

BYLAWS

These Bylaws, effective May 1, 2023, prescribe the rules governing the affairs of Creekside Evangelical Free Church of Rocklin, California.

Article I: CONGREGATION

SECTION A – MEMBERSHIP

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.” Romans 12:10

Church membership expresses a commitment to God. Members must be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, committed to the mission of His Church, and to the organized body of believers known as Creekside Evangelical Free Church. Because local church involvement is so important in a Christian’s life, membership is highly encouraged. Membership establishes a formal relationship with Creekside and includes both responsibilities and benefits for the Christian.

1. Procedure for Membership

Any person eighteen years of age or older who has regularly attended and participated in Creekside Evangelical Free Church for six months and who desires to unite with the Church shall complete the following actions in order to become a member. While these steps must all be successfully performed, they need not be completed in any particular order.

- a. State an intention to join Creekside Evangelical Free Church as a member by attending and completing a membership class. Membership classes shall be offered no less often than annually. At the Membership class a copy of the EFC Statement of Faith, the Creekside then existing Bylaws, among other things, shall be distributed and reviewed.
- b. Sign a Church Membership Covenant.
- c. Provide a written testimony to a member of the Board of Elders of the person’s acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The written testimony will be reviewed by no less than two Elders, who will accept the testimony or will ask for further clarification to ensure the legitimacy of the testimony. If the testimony is verbal, it must be given in the presence of, and accepted by, two or more Elders.
- d. Complete a Follow group study.

Upon completion of the required acts, and approval by the Board of Elders, the new member(s) will be notified of their new member status.

2. Discipline of Members

Church discipline is a process which seeks to restore a member involved in outward and rebellious sin. The process of discipline is outlined in Matt 18:15–17. Upon repentance, the elders may restore fellowship and return their name to the church roll.

3. Membership Roll

The Church staff and Board of Elders shall maintain a current Membership Roll which shall be updated as new members are added. During the first quarter of each calendar year (ending March 31), the Board of Elders shall conduct a review of the Membership Roll. The purpose of the review shall be:

- a. To verify that all those who have completed the requirements for membership during the previous year are included on the Membership Roll.
- b. To identify any individuals listed on the Membership Roll who have resigned or transferred their membership and remove those individuals from the Membership Roll.
- c. To determine if there are any individuals listed on the Membership Roll who have not been regularly attending and participating in the activities and ministries of Creekside Church. If any such persons are identified, the Board of Elders shall initiate an attempt to contact the member to determine the individual's desire for continued membership. If attempts to contact the person are not successful, the individual shall be removed from membership.

4. Removal from Membership Roll

The privilege of church membership involves the responsibility for regular attendance at a church service, unless prevented by a legitimate reason such as illness. Members who no longer are actively attending and participating at Creekside Church are asked to notify an Elder or a Pastor that they want to resign from membership or ask for a letter of Transfer of Membership.

Removal from the Membership may occur:

1. At the request of the member who:
 - a. No longer attends...
 - i. or actively participates in the activities of Creekside Church, or
 - ii. Has permanently moved out of the area, or
 - iii. Has asked for a letter of Transfer of Membership.
2. The Board of Elders, through consent, may ask a member to resign or may remove a member from the Membership Roll after one or more of the following:
 - a. Failure to comply with the Membership Covenant, or
 - b. Prolonged lack of attendance and inactivity without sufficient reason, or
 - c. Discipline as outlined in Matthew 18: 15–17. Upon repentance, the elders may restore fellowship and return their name to the church roll.

SECTION B – MEETINGS

1. Annual Meetings

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting held during the last quarter of the Church's fiscal year (April 1 to June 30) to:

- a. Vote on those candidates for Elder who have been recommended by the Board of Elders for the coming year.
- b. Consider and approve a proposed budget for the following fiscal year.
- c. Receive reports from the various organized groups functioning within the Church.
- d. Receive a presentation from the Church Staff and Board of Elders concerning the Ministries, Vision, and Direction of the Church for the coming year.
- e. Such other church business that the Board of Elders determine to present to the congregation.

At least 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting, an agenda for the Annual Meeting, the proposed Annual budget, and a list of Elder candidates shall be delivered to the household of all members. The agenda shall be sent electronically to all members at the member's church listed email address.

2. Special Meetings

Special Meetings may be scheduled by the Board of Elders as needed. Two weeks advance Notice of Special Meetings shall be given to the members unless the Board of Elders determines a pressing need necessitates a shorter amount of notice.

3. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 25% of the membership.

