

# CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE\*

### Article I: Of the Triune God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who is of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; and, the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who is sent from the Father and the Son, and who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

### Article II: Of the Providence of God

We believe that the Providence of God, by which He executes His eternal purposes in the government of the world, is in and over all events; yet so that the freedom and responsibility of human beings are not impaired, and sin is the act of the creature alone.

### Article III: Of the Fall of Man and the Necessity of Grace

We believe that human beings are made in the image of God, that they might know, love and obey God, and enjoy Him forever; that our first parents by disobedience fell under the righteous condemnation of God; and that, consequentially, all persons are so alienated from God that there is no salvation from the guilt and power of sin except through God's redeeming grace.

### Article IV: Of the Revelation of God

We believe that God would have all persons return to Him; that to this end, He has made Himself known, not only through the works of nature, the course of His Providence, and the consciences of human beings, but also through supernatural revelations made especially to a chosen people, and above all, when the fullness of time was come, through Jesus Christ His Son.

### Article V: Of the Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the record of God's revelation of Himself in the work of redemption; that they were written by human authors

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\* The *Christ Congregational Church Statement of Doctrine* is as a revision of the "Statement of Doctrine" issued, 1883, by a commission of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States, appointed in St. Louis, 1880.

under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so that they were composed and recorded without error in the words of the original manuscripts; that they are able to make wise unto salvation; and that they constitute the authoritative standard by which all religious teaching and human conduct are to be regulated and judged.

## Article VI: Of Christ, the Redeemer

We believe that the love of God to sinful humanity has found its highest expression in the redemptive work of His Son; who became man, uniting His divine nature with our human nature in one person, who was tempted like other human beings, yet without sin; who, by His humiliation, His holy obedience, His sufferings, His death on the cross, and His resurrection, was revealed to be a perfect Redeemer; whose sacrifice of Himself for the sins of those elected in Him before the foundation of the world, declares the righteousness of God, and is the sole and sufficient ground of their forgiveness and of reconciliation with Him.

## Article VII: Of Regeneration and Justification

We believe that Jesus Christ, after he had risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, as the one Mediator between God and man, He carries forward His work of salvation; that He sends the Holy Spirit to convict souls of sin, and to lead them to repentance and faith; and that those who through renewing grace turn to righteousness, and trust in Jesus Christ as their Redeemer, receive for His sake the forgiveness of their sins, and are made the children of God.

## Article VIII: Of Sanctification and Perseverance

We believe that those who are thus regenerated and justified grow in sanctified character through fellowship with Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and obedience to the truth; that a holy life is the fruit and evidence of saving faith; and that the believer's hope of continuance in such a life is in the preserving grace of God alone.

## Article IX: Of the Kingdom of God

We believe that Jesus Christ came to establish among humanity the kingdom of God, the reign of truth and love, righteousness and peace; that to Jesus Christ, the Head of this kingdom, Christians are directly responsible in faith and conduct; and that to Him all have immediate access without mediatorial or priestly intervention.

## Article X: Of the Church

We believe that the universal Church of Jesus Christ, invisible and spiritual, comprises all true believers, whose duty it is to associate themselves in local churches, for the maintenance of worship, for the promotion of spiritual growth and fellowship, and for the conversion of souls; that these churches, under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures and the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit, may determine—each for itself—their organization, statements of belief, and forms of worship; may appoint and set apart their own ministers; and should cooperate in the work which Christ has committed to them for the furtherance of the gospel throughout the world.

## Article XI: Of Worship and the Means of Grace

We believe in the observance of the Lord's Day as a day of holy rest and worship; in the ministry of the Word; and in the two sacraments, which Christ has appointed for His church: Baptism, to be administered by water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to believers as a public sign and seal of their cleansing from sin, of their union to Christ, of the impartation of the Holy Spirit to them, of their initiation into the Christian Church, and as a symbol of their union with their fellow-Christians; and the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, as a commemorative symbol of Christ's atoning death, a seal of its efficacy, and a means whereby He confirms and strengthens the spiritual union and communion of believers with Himself and with each other.

## Article XII: Of Last Things

We believe in the ultimate prevalence of the kingdom of Christ over all the earth; in the glorious personal appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the dead; and in a final judgment, the issues of which are everlasting punishment and everlasting life.