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# Welcome



We are thrilled that you are interested in learning more about Ephrata Community Church. We have compiled various bits of information in this booklet that should be helpful to you in evaluating the church and understanding our vision and church life. Please read through this and feel free to contact us about any questions you may have.

Ephrata Community Church does maintain a defined membership list. While we treat everyone who attends our church as part of the family, we have found it helpful to know those who feel God has placed them here. The Bible tells pastors that we will give account to God for those we care for so membership helps us know those we are committing to care for. We also feel that it is reasonable to ask those receiving care to make a commitment in like kind to the church and its vision.

If you are interested in membership, you will need to fill out the application at the back of this book, tear it out, and submit it to the church office. One of our pastors will then schedule a time to talk with you about any questions you may have before we receive you into membership. We do hold membership weekends a few times a year where we highlight new members and their families, and we would love to include you in that happy event.

Barry Wissler  
Senior Pastor

# Our History

Ephrata Community Church began in 1977 with 12 individuals meeting in a home. The small congregation moved into a converted barn next to our current building in 1979 where it held services for over 20 years. In April 1981, Barry Wissler was installed as the first Sr. Pastor leading a team of three leaders who cared for the church. The church is still led by a team which has now grown to seven elders.

A significant shift occurred in 1990 when the congregation adopted the ancient church of Antioch as its model for development. As a result, the vision of the church extended to being a sending and receiving church and one with a more regional vision and a heart for missions and community transformation. Three churches were planted in the following few years, providing a foundation for today's network of church ministries which we now call HarvestNET.

In July 1994, during a special time of corporate prayer and fasting, the church began to experience a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Many area pastors and churches enjoyed the outpouring as the renewal meetings and conferences began to impact the whole region. In early 1996 Breath of Life Ministries was launched as a multi-church counseling ministry to help bring healing to the hurting in our region.

ECC continued to grow as God brought and joined many to the vision of the church. Plans to build a new facility adjacent to the barn were started, a process that took about six years. As the church moved into the new building, its growth increased and multiple services were required. HarvestNET also continued to grow with other churches and ministries connecting to the network. ECC also planted several other churches including Threshold Church and Vida Church (Spanish speaking), both in Lancaster City.

International missions became an increasingly important part of the work of both ECC and HarvestNET. Some years over 100 members are involved in mission trips. The pastors and staff of ECC are also involved in assisting numerous other churches, fulfilling the call on the church as a "resource

church.” The hiring of a youth pastor and children’s pastor is allowing the church to focus more on introducing young people to the Kingdom.

“The Barn” now houses Gateway House of Prayer, a multi-church ministry with a vision to cover the region in prayer and worship day and night. Led by volunteer staff from over 30 churches, the vision is for the body of Christ to cry out to God with one voice, day and night, asking Him for another awakening in our region and nation.

The HarvestNET Equipping Institute has provided evening classes to over 600 students from 60+ churches. Recently, the Kingdom Ministry School was started to provide a more intensive training program for church leaders, missionaries, counselors, etc. So there is a continual training of leaders and workers for God’s purposes on the earth. Our goal remains to connect you to God and to others knowing that if we impact your life, you will in turn impact the lives of others.

