Is.45:7; Jer.14:22; Mt.6:28, 30; Ac.13:48; Col.1:16, 17; Nu.23:19, 20; Ro.3:4; Jer.10:10; Eph.1:4, 5; Jude4-6; Pv.16:4; 2Th.2:13, 14; Re.13:8, 17:8; Mt.1:21; Jn.10:11, 28, 29.

4. Fall of Man

In the beginning God made all things very good and created man after His own image – filled with a complete and fitting perfection of nature and free from all sin. But man in this upright state did not stay long. First, Satan used the subtlety of the serpent to seduce Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit and then gave to Adam. He, willingly and without any compulsion, ate. Adam in so doing transgressed the commandment of God and fell; whereby, death came upon all his posterity, who now are conceived in sin and are by nature the children of wrath, the servants of sin, the subjects of death and other miseries in this world, and forever, unless the Lord Jesus Christ sets them free.

Ge.1:1; Col.1:16; Is.45:12; 1Co.15:45, 46; Ec.7:29; Ge.3:1, 4, 5; 2Co.11:3; 1Ti.2:14; Gal.3:22; Ro.5:12, 18, 19, 6:22; Eph.2:3.

5. God's Providence

God in His infinite power and wisdom, directs all things to the purpose for which they were created; that neither good nor evil befalls any by chance or without His providence; and that whatsoever befalls the elect is by His appointment for His glory and their good.

Job38:11; Is.46:10, 11; Ec.3:14; Mk.10:29, 30; Ex.21:13; Pv.16:33; Ro.8:28.

6. The Election of Grace*

All the elect, being loved of God with an everlasting love, are redeemed, quickened¹ and saved, not of themselves, nor their own works lest any man should boast, but only and wholly by God of His own free grace and mercy through Jesus Christ, who is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, and all in all, that he that rejoices might rejoice in the Lord. The Holy Spirit quickens the elect sinner, who is dead in trespasses and sins, giving him repentance and faith; the quickened sinner hears the gospel of Christ, repents of his sin and exercises faith in Christ as his savior, turns from his sin and follows Christ.

Jer.31:3; Eph.1:3, 7, 2:8, 9; 1Th.5:9, Ac.13:48; 2Co.5:21; Jer.9:23, 24; 1Co.1:30, 31; Jer.23:6; Jn.6:63; Eph.2:1, 5, 8, 9, 13; Col.2:13; 1Th.1:9, 10; 2Ti.2:24, 25.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

1 Quickened means “to be made alive.”

7. Eternal Life and Judgment*

And this is life eternal, that we might know Him the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. And on the contrary, the Lord will render vengeance in flaming fire to them that know not God and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jn. 17:3; He. 5:9; 2Th. 1:8; Jn. 6:36.

**Formerly Article 6 of 1644 COF*

8. The Holy Scriptures*

The Word of God contained in the Holy Scriptures (the sixty-six books of the Bible) is the rule of this knowledge, faith, and obedience, concerning the worship of God, in which is contained the whole duty of man (not men's laws, or unwritten traditions). Therein is plainly recorded whatsoever is needful for us to know, believe, and practice; which is the only rule of holiness and obedience for all saints at all times and in all places to be observed.

Col. 2:23; Mt. 15:6, 9; Jn. 5:39, 2Ti. 3:15-17; Is. 8:20; Gal. 1:8, 9; Ac. 3:22, 23.

**Formerly Articles 7, 8 of 1644 COF*

9. Christ: the Son Made Flesh

The Lord Jesus Christ, of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote and the Apostles preached is the Son of God and the brightness of His glory, by whom God made the world. He upholds and governs all things that He has made; who also, when the fulness of time was come, was made of a woman, of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David. He was born of the virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit came down upon her, and the power of the most High overshadowed her. In this way, that child which was born of Mary, the Son of God, was holy and without sin, even in His condescension.

Ge. 3:15, 22:18, 49:9, 10; Dan. 7:13, 9:24-27; Pv. 8:23; Jn. 1:1-3; He. 1:3, 8; Gal. 4:4; He. 7:14; Re. 5:5; Ro. 1:3, 9:5; Mt. 1:16; Lk. 3:23, 33; He. 2:16; Is. 53:3-5; He. 4:15.

10. Christ: Mediator and Head

Jesus Christ is made the Mediator of the new and everlasting covenant of grace between God and man, to be perfectly and fully the prophet, priest, and king of Israel and the Head of the church for evermore.

Jer. 31:31-34; 1Ti. 2:5; He. 8:10-13; 9:15; 10:16-18; 13:20; Jn. 14:6; Is. 9:6, 7.

