Contents

Preface ix
Abbreviations xv
Introduction: Presbyterian Identity in the Postmodern Age 1

Part 1: Presbyterian Beliefs
1. God Is King: The Sovereignty of God 15
2. The Priority of Amazing Grace 33
3. God’s Story, Promise, Reign: Covenant and Kingdom 51
4. What in the World Is the Church? 67
5. Sacraments: Signs and Seals of God’s Grace 82

Part 2: Presbyterian Practices
6. A Heart Aflame: Presbyterian and Reformed Piety 99
7. Gospel-Driven Presbyterian Worship 115
8. “Decently and in Order”: Presbyterian Church Government 132

Part 3: Presbyterian Stories
9. The Glorious Reformation: Calvin, Knox, and the Beginnings of Presbyterianism 151
10. Errand into the Wilderness: Early American Presbyterianism 169
viii

11. The Golden Age: American Presbyterians in the Nineteenth Century 185
12. “A True Presbyterian Church”: Twentieth-Century Presbyterianism in the American North 206
13. “A Continuing Presbyterian Church”: Twentieth-Century Presbyterianism in the American South 226

Epilogue: Becoming Presbyterian 247
Notes 253
Index of Subjects and Names 259
Index of Scripture 269
Index of the Westminster Standards 271