

# CONGREGATIONALISM.

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## Statement of General Principles

—SHOWING—

WHAT IT IS, WHENCE IT IS, AND WHEREIN IT DIFFERS  
FROM OTHER RELIGIOUS BODIES.

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### WHAT CONGREGATIONALISM IS.

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A Christian Church is a local society of believers, united by covenant in obedience to the will of Christ for the edification of its members, the observance of Christian ordinances, and the propagation of the Christian faith.

Every such association implies a ground-work of organization, with regulating principles and governing laws; and the working out of these principles in the shaping and controlling of the life of the organization constitutes its government: hence every Church must have some form of government.

All Church government reduces itself to three pure forms: (1) That which lodges its power in the hands of one supreme sovereign or pontiff; (2) That which vests its authority in the hands of a privileged order, composed of a greater or smaller number of principal persons; and