# Elders, Staff & Advisory Council

## ELDERS



**Jared & Mindi**  
BRUCKHART



**Jon & Joanna**  
CHAPPELL



**Kevin & Stephanie**  
ESHLEMAN



**Ivan & Rosene**  
MARTIN



**Mark & Marlene**  
ULRICH



**Glenn & Kay Weaver**  
ESHLEMAN



**Barry & Cheryl**  
WISSLER

## STAFF



**Barry Wissler**  
SENIOR PASTOR



**Kevin Eshleman**  
EXECUTIVE PASTOR



**Mark Ulrich**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR



**Chris Weber**  
YOUTH PASTOR



**Jesse Rothacker**  
CHILDREN'S PASTOR



**Sarah Kilhefner**  
ECC ADMINISTRATOR



**Amy Pfautz**  
HARVESTNET ADMINISTRATOR



**Lydia Nimon**  
RECEPTIONIST



**Stephanie Eshleman**  
BOOKKEEPER



**Michele Newswanger**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Jon & Joanna Chappell** PROPHETIC MINISTRY

**Jon & Kim Clugston** SOUND

**Mil & Karen Eppig** KITCHEN

**Kevin & Stephanie Eshleman** CAFE

**Dale & Jolene Keller** EVANGELISM

**Carl & Amy Lefever** WOMEN'S MINISTRY

**Roy & Kelly Libby** MEN'S MINISTRY

**Cliff & Betty Martin** MINISTRY TEAM

**Dale & Jackie Martin** PRAYER MINISTRY

**Josiah Martin** YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**James & Michele Newswanger** USHERS

**Wes & Marsha Petery** GREETERS

**Doug & Amy Pfautz** VIDEO PROJECTION

**Jesse & Kim Rothacker** CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Kay & Glenn Weaver** MISSIONS

**Chris & Emily Weber** YOUTH MINISTRY

**Glenn & Mildred Wissler** TRUSTEES

# ECC's Core Values

**SPIRIT & WORD:** "...speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of His grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders."<sup>1</sup> We value and follow both the authoritative Word of God in Scripture and the current voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to the church.

**CONNECTING WITH GOD:** "That they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."<sup>2</sup> Jesus Christ restores our lost connection to God enabling us to build a vital relationship with God through worship, prayer, and service.

**BUILDING AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY:** "All the believers were one in heart and mind."<sup>3</sup> We want you to experience real relationship, as we build genuine connections with God and with others, as the primary setting God uses for spiritual growth and health.

**CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS:** "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children."<sup>4</sup> We desire to demonstrate unity that crosses generational boundaries, increasing our strength and wisdom as we partner in ministry.

**MODELING STEWARDSHIP:** "Freely you have received, freely give."<sup>5</sup> God is generous with us, freely giving us abilities, spiritual gifts, material resources and more. We desire to give God our best by being generous with all that God has given us.

**BUILDING TEAM MINISTRY:** "and He sent them out two by two..."<sup>6</sup> We believe ministry is done best in teams; therefore, we work to develop servant leaders and form teams to work together to serve a common goal.

**TAKING THE GOSPEL:** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ..." <sup>7</sup> The power of God enables us to live a lifestyle of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in culturally relevant ways in our neighborhoods, our region, our nation, and our world.

**RESOURCING:** "Do not forget to do good and to share with others..."<sup>8</sup>  
God is calling us to invest our resources in other congregations and ministries for the purpose of building the Body of Christ in the community.

**TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES:** "I will give you every place where you set your foot..."<sup>9</sup> We are responsible to pray and bring the truth of the Kingdom of God to bear in every area of life for the purpose of genuine transformation.

<sup>1</sup> Acts 14:3, <sup>2</sup> John 17:3, <sup>3</sup> Acts 4:32, <sup>4</sup> Malachi 4:6, <sup>5</sup> Matthew 10:8,  
<sup>6</sup> Mark 6:7, <sup>7</sup> Acts 1:8, <sup>8</sup> Hebrews 13:16, <sup>9</sup> Joshua 1:3

# Our Understanding of Commitment to a Local Church



## **I. CHRISTIANITY IS CORPORATE BY NATURE.**

- A. From the beginning, God created us for community and family. The New Testament concept of Christianity is also corporate in nature and gives us more than 60 “one another” commands which necessitate relationship with other Christians.
- B. The New Testament reveals the church as a family, not an institution or building. In fact the meaning of the Greek word translated church is “a company of those who have been called out.” The earthly church is a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:11-22).
- C. The Kingdom of God is different from the world, which glorifies rugged individualism. There are no lone ranger Christians, no body parts which are unattached.
- D. God likens us to sheep which need a shepherd and a fold in order to flourish.

## **II. WE MUST WORK OUT OUR SALVATION LOCALLY.**

- A. We cannot relate intimately to the “Universal Church” nor obey the “one another” commands with the worldwide body of Christ.
- B. Affiliation with other believers is a matter which each person must seek God about to determine His will. The Bible tells us that God places us in a church as HE wills. (1 Cor. 12:18-27) The key to commitment to a local church is to hear God and then trust Him to provide for us as we obey Him.
- C. Relationships without commitments are foreign to God’s economy.
  - 1. God’s people are a covenant people who function in loyalty.
  - 2. Like joining a caravan, it is wise to agree upon the path of travel (vision).

