

A  
SUMMARY OF THE FAITH  
AND  
ARTICLES OF THE COVENANT  
OF THE  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
IN  
THE CITY OF NEW-YORK

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1839

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The following five resolutions were passed by the Church at their Monthly Meeting,  
February 25, 1839.

1. Resolved - That our Church Clerk is hereby required to procure a suitable blank book, for the purpose of recording our Summary of Faith and the Articles of our Church Covenant, adopted this evening.

2. Resolved - That our Church Clerk is hereby required to record in the former part of said book, our Summary of Faith and the Articles of our Church Covenant, and to record the Appendix, alluded to in the Summary of Faith, in the latter part of the same book, and when so recorded, Brother T. T. Devan is hereby request to examine the same, and subjoin thereto his Certificate, as evidence of the accuracy of the record.

3. Resolved - That each member of the Church is hereby requested to subscribe his or her name to the Summary of Faith and the Articles of our Church Covenant in the book to be provided for that purpose, or cause the same to be done by special request. And that for the future, every person before admitted into this Church shall be required to subscribe his or her name to the said Summary of Faith and the Articles of our Church Covenant, in the book provided for that purpose, or cause the same to be done by special request.

4. Resolved - That it is hereby made the duty of our Church Clerk henceforth to cause the book containing our Summary of Faith and the Articles of our Church Covenant to be present at every Monthly meeting in course, for the purpose of being inspected by the members of this Church and receiving signatures to the same.

5. Resolved - That these five resolutions be entered in the book called for by the above first resolution.

**SYLVESTER PIER, Church Clerk.**

**This certifies, that, pursuant to the foregoing second resolution, I have examined the following Summary of Faith and the Articles of our Church Covenant, and find the record of the same, on pages 3,4,5,6,7, and 8, of this book a true and accurate copy of the document read to and adopted by the Church, at their regular Monthly meeting, held Feb. 25, 1839; and that on pages 233 to 247 of this same book is recorded the Appendix illustrative of the same.**

**NEW-YORK, March 19, 1839.**

**(Signed,)**

**THOS. T. DEYAN.**

**A SUMMARY OF THE FAITH PROFESSED  
WITH THE  
ARTICLES OF THE COVENANT ADOPTED  
BY**

**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
IN THE  
CITY OF NEW YORK.**

February Twenty Fifth, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-Nine

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Whereas, our predecessors, on the 19th of June, 1762, recorded, in our First Book of Records, pages 3,4,5, and 6, a Summary of Faith and Articles of a Church Covenant, embracing in substance our views of doctrine and rules of practice, in which they only refer us to the Scriptures as a whole; to authenticate those views, therefore,

We feel bound to make an open declaration of how we understand the principal doctrines, the legal injunctions, and the evangelical precepts, contained in these Sacred Writings. This we do in the following SUMMARY of our FAITH, and ARTICLES of our CHURCH COVENANT, as explanatory of the said document.

## **SUMMARY OF OUR FAITH <sup>1</sup>**

**We receive the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being all given by inspiration of God,<sup>2</sup> and, as containing the only authorized RULE of our faith and practice. <sup>3</sup>**

**According to these Oracles, We believe - That there is ONE and but ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD; <sup>4</sup> yet - That this One God subsisteth in THREE EQUAL PERSONS, the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY GHOST; <sup>5</sup> - That, as to HIS BEING and PERFECTIONS, He is clearly revealed, both by His Works, and in His Word, - yet - That with respect to His Essence, mode of Existence, and manner of operation, He is incomprehensible to all but Himself; <sup>6</sup> - That God alone created the heavens and the earth, with all their inhabitants and appurtenances, whether visible or invisible; <sup>7</sup> - That God made man upright, and as such, able to keep the law under which He placed him; <sup>8</sup> but - That man, being left to the freedom of his own will, transgressed that law, and thereby fell into a state of moral depravity and legal condemnation; <sup>9</sup> - That the first man (Adam) was, by divine appointment, constituted a public head and representative of all his posterity;<sup>10</sup> and consequently that when he fell, they all fell with him into the same condition; <sup>11</sup> - That, as such all mankind, by nature are totally and universally depraved, and therefore without either ability or inclination to return to**

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<sup>1</sup> This Summary of Faith and Articles of a Church Covenant, together with the Appendix, were written by our present Pastor, (Elder William Parkinson,) and published by him in the year 1834.