11. Christ: Appointed and Empowered for Mediatorial Office

Unto this mediatorial office He was appointed by God the Father from everlasting; and in respect of his manhood, from the womb called, separated, and anointed most fully and abundantly with all gifts necessary, God having without measure poured out His Spirit upon Him.

Pv.8:23; Is.42:6, 49:1; 11:1-5, 61:1, 2; Lk.4:17-22; Jn.1:14, 26; 3:34.

12. Christ: Mediation toward the Elect

The Scripture holds forth Christ's call to his mediatorial office; for none takes this honor to himself but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. God ordained His Son to this office, thereby making a special promise: that Christ should be made a sacrifice for sin; and that he should see His seed, prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. Everything contained in that promise is of free and absolute grace toward God's elect and without any condition foreseen in them to procure it.

He.5:4, 5, 6, Is.53:10, 11; Jn.3:16; Ro.8:32.

13. Christ: the Only Mediator

This office to be mediator, that is, to be prophet, priest, and king of Israel and the churches, is so proper to Christ, that neither in whole, nor any part thereof can be transferred from Him to any other. There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

1Ti.2:5; He.7:24; Dan.7:14; Ac.4:12; Lk.1:33; Jn.14:6.

14. Christ: Prophet, Priest, and King

This office to which Christ is called is threefold; the prophet, priest, and king. This number and order of offices is necessary, for in respect of our ignorance, we stand in need of His prophetic office; in respect of our great alienation from God, we need His priestly office to reconcile us and continually make intercession for us; and we need His kingly office to uphold and preserve us to His heavenly kingdom.

Deu.18:15; Ac.3:22, 23; He.3:1; 4:14, 15; Ps.2:6; 2Co.5:20; Ac.26:18; Col.1:21; Ps.110:4; Song of Sol.1:4; Phl.4:13; 2Ti.4:18; He.7:25.

15. Christ: the Wisdom of God

Concerning the prophecy of Christ, it is that by which He has revealed the will of God; whatsoever is needful for His servants to know and obey. Therefore, He is called not only a prophet and master, and the apostle of our profession, and the messenger of the covenant, but also the very wisdom of God, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. He will forever continue to reveal the truths of the everlasting gospel to His people.

Jn.1:18; 12:49, 50; 17:8; Deu.18:15; Mt.23:10; He.3:1; Mal.3:1; 1Co.1:24; Col.2:3; Rev.14:6.

16. Christ: God and Man

In order to be that Prophet of which Moses wrote, it was necessary He should be God and also that He should be man. For unless He had been God, He could never have perfectly understood the will of God; and unless He had been man, He could not suitably have unfolded it in His own person to men.

Jn.1:18; Ac.3:22; Deu.18:15; He.1:1.

Note: That Jesus Christ is God is wonderfully and clearly expressed in the Scriptures. He is called the mighty God, Is.9:6. That Word was God, Jn.1:1. Christ, who is God over all, Ro.9:5. God manifested in the flesh, 1Ti.3:16. The same is very God, 1Jn.5:20. He is the first, Re.1:8. He gives being to all things, and without Him was nothing made, Jn.1:2. He forgives sins, Mt.9:6. He is before Abraham, Jn.8:58. He was and is, and shall ever be the same, He.13:8. He is always with His elect to the end of the world, Mt.28:20. Which could not be said of Jesus Christ if He were not God. And to the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, He.1:8, Jn.1:18.

Also, Christ is not only perfectly God, but perfect man, made of a woman, Gal.4:4. Made of the seed of David, Ro.1:3. Of the fruit of David's loins, Ac.2:30. Of Jesse and Judah, Ac.13:23. In that the children were partakers of flesh and blood He Himself likewise took part with them, He.2:14. He took not on Him the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham, He.2:16. So that we are bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh, Eph.5:30. So that He that sanctifieth, and they that are sanctified are all of one, He.2:11. See Ac.3:22; Deu.18:15; He.1:1.

17. Christ: Acceptable Worship

Concerning His priesthood, Christ having sanctified Himself, appeared once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. By that one offering He has fully finished and allowed all things God required for the salvation of His elect, and fulfilled all rites and shadows, etc. and is now entered into the holy of holies, which is the presence of God, ever making intercession for us. Also, He makes His people a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Him. The Father does not accept, nor does Christ offer to the Father, any other worship or worshippers.