D. Acts 2:42-47 describes normative church life in the following eight words:

1. Continually
2. Devoted
3. Teaching
4. Fellowship
5. Lord's Supper
6. Prayer
7. Giving
8. House-to-House

### **III. RECLAIMING BIBLICAL MEMBERSHIP**

A. Introduction to Church Membership

Although the concept of membership is distinctly Christian in origin, it has been twisted by the world. Today, most people associate membership with paying dues, meaningless rituals, silly rules, secret handshakes, and having your name on some dusty roll. However, in the Bible membership is taught as being something entirely different. To the Apostle Paul, being a member of the church did not refer to some cold induction into an institution, but rather it meant becoming a vital organ of a living body (Rom. 12:4-5; I Cor. 6:15; I Cor. 12:12-27). Any organ that is detached from the body will not only miss what it was created to be, it will also shrivel and die quickly. The same is true for Christians who are uncommitted to any specific congregation.

Membership begins with recognition that God has placed us in, and joined us to, a group of believers. We all ask questions like, "Do I fit here?" "Can I find meaningful relationships here?" "Do others here need me?" The answers to these questions of acceptance, friendship, and personal value are found in an ongoing and committed family-type attachment to a local church.

B. Benefits of Church Membership

1. It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage us in our walk with Christ.
2. It provides a place to discover and use our spiritual gifts.
3. It places us under the spiritual protection of godly leaders.
4. It gives us the accountability we need to grow.

Local church membership is a simple expression of commitment to be a functioning part of the body that God has joined us to. At Ephrata Community Church we receive members simply so we know who God has called us to care for and be co-laborers with. We are not legalistic about

membership nor is the commitment of membership a heavy, lifelong obligation. It is simply a way to formally express our commitment to the spiritual family that we believe God has placed us in. There are only a few requirements for membership.

C. Requirements for Membership

1. Members of ECC must be born-again believers who have been baptized in water.
2. Members must recognize that ECC is the church family God has given them at this time.
3. Members must have read this Membership Booklet and be comfortable with the vision of ECC and be willing to support its leaders.

We understand that a decision to apply for membership should be made prayerfully after learning about the organization and vision of the church. After reading this booklet, those desiring membership should contact the church office to arrange for a membership interview. Of course, those who do not become members will always be welcome at ECC.

#### **IV. WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES DO CHURCH MEMBERS HAVE?**

It is expected that those wishing Ephrata Community Church to be committed to their spiritual care will in turn be willing to make a commitment to the church. This mutual commitment is based on recognition of the will of God and finds expression in commitment to church meetings, to service within the church, and to church finances.

A. Commitment to a local church involves commitment to meetings.

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near” (Heb. 10:23-25).*

1. For our own health, we need to regularly be edified, fed, worship, and have fellowship.
2. Commitment to meeting also involves preparation and participation in the meeting.

B. Commitment to a local church involves commitment to church finances.

1. Hag. 1:1-11 demonstrates that God wants His people to look after His work. The prophet asks, *"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?"* and encourages them to bring the needed resources to build His house.
2. We must not forget that God owns all we have. God states in Hag. 2:8, *"The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,"* so our commitment to giving shows our acknowledgement that we are only caretakers of God's resources.
3. The starting point and basic standard for giving throughout the Bible begins with *"the tithe,"* meaning a tenth.
4. A common objection to tithing is that it is mentioned in the Old Testament law, and so we are free from its practice. However, tithing was instituted before the Law of Moses (Abraham to Melchizedek) and is assumed by the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels when he uses the words *"when you tithe."* These objections are given by those who refuse to acknowledge God's rightful claim as Lord of their finances.
5. Practically speaking, we cannot afford not to tithe! The prophet Malachi says that withholding our tithe is *"robbing God,"* telling us that God causes our own pockets to *"leak"* if we do rob Him. (Mal. 3:8)
6. There are biblical examples of special offerings such as for missions, buildings, and for the poor which are usually given above the tithe.

C. Commitment to a local church involves serving.

1. Jesus taught that the greatness in God's Kingdom is measured by servanthood.
2. While each of us benefits greatly from a local church, our relationship to a church should not be viewed as a *"consumer"* relationship like when we go to a cafeteria and take only what we want. While a local church should meet the basic needs of believers, the church does not exist for the individual. The church exists for God.
3. God gives each believer various gifts and ministries. We should use these to serve each other with love. (I Peter 4:10)
4. Serving is a means of training and preparation of future ministry.
  - a. Scriptures teach that we learn to be faithful in small things before expecting to be given more.
  - b. Many men and women of God in scripture began with doing simple tasks. (Joseph, Elisha, Timothy)

5. Ephrata Community Church expects all those who make a commitment to the church to be willing to serve in meeting church needs.
  - a. Those parents with children in the children's ministry are encouraged to help staff the children's ministry.
  - b. All members are encouraged to serve in whatever ways they can so the ministry of the church can continue.

