

Welcome to

# Christ Community Church

Membership Conversation!

We call it



*We're glad you are here!*

# Stuff We Will Cover Together

Part 1:

FAQs

What We Believe—EFCA Statement of Faith / Significance of Silence

Part 2:

Christ Community Church's Purpose

"I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church (first ½)

Part 3:

"I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church (second ½)

The Membership Covenant

## **FAQs**

### **1. Who runs the church? Who makes decisions for the church? What's the structure?**

Congregational, elders, commissioners, staff/pastors

### **2. Who are the staff, elders, and commissioner?**

Staff, elders, and commissioners, ministries,

### **3. Why does CCC church exist and what's unique about us?**

Mission, vision, core values

### **4. What is the story of CCC's launch and life?**

The Christ Community Story

### **5. Is CCC part of a denomination? What do we believe?**

EFCA SOF

### **6. What does "church membership" mean at our church?**

I'm in: I'm invited, invaluable, influential, invested

### **7. How do we do ministry and why do we do it that way?**

Commissions, programs, ministries, big events

### **8. What are the expectations of both members and the church organization?**

doesn't come with special privileges like the pastor's cell phone number or guaranteed opportunities to sing on Sunday mornings. Voting and key leader positions only privilege.

Serve, give, love

### **9. Questions you may have?**

# EFCA Statement of Faith

**The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association and fellowship of autonomous and inter-dependent churches united around the same Statement of Faith.**

*Current EFCA Statement of Faith adopted in 2019. CCC adheres to the 2008 Statement of Faith.*

## Articles of Faith

### Article 1. God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

### Article 2. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

### Article 3. The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled, and renewed.

### Article 4. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

### Article 5. The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

## **Article 6. The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

## **Article 7. The Church**

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

## **Article 8. Christian Living**

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

## **Article 9. Christ's Return**

We believe in the personal, bodily, and premillennial\* return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission.

## **Article 10. Response and Eternal Destiny**

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

In 2019, with majority support of member churches, the EFCA voted to change the word "premillennial return" to "glorious return". This change came as a proposal from the EFCA to elevate our primary doctrines and to allow broader acceptance of positions on secondary doctrines. The EFCA sees premillennialism as a secondary doctrine. In fact, some of the strongest proponents of inerrancy in Christian history and today have not been premillennialists. Christ Community Church has chosen at this time to keep the 2008 Statement of Faith to retain unity among the membership. Please see Pastor Rick if you have any questions regarding Article 9 of the EFCA Statement of Faith.

# What does the expression the “Significance of Silence” mean?

In the EFCA, we allow for varying positions within certain acceptable theological parameters on several doctrinal issues. We focus on the essential truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as articulated in our Statement of Faith while allowing differing views/understandings of the position to be acceptable. Some examples of this are; the issue of the age of the earth and universe, time and mode of baptism, Arminianism vs. Calvinism, time of the rapture, differing views on the millennium, Dispensationalism vs. Covenant Theology, and the sign gifts, etc.

We refer to these theological differences as the “significance of silence”. This expression does not mean that we will not discuss and debate these issues but simply that we will not divide over them. Another way to refer to this commitment is “unity in essentials, dialogue in differences.” It is helpful to spell out what this means and what it does not mean:

What it does mean – we affirm the following truths and commitments:

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is central and essential to who we are as the people of God and what we believe.
- We are committed to the essentials of the Gospel in principle and practice, in belief and behavior.
- We acknowledge there are differences in “non-essential” theological views, but they are secondary and ought not to distract from or prevent our shared commitment to the Gospel and the ministry of the Church.
- From the foundation of the essentials, we will engage in robust dialogue regarding the differences, without dividing.

What it does not mean – we clarify the misunderstandings:

- We must remain quiet and passive so that we elect not to talk about theological views or the differences that exist between views.
- This is a lowest-common-denominator theology that values unity at the expense of doctrine.
- One cannot affirm a position but must meld them all together, thus losing one’s own individual ideas and voices.