*Jn.17:19; He.5:7-10; 6:19, 20; 10:12; Ro.5:19, Eph.5:2; Col.1:20;
Eph.2:14-16; Ro.8:34; He.9:24; 8:1; 1Pe.2:5; Jn.4:23, 24.*

18. Christ: the Priest, the Sacrifice, and the Altar

This priesthood was not legal or temporary as the Levitical priesthood was, but after the order of Melchisedec, and is firmly established, perfect, and forever, which is suitable to Jesus Christ who lives forever. Christ was the priest, sacrifice, and altar: He was a priest according to both natures; He was the altar and the sacrifice according to His human nature in that He could offer Himself for us; which Scripture attributes to His body, to His blood. Yet the effectualness of this sacrifice did depend upon His divine nature; therefore, it is called the blood of God. He was the altar according to His divine nature, it belonging to the altar to sanctify that which is offered upon it, and so it ought to be of greater dignity than the sacrifice itself.

*He.7:16-19; 5:6, 10:10; 1Pe.1:18, 19; Col.1:20, 22; He.9:13; Ac.20:28;
He.9:14, 13:10, 12, 15; Mt.23:19; Jn.17:19.*

19. Christ: His Kingly Office

Concerning His kingly office, Christ being risen from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and having all power in heaven and earth, spiritually governs the churches and exercises His power over all, angels and men, good and bad, to the preservation and salvation of the elect, and to the overruling and destruction of His enemies. By this kingly power He applies the benefits, virtue, and fruits of His prophecy and priesthood to His elect. He forgives and subdues their sins, preserves and strengthens them in all their conflicts against Satan, the world, and the flesh, keeping their hearts in faith and filial

fear by His Spirit. By this mighty power He rules the vessels of wrath, using, limiting and restraining them as it seems good to His infinite wisdom.

1Co.15:4; 1Pe.3:21, 22; Mt.28:18, 19; Lk.24:51; Ac.1:2, 5:30, 31; Ro.14:9; Jn.5:26, 27; Ro.5:14-17; Gal.5:22, 23; Mk.1:27; He.1:14; Jn.16:15; Job1:8; 2:6; Ro.9:17, 18, 21; Eph.4:7, 8; 2Pe.2:9.

20. The Kingdom: Future Manifestation

This kingdom shall be more fully manifested when Christ shall come in His glory to reign among His saints, when He shall put down all rule and authority under His feet, that the glory of the Father may be perfectly manifested in His Son, and the glory of the Father and the Son in all His people.

1Co.15:24-28; He.9:28; 2Th.1:9, 10; 1Th.4:15-17; Jn.17:21, 26.

21. The Two Resurrections*

There are two resurrections. The first resurrection shall take place at the coming of Christ for his faithful, but the rest of the dead shall not be raised until the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth shall have been completed. At the last resurrection both the just and unjust shall give an account of themselves to God, that every one may receive the things done in their bodies, according to that they have done, whether it be good or bad.

Jn.5:28, 29; Ac.24:15; 1Co.5:10; Ro.14:12; Mt.25; Re.20:4-6, 11-15; 22:11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

**Formerly Article 52 of 1644 COF*

22. Satan*

There is a literal being whose name is Satan, called the dragon, that old serpent, the devil. He is the prince of the power of the air; the god of this present world; he is the head of a great principality of fallen angels and demonic spirits present in the world today. He was in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve; tempted and deceived Eve so that she ate of the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil; his work was destroyed at the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, but he still is permitted of God to go about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He shall be bound for a thousand years when Jesus Christ comes, be

released temporarily at the end of that time and ultimately receive his eternal punishment being cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.

Ge.3:1-5, 3:13-15; Is.27:1; Mt.4:1-11; Mk.1:12, 13; Lk.4:1-13, 22:3; Ja.4:7; 1Pe.5:8, 9; Re.20:1, 2, 10.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

23. Antichrist*

The Anti-Christ is a person who shall arise in the last days also called the son of perdition or the beast. He is also called the abomination that makes desolate. He shall oppose all that is called God and shall sit in the temple of God, showing himself to be God and requiring all who dwell on the earth to worship him. Those who will not worship him shall be killed. He shall require all persons, small and great, to take a mark in their foreheads or in their right hands. Without receiving this mark there can be no buying or selling, no commerce. He shall gather all the armies of the earth in a final assault against the Lord Jesus Christ but he and his armies shall all be destroyed at the coming of Christ.

Mt.24:15; Mk.13:14; 2Th.2:3, 4, 8, 10; Dan.7:25; 1Jn.2:18; Re.13:11-18, 19:19, 20, 20:10.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

24. The Elect's Salvation*

Jesus Christ by His death did purchase salvation for the elect that God gave unto Him before the foundation of the world. The free gift of eternal life is given to them and none else. Only these have interest in Him, and fellowship with Him. He makes intercession for these to His Father in their behalf, and to them alone does God by His Spirit apply this redemption.

