



"Where People From every Country and every Culture Find Christ"



**International Community Church (EFCA)
Columbia, Missouri**

Welcome to the International Community Church Family. We're glad you've chosen to become part of International Community Church! This is an introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this is designed to clearly explain who and what we are.

A Bible verse to remember:

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" Ephesians 2:19 (NIV)

Key Truths:

1. The church is a **family**
2. God wants you to be **part** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is **an orphan**.

International - Our focus, calling and mission is to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to internationals and their families who come to Columbia, including international students, scholars or permanent immigrants

Community - As a community of people that celebrate and enjoy our relationship with God, we also intend to be "seeker-sensitive" and "culturally-sensitive." This means that we function in a way that allows "seekers" to feel comfortable taking time to consider that Gospel. A "seeker" is a person who does not yet believe in God and has not yet become a follower of Jesus, but is interested in learning about God.

Church - As a church in Columbia, Missouri, we are also part of a larger organization of churches call the Evangelical Free Church of American (EFCA) and are committed to the teachings of the EFCA.

Our Purpose- To be a witnessing community that celebrates and enjoys God, is characterized by faith building relationships and develops Christ like maturity that results in empowering people for meaningful ministry.

Our Plan- We want to be a seeker sensitive community where seekers can explore the Bible and Christian community in a friendly and accepting atmosphere.

Our Vision-A church that will be known more and more as a close community of international Christians with a heart to reach out to internationals in the community who do not yet know Jesus.

Mission Statement-The mission of the International Community Church is to transform ethnically diverse seekers and believers into committed followers of Jesus Christ

Biblical Basis for International and Multi-Cultural Worship

Genesis 12:1-3 - "I will bless you... and you will be a blessing to all nations."

1 Kings 8:41-44 - "The foreigner who is not from Your people of Israel, when he comes from a far country... when he comes and prays toward this house, hear in Heaven Your dwelling place, and do all which the foreigner asks from You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, and worship You..."

Isaiah 2:1-2 - "... the House of the Lord God will be established... and be raise above the hills; and all nations will stream into it. Many peoples will come and say, `Come, let us go to the House of the Lord... that He may teach us His ways, and that we may live according to His words...'"

Isaiah 56:6-7 - "The foreigners who come to the Lord God, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord... I will bring them... and may them joyful in My House of Prayer... For My House shall be called a House of Prayer for All Nations..."

Revelation 5:9 - "Worthy are You... for You were killed, and did buy for God with Your blood men and women from every tribe and language and people group and nation."

Revelation 7:9 - "I saw a great multitude of people, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and all peoples and all languages, standing before the Throne of God and the Lamb of God... they call out, `Salvation to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb of God.'"

God's Love for Resident Aliens and "Strangers"

Leviticus 19:18, 33-34 - "You shall love your neighbor as yourself... When a foreigner lives in your land, you shall do him no harm. The foreigner who lives with you shall be as your own people, and you shall love him as yourself... I am the Lord your God."

Our Love for Resident Aliens → "Gleanings"

Deuteronomy 24:17-21 - "You shall not deny justice to a foreigner or an orphan or a widow... When you gather your harvest from the field, and have left some on the ground, you shall not go back [for the extra], but you shall leave it for the foreigner and the orphan and the widow... in order that the Lord my bless you..."

Christ's Gospel → "All Nations"

Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that t have taught you; I am with you even until the end of the age [all history]."

EFCA Statement of Faith

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

God

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and pre-millennial 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

10. 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.

Core Values

1. We Value the **Application of Scripture**

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22)

2. We Value **Team Leadership**

"In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
(Rom. 12:5)

3. We Value **Unity and Diversity**

"There are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people." (1 Cor. 12: 5, 6 JB)

"You are all children of God by believing in Christ Jesus ... There is no Jew or Greek. There is no slave or free person. There is no male or female. Because you belong to Jesus Christ, you are all one." (Gal. 3:28, NIV)

4. We Value **Commitment**

"Under Christ's control, the whole body is nourished and held together ... and it grows as God wants it to grow." (Col. 2:19, TEV)

"First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will they gave themselves to us as well." (2 Cor. 8: 5, TEV)

5. We Value **Service**

"Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve." (Matt. 20:28, LB)

6. We Value **God-Focused Faith**

"All things are possible with God." (Mark 10: 27) "According to your faith will it be done to you." (Matt. 9: 29)

7. We Value People's **Giftedness Believing Every Member is a Minister**

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." (Rom. 12:6, LB) "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. (1 Peter 4:10)

8. We Value **Training God's People for Ministry**

"He is the One who gave some the gift to be apostles. He gave some the gift to be prophets. He gave some the gift of preaching the good news. And he gave some the gift to be pastors and teachers. He did it so that they might prepare God's people to serve. If they do, the body of Christ will be built up." (Eph. 4:11-12, NIV)

9. We Value **Being Witnesses - Locally & Globally**

"Also seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you ...Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you prosper." (Jeremiah 29: 7, NIV)

". .. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1: 8, NIV)