## **V. HOW IS ECC GOVERNMENTALLY ORGANIZED?**

- A. The Constitution and Bylaws of Ephrata Community Church
  1. Our church is governed by a team of elders led by a senior pastor.
  2. Business meetings are held to conduct the business affairs of the church. These meetings are like "family meetings" providing for important communication between the elders and the church body and vice versa.
  3. A complete copy of our bylaws is provided in this booklet.
- B. Financial Policies
  1. Ephrata Community Church has received 501(c)(3) status by the I.R.S. and is fully tax-exempt.
  2. Weekly offering and financial procedures are meticulously maintained.
  3. An Annual Report is published to give account for financial transactions.

## **VI. IS ECC LINKED TO THE REST OF THE BODY OF CHRIST?**

- A. Pastor Barry and the team of elders had asked Alan Vincent of Outpouring Ministries to give advisory counsel to us as an apostle.
- B. Ephrata Community Church functions as a "resource church" to other churches and ministries so much of our activity includes people from outside our local body.
- C. Ephrata Community Church also belongs to the HarvestNET, Inc. family of churches and ministries. Please see the pages in this booklet that describe this relational network linked by shared vision and commitment to the Harvest.

## **VII. HOW CAN I GET MORE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY?**

You may complete the attached Service Questionnaire to let us know your interests and abilities. Please be aware that some important positions of leadership and teaching are reserved for those who have made a commitment to the church.

## **VIII. QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions about Ephrata Community Church which are not addressed in this booklet, please bring them to one of the elders or save them for a pre-membership interview.

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# Constitution OF EPHRATA COMMUNITY CHURCH



## ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this church shall be EPHRATA COMMUNITY CHURCH of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, incorporated according to the state laws of Pennsylvania.

## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

To establish and maintain a covenanted community of people to worship God, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ locally and worldwide, and to provide for this community, Christian fellowship, training, and a spiritual environment conducive to growth.

## ARTICLE III – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

### SECTION I – THE PERSON OF GOD

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Eph. 4:6; Gen. 1:26; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1)

#### FATHER

We believe God the Father is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. God is absolutely holy, righteous and just. His love, grace, mercy, and justice were manifested in the atoning death of His only begotten Son on Calvary, giving to all who believe salvation through faith. (Isa. 9:6; Deut. 33:27; Ps. 147:5; Ps. 139:2-4, 7-10; Ps. 62:11; Ex. 15:11; Ps. 36:6; John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-10)

#### SON

We believe in the absolute deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the absolute humanity of our Lord through His virgin birth. We believe in the perfectly sinless life of our Lord though tempted at all points in His humanity. We believe in His vicarious sufferings and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in glory and power. (John 1:11; Acts 2:22; John 1:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Heb. 4:15; Isa. 53:4-6; I Cor. 15:3-5; Acts 2:22-23; Eph. 1:20-22; Acts 1:9-11; I Thess. 4:16)

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, who convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is the agent of God in the regeneration of the lost. He is the gift of Christ to the church indwelling all believers, sealing them in the body of Christ unto the day of redemption. He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth. He imparts the gifts of the Spirit as found in Scripture. (John 16:6-15; Titus 3:5-7; John 14:17; John 15:26; Rom. 8:11; Eph. 1:13; I Cor. 12:4-11)

### **SECTION 2 – THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, inerrant and infallible in their original writing. They are the supreme and final authority for faith and practice. (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; II Peter 3:16)

### **SECTION 3 – MAN**

We believe that man was originally created in the image of God, but the entire race of man was separated from God through sin. We believe no man can reconcile himself to God. Therefore, man remains separated from God until he is regenerated, through faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. (Gen. 3:24; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 3:9-12; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:1,10,11; II Cor. 5:17-19)

### **SECTION 4 – SATAN**

We believe that Satan is the author of sin and the instigator of the fall of man. He has been defeated by the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, and he and his angels will be punished eternally at the coming of Christ. (Gen. 3:17; Col. 2:14-15; John 12:31-33; Rev. 20:10)

