

Theological Opinions of the Consistory of the COELC

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On our Source of Faith

Adopted in May 2020

1. *Bible*: We accept without reservation the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as a whole and in all their parts, as the very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and recorded without error in the original manuscripts by the Prophets, Apostles, and Evangelists. These Holy Scriptures are the only inerrant, infallible, authoritative source, and final rule, norm, and standard for all matters of Christian doctrine, faith, and life.
2. *Lutheran Confessions*: We subscribe to the *Book of Concord* of 1580 because (*quia*) it is a true and accurate explanation and expositions of the Word of God. Therefore, we subscribe to all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the *Book of Concord* of 1580, namely:
 - the three Ecumenical Creeds: the *Apostles Creed*, the *Nicene Creed*, and the *Athanasian Creed*;
 - the *Unaltered Augsburg Confession*;
 - the *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*;
 - the *Smalcald Articles*;
 - the *Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope*;
 - the *Small Catechism* of Martin Luther;
 - the *Large Catechism* of Martin Luther;
 - the *Formula of Concord*, both the *Epitome*, and the *Solid Declaration*.We also subscribe to the *Christian Visitation Articles* of 1592 as an appendix to the *Book of Concord*.
3. We also recommend the *Enchiridion* of Martin Chemnitz as a useful and helpful guide in addressing issues not expressed in the *Book of Concord* and as a useful assistance to helping give further insight into matters addressed in the *Book of Concord*