Eph.1:4; He.5:9; Mt.1:21; Jn.7:6; He.7:25; 1Co.2:12; Ro. 8:29, 30; 1Jn.5:12; Jn.15:13; 3:16.

**Formerly Article 21 of 1644 COF*

25. Faith*

Faith is the gift of God, wrought in the hearts of the elect by the Spirit of God. By this faith they come to know and believe the truth of the Scriptures and the excellency of them above all other writings and all things in the

world and so are enabled to cast their souls upon His truth thus believed. The Scriptures hold forth the glory of God in His attributes, the excellency of Christ in His nature and offices, and of the power and fulness of the Spirit in His workings and operations.

Eph.2:8; Jn.6:29, 4:10; Pbl.1:29; Gal.5:22; Jn.17:17; He.4:11, 12; Jn.6:63.

**Formerly Article 22 of 1644 COF*

26. The Preservation of the Saints*

All those that have this precious gift of faith wrought in them by the Spirit can never finally nor totally fall away since the gifts of God are without repentance. The Father begets and nourishes in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality. Many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet these shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock, which they are fastened upon by faith. Though the sensible sight of this light and love be clouded and overwhelmed for a time because of unbelief and the temptations of Satan, yet God is still the same. They shall be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraved upon the palms of His hands, and their names having been written in the book of life of the Lamb in eternity.

The same power that converts to faith in Christ, carries the soul through all duties, temptations, conflicts, and sufferings. Whatsoever a believer is, he is by grace, and is carried on in all obedience and temptations by that same grace.

*Mt.7:24, 25; Jn.13:10, 10:28, 29; 1Pe.1:4, 5, 6; Is.49:13, 14, 15, 16;
Ro.11:29; Re.13:8; 17:8; 2Co.12:9; 1Co.15:10; Pbl.2:12, 13; Jn.15:5;
Gal.2:19, 20.*

**Formerly Articles 23, 26 of 1644 COF*

27. Faith: a Gift*

Faith is begotten by the preaching of the gospel, or word of Christ, without respect to any power or agency in the creature because those to whom faith is given are wholly passive and dead in trespasses and sins. Those given this faith do believe and are converted by no less power than that which raised Christ from the dead.

Ro.10:17; 2Ti.1:10; 1Co.1:28; Ro.9:16; 3:12, 1:16; Eph.1:19, Col.2:12.

**Formerly Article 24 of 1644 COF*

28. The Preaching of the Gospel and Conversion *

The preaching of the gospel is the only thing necessary to the conversion of sinners. This in no way requires any qualifications, preparations, terrors of the law, or preceding ministry of the law. This preaching is the power of God to bring the naked soul, a sinner and ungodly, to receive Christ crucified, dead and buried, and risen again.

Jn. 3:14, 15, 1:12; Is. 55:1; Jn. 7:37; 1Ti. 1:15; Ro. 1:16; 4:5; 5:8; 10:14; 1Co. 1:21-24.

**Formerly Article 25 of 1644 COF*

29. The Sons of God*

All believers are by Christ united to God; by which union, God is one with them, and they are one with Him. All believers are the sons of God and joint heirs with Christ, to whom are made the promises of this life and that which is to come.

1Th. 1:1; Jn. 17:21, 20:17; He. 2:11; 1Jn. 4:16; Gal. 2:19, 20; Ro. 8:17.

**Formerly Article 27 of 1644 COF*

30. Justification *

Those that have union with Christ are justified from all their sins by the blood of Christ. This justification is a gracious and full acquittance of a guilty sinner from all sin by God through the satisfaction that Christ has made by His death for all their sins, and this applied through faith.

1Jn. 1:7; He. 10:14, 9:26; 2Co. 5:19; Ro. 3:23; Ac. 13:38, 39; Ro. 5:1, 3:25, 30.

**Formerly Article 28 of 1644 COF*

31. Sanctification *

All believers are a holy and sanctified people. Their sanctification is a spiritual grace of the new covenant and an effect of the love of God manifested in the soul. By it the believer presses after a heavenly obedience to all the commands which Christ as head and king in His new covenant hath prescribed to them.

1Co. 1:2; 1Pe. 2:9; Eph. 1:4; 1Jn. 4:16; Mt. 28:20; He. 8:6-12, 10:15-17.

