

*Things Most Surely Believed Among Us:*  
An Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith  
Chapter 26: Of the Church

**I. THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH** (Paragraphs 1-4)

**II. THE LOCAL CHURCH**

**A. THE ORIGIN OF THE LOCAL CHURCH** (Paragraph 5)

**B. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL CHURCH** (Paragraph 6)

**C. THE AUTHORITY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH** (Paragraph 7)

**D. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

**1. The Identity of Local Church Government** (Paragraph 8)

**2. The Appointment of Local Church Government** (Paragraph 9)

**3. The Support of Local Church Government** (Paragraph 10)

10. The work of pastors being constantly to attend the service of Christ, in his churches, in the ministry of the word and prayer, with watching for their souls, as they that must give an account to Him; it is incumbent on the churches to whom they minister, not only to give them all due respect, but also to communicate to them of all their good things according to their ability, so as they may have a comfortable supply, without being themselves entangled in secular affairs; and may also be capable of exercising hospitality towards others; and this is required by the law of nature, and by the express order of our Lord Jesus, who hath ordained that they that preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.

*A. THE REASON FOR THIS SUPPORT*

*B. THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SUPPORT*

*C. THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS SUPPORT*

*D. THE MEASURE OF THIS SUPPORT*

*E. THE BASIS FOR THIS SUPPORT*

**4. Lay Preachers and Local Church Government** (Paragraph 11)

11. Although it be incumbent on the bishops or pastors of the churches, to be instant in preaching the word, by way of office, yet the work of preaching the word is not so peculiarly confined to them but that others also gifted and fitted by the Holy Spirit for it, and approved and called by the church, may and ought to perform it.

*A. IT IS INCUMBENT ON PASTORS TO BE INSTANT IN PREACHING*

*B. YET THE WORK OF PREACHING IS NOT LIMITED TO PASTORS*

*C. OTHERS MAY AND OUGHT TO PREACH THE WORD*

*i. Who Are Gifted and Fitted by the Holy Spirit for It*

*ii. Who Are Approved and Called by the Church*