

The following notes are to help you as you read through the preface of the 1689 London Confession of Faith by providing some historical context that may not be known to you:

Information on the London Confessions of Faith (LCF)

- There are two London Baptist Confessions, each with different editions
 - The First London Confession (1LCF) – 1644, 1646, 1651, and 1652
 - The Second London Confession (2LCF) – 1677, a second edition in 1677, 1688, and 1699
 - <https://pettyfrance.wordpress.com/editions-of-1lcf-and-2lcf/>
- The 1689 London Confession is also called “The Second London Confession”
 - You will notice that there was no edition of the Second London Confession published in 1689
 - The 2LCF is often associated with 1689 because the Baptists in London held a General Assembly where they voted and agreed upon the 2LCF

Vocabulary: Divers

- Divers means several/various. Read it like “diverse” not like “scuba divers”
 - This is a common word in English literature during this period

Purpose, Paragraphs 1-2

- In these two paragraphs the authors mention that it has been “many years since divers (several) of us did conceive ourselves to be under the necessity of publishing a confession of our faith”
 - They are referencing the First London Confession and saying they feel it is time to put forward another confession
 - In paragraph two, they say, “And forasmuch as that Confession is not now commonly to be had,” meaning that the First London Confession was out of print at this time and had become hard to find
- “And forasmuch as our method and manner of expressing our sentiments in this doth vary from the former (although the substance of this matter is the same)”

- They have changed the language and order in which they write their doctrines in the 2nd London Confession, but the doctrines themselves have not changed from the 1st London Confession

The Westminster Assembly, Paragraph 3

- For more information on the “the Assembly” and the “Congregational Way,” see Appendix 2 of the 1689 LCF PDF
- They are referring to two other Confessions put forth in England
 - The Westminster Confession (which becomes the Presbyterian Confession of Faith)
 - The Savoy Declaration
- When they wrote the 1689 LCF, they used the two Confessions above
 - Where they agreed, they left it the same
 - Where they felt some of the language needed to be clarified, they altered the language
 - Where they disagreed, they changed the confession to match their own doctrines
 - It is crucial to understand that they were attempting to clarify Reformed community where they agreed and disagreed
 - They hoped not to cause any problems and wanted peace and love between other Christians even amidst their disagreements
- “wholesome Protestant doctrine”
 - This is a reference to the Reformed doctrines often called “Calvinism” today