4. Eligibility to Vote

- a. All members of the congregation in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting or Special Business Meeting shall be eligible to vote.
- b. An absentee ballot may be used for voting if requested at least two days before the Annual or Special Meeting. The request for an absentee ballot may be made in person, by phone, or email to the Operations Director.
- c. The absentee ballot may be returned by hand delivery, US mail, or email. If the absentee ballot is received by the close of business two days after the Annual or Special Meeting, it shall be counted.
- d. The absentee ballot shall contain a statement signed by the member that he or she has watched either the live-stream or recorded version of the Annual or Special Meeting prior to returning the absentee ballot.
- e. Absentee ballots shall not be considered in determining whether or not a quorum is present for the meeting.

5. Officials

The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside at the Annual Business Meetings and Special Business Meetings of the Congregation.

6. Location of Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated in the notice of either an Annual or Special Meeting, meetings shall be held at the current church facility.

In the event the Board of Elders determines an in-person meeting cannot be conducted, an electronic meeting with electronic voting may be held. In the event the decision is made to hold an electronic meeting, notice of such a meeting shall be given as set forth above.

Article II: Organizational Structure

Under the Leadership of the Board of Elders, Creekside Evangelical Free Church shall be organized to efficiently and effectively carry out the mission and purposes of the Church as set forth in the Church's Bylaws. The Church's mission shall be carried out by the active participation and involvement of the Membership, Lay Elders, Lead Pastor, the Church Staff, and those serving in Ministries.

SECTION A – THE LEAD PASTOR

The Lead Pastor shall serve as one of the shepherds of the Church providing spiritual leadership, guidance, and teaching. The full duties and responsibilities of the Lead Pastor shall be established by the Board of Elders. The Lead Pastor shall serve as a member of the Board of Elders. The Lead Pastor shall be accountable to God and the Board of Elders. The Lead Pastor shall serve at the pleasure of the membership.

SECTION B – THE CHURCH STAFF

The Church Staff will consist of those persons the Lead Pastor recommends to the Board of Elders who are necessary and essential to carry out the ministries and programs of the Church. After a recommendation for the hiring of a staff person is made to the Board of Elders by the Lead Pastor, the Board of Elders shall determine whether the hiring would be beneficial to the viability and mission of the Church. The overall duties and responsibilities of the Church staff shall be established by the Board of Elders and the Lead Pastor. The Church Staff will report directly to the Lead Pastor unless otherwise established by the Board of Elders. Persons employed as Church Staff shall do so at the pleasure of the Board of Elders.

SECTION C – THE BOARD OF ELDERS

The Board of Elders shall be elected to serve by the Congregation at the Church's Annual Business Meeting. The Board of Elders shall serve as shepherds for the Church, responsible for providing insight and direction in the Spiritual health and growth of the Members and the Church's ministries. The Board of Elders shall ensure the Church is operating within the moral,

social, philosophical, doctrinal, and financial boundaries established for the Church. In addition, the Board of Elders shall provide a system of encouragement, guidance, constraints, and wise counsel to the Lead Pastor in carrying out the Church's mission and ministries.

In order to effectively carry out the mission and purposes of the Church, the Board of Elders may establish Boards, Task Forces, and/or Teams. A Board is long-standing, but not permanent, in nature with a particular area of oversight. A Task Force is assigned a specific project or task with a clear beginning and end. A Team is an ongoing group involved in implementing ministry. The Board of Elders may disband a Board, Task Force, or Team that the Board of Elders determines when the purpose of that group has been accomplished or is no longer necessary for the successful functioning of the Church.

SECTION D – MINISTRIES

The Pastoral Staff shall administer the Ministries of the Church with oversight from the Board of Elders. A Ministry and its leadership must be approved by the supervising Pastor or the Board of Elders. Those who teach the Word shall be held to a high standard of personal conduct and doctrinal integrity (James 3:1,2, Timothy 2:15). The Pastor who is assigned supervising responsibility for each church ministry will maintain interaction with the ministry leadership to strengthen spiritual direction, help solve problems, enhance communication, and ensure ministry progress towards its goals and accountability. A ministry shall be considered a part of the Church activity after its plans have been submitted and approved by the supervising Pastor and communicated to the Board of Elders.

SECTION E – MEMBERSHIP

The Members shall use their time, talents, treasures and spiritual gifts to carry out the mission and ministries of the church.

