

The Book of Confessions

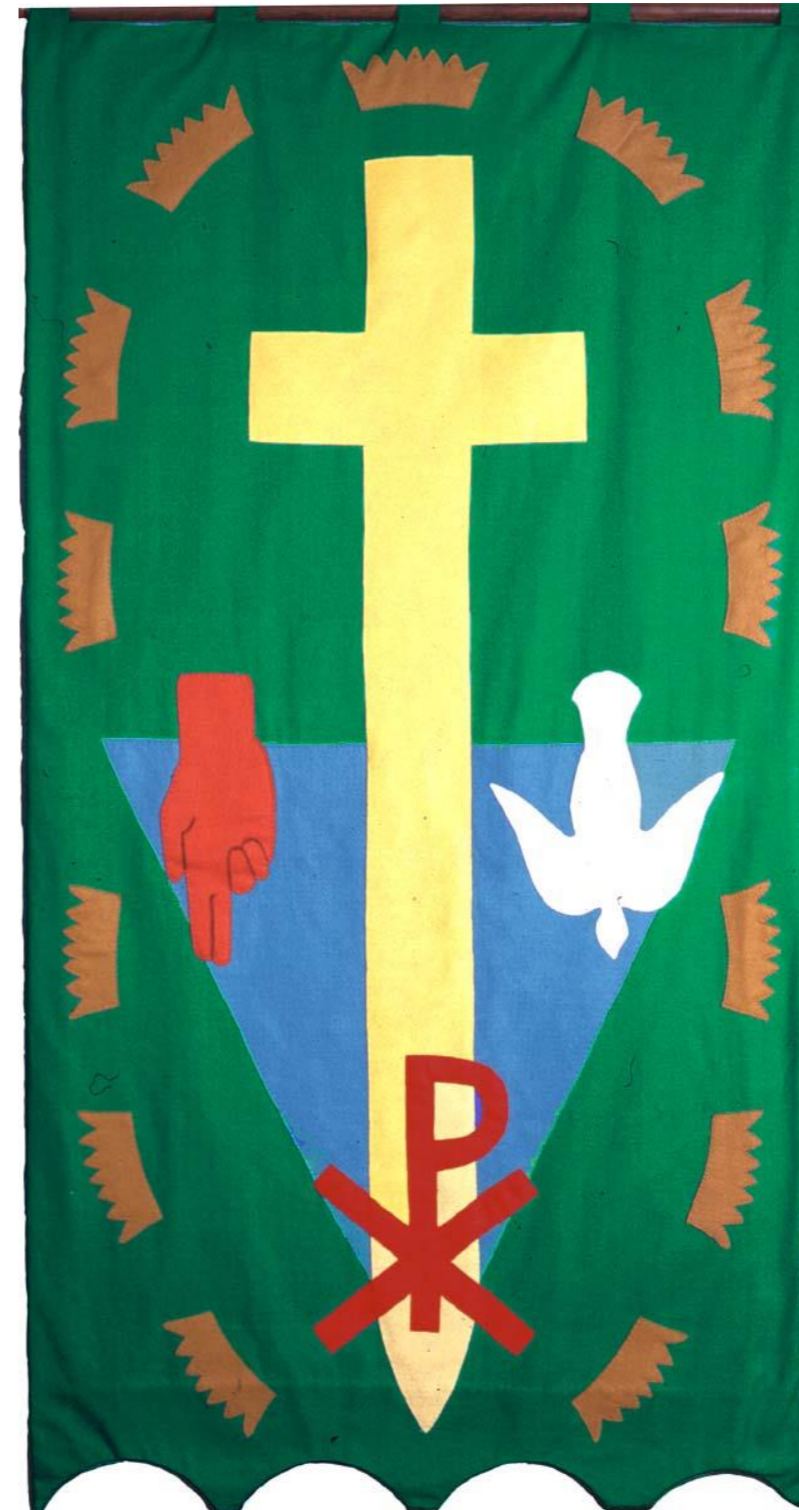
Part 1 of the
Constitution of the PC(USA)

12 Confessional Documents

1. Nicene Creed
2. Apostles' Creed
3. Scots Confession
4. Heidelberg Catechism
5. Second Helvetic Confession
6. Westminster Confession
7. Westminster Shorter Catechism
8. Westminster Larger Catechism
9. Theological Declaration of Barmen
10. Confession of 1967
11. Brief Statement of Faith
12. Belhar Confession

The Nicene Creed

- 381
- Constantine
- Homoousia
- Homoiousia
- The Nature and Person of Jesus Christ



The Apostles' Creed

- Roots date back to 150
- Roman Christians
- Developed as Baptismal Statement
- Affirms Triune God
- Most widely used affirmation in Western Church



