

**REPORT ON CONGREGATIONALISM:
INCLUDING A MANUAL OF CHURCH
DISCIPLINE, TOGETHER WITH
THE CAMBRIDGE PLATFORM, ADOPTED
IN 1648, AND THE CONFESSION OF
FAITH, ADOPTED IN 1680**

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Report on Congregationalism: Including a Manual of Church Discipline, Together with the Cambridge Platform, Adopted in 1648, and the Confession of Faith, Adopted in 1680 by Leonard Woods

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LEONARD WOODS

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TO THE

Congregational Ministers and Churches

IN MASSACHUSETTS.

REVEREND AND BELOVED,

Our having been chosen as part of a Committee of seven, and afterwards as a Sub-committee, was the occasion of our writing what we here call a Report, which in this manner we now address to you. We have been aware, that we could not, in any of the ordinary methods, make the Report to more than a small proportion of ministers, and to only a few of the great multitude of church members. We have therefore concluded, with the advice of many of our brethren, and we trust with the approbation of all, to make use of the printing press, for the purpose of presenting our Report to the whole body of Congregational ministers and churches in Massachusetts, and to those in other States, so far as they may be disposed to receive it. But in all this, we have acted with the full understanding, that we have no more authority or right in the matter, than any other individuals. The fact of our being a Committee, we regard as only the

occasion of our presenting the subject to the consideration of our brethren. Other men might have undertaken such a work, and have accomplished more than we have. But who would have been likely to do it, without some such movement as has influenced us? In this publication, it is our wish to be regarded *as individual ministers*. All the use we make of our appointment as a Committee, is, that we undertake the business without embarrassment, and proceed in it without the consciousness of any impropriety.

With fraternal love and confidence, we submit the result of our humble efforts to your disposal.

In behalf of the Sub-committee,

LEONARD WOODS, *Chairman*.

CONTENTS.

REPORT ON CONGREGATIONALISM.	
Preliminary Remarks,	9
General Principles,	19
MANUAL.	
Principles of Church Government,	25
Nature of the Church,	25
Church Members,	26
Form of the Visible Church,	26
Church Officers,	27
Election and Removal of Ministers,	29
Ordination of Ministers,	29
Power of the Church,	30
Maintenance of the Ministry,	31
Admission of Members,	32
Dismission of Members,	33
Discipline,	33
Process of Discipline,	36
Witnesses,	37
Ecclesiastical Councils,	37
Conclusion,	42
CAMBRIDGE PLATFORM.	
Extracts from the Preface,	47
Of the form of church government: and that it is one, immutable, and prescribed in the word,	49
Of the nature of the catholic church in general, and in special of a particular visible church,	50
Of the matter of the visible church, both in respect of quality and quantity,	52
Of the form of a visible church, and of church covenant,	54
Of the first subject of church power; or, to whom church power doth first belong,	56
Of the officers of the church, and especially of pastors and teachers,	57
Of ruling elders and deacons,	58
Of the election of church officers,	60
Of ordination, and imposition of hands,	62
Of the power of the church and its presbytery,	64
Of the maintenance of church officers,	67

Of admission of members into the church,	68
Of church members, their removal from one church to another, and of recommendation and dismission,	72
Of excommunication, and other censures,	74
Of the communion of churches one with another,	77
Of synods,	81
Of the civil magistrate's power in matters ecclesiastical,	82

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

Preface,	89
Of the Holy Scriptures,	93
Of God and of the Holy Trinity,	96
Of God's eternal Decree,	97
Of Creation,	98
Of Providence,	99
Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and the punishment thereof,	100
Of God's Covenant with Man,	101
Of Christ, the Mediator,	102
Of Free-Will,	104
Of Effectual Calling,	104
Of Justification,	105
Of Adoption,	107
Of Sanctification,	107
Of Saving Faith,	108
Of Repentance unto Life and Salvation,	109
Of Good Works,	110
Of the Perseverance of the Saints,	111
Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation,	112
Of the Law of God,	113
Of the Gospel, and of the extent of the Grace thereof,	115
Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience,	116
Of Religious Worship, and of the Sabbath Day,	117
Of Lawful Oaths and Vows,	119
Of the Civil Magistrate,	120
Of Marriage,	121
Of the Church,	122
Of the Communion of Saints,	123
Of the Sacraments,	123
Of Baptism,	124
Of the Lord's Supper,	125
Of the State of Man after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead,	127
Of the Last Judgment,	127

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OF
CONGREGATIONALISM.