It is important to remember that maintaining the unity of the church and the dedication to the essentials of the Gospel belongs to all of us and each of us. While the Significance of Silence allows individual members to hold these varying positions, we realize that others may hold a differing view. We are all learners and should therefore help to create a place where all are able to hear, learn, and grow in our faith. How and when one shares their opinions and positions of these non-essentials must be carefully presented. For the sake of clarity of essentials and the prevention of confusion, let us all carefully guard our words and positions, as well as guide any and all disagreement of non-essentials away from division and disunity.

Look what Paul told Timothy, the one whom Paul entrusted with the teachings of the Gospel:

*“Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.” -1 Timothy 6:20-21*

We love that we can be a place where differing positions have a voice, while protecting the core doctrines well. We want you to bring your unique perspectives and thoughts and join with others as we bring hope to our friends and neighbors who need to hear the truth of the Gospel!

# Christ Community Church's Mission

Christ Community Church commits to:

**Being Light • Bringing Hope • Building a Family**

*We love God as we obey His command to love our neighbors well and to experience Jesus together as we multiply disciples across the street and around the world.*

We have a great big **heart** for God and for people. We want to **love** God with everything that is in us. And because of that love for Him, Jesus called us to love others as we love ourselves. We live according to the **Great Commandment** (Matt. 22:36-40) and the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:19-20). This mission will never change, although the model may change.

**OUR LOVE FOR GOD SHOULD CAUSE US TO HURT FOR THE LOST AND BROKEN**

**OUR LOVE FOR GOD SHOULD CREATE IN US A DESIRE TO DO LIFE WITH OTHERS OF FAITH**

## Our Core Values

Evangelism and Disciple-Making, Authentic Worship, Genuine Community, Missions, Love

## What Our Core Values Look Like

1. Jesus first! We trust His Word, follow His lead, and honor Him above all.
2. Everyone belongs. We want to care about the heart, not the skin, the clothes, or the body art.
3. Every age matters. From the emerging generation to the experienced one, we care for all people.
4. We joyfully support our ministries, ministry partners, and missionaries that go to the ends of the earth to share the Gospel.
5. We are driven by purpose, and we will boldly and confidently share the Gospel with all people, helping them to find faith in Christ.
6. We live and lead with authenticity.
7. We are broken people discovering healing together.
8. We discover and use our gifts and become spiritual contributors rather than consumers.
9. As we desire to grow larger, we grow smaller and tighter by being a church of small groups, not just with small groups.

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm Invited: We follow Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Most people live their whole lives without every knowing **why**.

We believe God has made it clear what is His **purpose** for our lives.

1. **God made you to love you** (Jeremiah 31:3, Ephesians 1:4-5).
2. **God wants to have a personal relationship with you** (John 10:10).
3. **You have sinned and lived your life apart from God's rule** (Isaiah 53:6).
4. **Jesus has paid for your sins with his death and resurrection** (Romans 5:8).

This is the beauty of the Gospel. The Message paraphrases 1 Timothy 2:5 this way:  
*God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.*

What does God expect me to do in response to what He has done for me?

1. **Praise God for your salvation!**
2. **Invite others to faith in Jesus.**

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm invited: I will join (or start) a small group.

Our primary way of helping people find freedom and grow spiritually is through **C3 Groups**.

Andy Stanley says, "Life change happens in circles, not in rows." Real life change happens in the context of relationships—small groups. In the Bible, they worshipped in the temple, but ministry happened house to house.

*"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20*

### **C3 Groups Provide Three Things...**

1. **A place to connect** (1 Corinthians 9:22).
2. **A place to protect** (1 John 3:16).
3. **A place to grow** (Proverbs 27:17).

### **How C3 Groups Work**

Our small groups meet in different places—at the church, in homes, and at different times during the week. We want to provide a place for you to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life. C3 Groups are also where we pray, care for one another, and are missed if we don't show up!

### **How to JOIN or START a Group!**

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. You'll discover that it's easier than you think. We're always looking for new groups to start. Could God be directing you to start one? Perhaps you'd rather join an existing group. Either way, let's have a conversation! It's best to connect with the office [officemanager@cccwaseca.org](mailto:officemanager@cccwaseca.org) and then we'll connect you with the Adult Discipleship Commission as quickly as we can! You might also want to check out the Connection Center to see what's going on!

