

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOPKINTON STATEMENT OF FAITH AND POLITY

- Its polity is Congregational, and its understanding of the Christian Truth is substantially in accord with the Scriptures. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us.
- We believe that the Bible, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Divine inspiration and is the Word of God. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; I Thess. 2:13)
- We further believe that the Bible constitutes the only perfect rule and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice. (Acts 17:11; Isa. 8:20; Matt 4:4)
- We believe there is only one living and true God, perfect, infinite, and eternal. (Matt. 5:48; I Kings 8:27; Psalm 90:2)
- We believe God exists eternally in three Persons, namely, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, who are equal in their divine perfection and harmonious in the execution of their distinct offices. (Matt. 28:19; John 5:17; John 14:16-17; John 15:26; Eph. 2:18)
- We believe that man was created in the image of God, possessing personality and innocence; that he was endowed with power of rational and responsible choice in view of moral ends, and that the purpose of his creation was to glorify God. (Gen. 1:27; Col. 3:10; Acts 17:24-28)
- We believe that because of man's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, the entire human race became involved in guilt and in corruption.
- There is in every human heart, by nature, that evil disposition which eventually leads to responsible acts of sin and to just condemnation. (Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 3:10-12,23; Rom. 1:19-31; Eph. 4:18; I John 1:8-10)
- We believe that, in the fullness of time the Father sent the eternally pre-existent Son who humbled Himself and, except for sin, assumed man's nature by being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; I Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14; Phil. 2:6-7)
- We believe that God has provided redemption for men through the mediatorial work of Christ, Who took the sinner's place and voluntarily offered Himself on Calvary as a perfect sacrifice for sin. (Matt. 20:28; Heb. 2:9, 9:11-12; I Peter 3:18; Gal. 3:13; I Tim. 2:5-6)
- We believe that on the third day He rose bodily from the dead, and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He performs the ministry of intercession. (Matt. 28:5-6; Acts 2:23-24; Acts 1:9; Col. 3:1; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25)
- We believe that Jesus Christ shall return to this earth suddenly, visibly, bodily, gloriously, and triumphantly to receive all true believers, and to judge the living and the dead. (Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:27,30; Matt. 16:27; Matt. 25:31,32; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 20:11-15)
- We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity (John 15:26). Among His ministries are the following:
 1. To exalt Christ (John 16:14); to restrain the progress of evil until God's purposes are accomplished. (I John 4:4)
 2. To convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. (John 16:8-11)

3. To regenerate those who are dead in sin, bringing them to repentance of sin and faith in Christ. (John 3:5-7; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:23; Rom. 8:11)
 4. To instruct, comfort, guide, sanctify and empower God's children. (John 14:16-18,26; John 16:13; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:1, 2; Rom. 8:2; Acts 1:8; Eph. 3:16; I Cor. 2:1-4; I Thess. 1:5)
- We believe that salvation was planned by the Father, executed by the Son through His mediatorial offices, and is applied by the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:1-14; John 3:3-5; Acts 20:28)
 - We believe that salvation is wholly by the Grace of God. (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)
 - We believe that repentance and faith are essential attitudes to be found in anyone who claims the blessing of salvation. It is not through human merit of any kind that redemption is achieved. (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 20:21; Luke 24:27; John 3:36; Rom. 5:1-2)
 - We believe that the church, invisible and universal, is an organism composed of the redeemed of all ages. We believe that it is the spiritual body of Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is manifest locally and visibly through companies of believers in Christ, voluntarily joined together and meeting at stated times for worship and the observance of baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:46, 47; Eph. 4:4, 12, 15, 16; I Cor. 12:12, 13, 20, 27; I Cor. 16:2; Acts 6:1-6; 14:23)
 - We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8); to exalt the worship of the Triune God; to promote justice, righteousness, kindness and peace; to build itself up in the most holy faith involving the expression of Christian love and the exercise of church discipline (Matt. 18:15-17; Eph. 4:32; Gal. 6:1, 2; Jude 20:21; Eph. 4:11, 12, 16; Acts 20:32); and to glorify God in all things (I Peter 4:11; I Cor. 10:31). We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual under the authority of Scripture and in the right of private judgment. We hold to the autonomy of the local church.
 - We look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting. We believe in the final Judgment of all men, with the redeemed being ushered into God's eternal heaven and the lost being sent into eternal hell. (Matt. 13:41-43, 49, 50; Matt. 23:33; 25:31-46; Rev. 20:10-15; 21:1-5)