**Formerly Article 29 of 1644 COF*

32. Reconciliation*

All believers through the knowledge of that justification of life given by the Father and brought forth by the blood of Christ have as their great privilege of that new covenant, peace with God and reconciliation. Yea, all believers joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have received atonement.

2Co.5:19; Ro.5:9, 10, 11; Is.54:10; Eph.2:13,14; 4:7.

**Formerly Article 30 of 1644 COF*

33. Christian Warfare*

All believers in this present life are in a continual warfare and combat against sin, self, the world, and the devil. They are liable to all manner of afflictions, tribulations and persecutions, to which they are predestinated and appointed. Whatsoever the saints possess or enjoy of God spiritually is by faith. Outward and temporal things are lawfully enjoyed by a civil right by them who have no faith.

Ro.7:23, 24; Eph.6:10-18; He.2:9, 10; 2Ti.3:12; Ro.8:29; 1Th.3:3; Gal.2:19, 20; 2Co.5:7; Deu.2:5.

**Formerly Article 31 of 1644 COF*

34. Christ: The Believer's Strength*

The only strength by which the saints are enabled to encounter all oppositions and trials is by Jesus Christ, who is the captain of their salvation made perfect through sufferings. He has engaged His faithfulness and strength to assist them in all their afflictions, to uphold them in all their temptations, and to preserve them by His power to His everlasting kingdom.

Jn.16:33, 15:5; Phl.4:11; He.2:9, 10; 2Ti.4:18.

**Formerly Article 32 of 1644 COF*

35. Churches: Their Constitution*

Jesus Christ has here on earth a manifestation of His spiritual kingdom in His churches, which He has purchased and redeemed to Himself as a peculiar inheritance. His churches are assemblies of visible saints, called and separated from the world by the word and Spirit of God, to the visible profession of faith of the gospel, being baptized into that faith, and joined to

the Lord and each other in their respective churches, each mutually agreed in the practical enjoyment of the ordinances commanded by Christ their head and king. New churches are established when two or three scripturally baptized believers in Christ agree together to carry out the commandments of the LORD and to keep the ordinances as the LORD delivered them; there being no necessity for an ordained preacher or authority from another church to establish a church of the properly baptized believers.

Mt. 11:11; 2Th. 1:1; 1Co. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Ro. 1:7; Ac. 19:8, 9, 26:18; 2Co. 6:17; Re. 18:4; Ac. 2:37, 10:37; Ro. 10:10; Mt. 18:19, 20; Ac. 2:42, 9:26; 1Pe. 2:5.

**Formerly Article 33 of 1644 COF*

36. Churches: Their Blessing*

To these churches He has made His promises, delivered the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and gives the blessings of his presence, acceptance, love, and protection. Here are the fountains and springs of His heavenly graces flowing forth to refresh and strengthen them. The Lord's churches belong to him and are subject to his laws and commandments; religious institutions which do not have scriptural baptism cannot be the LORD's churches, therefore, they shall always be separate and distinct from these man-made organizations.

Mt. 28:18-20; 1Co. 11:24, 3:21; 2Co. 6:18; Ro. 9:4, 5; Ps. 133:3; Ro. 3:7, 10.

**Formerly Article 34 of 1644 COF*

37. Churches: Their Members*

All His servants are to acknowledge Him to be their prophet, priest and king. In the churches they are to present their bodies and souls, to bring their gifts God has given them, to be under His heavenly direction and government, to lead their lives in this walled sheepfold and watered garden, and to have communion here with His saints, that they may be assured that they are made fit to be partakers of their inheritance in the kingdom of God. Although each person has control of his own wealth, yet they are to supply each other's needs through voluntary contributions that the name of Jesus Christ might not be blasphemed because a member's needs were not met. The Lord has placed members in the body as it has pleased Him in a distinct arrangement,

due place, peculiar use, being fitly compacted and knit together according to the effectual working of every part, to the edifying of itself in love.

Ac.2:41, 47; 1Co.12:6, 7; S. of S.4:12; Eph.2:19; Ro.12:4-8; Col.1:12, 2:5, 6, 19; Ac.20:32, 5:4, 2:44, 45, 4:34, 35; Lk.14:26; 1Ti.6:1; Eph.4:16; 1Co.12.25.

**Formerly Article 35 of 1644 COF*

38. Discipline*

Christ has given power to His churches to receive or cast out any of its members. This power is not given to any particular member or officer, but to the whole body.

Every member of each church, no matter how excellent, great, or learned is subject to this censure and judgment. The church ought with great care and tenderness, and due advice, according to the Scriptures, proceed against her members when necessary.

