

## CCE – Basic Church – Session #5 Membership Question #4:

*Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?*

### What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus at Community Church?

Matthew 28:16-20 (ESV)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### Notes:

- Disciples are not spiritual elites. Discipleship is not for premier Christian leaders. Every true Christian is a disciple of Jesus on the path of discipleship.
- Disciples worship, doubt, disciples GO, disciples are made and they make, they are baptized, they teach and are taught; they learn to obey. The whole project is grounded in Jesus’ authority, and his presence sustains the effort.

What is the vision of Community Church of Ephrata?

We are a community of disciples who:

- Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus
- Worship the triune God
- Care for our members and our wider community

## Discipleship Statement

**BEING** We are a community of disciples who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, worship the triune God, and care for our community. We help each other depend upon God. We follow God's calling to be faithful in bearing witness to His salvation through Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit.

**Being who God made us to be, we commit ourselves to know the following basic scriptures and doctrines<sup>1</sup> by:**

Memorizing the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed and the 5 *solas* defined in the Reformation.

**KNOWING** Understanding the Bible's overall message of creation, rebellion, redemption and consummation and its promise of salvation through God's covenants with his people.

Growing in our knowledge of God by habitual prayer and Bible study.

**DOING** We regularly worship together and involve ourselves in scripture-based small groups. We seek to support each other in nurturing our own families and spheres of influence in spiritual care. We have committed to formal membership at CCE and **support our church with our time, treasure and talent.**

We see service and Gospel-mission as central to the calling of our Master. Our personal lives thus reflect a regular **pattern of outreach** using our spiritual gifts. As we follow Jesus, we trust that our lives will evidence an increase of love for God and our neighbors.

**If this is what CCE Elders expect from the members, what can members expect from elders?**

**Servant Leadership** – Called shepherds serving the Great Shepherd

**\*KNOW \*FEED \*LEAD \*PROTECT**

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<sup>1</sup> We teach and "unpack" these through our various discipleship ministries (children's, small groups, membership classes, Sunday School, etc.).

## WHAT DOES OUR CHURCH BELIEVE? EPC ESSENTIALS OF OUR FAITH

**The Evangelical Presbyterian Church** believes that all Scripture is the self-attesting, inspired Word of God. Since Scripture is Truth, it requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks (2 Timothy 3:16-17). On this sure foundation we affirm these *seven essentials* of our faith below. Our 'essentials' are non-negotiable. On other matters we seek unity and charity, which is why our adopted motto is, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity."

**FIRST, WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD** (Deut. 6:4-6, Mark 12:29), the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 29:19). To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!

**SECOND, WE BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST**, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth (John 1:1-18). He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator (Eph. 2, Heb. 7).

**THIRD, WE BELIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT** has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior. Indwelling our hearts, he gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption (John 14:15-31, 16:4-15, Eph. 1:13-14).

**FOURTH, WE BELIEVE OUR SALVATION** is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace because without God, we are estranged from Him and condemned by our sinfulness (Eph. 2:1-10, Romans 11:6). God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight (Gal. 3:1-14). Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life (John 3:1-21).

**FIFTH, WE BELIEVE THE TRUE CHURCH** is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and the sacraments are administered in their integrity (I Cor. 11:17-34); where scriptural discipline is practiced (Matt. 18:15-20), and where loving fellowship is maintained (I Cor. 1:2). For her perfecting, she awaits the return of her Lord (Rev. 21:1-7).

**SIXTH, WE BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN** to the earth personally, visibly, and bodily to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus," (Rev. 22:20)

**SEVENTH, JESUS COMMANDS** all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us." He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10).

## Community Church Memory Work

### Ten Commandments

1. One God
2. No Idols
3. Respect God's Name
4. Remember the Sabbath day
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Don't murder
7. Don't commit adultery
8. Don't steal
9. Don't lie
10. Don't Covet

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done  
On earth, as it is in heaven  
Give us this day, our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive  
Those who sin against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For Thine is the Kingdom  
And the Power and the Glory forever  
Amen

### 4 Parts of the Bible's Message

1. Creation
2. Rebellion
3. Redemption
4. Consummation

### Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord  
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit  
Born of the Virgin Mary  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate  
Was crucified, dead and buried  
He descended to the dead  
On the third day he rose again  
And ascended into heaven  
And is seated at the right hand  
Of God the Father Almighty  
From there he will come to judge the living and  
the dead  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
The holy catholic (universal) church  
The communion of the saints  
The forgiveness of sins  
The resurrection of the flesh  
And the life everlasting, Amen

### 5 "Solas" of the Reformation

#### God saves us:

1. By grace alone
2. Through faith alone
3. In Christ alone
4. For the glory of God alone

#### We learn this:

5. From Scripture alone

#### God's Promises

- Creation is good (Adam)
- God has a place for believers (Abraham)
- God saves through judgement (Noah)
- God reveals his character and will (Moses)
- God's people will have a king (David)
- God will have a people who love him from the heart; he will save his people from their sin (Jesus)