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm Invaluable: I will develop my gifts and serve alongside a team.

Did you know that God **SHAPed** you for significance? He has gifted you and made you uniquely *you* so that you can serve Him according to His purposes. In fact, we believe that **saved people serve people**. And the greatest way to serve God on earth is to serve *people*, whom God loves.

### **SHAPE stands for...**

- **S**piritual Gifts
- **H**ear**t**
- **A**bilities
- **P**ersonality
- **E**xperiences

God has given you a unique mix of these characteristics. When you decided to follow Jesus, you were given **spiritual gifts** to use to serve others within the body of Christ. Your **heart** is passionate about certain things. You have some natural **abilities**—areas you're just good at. You have a unique **personality** that was given to you by God. And you've been through a unique set of **experiences**. God wants to use a mix of all of these characteristics to help you know how and where to serve Him within the body.

For now, here are some areas you may want to **try out**:

First impressions, greeting, hosting, and ushering  
C3 Kids: Babies and toddlers, Preschoolers, Elementary kids  
C3 Students: Jr. & Sr. High  
Prayer ministry  
Sound, video, media  
Music, instrumental, vocal  
Special events  
Building maintenance  
???

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm Influential:

**I will grow in grace (by being Spirit-filled)  
and knowledge (by having a quiet time).**

Attending worship services and being part of a small group are a great start, but there are at least two personal habits you need to develop in your daily life.

### 1. Developing a quiet time for prayer and Bible reading.

- Hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17).
- Reading God's Word (Revelation 1:3).
- Studying God's Word (Acts 17:11).
- Memorizing God's Word (Proverbs 7:2-3).
- Meditating on God's Word (Psalm 1:2-3).

In my daily prayer time, I am:

- Giving devotion to God (2 Chronicles 31:21).
- Getting direction from God (Psalm 25:4-5).

### 2. Living under the influence of the Holy Spirit continually.

The Holy Spirit isn't a substance or a mystical, cosmic force. The Holy Spirit is God—our personal God. He's the third member of the Trinity. The New Testament talks about believers being "filled with" the Holy Spirit, which has to do with being under His influence.

How do we live under the Spirit's influence?

- Remove all the barriers (Acts 2:38).
- Relate to Him daily (2 Corinthians 13:14).
- Remain under His influence (Ephesians 5:18).

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm Invested: I will practice generosity and give regularly.

The Bible says in Matthew 6:24 that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Giving allows us to demonstrate that He is more important to us than material things. Not having cash or check on hand doesn't have to hold you back from giving, you can be obedient today by giving online. There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church!

**GENEROSITY** changes lives—ours and the people to whom we give. At CCC, acting on your generosity is simple. The Bible teaches us about a baseline standard for giving: the **tithe** (a word that literally means a "tenth"). When we give the first 10% of our income through the local church, we put God first in our lives. Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for others. God also encourages us to give offerings beyond our tithe to specific projects at our local church and to other organizations and causes that we personally believe in. This may include Faith Promise giving to support our missionaries.

Whether you'd like to give a single gift, schedule recurring donations, you may give online at [cccwaseca.org](http://cccwaseca.org), or give via the offering boxes at the rear of the worship center.

### What happens with my gift?

We honor your gifts with faithful stewardship, ethical business practices, and full accountability so that the financial integrity of Christ Community Church remains beyond reproach. Christ Community is officially a 501(c)3 status nonprofit organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service.

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm Invested: I will own the mission, living out the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

Every one of us can be part of the mission by following these four principles:

1. Accept personal responsibility.
2. Build personal relationships.
3. Share your personal story.
4. Give a personal invitation.

### **POINTS OF MISSION (Local, National, and Global Outreach)**

*"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

#### **LOCAL: Waseca**

- Bethlehem Inn, Celebrate the Gift, Days of Service

#### **NATIONAL: North America**

- CRU, Urban Impact, Bible Translation, Kid's Ministries

#### **GLOBAL: The Whole World**

- Missionaries in South America, Asia, Africa, Europe

#### **WHAT CAN I DO?**

- Pray (Matthew 9:37-38).
- Go (Isaiah 6:8-9).
- Give (Matthew 6:19-21).