### **SECTION 5 – SIN**

We believe sin is every lack of conformity to the will of God or transgression of the law of God. Sin is manifest in the selfishness, rebellion, and total depravity of man's attitude, conduct, and behavior before God and man. (James 4:17; Rom. 14:32; I John 3:4; I John 5:17; Rom. 3:9-18; Eph. 2:1-3)

### **SECTION 6 – SALVATION**

We believe salvation to be the whole counsel of God, and it is the gift of God by grace, received through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. This faith is manifested in works pleasing to God. (I Peter 1:3-12; Eph. 2:8-10)

**SECTION 7 – THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

We believe the Kingdom of God to be God's right to rule, which was prophesied through the law and prophets, and came to fulfillment in Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus to be the King in the Kingdom, which is working for consummation at the end of this age. (Mark 1:14; Matt. 12:28; Luke 11:20; Luke 17:20-21; Rev. 19:11-16; I Cor. 15:20-28; Rev. 11:15)

**SECTION 8 – HEAVEN AND HELL**

We believe that heaven is the throne of God manifested in His Kingdom on this earth. Hell is a literal place of eternal separation from God for those who are not redeemed. (Isa. 66:1; Acts 7:49; Matt. 6:10; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15)

**SECTION 9 – THE CHURCH**

We believe that the church is composed of all born-again believers everywhere. We believe that the local church is comprised of born-again believers who come together in commitment to the Lord and one another for mutual worship, instruction, conformity to the Lord's will, and Christian service. We believe all believers are placed by God in specific local churches. (Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 12:26; Col. 1:24; I Peter 2:4-6; Heb. 10:24-25; I Cor. 3:9-11)

**SECTION 10 – MISSION OF THE CHURCH**

The mission of the church is to demonstrate the power and reality of the Kingdom of God on the earth, specifically through the transformation of people's lives into the likeness of Jesus by the power of the cross of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. The biblical means of accomplishing this is evangelism and discipleship. God fulfills His purpose for His church through local churches. (Matt. 5:13-16; Eph. 3:10; Matt. 28:19; Col. 2:19)

**SECTION 11 – SACRAMENTS**

A sacrament is a formal act that is sacred as a sign or symbol of a spiritual reality, which was instituted or recognized by our Lord Jesus Christ.

**BAPTISM**

Water baptism, the immersion of the believer, is a visible testimony to the work of regeneration and a mark of identification and union with Christ. It is an appeal to God for a good conscience, hence should be administered to those who, by faith in the Lord Jesus

Christ, have realized the forgiveness of their sins and have the assurance of acceptance with God, having turned from their past lives to follow Jesus. (Acts 2:41; I Peter 3:21; Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38)

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of the New Testament wherein, by giving and receiving the bread and the cup according to the appointing of Jesus Christ, His death is proclaimed. Those who worthily partake, in remembrance of Him, feed upon Him to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, have their union and communication with Him confirmed, testify and renew their thankfulness and commitment to God and their mutual love and fellowship with each other as members of the same body. (I Cor. 11:23-24)

### **SECTION 12 – BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is distinct from the new birth. It is the initial filling of God's power for witness and godly living. (Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:1-7)

### **SECTION 13 – HOLINESS**

God demands that His people be holy, as He is holy. His holiness is produced in us, His people, by the Holy Spirit as we believe and obey His Word. (I Peter 1: 2, 13-16)

## **ARTICLE IV – ELDERS**

An elder of this church is a man baptized in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4 who, having the characteristics and qualifications listed in I Timothy 3:1-3 and Titus 1:5-9, has the call of God upon his life to serve this church in the capacities and ministries of the eldership; such as, but not limited to, tending the flock of God, being an example to the flock, spiritual leadership and guidance, teaching the Word of God, discipling and ordaining others in their ministries, overseeing local outreach efforts, and assisting other churches or Christian groups. This call shall have been recognized by unanimous agreement of the present elders of this church and confirmed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of this church. He shall have been duly ordained and installed at a meeting of this church.