<sup>2</sup> 2 Timothy 3:15-17. 2 Peter 2:21.

<sup>3</sup> John 5:39. Acts 17:11. 1 Peter 4:11. 2 Peter 1:19-21. Comp. Isaiah 8:20.

<sup>4</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4 . 1 Timothy 1:5. Exodus 20:3-5. 1 Corinthians 8:5.

<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 48:16. 1 John 5:7. Matthew 28:19. 2 Corinthians 13:14.

<sup>6</sup> Psalms 33:6-9. Romans 1:20. Job 11:7-9. Isaiah 40:28.

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 1:1. Acts 17:24-26. Comp. Psalm 8. and civ.

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 1:17. Ecclesiastes 7:9.

<sup>9</sup> Genesis 3:16. Psalms 14:3. John 3:18. Romans 5:12, 18.

<sup>10</sup> Romans 5:17. Comp. ver.14.

<sup>11</sup> Romans 5:12,18,19.

**God,<sup>12</sup> or to render perfect obedience to His moral requirements:<sup>13</sup> - That notwithstanding these deplorable facts, whereas Adam, by his own personal transgression, lost his standing by the covenant of works, and his ability to keep the law under which he was made and whereas the disability, as well as the disinclination of his posterity, to keep this law, arises from their personal depravity,<sup>14</sup> it evidently follows, that their obligations to render a perfect obedience to all God's moral requirements, remain undiminished, <sup>15</sup> and, consequently, that the penal curse personally threatened against every delinquent, is strictly righteous. <sup>16</sup> - That God in pardoning and justifying any of the fallen race of mankind, has no respect to any supposed good works to be done by them, either before or after regeneration; <sup>17</sup> but alone to the obedience and sacrifice of Christ, which He, (God the Father) by an act of His mere grace, imputes to all that believe, as the only meritorious cause of their pardon and justification.<sup>18</sup> - That no works performed by any, prior to their regeneration and faith in Christ, are spiritually good;<sup>19</sup> yet, that morality and benevolence are to be enjoined on all, as required by the law of God, and as useful in society;<sup>20</sup> and, that believers, as such are to be "careful to maintain good works," as the fruits and evidences of their gracious state<sup>21</sup> - as the means of their usefulness in the church and in the world<sup>22</sup> - and especially, to shew forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvellous light.<sup>23</sup> - That the gospel of the grace of God,<sup>24</sup> revealing his method of saving lost sinners, through the**

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<sup>12</sup> Psalms 53:3. Romans 3:9-19. Proverbs 20:9. Joshua 24:19. Jeremiah 13:23. John 5:40; 6:44,65.

<sup>13</sup> Jeremiah 2:22. Romans 3:20

<sup>14</sup> Genesis 3:16,17; 6:5. Job 21:14.

<sup>15</sup> Deuteronomy 6:5. Luke 10:25-28.

<sup>16</sup> Galatians 3:10. James 2:10. Romans 2:2-15.

<sup>17</sup> Ezekiel 36:31,32. Luke 17:10. Romans 3:9-28; 4:4-8,16,23-25. Ephesians 2:1-10.

<sup>18</sup> Isaiah 43:25. Jeremiah 23:6. Romans 3:21-28; 4:3-6,23-26; 5:19-21. Acts 13:39; 18:27

<sup>19</sup> Romans 8:7,8. Hebrews 11:6.

<sup>20</sup> Isaiah 1:16,17; Ezekiel 2:3-5. Luke 10:27.

<sup>21</sup> Ephesians 2:10. Titus 2:11-14; 3:8. Philemon, verses 5,6,7. Matthew 7:16.

<sup>22</sup> Galatians 6:10. Hebrews 13:16.

<sup>23</sup> 1 Peter 2:9. Matthew 5:16.