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm Invited:

**I will consider baptism by immersion in water as a believer, if I haven't already been.**

A big step of obedience that every new believer in Jesus should take, is being baptized by immersion in water. While baptism is not required for membership or salvation, we believe it is an important part of the life of a follower of Jesus.

### Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus (Mark 1:9).
2. Because Jesus commands it (Matthew 28:19-20).
3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer (Acts 18:8, 1 John 2:3).

### What does baptism mean?

1. It illustrates Christ's death and resurrection (Colossians 2:12).
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian (Romans 6:4).

### Why baptism by immersion?

1. Jesus was baptized that way (Matthew 3:16).
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion (Acts 8:38-39).
3. The Greek word *baptizo* means to dip under water.
4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

**We believe that everyone who has personally received Christ should be baptized after receiving Him.** We speak honorably of the commitment parents make when they have their children baptized. Similarly, we believe that those who were baptized only as infants to be baptized as believers once they have placed their believing faith in Jesus.

**We invite believing friends and family members to participate in baptisms,** especially when a parent has helped their child receive Jesus.

**People who are baptized at CCC are not required to share their faith story,** but we would love if you were to share your story with us!

# "I'm In" commitments of Christ Community Church

## I'm Invited: Communion (aka, The Lord's Supper)

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers. According to 1 Corinthians 11:23 and following, as well as others...

### What is the Lord's Supper?

1. It is a simple act (1 Corinthians 11:23).
2. It is a reminder (1 Corinthians 11:24)
3. It is a symbol (1 Corinthians 11:25)
4. It is a statement of faith (1 Corinthians 11:26)

### Who should take the Lord's Supper?

All believers and only believers (1 Corinthians 11:29)

### How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

1. Self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:27).
2. Recommitment (Romans 12:1).
3. Confession of sin (1 John 1:9).
4. Restoring relationships (Matthew 5:23-24).

### When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. At CCC, our desire is that the Lord's Supper be a teaching and learning moment in addition to being a worship moment. So, we observe communion about once per month, usually the first Sunday of the month. All followers of Jesus are invited to partake, not only members.

# The Membership Covenant

***If you are ready to become an official member of Christ Community Church, complete the MEMBERSHIP COVENANT form and save as your commitment.***

I have placed my faith and trust in Jesus, and I am confident of my salvation in Him. I will prayerfully do my best to live a life worthy of this Faith. I affirm the Statement of Faith of Christ Community Church and I agree with the teachings of the EFCA. I joyfully desire and pursue membership at Christ Community Church. Being led by the Holy Spirit, I joyfully unite with the church, committing myself to God and the other members.

**As a member of Christ Community Church, I will do my best to faithfully fulfill the following expectations:**

**1. I will protect the unity of my church** by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following those who lead me (Romans 12:9-21, 15:5, 19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17).

**2. I will share the responsibility of my church** by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit (1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7).

**3. I will serve the ministry of my church** by discovering my gifts and talents, developing a servant's heart, and seeking God to lead me to serve in the church (Romans 12:3-8, 1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7).

**4. I will support the testimony of my church** by attending faithfully, living according to the teachings of my church, and giving regularly (Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2).

**5. I will perform the tasks of my church** by attending annual and special meetings, voting for officers and the budget, and when the Lord leads, pursue leadership.

I affirm the content of this packet and the above Membership Covenant,  
and I am ready to say, "I'm In" at Christ Community Church!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

What's next? Upon completing this class and filling out this application, please return it to the church office. The office manager will forward the application to the elders. A couple elders will connect with you to set up an "interview", so they can get to know you, your faith story, and answer any questions you may have. After that, the elders will recommend your membership to the congregation. Members of the congregation vote on new members, so the elders will then place copies of your testimony in the boxes of the members one week before a congregational meeting, where the congregation will vote to affirm your membership. The congregation loves reading the testimonies of new members and it speeds up the meeting to distribute them early. Thanks for your understanding! Please ask if you have any questions!