Ro.15:2; Mt.18:16-18; 1Co.5:4-13, 11, 14, 12:6, 2:3; 2Co.2:6, 7; Ac.2:41; 2Th.3:6, 14, 15; 1Ti.5:19-21.

**Formerly Article 42, 43 of 1644 COF*

39. Churches: the Elders and Deacons*

Every church has power given them from Christ, for their wellbeing, to choose for themselves men that are qualified according to the word for the offices of elders and deacons, as the gospel shows Christ appointing his servants during his earthly ministry. Elders feed, govern, serve, and build up that church, while deacons primarily serve and build. No other entity has any power to impose elders, deacons, or any other thing on any church.

The elders and deacons, lawfully chosen, ought to continue in their office and place according to God's ordinance. Elders should carefully feed the flock of God committed to them, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. The deacons must not be greedy of filthy lucre, but use the office of a deacon being found blameless.

Ac.1:23, 26, 6:3, 15:22, 25; Ro.12:5-8; 1Ti.3:2-13; 1Co.12:8, 28; He.13:7, 17; 1Pe.5:1-4; Jn.10:3, 4; Ac.20:28, 29.

**Formerly Article 36, 37 of 1644 COF*

40. Churches: Elders and Church Order*

Christ, for the keeping of this church in holy and orderly fellowship, placed certain men over the church; who by their office are to guide, oversee, and visit. In like manner, for her wellbeing, the Lord commands the members to watch over one another.

Ac.20:27, 28; He.13:17, 24; Mt.24:45; 1Th.5:2, 14; Jude 3, 20; He.10:24, 25, 34, 35, 12:15.

**Formerly Article 44 of 1644 COF*

41. Churches: Supporting their Elders*

The ministers of Christ ought to have whatsoever they shall need supplied freely by the church, that, according to Christ's ordinance, they that preach the Gospel should live of the gospel by the law of Christ.

1Co.9:7, 14; Gal.6:8; Phl.4:15, 16; 2Co.10:4; 1Ti.1:2; Ps.110:3.

**Formerly Article 38 of 1644 COF*

42. Baptism: an Ordinance*

Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament church, given by Christ, to be dispensed upon persons professing faith in Him, or that are made disciples; who, upon profession of faith, ought to be baptized, and after joining with a church may partake of the Lord's Supper.

Mt.28:18, 19; Jn.4:1, 2; Mk.16:15, 16; Ac. 2:37, 38, 8:36-39.

**Formerly Article 39 of 1644 COF*

43. Baptism: the Mode*

The way and manner of applying baptism to a qualified candidate is dipping or plunging the body under water. Baptism, being a sign, must correspond to the things which it signifies: the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. As certainly as the body is buried under water and risen again, so shall the bodies of the saints be raised by the power of Christ in the day of the resurrection to reign with Christ.

Mt.3:16; Mk.1.9; Jn.3:23, Ac.8:38; Ro.6:3-6; 1Co.15:28, 29.

**Formerly Article 40 of 1644 COF*

44. Baptism: the Administrator*

The Scripture holds forth the person designed by Christ to perform baptism to be a disciple. Nowhere does the Word of God restrict the application of baptism to any particular member of a church. A baptized disciple may go forth and apply baptism to any person who has shown the fruits of repentance and faith in Christ at the preaching of the gospel. Two or more of such baptized disciples may immediately organize themselves into a New Testament church.

Mt.28:19; Jn.4:1, 2; 1Co.11:2; Ac.8:4, 5, 12, 38; 9:17-19; 10:47, 48; 16:14, 15; 16:30-33; 18:8; 1Co.1:16, 17.

**Formerly Article 41 of 1644 COF*

45. The Lord's Supper: an Ordinance*

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. It is to be observed by each local church and every member should participate in it after a solemn self-examination. As often as they eat this supper they are to remember the Lord's death until He returns. The elements to be used in this supper are only and always unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, which typify the broken, sinless body and blood of Christ. Fruit of the vine is the only scriptural drink element mentioned in the New Covenant concerning the Lord's Supper. Since the term "fruit of the vine" is the only expression for the drink used in the Lord's Supper by the LORD himself, we are compelled to define and comply with that terminology. The fruit of the vine could be pure grape juice, vinegar, or wine; each meets the requisite of Scripture.

Mt.26:26-30; Mk.24:22-25; Lk.22:17-20; 1Co.11:23-25. (Nu.6.3 defines the fruit of the vine).

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF*

46. Gift of Prophecy (Teaching and Expounding the Word)*

Those in the church to whom God hath given gifts may and ought to prophesy² according to the proportion of faith and to teach publicly the word of God for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of the church.