Article III: Elders

SECTION A – QUALIFICATIONS

1. Elders are called to be shepherds of God's flock, exercising oversight (I Peter 5:1-3 & John 21:15-17), therefore a leadership qualification for being an Elder at Creekside is that the candidate is demonstrating spiritual leadership in discipleship, evangelism and shepherding.
2. Because Elders are spoken of as men, the Eldership will be held only by men who are members of this church.
3. Creekside Elders are spiritual leaders, therefore a qualification is that each Elder candidate must be actively living out the vision of Creekside Church and is leading others to do the same (John 17:22,23, Ephesians 4:1-6, and II Timothy 2:2).
4. Because of the high degree of authority and responsibility vested in the Elders, God requires that they meet the spiritual qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-11.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS (I TIMOTHY 3: 1–7, TITUS 1: 5–9)

PERSONAL

1. “Temperate” – well balanced, avoiding extremes.
2. “Prudent” – wisdom derived from a good thought process, not given to quick and superficial judgments.
3. “Not addicted to wine” – not prone to excessive drinking where control is lost.
4. “Not pugnacious” – not picking fights, not given to violent outbursts.
5. “Gentle” – patient, kind, forbearing spirit.
6. “Not contentious” – characterized by cooperation, willing to see other viewpoints, not striving to win an argument.
7. “Free from love of money” – not serving for personal financial gain.
8. “Not a novice” – having been saved long enough to evidence a spiritual maturity.
9. “Not self-willed” – not forcing one’s opinions on others, void of a stubborn, resistant will.
10. “Not quick tempered” – not easily angered or upset.
11. “Loving what is good” – being loyal to moral and ethical values.
12. “Just” – make judgments based on objective principles, not personal bias.
13. “Devout” – evidence of strong desire to be holy.
14. “Self-controlled” – being able to control oneself under adverse or tempting circumstances.

PUBLIC

1. “Above reproach” – having no questionable conduct that would bring accusations.
2. “Hospitable” – being receptive and open to people, willing to share.
3. “Good reputation with the unsaved” – to receive a commendable report from those who are outside of the church concerning the man’s morals and goodness.

FAMILY

1. “Husband of one wife” – literally, “a one-woman type of man” (loyal to her and her alone) not a flirtatious man but one who is content with his wife (this does not disqualify a man who has been divorced and remarried – however, careful examination should be exercised).
2. “Manage his own household well” – to be recognized as the spiritual leader in one’s home, leading the family by godly principles.
3. “Children under control with dignity” – having children who obey respectfully.
4. “Children who believe, not accused of rebellion or dissipation” – having children who display faithfulness, who are not living wantonly, who are not rebellious or defying their fathers.

MINISTRY

1. “Able to teach” – having the ability to accurately explain God’s truth.
2. “Holding fast the word of truth” – being firm in doctrine and not compromising scripture.
3. “Exhort with sound doctrine” – encouraging believers by means of sound doctrine.
4. “Refute those who contradict” – standing against false or self-serving teaching but in a non-argumentative way (II Timothy 2:24–26).

SECTION B – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Board of Elders and Lead Pastor are responsible for the overall management and spiritual direction of the church (Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:5). The Board of Elders and Lead Pastor shall determine the priorities and objectives of the church from the Scriptures.
2. The Board of Elders is the sole and final authoritative interpreter of Scripture for Creekside Church.
3. The Board of Elders and Lead Pastor shall determine the ministries that will best reach these objectives and set the policy and practice for said ministries in the life of the church.
4. The Board of Elders, whenever possible, shall carry out its work through Boards, Task Forces, and Teams they may appoint. The Board of Elders shall give leadership and direction to the various groups they may appoint, taking the chairmanship or assisting in the appointment of such a person.
5. The Board of Elders may appoint and designate Deacons and Deaconesses as the need should arise for ministry in accordance with the Scriptures (Acts 6:1–7, Rom. 16:1, I Tim 3:10–13).
6. No later than at the second meeting of the Board of Elders following the Annual Business Meeting, the Board of Elders shall annually elect from its lay leadership a President, who shall serve as Chairman. At the same time, the Board of Elders shall elect from its lay leadership a Secretary and a Treasurer. A Lay Elder may only hold one office at any given time. (The officers of the Board of Elders shall be the officers of the Corporation.)
7. No later than at the second meeting of the Board of Elders following the Annual Business Meeting occurring in even calendar years, the Board of Elders shall review the Bylaws of the Church to ensure the Church is operating within the parameters established by the Bylaws.

SECTION C – REST AND REMOVAL

1. Removal of Elder

- a. Removal for Cause. A lay Elder whose conduct is not above reproach as described in 1 Timothy 3 and who refuses to repent after being confronted with such behavior by the other members of the Board of Elders, may be removed by a vote of 3/4 of the other members of the Board of Elders.
- b. Removal for Lack of Unity. A lay Elder who repeatedly disrupts the unity of the Board of Elders and fails to change after the issue has been addressed by the Board of Elders may be removed by a vote of 3/4 of the other members of the Board of Elders.

