



God Changing the World Through Your Faith

What We Believe @ Springfield Community Church

While the Elders and leadership of Springfield CC hold to the full doctrinal statement, we understand that there is room for differing interpretations in what we consider the “*non-essentials*.” Consequently, it is possible to become a member of Springfield CC even though you may not agree with the full doctrinal statement. Every member, however, is required to agree with Springfield's seven essentials:

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1. The Bible

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, and the supreme and final authority in doctrine and practice (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; John 17:17*).

2. The Trinity

We believe there is one God, that the Father and the Son and the Spirit are each God, and that the Father and the Son and the Spirit are each a distinct person (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; see also 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 2:9; Acts 5:3-4*).

3. Jesus Christ

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God, fulfill prophecy, and redeem sinful man. We believe He accomplished our redemption through His substitutionary sacrifice on the cross, His burial, and His bodily resurrection. We believe our redemption and salvation are guaranteed by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead and that He is the only means of salvation (*John 1:1; 14; 18; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24-26; 4:25; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Timothy 2:5*).

We believe that Jesus Christ is the visible image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, the Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, and the Head of the church. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted to the right hand of God where, as High Priest to His people, He serves as our Advocate and intercedes for us (*Colossians 1:15-19; Hebrews 1:3; 3:1; 7:23-25; 1 John 2:1-2*).

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe God the Holy Spirit is a person who restrains evil in the world and convicts' men of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He dwells in all who believe in Jesus. From the moment of belief in the Son, the Spirit baptizes believers into the body, seals them for salvation, regenerates them to new life, bestows spiritual gifts on each one, and is fully present to continually fill (control and guide) His own (*John 16:7-11; John 3:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 13; John 14:16-17; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19*).



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5. Man

We believe man was created innocent and, in the image, and likeness of God, but that man sinned, bringing both physical and spiritual death to himself and his posterity ([Genesis 1:27; 2:17; 3:19](#)). Man can do nothing to merit God's favor, and as such, is in need of salvation ([Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23](#)). We believe that mankind's sinful nature is rebellious toward God and His good design for life and worship ([Romans 1:20-24; Ephesians 2:1-3](#)). Mankind's rebellion causes confusion about good and evil, and harm to people, ultimately ending in judgment, despair and death ([Genesis 1:31; Galatians 5:16-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; James 1:13-15](#)).

We believe God created mankind in His image, forming each person in the womb from conception ([Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:2; 49:5; Jeremiah 1:4-5](#)) until the point of death when they breathe their last ([Genesis 25:8; Luke 23:46](#)); and assigning gender to His people, male (man) and female (woman), as He created them sexually and biologically different, but with equal personal dignity and value ([Genesis 1:26-28](#)).

We believe that God ordained marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman ([Genesis 2:18; Matthew 19:4-9; Ephesians 5:31-33](#)). Those who accept and live within God's design for sex, biological gender, and marriage experience the blessing of His good design ([Psalm 1:1-3; 128:1-4](#)), and decisions to change, alter, or modify God's will in marriage, sex, or gender are part of man's brokenness and lead to despair ([Romans 1:21-22; James 1:13-15](#)).

We believe that God loves and pursues mankind despite our rebellion. ([Romans 5:8](#)) He offers forgiveness, healing and abundant life to anyone who turns to Him in humility ([John 3:17; 10:10; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7](#)).

6. Salvation

We believe salvation is a sovereign gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe man is justified by grace through faith apart from works ([Acts 13:38-39; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:8-10](#)). We believe that Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation and that no one is saved apart from a conscious and personal decision to trust in Christ as his or her one and only Savior ([John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-10](#)). We believe all true believers elect of God, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever ([Romans 8:1; 29-30; 38-39; John 10:27-30](#)).

7. The Second Coming

We believe in the future, visible, and bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth, commonly called the Second Coming, to rule the nations and establish His kingdom on earth ([Philippians 3:20; Matthew 24:15-31; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-21](#)).



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Our Calling

As a church, our purpose is to call all people to be fully devoted followers of Christ. Calling implies both introduction to and encouragement in a life of full devotion to Christ are necessary. As such, we articulate our devotion in this way. We exist to reach the uncommitted, unchurched, de-churched, dead-churched, and unmoved and to encourage, equip, serve, and sustain those already devoted to Christ.

The unchurched—those who have never been exposed to a faithful body of Christ followers

The de-churched—those who have previously been in a "church" environment but have left it

The dead-churched—those involved in a "church" that is not pursuing biblical Christianity

The unmoved—those nominally involved with Christ or His purposes

Our Convictions

A healthy church intentionally and zealously pursues a balanced ministry. Such a ministry, through the power of the Holy Spirit, results in:

New **converts** to Christ through the work of the ministry

New **commitments** to the local body and the cause of Christ

New **growth** in the grace and knowledge of Christ

New **leaders** for tomorrow's harvest for Christ

Stated another way, our desire is to call others to:

Believe in Christ

Belong to His body

Be trained in truth

Be strong in ministry

Our Commitments

We commit to measure our success only by our ability to realize our conviction of being and making disciples. (Disciples are individuals who understand what it means to follow Jesus Christ into a life of worship, fellowship, sacrifice, service, and yielding to the Spirit.)