<sup>24</sup> Acts 20:24.

incarnation, obedience, and death of Christ,<sup>25</sup> is to be preached to mankind in common;<sup>26</sup> but, - That regeneration, and, therefore, "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ," (which are essential, not only to salvation, but to the enjoyment of peace with God,<sup>27</sup> and to the performance of his acceptable service<sup>28</sup>) - as also every requisite to secure perseverance in grace to glory, which is certain of all the regenerate,<sup>29</sup> are sovereignly bestowed, according to God's eternal and personal election of his people in Christ,<sup>30</sup> through whom He gives His Holy Spirit unto them, for their effectual calling, sanctification, and preservation unto eternal life.<sup>31</sup> - That although the Holy Ghost, as to His testimony in the Scriptures and in the ministry of the word, is constantly resisted by the unregenerate, as he was by the Jews, as to His testimony in the prophets and apostles,<sup>32</sup> yet, that in His regenerating operations He is always invincible and infallible.<sup>33</sup>

Moreover, in regard to the future state, We believe, That, according to the Scriptures, there will be a personal resurrection, both of the just and unjust<sup>34</sup> - and that, besides an individual judgment that passes upon every soul on its separation from the body,<sup>35</sup> when an eternal separation will be made between the righteous and the wicked;<sup>36</sup> the righteous being received to everlasting happiness, and the wicked being consigned to everlasting misery.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> 2 Timothy 1:10. 2 Corinthians 4:6. Comp. Genesis 3:15. Isaiah 7:14. Matthew 1:21; 5:17. 1 Peter 3:18

<sup>26</sup> Matthew 28:19. Mark 16:15. Luke 24:47. Colossians 1:28.

<sup>27</sup> Acts 21:21; 26:18. Romans 5:1.

<sup>28</sup> Romans 8:8; Hebrews 11:6.

<sup>29</sup> Romans 8:17,30. John 10:27-29.

<sup>30</sup> Romans 8:28-30. Acts 13:48. Ephesians 1:3,4. 1Thessalonians 5:9. 2 Timothy 1:9

<sup>31</sup> Titus 3:5-7. Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30. Romans 8:11.

<sup>32</sup> Acts 7:51. Comp. Nehemiah 9:30 and Zechariah 7:12.

<sup>33</sup> Ephesians 2:1,4,5. Phillippians 1:6.

<sup>34</sup> Daniel 7:1. John 5:28,29. Acts 24:15.

<sup>35</sup> Luke 16:22,23; 23:43. Hebrews 9:27.

<sup>36</sup> Acts 17:31. Romans 14:10. 2 Corinthians 5:10. Revelation 20:11-15.

<sup>37</sup> Matthew 25:31-46. John 5:28,29. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.

Nor would we presume to form our views of the church and ordinances of Christ by any other light than that of the same inspired Oracles. And, judging by these infallible records, We believe that the kingdom of Christ is not of this world;<sup>38</sup> and, therefore, that the gospel church is neither national, nor parochial; - also, that none belong to her by virtue of their natural descent from her members. The church, it is true, is often styled a mother; but her children, as such, like those of a virtuous wife, are all the children of her won covenanted Husband;<sup>39</sup> they are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus; in whom they are all one, however diversified in age, or sex, or civil conditions.<sup>40</sup> The church, in this sense, is the household of faith, including all vital believers, and none but such.<sup>41</sup> This, indeed, cannot be affirmed of what is usually called "the visible church of Christ upon earth;" for as the tribes of national Israel had a mixed multitude adhering to them, who were not Israelites by natural birth,<sup>42</sup> so the branches of spiritual Israel, have always had a number, more or less, of nominal adherents, not Israelites by a spiritual birth. Such are "false brethren unawares brought in."<sup>43</sup> Nor can this evil be entirely avoided in the present imperfect state; neither churches nor pastors being able to search the heart.<sup>44</sup> Nevertheless, both pastors and churches should take the utmost care that none be admitted to membership with them, but such as bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Hence,

We believe, that a visible gospel church should consist of such persons only, whether Jews or Gentiles, males or females, parents or children, as make a credible profession of faith in Christ, - receive his gospel, and observe his precepts.<sup>45</sup> - That the

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<sup>38</sup> John 18:36.

<sup>39</sup> Isaiah 54:5,13; 59:21. Ephesians 5:32.