2. Elder Sabbaticals and Leaves of Absence

- a. Sabbatical After Six Years. A lay Elder who has served for six consecutive years as an Elder shall take a one year sabbatical from service as an Elder at the commencement of his seventh year of service. An Elder on sabbatical who feels called to return to the Elder Board for the following church fiscal year, may have his name placed on the annual meeting ballot to be affirmed as an Elder by the congregation for the following church fiscal year. An Elder on sabbatical who feels called to return to the Elder board shall notify the Chairman of the Elder Board and Lead Pastor prior to February 1 of his intent to have his name placed on the annual meeting ballot. An Elder who has taken a

sabbatical may thereafter continue to be affirmed annually as an Elder by the congregation for another six consecutive years before being required to take another sabbatical. When possible, only one Elder shall be on Sabbatical during any church fiscal year.

- b. Leave of Absence. An Elder may take a Leave of Absence. The Elder shall notify the Chairman of the Elder Board and Lead Pastor of his decision to take a Leave of Absence. The Leave of Absence may be of such duration as the Elder determines but not beyond the end of the church fiscal year. If during the church fiscal year the Elder decides to end his Leave of Absence, upon notifying the Chairman of the Elder Board and Lead Pastor of this decision, the Elder shall return to the Elder Board. If an Elder on a Leave of Absence intends to have his name placed on the church ballot as a returning Elder for the following fiscal year, he shall notify the Chairman of the Elder Board and Lead Pastor prior to February 1. Leave of Absence time shall not be considered an interruption in service for the purpose of determining when a sabbatical shall be taken.

SECTION D – APPOINTMENT AND SELECTION

1. The Board of Elders shall consist of the Lead Pastor and at least four, but no more than 12 Lay Elders. The Board of Elders may also include Pastors on staff at this Church. Lay Elders are Elders who are not pastoral staff.
2. The Board of Elders is responsible to seek and develop elders who meet the qualifications as defined in Article III, Section A of these bylaws. The congregation is also encouraged to recommend for consideration potential elders to the Board of Elders throughout the year.
3. Every year, prior to the annual meeting, the Board of Elders will nominate potential elders. Nominees will be prayed for, privately interviewed, and carefully examined by the Board of Elders as to the nominee's qualifications and desire to serve. To become a candidate for the office of Elder the nominee must receive the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Elders.
4. The names of those candidates recommended by the Board of Elders, including those elders who are currently serving, shall be presented to the congregation for review at least fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
5. The candidates for the position of Elder, shall be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting using written ballots. The written ballots shall provide a "Yes" or "No" vote for each candidate. Each candidate who receives "Yes" votes from at least three-quarters (3/4) of those members voting at the Annual Business Meeting, shall be appointed to the Board of Elders for the coming church year.

SECTION E – VACANCIES RESULTING IN LESS THAN FOUR ELDERS

A vacancy or vacancies created by the resignation or removal of a Lay Elder is not required to be filled unless the resulting number of Lay Elders is less than four.

In the event of a vacancy or vacancies in the Board of Elders results in less than four serving Lay Elders, the Board of Elders shall confer and identify potential nominees to fill the vacancy or vacancies. The Board of Elders shall call a Special Business Meeting for the purpose of returning the Board of Elders to four lay members. The Membership shall vote to approve the person(s) nominated by the Board of Elders. If the person nominated by the Board of Elders receives three-quarters (3/4) approval from the Membership voting, the nominee shall serve

as a member of the Board of Elders until the next Annual Business Meeting at which time the Elder may be re-elected by the Membership to the Office of Elder for the next Church year.

Article IV: LEAD PASTOR

SECTION A – QUALIFICATIONS OF THE LEAD PASTOR

The Lead Pastor must possess the gifts, training, and experience sufficient for him to fully teach and preach the Word of God. As a teaching Elder, he must meet the scriptural qualifications given in I Timothy and Titus.

SECTION B – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEAD PASTOR

1. Ministry in Word and Prayer

- a. As a teaching-shepherd, he is to devote himself primarily to the study and application of the Word and to prayer (Acts 6:4, I Timothy 5:17; II Timothy 2:15).
- b. His task as teaching-shepherd is to “equip the saints for works of service” (Eph 4:12).
- c. As spiritual leader he shall maintain an attitude of servanthood and being an example to the flock (I Peter 5:1-3).