The Scots Confession

- 1560
- Scottish reform
- First Confession in English language
- Written by John Knox and colleagues
- Focus on Election and the Church (Kirk)



The Heidelberg Catechism

- 1563
- Germany
- 3 sections
 - Sin and guilt
 - Redemption and freedom
 - Thankfulness in obedience and prayer

A very Personal Confession



The Second Helvetic Confession

- 1566
- Switzerland
- Heinrich Bullinger
- Focus on Covenant and Baptism



The Westminster Standards

- 1646
- During the English Civil War
- Written at Westminster Abbey
- Three documents
 - Confession of Faith
 - Shorter Catechism
 - Larger Catechism



The Westminster Confession

- The most basic Confession used by Presbyterians worldwide
- Central Doctrines are the Sovereignty of God and the Authority and Interpretation of Scripture



The Westminster Shorter Catechism

- Catechism means a summary of teaching in question and answer form
- Intended for young people as a summary of the Larger Catechism
- Questions 1-38 deal with belief, Questions 39-107 deal with duties



The Westminster Larger Catechism

- Intended for preachers dealing with and teaching the major doctrines in the Church.



The Theological Declaration of Barmen

- 1934
- Nazi Germany setting
- Karl Barth
- Question of relationship between Church and State.
- Focus on the sin of idolatry and the Lordship of Christ



The Confession of 1967

- 1967
- United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
- First Confession to overtly address social issues
 - Focus on Reconciliation