This church shall be led by a plurality of elders, who will function together as a team to lead and care for the church. The elders will be

led by a lead elder, called the Sr. Pastor. The Sr. Pastor shall be responsible for the general leadership, vision, and direction for the church and may be assisted by other pastors to provide care for the flock. All decisions made by the elders will be made through prayer and consultation involving all the elders, leading to consensus. While the Sr. Pastor provides leadership for the team, he shall also be accountable to the other elders and to any agreed upon apostles and prophets outside the church who provide counsel. Either the pastor or the elders may call upon these advisors when needed.

Other leaders in the church who lead the various ministry teams and departments shall be considered deacons and shall serve the elders in doing the work of ministry. These deacons will meet periodically with the elders as a larger leadership council. This advisory council will evaluate the health of the church and its ministries and provide a communication forum for the larger church to interact with the elders. Business meetings may also be called by the elders at times for dialogue involving the whole church.

## **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 1 – DEFINITION**

The members of Ephrata Community Church are those who have recognized that this is where God has placed them in order to express their commitment to Him. They have accepted the responsibilities of commitment and submission to the authority of the elders. Their commitment is recognized by the other members of the church.

### **SECTION 2 – RECEPTION OF MEMBERS**

Any Christian who desires to make Ephrata Community Church their home church will be welcomed into membership through application to the elders of the church. Prospective members shall first complete a membership class to become familiarized with the church vision and organization. After the class is completed, those desiring membership shall be interviewed by one of the church elders to determine that those applying have made a satisfactory profession of faith, have been baptized in water as believers, and understand the privileges and responsibilities of membership.

### **SECTION 3 – CORRECTION OF MEMBERS**

All correction of members is intended to restore the sinning member to full fellowship with the Lord and the church. Every member who

continues in sin will be confronted personally and given the opportunity to repent and be restored. If the member refuses to repent, two or three members will go together to confront him. If the member persists in his refusal, the matter may be brought to the attention of the church. If the member will not hear the church, the church body may agree upon an appropriate form of discipline including such things as removal from church membership. (Gal. 6:1; Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:5)

#### **SECTION 4 – TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Transfer of membership or a letter of recommendation may be granted to a member in good standing.

### **ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS MEETING**

#### **SECTION 1**

The business meetings of the church are meetings of the membership for the purposes of, but not limited to, informing the members, deciding the affairs and concerns of the church, receiving new members, and dealing with the correction of members. All members are expected to attend and participate in all business meetings of the church.

#### **SECTION 2**

Special business meetings may be called by the elders whenever deemed necessary, and due notice shall be given at least the Sunday prior to this special meeting. A business meeting shall be held at least once each year.

#### **SECTION 3**

At any meeting where decisions are to be made regarding the choice of a pastor or the purchase and sale of real estate, the membership shall be notified in writing two weeks prior to such meeting.

#### **SECTION 4**

An elder shall preside as chairman of all business meetings of the church.

#### **SECTION 5**

All matters to be decided in a business meeting shall be first submitted to the elders and approved by them before any action is taken.

#### **SECTION 6**

All business matters will be decided by a majority vote of voting members present unless otherwise stated herein.

## **ARTICLE VII – PROPERTY**

The church as a corporation shall have the right and power to purchase, hold, lease, occupy, sell, convey, and mortgage such real and personal property of any kind or nature as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the church. All property, real or personal, shall be recorded in the name of the church and may be sold, conveyed or encumbered by agreement by the members of the church.

The elders shall have the power to purchase, sell, and encumber real estate subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by the members of the church. Any and all instruments affecting real property as authorized by the elders and the members shall be signed by the trustees. In case of organic division of the membership, the property shall belong to the division of those members who abide by this constitution, regardless of the majority.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the elders shall, after payment of all liabilities, dispose of all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation, in such manner, or to such an organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify for exemption under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

## **ARTICLE VIII – TRUSTEES**

Trustees are men and/or women appointed by the elders for continuous service or until removed by vote of the members of the church to fulfill the legal requirements of this position, to be responsible for representing this church legally as a corporation, and to manage the business affairs of this church such as its real and other physical properties. Trustees are selected from the membership and may at the same time be elders or deacons. The trustees have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or in any way encumber the real property of this church without approval of the elders and approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members of the church present at a special meeting called for that purpose.

## **ARTICLE IX – INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY**

1. Any and all possible rights of indemnification, without any limitation, either authorized by law or not specifically prohibited by any law, bylaw, and agreement or otherwise, shall inure to the maximum extent not prohibited to the benefit of any member in whatever present or past capacity, or by whatever reason available or not prohibited.