2. Administrative Tasks

- a. In conjunction with the Board of Elders the Lead Pastor shall be the one with the task of establishing the overall direction of the Church as the Lord leads through prayer and the study of the Word.
- b. As spiritual leader and co-laborer he shall work with the Board of Elders in establishing and implementing the objectives and goals of the Church.
- c. He shall foster the effective functioning of the Church staff, helping to establish priorities in their respective areas of ministry and providing a coordinated effort to the Church body.

SECTION C – PASTORAL CALL

After prayerful consideration, examination, and investigation, the Board of Elders shall recommend a candidate for approval by the Membership. Only such men shall be recommended who wholeheartedly accept the purpose and statement of faith of this Church and are in agreement with Creekside’s Bylaws. The Membership shall vote for approval of the candidate at either the Annual Business Meeting or a Special Business Meeting. The vote shall be by secret ballot and require a three-quarters (3/4) affirmative approval of the church membership voting at the meeting.

SECTION D – PASTORAL RELEASE FROM CALLING (DISMISSAL)

1. If the Lead Pastor wishes to resign his calling, a Letter of Intent must be given to the Board of Elders ninety (90) days prior to the effective termination date. A shorter notice may be granted in the Board of Elders’ discretion.

2. If the Lay Elders determine the Lead Pastor is not fulfilling his responsibilities they must develop a ninety (90) day course of action for the Lead Pastor to resolve the problem. If, after ninety (90) days the problem is not resolved to the satisfaction of three-fourths (3/4) of the Lay Elders, the Board of Elders may call a Special Business Meeting and recommend to the Membership a release of the Lead Pastor.
3. No accusation against the Lead Pastor shall be considered unless supported in a letter by at least two or three witnesses specifying the nature and evidence of the charges (I Tim. 5:19–21). Should it be proven to the satisfaction of the Lay Elders that the Lead Pastor has erred in doctrine or conduct, he shall be lovingly admonished and held accountable up to and including include potential release from his position.
4. In the event the Lead Pastor’s conduct disqualifies him from the Office of Elder, the Lay Elders shall have the responsibility and authority to consider and make necessary recommendations to the Membership, including immediate dismissal.
5. The Lead Pastor shall be released from his call if the recommendation of the Board of Elders is affirmed by at least $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the membership voting. In the event the Board of Elders recommends a release of the Lead Pastor and the Membership does not approve the recommendation, the Board of Elders shall resign and the Membership shall elect a new Board of Elders.

Article V: CHURCH STAFF

SECTION A – HIRING

All members of the Church staff other than the Lead Pastor shall be recommended by the Lead Pastor and approved by the Board of Elders.

SECTION B – RESIGNATION

Notice of resignation for Pastors and Directors shall be delivered in writing to the Board of Elders at least 90 days in advance of the effective termination date. A shorter notice may be considered by the Board of Elders if requested, but in no case shall the advance notice be less than 30 days.

SECTION C – DISMISSAL

Members of the Church Staff may be dismissed by the Board of Elders.

Article VI: Budget and Finances

SECTION A – FINANCIAL POLICY

The financial policies of the Church shall be the responsibility of the Board of Elders.

SECTION B – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Church shall encompass the period starting July 1 & ending June 30.

SECTION C – ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of each fiscal year, it shall be the responsibility of the Board of Elders to retain an accountant to perform an annual independent review of the church's financial records or such other review as determined by the Board of Elders.

SECTION D – BUDGET

The proposed budget will be approved by the congregation at the annual meeting, and finalized within 30 days after the start of the new fiscal year. If the proposed budget changes by more than 5% for either projected income or expenses, then a revised budget approved by the Elders will be presented to the congregation.

SECTION E – BANKING PRACTICES

No member of the Pastoral Staff shall be a signatory on any of the Church's financial accounts.

Article VII: Amendments

SECTION A – AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted by a church member to the Board of Elders. To qualify for consideration by the Membership the proposed amendments must be submitted to the Board of Elders at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The proposed amendment must be approved by the Board of Elders. If approved by the Board of Elders, the proposed amendment shall be presented to the Membership at least fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The proposed amendment shall be adopted as an Amendment to the Bylaws if approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the Membership voting, in writing, at the Annual Business Meeting.

SECTION B – AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF ELDERS

The Board of Elders may recommend to the Membership Amendments to the Bylaws. Any such amendment shall be presented to the Membership at least fifteen (15) days before an Annual Meeting or at least fifteen (15) days before a Special Meeting called by the Board of Elders for the purpose of adopting the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment shall be adopted as an Amendment to the Bylaws if approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the Membership voting at the Annual Meeting or Special Business Meeting.

Article VIII: Statement of Faith

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious 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.

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.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Evangelical Free Church of America The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around the theological convictions above.