

THE CHURCH

A. The nature of the Church - We believe the Church, in its universal context as the body of Christ, is composed of all believers regardless of name, race, nation or generation. The local church, as a part of that body, is composed of a group of believers in Christ who have voluntarily joined together and are devoted to one another in love, so that the church can fulfill its purpose and mission. (1 Corinthians 12:13, 27; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22; Colossians 1:18-20; Revelation 5:9)

B. The purpose of the Church - The purpose of the Church is to glorify God. The Church glorifies God through worship and faithful participation in its God-given mission. (Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 1:11-14; 1 Peter 4:11)

C. The mission of the Church - The mission of the Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Central to this mission is the proclamation of the Word of God for the equipping of each believer to become an effective witness so that the Church will grow to the glory of God. The local church seeks to accomplish its mission by gathering together to participate in worship, instruction, fellowship and service, so that each believer will grow into the full measure of the stature of Christ and, in obedience to Him, will reach out in witness to unbelievers. As the Church makes disciples, it becomes a force for restraining evil and producing righteousness in the world. (Matthew 28:18-20; Act 1:8; Acts 2:42-47)

D. The ordinances of the Church - We believe that an ordinance is an outward ceremony symbolic of a spiritual truth or experience which was instituted by Christ for perpetual use by the Church. It is not a means of salvation but becomes a source of spiritual inspiration and strength as one is obedient to the Lord's command. We believe that the Christian ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism -

- We believe water baptism symbolizes the experience of regeneration and union with Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19) It is a public confession of the believer's identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. (Colossians 2:12)
- Baptism is to be administered to believers only, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We encourage immersion because this form of baptism clearly symbolizes its spiritual significance. However, other modes are recognized. Water baptism does not save or cleanse from sin. It is the answer of a good conscience toward God. Because of the scriptural instruction to baptize those who believe, because of the scriptural example that those who believed were baptized, and because of the clear meaning of baptism as indicated above, we recognize only baptism administered after a person has confessed faith in Jesus Christ, and we expect that all believers will be baptized. (Acts 8:36-38, 16:30-34)
- If you have confessed faith in Jesus Christ, and would like to publicly identify yourself with him through the ordinance of baptism, please contact any of our pastors.

The Lord's Supper -

- We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ on the night of His betrayal and is to be observed by His Church until He returns. (Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:26)
- We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, an expression of fellowship with God and with other believers, a testimony to saving faith, a visible seal of Christ's redemptive covenant, and the assurance of His promised return.
- The Lord's Supper consists of partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, symbolizes the broken body and shed blood of Christ for the remission of our sins and reaffirms our continuing dependence upon Him. Its observance is to be preceded by honest self-examination. (Corinthians 11:27-29)
- The communion table is open to all believers who know themselves to be in right relationship to God.
- Crossroads celebrates communion during two special services each year - the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving and on Maundy Thursday prior to Easter. Additionally, we try to incorporate communion into our normal Sunday morning worship services between 4-6 times a year.

THE FINAL THINGS

The second advent of Christ - We believe in the personal, visible and premillennial return of Christ. (Acts 1:11b; John 14:2b-3; Mark 13:22-27)

The judgments - We believe the believer's works will be judged for rewards at the judgment seat of Christ at the time of His coming, the believer's sins having been judged in Christ upon the cross. (John 5:24; Romans 14:10c, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:8-15, 4:5; 2 Timothy 4:8)

**For a more detailed doctrinal statement and papers of position on abortion, credentialing divorced persons, homosexuality, marriage, divorce and remarriage, the role of women in the Church, etc. visit our conference (Fellowship of Evangelical Churches) website at www.fecministries.org.

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