<sup>40</sup> Galatians 3:26-28.

<sup>41</sup> Galatians 6:10. Ephesians 3:21.

<sup>42</sup> Exodus 12:38. Numbers 11:4.

<sup>43</sup> Galatians 2:4. Jude 3-13. 1 Corinthians 11:19.

<sup>44</sup> Acts 8:13,23. Luke 8:13. 2 Corinthians 13:5.

<sup>45</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:1,2. Colossians 1:2. Acts 9:31.

only officers belonging to organized gospel churches, are bishops and deacons.<sup>46</sup> - That the only symbolic ordinances appertaining to the gospel dispensation, are baptism and the Lord's supper. - That nothing is a scriptural administration of baptism but a total immersion of the subject in water, in the name of the HOLY TRINITY, by a man duly authorized to administer gospel ordinances. See the Commission; Matthew 28:19. and the APPENDIX, No.1. We also believe, that subjection to baptism is pre-requisite to admission into a visible church; and, therefore, to partaking of the Lord's Supper; which is to be received only to partaking of the Lord's Supper; which is to be received only by members of a visible church, and, by them, only when come together in a church capacity. See the institution of the ordinance by Christ; Matthew 26:26-28; the practice of the mother-church at Jerusalem; Acts 2:41,42; and the apostolic direction; 1 Corinthians 11:33,34.

Finding no specified manner of receiving baptized persons, as such, into a visible church, either enjoined or exemplified in the New Testament, We believe, that every particular church is at liberty to receive such persons in any decent and solemn manner, which its members, or a majority of them, may prefer; they having previously gained fellowship with them, by hearing a relation of their experience, and being credibly assured of their good moral character. Persons presenting letters of dismissal and recommendation from sister churches of the same faith and order, may be received either on the authority of such letters, or may be required to relate their experience, with an account of their doctrinal views, as the church, in each case, shall judge prudent and expedient. See APPENDIX, No. 2.

We also believe, that every gospel church, regularly constituted, is a society independent of every other ecclesiastical court; having a scriptural authority and directory to govern itself - to choose and cashier its own officers, and to discipline its own members.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Philippians 1:1. 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Comp. Acts 14:23; 20:17,28.

<sup>47</sup> Matthew 18:15-17. Romans 14:1. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13. Acts 6:3,5; 14:23. 1 John 4:1.

**We likewise believe, that the First day of the week is emphatically the LORD'S DAY; and that it becometh us, laying aside ordinary labor and recreation, to hail every return of this day with christian gladness, and to spend the hours of it in such devotional exercises, private, domestic, and public, as God may afford us opportunity and ability to perform; excepting only such works of necessity and mercy, as the events of Providence may dictate or require. Our reasons for thus observing, not the seventh, but the first day of the week, and for making the specified exceptions, are briefly stated in the APPENDIX, No. 3.**

**We believe, moreover, that the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, is divinely enjoined, and that, when religiously performed, it is well pleasing to God.<sup>48</sup> And, though we are assured that none but the regenerate sing with the spirit and with the understanding,<sup>49</sup> we nevertheless believe, that mankind in common, as they are constantly receiving various mercies and blessings from God, are bound to celebrate His praise;<sup>50</sup> and, therefore, that they should be allowed and encouraged to join in this part of public worship. See APPENDIX, No. 4.**

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<sup>48</sup> Ephesians 5:19. Colossians 3:16. Hebrews 13:15,16.

<sup>49</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:15. Comp. Psalm 34:1,2.

<sup>50</sup> Psalm 107:8,21,31. Acts 17:24-29. Romans 1:20,21; 2:4,5. Psalm 114:4,10.

## ARTICLES OF OUR CHURCH COVENANT

**ART. 1.** We agree to and adopt the preceding Summary, as a Compendium of our Faith and Practice; believing it to be in accordance with the doctrines and precepts of the Holy Scriptures.

**ART. 2.** Besides observing private and family worship, We agree "Not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together" for public worship, on the Lord's day, and at such other seasons, whether stated or occasional, as the church, from time to time, shall appoint for this purpose. Psalm 137:2. Hebrews 10:25.