In summary, we are in the business of changed lives. We live to turn the uncommitted and opposed into unashamedly committed, fully devoted followers of Christ. Everything we do is measured by its usefulness, effectiveness, and contribution toward this purpose.



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Our Core Values

We unashamedly and uncompromisingly strive to be:

Biblically Based - God's Word is our guide, authority, and conscience in everything. We stand firm where it stands firm and remain flexible where it is flexible. ([2 Timothy 3:16](#))

Fully Devoted to Christ - We measure our success by our ability to be and make disciples. Full devotion to Jesus is normal for every believer. ([Luke 9:23](#))

Grounded in Grace - We acknowledge our complete dependence on the goodness and grace of God. We have benefited from the kind intention of His will; therefore, we eagerly extend it to others. ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#))

Passionate About Prayer - We believe the attitude and action of prayer is essential to everything we do. ([Colossians 4:2](#))

Authentic in Our Walk - Authenticity, integrity, openness, and sincerity will define us. *"The goal of our instruction is love, from a good conscience, a pure heart, and a sincere faith."* ([1 Timothy 1:5](#))

Committed to The Uncommitted - We believe that lost people matter to God; therefore, they matter to us. Jesus came to seek and save the lost and has left us here, in part, to do the same. Our individual lives and corporate efforts will reflect this conviction. ([Luke 19:10](#))

Relevant and Innovative - The Bible does not tell us to use only certain styles of music, or to present our message only through words. The Bible does make it clear, however, that we are to find ways to effectively bring the message *"into all the world"* in order to make disciples. We believe this will require careful scrutiny of everything we do - new practices and old - and a willingness to change when necessary within biblical parameters, in order that we, *"by all possible means might save some."* ([1 Corinthians 9:22](#))

Committed to Community - Belonging to our community requires a commitment to being intentionally involved with others in accountable, encouraging relationships. We believe life change happens best in the context of relationships. In clusters of caring people, participants share and encourage each other toward spiritual growth. Here people can experience both the benefits of a larger church and enjoy the kind of relationships that only develop in small, safe settings. ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))

Focused on Ministry and Service - We believe that each believer has received a special gift and should employ it in serving others, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Spiritual giftedness and maturity determine where and how a believer serves. We believe excellence honors God and reflects His character. We strive for excellence without compromise in all areas of our ministry and lives. ([1 Peter 4:10](#); [Colossians 3:17](#))



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Other Positions

Children - We view children not only as the future, but as a significant part of the church right now. Our goal is to raise passionate followers of Christ, so we believe our children are worth all the time and energy we can invest in them.

Training and Discipleship - Intentional participation in relationships with others at different levels of spiritual maturity is essential. While we provide many formal occasions for growth, we place a higher priority on the value of relationships. Jesus apprenticed His disciples, even as His disciples today are called to mentor or be mentored by others.

Diversity - We agree that churches more easily attract others with similar preferences and/or life experiences and therefore acknowledge that simply by being who we are we are necessarily "targeting" a certain segment of our society. Our desire, however, is that the Holy Spirit will bless us with a rich diversity of ages, life-stages, religious, racial, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We desire to foster an atmosphere of unity that communicates warmth and acceptance of all who care to join us. It is our hope that the things that ultimately define us are those that speak to the need to the entire human race, not only specific ethnic or demographic ones. Therefore, we stress such universal concerns as forgiveness, redemption, significance, peace, meaning, and truth above styles, tastes, and preferences.

Unity - We embrace diversity but require unity in the essentials, understanding in the non-essentials, and seek in every way to love others as Christ has first loved us. We have a great commitment to the great commandment and the Great Commission, believing by this alone God will make us a great church.

Healing - We believe Jesus is the divine physician, so healing and hope should be the norm where His people gather in community. We believe Jesus continues to provide freedom, redemption, deliverance, healing, salvation, and hope as best glorify His name and purposes.

The Poor - We are God's extended hands. We purpose, with vision and servant leadership, to increasingly learn to minister directly to the poor, sometimes with our money, sometimes with our lives. We must live in fellowship with an awareness of our blessings and corresponding responsibility to others.

Excellence - We believe excellence honors God and reflects His character. We strive for excellence without compromise in all areas of our ministry and lives.

Role of Women in the Church - (Full Statement) Jesus desires to see every member of His Church become His fully devoted follower, regardless of gender, age, or ethnicity ([John 10:27](#)). As a part of Jesus' Church, we encourage all people to employ their gifts to bring glory to God and to advance His Kingdom here on earth. Consequently, we allow Scripture to inform us about which roles and positions are appropriate for each member within this church.