This shall include, but not be limited to, payment promptly in advance, but subject to, any requirement by law as to repayment, if applicable.

This provision shall apply, no matter how not prohibited, so that same shall be available to said person to the maximum extent possible, no matter by what authority.

2. To the maximum extent not prohibited and to the maximum extent authorized by law, elders, deacons, and trustees shall be free of personal liability, including, but not limited to, the maximum extent permitted under the Pennsylvania Directors' Liability Act (42 PA C.S. S8361 et seq) or any other law or case decision now or hereafter in effect.

## **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership at an announced business meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI - THE COMMISSIONING, CREDENTIALING AND HIRING OF PASTORS**

The Board of Elders of Ephrata Community Church shall also be responsible to license or ordain those needed to serve the church as a pastor to assist the elders in the work of the ministry. A pastor shall have the same biblical qualifications as applied to elders, listed above, demonstrating godly character and integrity in all matters of faith and practice. He or she shall also have demonstrated a calling to the ministry and sufficient gifting, education, and experience to do their assigned task. A pastor of Ephrata Community Church, upon credentialing, shall be qualified to teach the scriptures, administer holy

communion and water baptism, perform weddings and funerals, and give spiritual leadership and counsel to members of the church. He or she shall remain qualified to do these tasks until their credentials are withdrawn by action of the elders. A pastor of Ephrata Community Church can be reasonably compensated for their time and work at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

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# HarvestNET



Ephrata Community Church is a partner church in a family of churches called HarvestNET. HarvestNET, Inc. is an informal network of churches and ministries linked together by shared vision and a desire to be partners in the coming harvest.

In addition to an uncompromising commitment to Scripture and sound Christian doctrine, the following values are particular distinctives that HarvestNET values:

## **REVIVAL**

God has promised that in the last days He would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. We expect to see repeated and increasing outpourings that will revive the church through the presence of God and empower believers as workers for a last days harvest. Revival is a primary passion and focus of HarvestNET, and while we expect sudden surprise outpourings of God's Spirit, we constantly work to promote and stir up the functioning of the gifts of the Spirit in the Body of Christ.

## **EXTRAVAGANT WORSHIP**

We value and foster a spirit of extravagant worship and praise. We believe that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. We find that worship draws the presence of God and that our lives are changed by being in His presence. Because God is releasing a new sound and new songs, we want to link and encourage those whom God has called to ministries of music and worship.

## **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

Christians and churches must carry a warrior spirit these days and be committed to unrelenting war with the devil and his hosts. We believe that we have authority over demonic powers to deliver people who are oppressed. We also believe that unified prayer can pull down strongholds that effect whole regions and keep people bound.

## **PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

We believe that God is still speaking in our day through the gift of

prophecy. This gift enables us to see in the spirit realm and declare what God is doing and saying to His people. As the Bible teaches, these current “words” must be tested and will always align with the canon of scripture. We believe that the Bible is the final authority for all matters of faith and practice yet through the Holy Spirit; we hear the voice of God speaking into our current situations.

## **HARVEST**

We anticipate a great harvest and believe that it is important for us to keep evangelization at the top of our priorities. We also believe that the work of harvest can be accomplished best through partnership. As the presence of God himself is manifested in our lives and churches, we expect to see our region transformed and many come to know God personally.

## **SIGN AND WONDERS**

HarvestNET believes that its calling is like Isaiah prophesied, “Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel” (Is 8:18). We regularly pray for the sick because we are committed to participating in God’s restoration of signs and wonders to confirm His word.

## **HOUSE CHURCHES**

We want to utilize every possible means of reaching the lost. God used churches meeting in homes in the Bible and throughout church history. We see God restoring these small units again today for the purpose of harvest and pastoral care. We maintain a network of House Churches to link these new “wineskins” together for fellowship, support and for equipping by Ephesians 4 ministries. We believe that house churches must be evangelistic, led and cared for by a leader, and need to be linked in relationship to other churches in the larger Body of Christ.

## **THE RESTORATION OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID**

God promised that he would restore the Tabernacle of David in the last days. This powerhouse manifestation of God’s presence will be marked by extravagant worship, passionate intercession, and the coming together of God’s people, young and old to enjoy God and seek His face. We see this happening globally in each city or region, resulting in houses of prayer 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In this setting and meeting place with God, we will receive strength and strategy while being with Him. We also use this setting as a place of accomplishing advances in the spirit realm through warfare prayer.