**ART. 3.** Believing it to be our duty, as a church of Christ, to maintain the order and discipline which He hath appointed in His house, We agree to hold such meetings, stated and occasional, for transacting church-business, as our circumstances may require; and that, having appointed such meetings, we will be careful, Providence permitting, to attend them.

**ART. 4.** To preserve and promote peace and concord among us, with purity of faith and practice, We agree that it is our duty to pursue and support the following measures: -

1. That in cases of private or personal grievance, the member aggrieved, should observe the injunctions of our blessed Lord; If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone, &c. &c. Matthew 18:15-17.
2. That any member clearly proved before the church, to have been guilty of gross immorality, should, without further proceeding, be put away. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13.
3. That any member, habitually neglecting the worship or communion of the church, should be called upon as a delinquent, that it may be known whether such person is an object of Christian sympathy, or of church-censure. Romans 15:1-6. Galatians 5:1-12.
4. That any member known to have departed from "the faith of the gospel," as held by the church - or, to have frequented any place of licentious amusement, such as a theatre, a ball-room, or the like, should be rebuked and admonished; and, if found perseveringly

impenitent and incorrigible, such person should be put away, as evidently regardless of the peace and reputation of the church, and as a lover of erroneous doctrines and of sensual pleasures, and therefore, not a lover of God. Romans 12:1,2. 1 Corinthians 11:19. Ephesians 5:11. 2 Timothy 3:4,5. Hebrews 10:23.

5. That members becoming disaffected toward each other touching "things pertaining to this life," such as property or character, shall not be suffered to go to law before any worldly tribunal; but shall be required mutually to submit their matters of controversy to the investigation and judgment of the church; and, therefore, that any member or members refusing to comply with this apostolic direction, shall be censured by the church, and, persisting therein, shall, after due forbearance and labor, be put away. 1 Corinthians 6:1-10.

6. That persons put away, for whatever offense, great or small, on giving to the church satisfactory evidence of repentance and reformation, should be cordially restored to membership. 2 Corinthians 2:6-11. Galatians 6:1. Restoration to membership, however, does not include the restoration of a brother to any office that he may have held in the church before his exclusion. For, as no one is promoted to office by his original admission to membership, so, not by his re-admission after having been excluded, men are to be chosen to office in the church from among its members. Out of the number of his disciples, Christ set apart the twelve and the seventy; Mark 3:13,14. Luke 10:1. and out of the churches, elders and deacons were chosen. Acts 14:23. chap. 6:3. and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

**ART. 5** As unanimity in church-acts is always desirable, We agree to use all scriptural means to promote it - such as due forbearance, meek expostulation, and affectionate persuasion; yet, when these fail of conciliating a minority, We agree that ultimately all questions regularly brought before us, shall be decided by a majority of the members present, who, according to the usage of the church, shall be authorized to vote.

**ART. 6.** In our deportment toward each other - toward the members of sister churches - and toward the community at large, both civil and religious, We agree that we

will endeavor, through grace, to maintain "a conversation becoming the gospel of Christ," that in all things, God may be glorified in us, and that his cause upon earth may be promoted through our instrumentality. Philippians 1:27. 1 Peter 3 and 4 chapters.

**ART. 7.** In supporting the gospel and aiding the poor among us - as also in defraying all other expenses necessarily among us - as also in defraying all other expenses necessarily arising from our travel as a church, We agree conscientiously to bear our several proportions, according to our circumstances; that some may not be eased and others burdened. 2 Corinthians 8:13.

**ART. 8.** We agree that it is expedient that all persons who may hereafter propose to unite with us, should give their assent to this Summary of Faith and the Articles of this Church Covenant, before their admission. And,

Finally: Sensible of our weakness and liability to err, and therefore, of our continual dependence on the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, We agree, that it becometh us, with much prayer and self-denial, to walk together in all humility and brotherly kindness - to watch over each other for good and not for evil - to stir up one another to love and to good works; and, when circumstances require it, to warn and rebuke, to admonish and exhort one another, according to the rules and precepts of the gospel; all which, may God, for Christ's sake, enable us to do, to the praise of the glory of his grace. Amen.