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Full Doctrinal Statement

Section 1: The Bible

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Section 2: The Trinity

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Section 3: Jesus Christ

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Section 4: The Holy Spirit

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Section 5: Angels, Fallen and Unfallen

We believe angels are spiritual beings who were created as sinless personalities and that they occupy different orders and ranks. They presently exist in both fallen and unfallen states, the former including Satan and his angels (*Hebrews 1:13-14; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 7:12*).

We believe Satan, by his own choice the enemy of God and His people, is the originator of sin, that led our first parents into sin and now rules as "*the god of this world*." We believe he was judged at the cross



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and that ultimately, he will be cast into the Lake of Fire (*Isaiah 14:12-14; Genesis 3:1-19; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10*).

Section 6: **Man**

We believe man was created innocent and, in the image, and likeness of God, but that man sinned, bringing both physical and spiritual death to himself and his posterity (*Genesis 1:27; 2:17; 3:19*). Man can do nothing to merit God's favor, and as such, is in need of salvation (*Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23*). We believe that mankind's sinful nature is rebellious toward God and His good design for life and worship (*Romans 1:20-24; Ephesians 2:1-3*). Mankind's rebellion causes confusion about good and evil, and harm to people, ultimately ending in judgment, despair and death (*Genesis 1:31; Galatians 5:16-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; James 1:13-15*).

We believe God created mankind in His image, forming each person in the womb from conception (*Psalms 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:2; 49:5; Jeremiah 1:4-5*) until the point of death when they breathe their last (*Genesis 25:8; Luke 23:46*); and assigning gender to His people, male (man) and female (woman), as He created them sexually and biologically different, but with equal personal dignity and value (*Genesis 1:26-28*).

We believe that God ordained marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman (*Genesis 2:18; Matthew 19:4-9; Ephesians 5:31-33*). Those who accept and live within God's design for sex, biological gender, and marriage experience the blessing of His good design (*Psalms 1:1-3; 128:1-4*), and decisions to change, alter, or modify God's will in marriage, sex, or gender are part of man's brokenness and lead to despair (*Romans 1:21-22; James 1:13-15*).

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Section 7: **Salvation**

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Section 8: **Sanctification**

We believe sanctification, which is a setting apart unto God, is positional, progressive, and ultimate. Positionally, it is already complete since the believer is in Christ and is set apart unto God as Christ is set apart unto God. Since the Christian retains his sinful nature, however, there is need for progressive sanctification whereby he grows in grace by the power of the Spirit. Ultimately, the child of God will be



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set apart from sin in his practice (*as he is now in his position in Christ*) when he is taken to be with Christ and shall be like Him ([John 17:17](#); [2 Corinthians 3:18](#); [Ephesians 5:25-27](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#); [Hebrews 10:10](#); [14](#)).

Section 9: The Church

We believe the Church, the Body and Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism, made up of all born-again persons of this present age. We believe the Church began at Pentecost and that a believer is placed into the Church by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. We believe the Church is distinct from Israel ([Ephesians 1:22-23](#); [1 Corinthians 12:13](#); [10:32](#)).

We believe the local church is an assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ who are voluntarily joined together in one locality for the purposes of worship, study of the Word of God, observance of the ordinances, Christian fellowship, equipping for and practice of Kingdom service, specifically stewarding our lives for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission ([Acts 2:42-47](#); [1 Corinthians 1:1-2](#); [Ephesians 4:11-13](#); [Matthew 16:18](#); [28:19-20](#)).

Section 10: The Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper, both of which are to be observed by believers until He returns ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)).

We believe by *water baptism* a believer publicly identifies with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. We believe that infants of believing parents may be *dedicated* to the Lord but should not be baptized until they can personally articulate their faith and the purpose of baptism.

We believe the *Lord's Supper* is a memorial of Christ's death and an expression of our faith in His future coming that is to be continually practiced by all believers. We believe every Christian has a right to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper but that participation must always be preceded by solemn self-examination.

Section 11: The End Times

We believe in the personal, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Church. This event, commonly called the rapture, will be followed by great tribulation on earth and will culminate in the visible and bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth, commonly called the Second Coming, to rule the nations and establish His millennial kingdom ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#); [Philippians 3:20](#); [Matthew 24:15-31](#); [Zechariah 14:4-11](#); [Revelation 19:11-21](#); [20:1-6](#)).

Section 12: The Eternal State

We believe the souls of believers in Jesus Christ do, at death, immediately pass into His presence, and there remain with Him until the resurrection of our earthly bodies at His coming for the Church, when our souls and imperishable bodies shall be with Him forever in glory. We believe the souls of unbelievers remain after death in constant misery in Hades until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the



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close of the millennium when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord ([Luke 16:19-26](#); [23:43](#); [1 Corinthians 15:42-44](#); [2 Corinthians 5:8](#); [Philippians 1:23](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:7-9](#); [Revelation 20:11-15](#)).