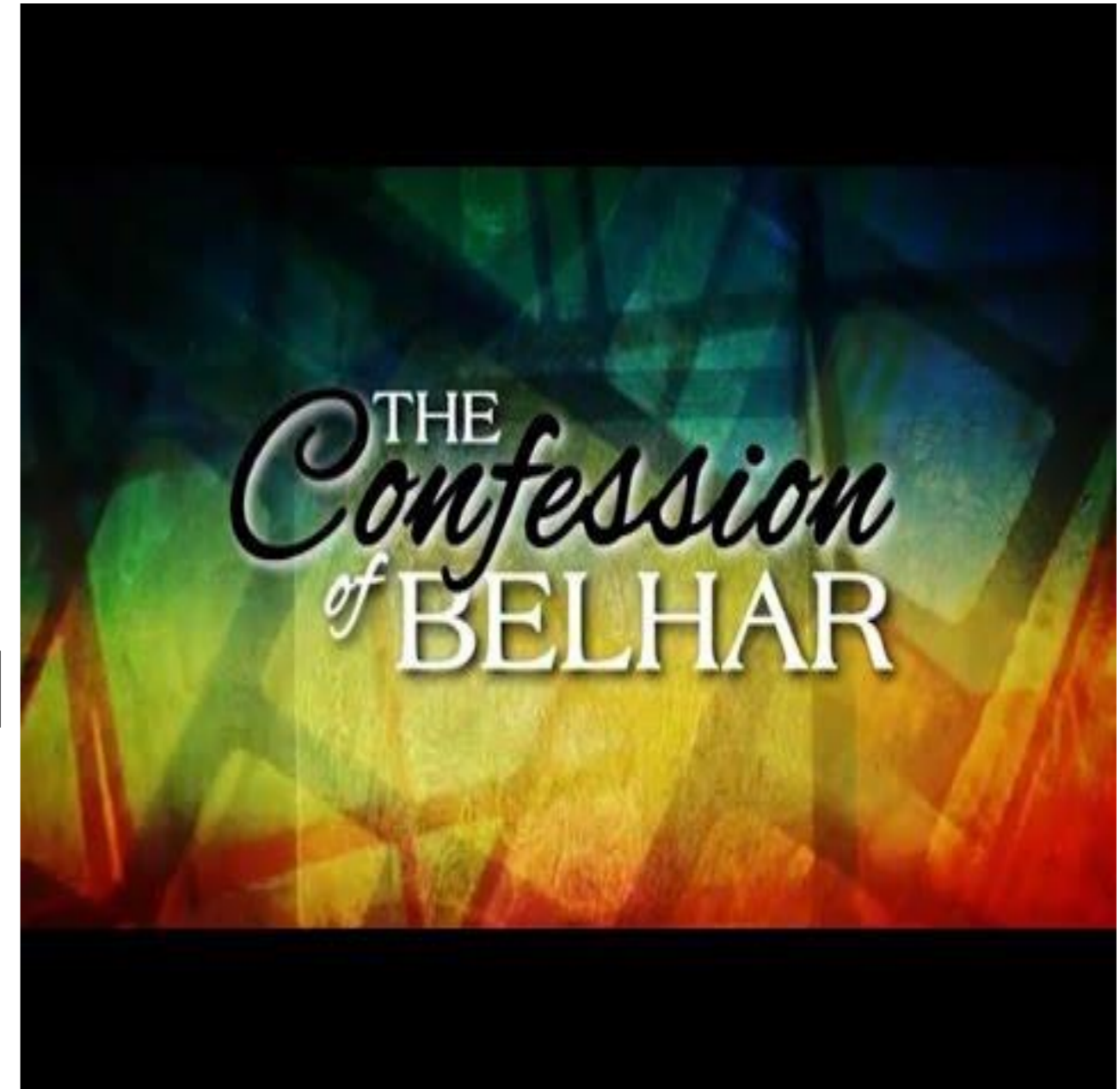
A Brief Statement of Faith

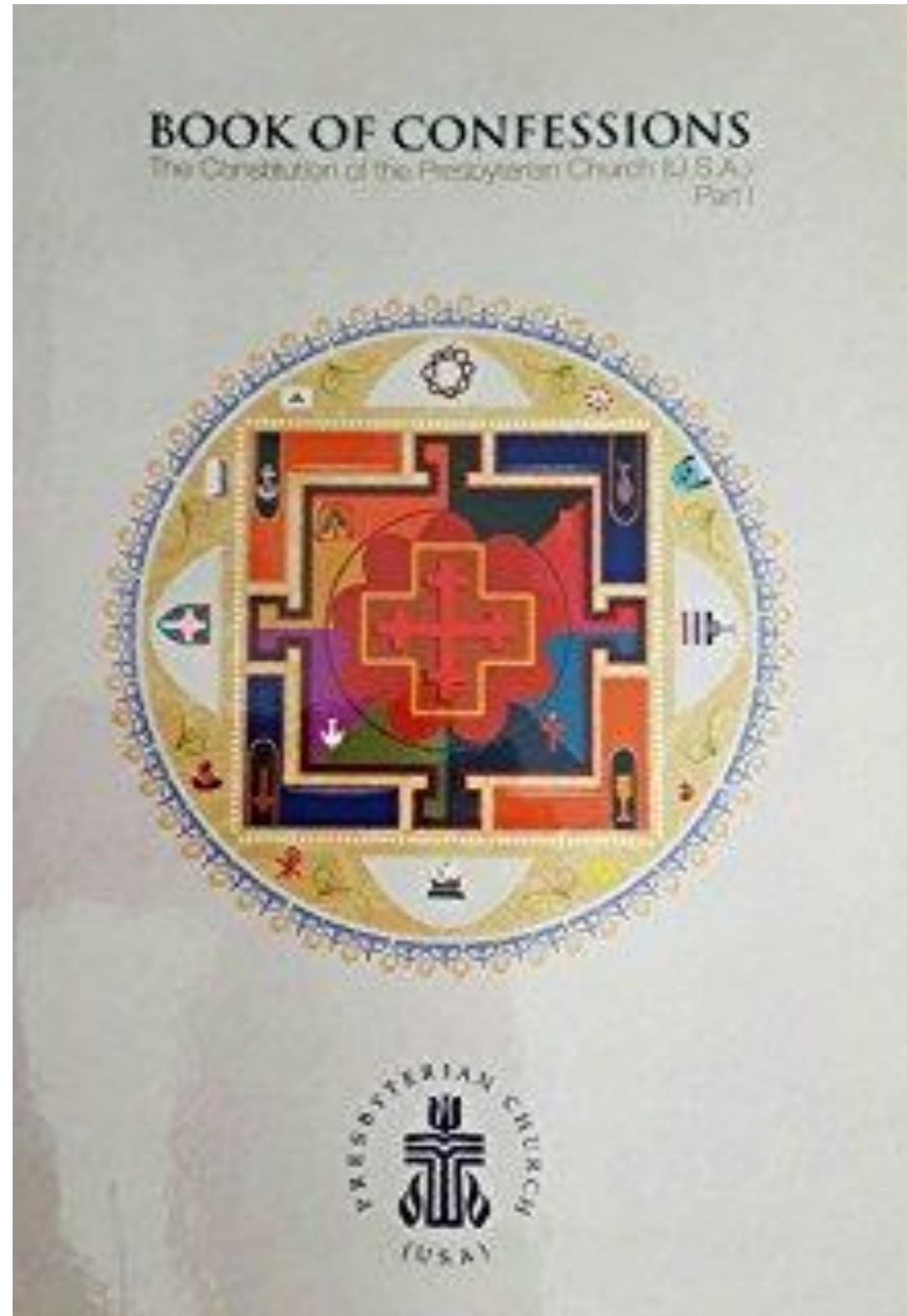
- 1990
- Reunion of Northern and Southern Presbyterian Denominations
- Draws from scripture & historic confessions
- Designed for use in worship



The Belhar Confession

- 2016
- From the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa (1986)
- Written in a period of apartheid
- Addresses the need for justice in all relationships, and the unity of all God's people





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