### **APOSTLES AND TEAM MINISTRY**

Our pattern for church and ministry leadership adopts the New Testament model of “team ministry”. In recent years, God has restored the ministries of Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers. We also now see the restoration of Apostles who become the catalysts for a “breakthrough team”, which brings the various gift ministries together in partnership. Any church or region will benefit by ministry from each gift ministry of an “Ephesians 4 team” to bring advancement and breakthrough.

### **MINISTERING OUT OF WHOLENESS**

While ministry is demanding and can deplete inner resources, it is critical that leaders minister from a place of rest and wholeness and that we give to others from abundance and overflow. When leaders try to function with unresolved issues from their past or any lack of internal integrity and wholeness, they place themselves at risk of burnout or moral failure and also misrepresent the Father’s heart to those they lead. We encourage all our leaders to pursue wholeness and purity in their lives and will be a resource to those needing healing or care.





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# Biosketch

We would like to include a short biosketch and photo of each of the new members in a bulletin insert for the New Members' Sunday. If you do not have a suitable photo, we can take a digital one for you. Would you please take the time to tell us a little about yourself? Below are a few questions to help you get started. You may answer as many or as few of them as you like. We will then take your responses and condense them into a format suitable for an insert. Thank you so much! Please return this form and a photo with your application.

1. Your name \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you lived in this area and have you lived in other states or countries?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How old are your children (if you have any)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you have any grandchildren? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Tell us about yourself: Your goals, hobbies, work, etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you ever been involved in missions or other ministry?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What brought you to ECC? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What are your hopes and goals for the future?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Is there any other information you wish to share?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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# Serve & Connect

## WELCOME

Providing a safe and comfortable welcome into Ephrata Community Church

- Greeters
- Information Desk
- Ushers

## TECH SUPPORT

Providing technical support for worship services and special events

- Sound Team
- Video Camera Recording Team
- Video Projection Team

## ARTS & WORSHIP

Providing creative support for worship services and special events

- Worship Team
- Photography Team

## MORE WAYS TO SERVE

Bringing glory to God by using our gifts to serve the needs of our church and its leaders

- Café Team
- Bookstore/Library
- Communion
- Kitchen Team
- Event Setup and Tear Down

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Facilitating ministry by providing support services

- Decorating
- Grounds Maintenance Team
- Handyman/Building Maintenance

## EVENTS/CONFERENCE HELP

Facilitating events and conferences by providing support ministries

- Childcare (infant - kindergarten)
- Product Table Cashier
- Preparing and Serving Food
- Planning games/activities

## OUTREACH

Sharing the Good News of Christ locally and around the world

- Mercy Ministries
- Local Missions
- Foreign Missions
- Evangelism Team

## ADULTS

Providing opportunities for adult fellowship and strengthen their grip on God's Word

- Men's Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Home Groups

## YOUTH

Helping students discover what God has to say about their lives

- Small Group Leader
- Special Activities
- Retreats
- Prepare/Provide Snacks

## CHILDREN

Helping children learn about God and His love for them

- Nursery
- Preschool Teacher/Assistant
- Children's Church Teacher/Assistant
- Special Programs
- Summer Camp

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Reflecting God's compassion to people in need

- Financial Counseling

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER TEAMS

You may sign up for as many of the following ministries that you are committed to praying for. You will receive the prayer requests by email.

- Children
- Youth
- Women's Ministry
- Home Groups
- Worship
- Missions
- Office Administration
- Hospitality

As you reflect upon this list of ministry opportunities, consider the following:

**What are your areas of interest?**

**What are your gifts and talents?**

**What areas are you experienced in?**

Please list your top three areas of interest and indicate which service you would be willing to serve at. **Please do not mark the area you are already serving in.** Thank you.

Saturday (6 pm)  Sunday (8:45 am)  Sunday (11 am)

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Saturday (6 pm)  Sunday (8:45 am)  Sunday (11 am)

You will be contacted by a ministry team leader from ECC. You are under no obligation by returning this brochure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn in this completed brochure at the information center or mail it to the church office.

**Have you ever thought about getting involved in a ministry at Ephrata Community Church?**

**We believe God has uniquely equipped every believer to have a positive influence in the lives of others.**

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