1Co.14:3; Ro.12:6; 1Pe.4:10, 11; 1Co.12:7; 1Th.5:19.

**Formerly Article 45 of 1644 COF*

2 Prophecy means to teach or expound the scriptures.

47. Differences in Understanding among Members*

While the church continues in obedience to the commandments of Christ, none of us should separate for faults and corruptions until those issues have been addressed. Since the church consists of men subject to failing there will be differences.

Revelation chapters 2 and 3; Ac. 15:1-3; 1Co.1:10; He.10:25; Re.2:20, 21; Ro.14:1, 15:1-3.

**Formerly Article 46 of 1644 COF*

48. Every Church Is Complete under Christ*

Although the particular congregations are distinct, individual bodies, every one complete within itself, yet they are all to walk by one rule of faith. Also, they should have the counsel and help of one another, if necessity requires it, though every church is under Christ her head.

1Co.4:17, 14:33, 36, 16:1; Eph.2:19; 1Ti.3:15, 6:13, 14; 1Co.4:17; Ac.15:2, 3; 2Co.8:1, 4, 13:14; Jude 3.

**Formerly Article 47 of 1644 COF*

49. Civil Government: Ordained of God*

All civil government is ordained of God. It is set up by Him for the punishment of evil doers and for the praise of them that do well. In all lawful things commanded by them, we ought to be subject, not only for wrath, but for conscience sake. We are to make supplications and prayers for kings and all that are in authority, that under them we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Ro.13:1-7; 1Pe.2:13, 14; 1Ti.2:1-3.

**Formerly Article 48, 50 of 1644 COF*

50. Civil Government: Ordained of God*

If civil government does not favor us in the practice of our faith we must continue in obedience to Christ. We are to witness to the truth of the Old and New Testaments unto the death, if necessity require, in the midst of all trials and afflictions, as His saints of old have done. In so doing we count not

our goods, lands, wives, children, fathers, mothers, brethren, sisters, and our own lives dear unto us, so finishing our course with joy.

Ac.2:23, 24, 4:19, 5:28, 29, Phl.1:28, 29; Dan.3:16, 17, 6:7, 10, 22, 23; 2Ti.4:6-8.

**Formerly Article 49, 51 of 1644 COF*

51. Civil Government: Taking Arms Against Established Government*

The taking of arms against an established government is a very serious matter because they are the God-appointed ministers over men. Scripture commands every soul to be subject to those in authority. The saints are commanded of the LORD to be obedient to every ordinance of man, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. To resist the power is to be condemned by that same authority. Let us pray for our leaders that we might live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty if the Lord will.

Ro.1:1-7; 2Ti.1:1-3; Tit.3:1; 1Pe.2:13-17; 2Pe.2:10, 11; Jude 8.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

52. Civil Government: Saints Holding Office and Taking Oaths*

It is lawful for a Christian to be an officer of the civil government. If we are asked to take an oath, it is right for us to affirm the truth without swearing by anything or anyone.

Ac.8:38, 10:1, 2; Ro.16:23; 2Co.10:11; Mt.5:33-37; Ja.5:12.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

53. Civil Government: Obedience of the Saints*

We are to give unto all men the honor due to them as their place, age, and position requires. We are to defraud no man of anything, but to do unto all men as we would have them do unto us.

1Th.4:6; Ro.13:5-7; Mt.22:21; Tit.3:1; 1Pe. 2:13-17, 5:5; Eph.5:21-23, 6:1, 9; Tit.3:1, 2, 3; Mt.7:12; Lk.6:31.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

54. Pagan Holidays*

Pagan holidays ought to be shunned and not observed by the LORD's churches. There is no such commandment in the Holy Scriptures. Holidays such as Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and Valentine's are clearly of pagan origin and have no basis in the scriptures for their wicked and ungodly observances. We reject the celebration of these pagan holidays in the meeting place of the church.

Pv.4:14, 15:9, Jer.10:2-4, Ro.14:23.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

55. The Extraordinary Gifts*

The extraordinary gifts given to the church in the first century such as healing, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, working of miracles, prophesying in part, and knowing in part are not in operation today. They were given while the New Testament Scriptures were being written and then ceased.

