

RULES AND FORMS OF PROCEDURE.

THE CHURCH

1. The Catholic or Universal Church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ, the Head thereof.

2. The Visible Church, which is also Catholic, consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion, together with their children. Those who constitute this Visible Church are associated in congregations for the worship of God, the maintenance of the truth, mutual edification, and the promotion and spread of the religion of Christ, all to the glory of God in the salvation of men.

3. Christ Jesus, our Lord, as the Head of His Church, has appointed its constitution, laws, ordinances, and officers. The ordinary and permanent officers of the Church are Elders, Teaching and Ruling, and Deacons. These officers meet for deliberation and united action in the several courts of the Church, namely, the Session, the Presbytery, the Synod, the General Assembly. There is also the Deacons' Court, to which are entrusted the temporal affairs of the congregation.

4. The jurisdiction of the courts extends only to those who are members of the Church, including the baptized as well as communicants, and their decisions and enactments derive their sanction entirely from the spiritual authority wherewith Christ has invested His Church and its officers.