

The "principles" of the "First Church of
Guelatin Plains, are, as its name declares,
"Congregational".

The "Covenant" of the "First Congrega-
tional Church of Guelatin Plains" voluntarily
received, binds its members" In humble
reliance on Divine grace, to obey & serve
God in all things; to submit themselves
to the authority in his ^{kingdom} of Christ in
his church; to conscientiously walk
together in all the commandments
and ordinances of the Lord; and to watch
over each other with meekness, patience and
brother love; *

A Congregational Church, ^{when,} in good
covenant faith, be divided into distinct churches,
only as those divisions shall continue "bound
together under ties similar in their nature
and obligation to those which unite to
each other the members of a single
church!"

All action, ^{when,} in a Congregational
Church, to produce any other division,
is but factionary, covenant breaking,
and void.

* See the Articles of Faith and Covenant.

† See this position as a sequent from preceding
principles derived from the Standards.

Addressed to
Churches
in covenant

All action also, in a congregational church, to get rid of officers, who oppose factional divisions and uncoovenanted relations, and to obtain those, from outside of the church even, who favor and approve factional divisions and uncoovenanted relations, is also but factionary and void procedure.

All action then, in a congregational church, resulting from factional divisions, covenant-breaking procedures, and void foundations, may be legitimately rejected as void & of no binding effect.

By virtue then of the foregoing standard positions, and consecutive principles, "The first congregational church of Guelatin Plains, with its pastor & records, beside household churches known to the apostles, existed, & continued with you & in your house". (See also Rom. 16. 5. Col. 4. 15. Phil. 2.)

Again, erring members, whether by mistake or otherwise, may, under such appropriate continued labors as can be had for their correction, be borne with, in the long suffering forbearance of the church, so long as there is reasonable hope, that God by his providence and grace, is, by his own

disciplinary hand recovering them.

Our names having been thus continued upon the records, we ask that we may be regarded as in good & regular standing, under the hope and purpose, that, through Divine aid, nothing hereafter on our part, shall have the appearance of siding factional, or covenant-breaking procedures.

Now, dear brethren and sister, if, by the grace of God (and without the grace of God you will not do it,) you can, upon the whole, approve the standard positions, and consecutive principles presented in sheet no 2, you will sign your names in the blank at the close, and address them to a place upon the records. And when they are recorded, you will, as soon as you shall find the providences of God indicate, that the time has arrived for organizing a regular congregational Church in the parish precinct on your side the river, address ~~the~~ following letter (no 3.) as a letter of request for letters of recommendation and dismission to such Church about to be organized.

My prayer to God is, that he will give the grace needed to take this covenant-keeping process, as the way out of the sad afflictions, which your humble pastor saw

you, years ago, ^{from} ~~plucking~~ ^{bitter, experience} down upon your
own heads, and which he tried so labor-
ously to save you ~~from~~. Who can tell the
loss to the present generation, and to those of
the future also, resulting from the afflicting
state of things which has so long followed to
us all, & to the cause we hold dear!

Brothers & sister, I am not med-
dling with things with which I have
no business. I am only performing
covenant vows. I beseech you, be sure you
in your consideration of these sheets, and in
your action upon them, that you make no
work for repentance, but that you go prayer-
fully, & submissively to Christ, into these matters,
and to the bottom! and that you act according-
ly. So here I done, and I charge you, as
you wish to escape the farther use of the rod
of God, that you do the same.

In covenant & pastoral faithfulness, I have
written; and now subscribe myself
as ever,
your unworthy brother
and pastor

P.S. I will direct to Brother J. Griffin
Smith, & depend on you to lay the same
before the others, & before the meeting
Yours &c. J. Griffin