1Co.13.8-12.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

56. Baptism of the Holy Spirit*

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the same as the "Promise of the Father" of which Jesus Christ spoke before his ascension back to the Father. The baptism of the Holy Ghost came upon the assembled church on the day of Pentecost fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was a bestowment of power on the church to preach the gospel to every creature. A second manifestation of the baptism of the Holy Ghost came on the believers in Samaria at the preaching of Philip. A third came upon the gentiles who were converted at Caesarea at the preaching of the apostle Peter. Finally, a fourth came upon the twelve Ephesian brethren noted in the 19th chapter of Acts. There are no other Scriptural references to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. However, when a church is constituted, its members are made to drink into that same Spirit. There is no commandment of the LORD to seek a baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Lk.24:49; Jn.14:26; 15:26, 27; Ac.1:8; 2:1-13; 8:14-18; 10:44-48; 11:1-18; 19:1-7; 1Co.12.13.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

57. The Women's Role in the Church*

Women are not permitted to speak in the assembled church, but are commanded to be in silence. They are to offer praise to God through congregational singing and to communicate (giving of their means) as part of the corporate worship of the church. They are to learn in silence, not teaching over men or usurping their authority. Moreover, they are commanded to be in subjection to their own husbands. If they need to ask a question, they are commanded to ask their husbands at home.

1Co.14:34-35; 1Ti.2:11-15; 1Pe.2:5, 9; He.13:15, 16.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

58. The King James Version of the Bible*

The King James Version (KJV) of 1611, often referred to as “The Authorized Version,” and its subsequent editions up to 1769 is the Bible to be used by the LORD’s English-speaking people. We also use the underlying texts of the KJV Bible in the original languages of the Hebrew and Greek. All other versions are different from this Bible. At best they offer commentary on the Scriptures, but most of these add or leave out words, phrases, and entire passages which take away from the deity of Christ, blood redemption, the virgin birth, and a host of other things.

Mt.4:4; 24:25; Ps.12.6, 6; Pv.30:5, 6; 2Ti.3.16; Re.22:18, 19.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

59. God Created All Things*

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and all that is in them, including man, in six, literal, 24-hour days. At Ge.1:1, time began with the creation of light and the evening and the morning were the first day; therefore, the theory of evolution with its millions of years in the supposed past is a lie – an untruth generated by men professing themselves to be wise, but who are fools.

Genesis chapters 1 through 5; Ps.33:6-9; Is.40:26; Jer.10:11; Jn.1:3; Ac.14:15, 17:24; Ro.1:19-21; Col.1:16, 17; 2Pe.3:5; Re.4:11.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

60. God Sustains the Global Climate*

The modern (20th and 21st centuries) man-made climate change movement (commonly known as global warming) is a lie. The LORD set the seasons in their places declaring that “while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease;” therefore, there is no such thing as man-made climate change.

Ge.8:22; Ps.74:17; Col.1:16, 17.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

61. The World-Wide Flood*

God sent a world-wide flood in the days of Noah, when he commanded Noah to build an ark for the salvation of his house. All the mountains of all the earth were covered with water; fifteen cubits and upward did the waters prevail above the mountains. Every land-dwelling creature on the earth died. Only Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives were spared in the Ark and from them the earth has been repopulated.

Genesis chapters 6-9; Lk.17:26, 27; He.11:7; 1Pe.3:20; 2Pe.2.5.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

62. Marriage, Fornication, and Sodomy*

Scripture defines fornication as any perversion of the marriage bed, including, but not limited to incest, sodomy, and bestiality. Even the land is defiled for these sins.

Sodomy is the sin of Sodom for which it is named. When Abraham’s nephew Lot came to Sodom, the men of the city wanted to “know” him – that is to commit sodomy with him. The city of Sodom was exceeding wicked before the LORD. Sodomy is worse than other sins in that it dishonors the bodies of people between themselves; it is a vile affection; it is against nature – it is unnatural. Sodomy, otherwise known as homosexuality or lesbianism, is men lying carnally with men and women lying carnally with women. Sodomite marriages are wrong; such wicked marriages pervert the pattern which God established in the beginning between one man married to one woman.

Ge.3:18-25, 19:4, 5; Le.18:1-25; 20:13; Ro.1:26, 27; 1Co.6:9, 18-20; 7:2; 1Ti.1:9, 10; He.13.4; Jude 7.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

63. Abortion Is Murder*

Abortion is murder. When a woman conceives a man's seed, she is said to be with child. The child inside the woman is a separate life nourished through the means God gave in order that the child grows. The child is human, albeit unborn. To kill this child is murder.

Ge. 16:11, 19:36, 38:24, 25; Ex. 21:22-25; 1Sa. 4:19; 2Sa. 11:5; Is. 26:17, 18; Ps. 139:13-16; Lk. 1:44.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

50130 S. Caswell Lakes Loop | Willow AK 99688

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