

Prepared for the Vote -Resources

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Reasons for Change

CHRISTOLOGY Christ alone defines the identity and mission of the church.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE At CPC, we believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the church's first and final authority in faith and life.

CONSISTENT WITNESS Align ourselves with a denomination and family of churches, which will allow CPC to provide a **consistent witness** to His Word and Truth, locally and internationally. The Session (Pastors and Elders) believes the **EPC** is that denomination.

UNITED LOYALTIES AND FOCUSED ENERGIES Extend our church's reach into the world, offer us wisdom and insights in new endeavors, keep us in line with orthodox Christian doctrine, and hold us accountable to healthy and honest ways of dealing with our difficulties.

WHY JOIN THE EPC? CPC and EPC are better aligned on core beliefs, mission and outreach. EPC is a reformed body of believers, with a strong missional focus who upholds denominational standards, aligns with other churches and has trust and mutual support.

Who is the EPC?

This reformed denomination represents a growing family of churches that seek to remain faithful to Jesus Christ and Biblical Authority. The EPC upholds the standards of traditional reformed and biblically based Presbyterian form of government, maintaining a consistent witness to the world. A deep desire to see the kingdom of God extended through energetic church planting and evangelism (www.epc.org/vision-21/) is an important focus of the EPC. The EPC is unified in its commitment to the essentials of the historic Christian faith taught in the Bible, but allows liberty of conscience on those matters (non-essentials), which are not central to the Bible's teaching

EPC MOTTO

In Essentials, Unity; In Non- Essentials, Liberty;

In All Things, Charity

TRUTH IN LOVE ~ Ephesians 4:15

Core Beliefs – Essentials of the EPC Faith

The EPC believes...

1. In one God, the sovereign Creator.
2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, become flesh.
3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify God and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts.
4. Our Salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's grace.
5. The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ.
6. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.
7. The Lord Jesus commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples of all the nations.

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EPC Facts

The EPC has a consolidated statement of beliefs, choosing the Westminster Confession as their core belief document, including the longer and shorter catechisms.

The EPC embraces a decentralized form of government trusting the local church authority and autonomy to manage affairs consistent with God's leading. This form of governing applies to the age of Baptism, ordination of women, gifts of the Holy Spirit and local church worship styles.

EPC congregations own and control their own property.

The EPC has grown to 279 churches, 85,000+ active members in what are currently eight (8) geographic presbyteries in the United States with 90 missionaries serving in 20 different countries.

The EPC suggests an annual, voluntary, contribution of one percent (1%) of donations to support the administrative and benevolence work of the denomination. At that voluntary level, the recommended annual CPC contribution to the EPC would be \$45,000.

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