



EVERGREEN CITY COMMUNITY

STATEMENT OF FAITH

What We Believe

Our Faith. Our Convictions.
Our Life Together.

At Evergreen City Community, what we believe shapes how we live.

Our beliefs are not simply theological statements we agree with. They shape how we understand God, follow Jesus, respond to the Holy Spirit, live together as His Church, raise the next generation and participate in God's mission.

We recognise that Christians may hold different convictions on some secondary matters. At the same time, we believe a healthy local church should be clear about what it believes and how those beliefs shape its life together.

This document expresses the biblical convictions that form and guide Evergreen City Community.

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01 The Bible

God has spoken, and His Word forms us.

WE BELIEVE the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the trustworthy and authoritative foundation for what we believe and how we live.

Through Scripture, God reveals Himself, His purposes and His story of redemption centred in Jesus Christ.

We don't approach Scripture merely to gain information. Through the Holy Spirit, God's Word teaches, corrects and forms us into mature followers of Jesus.

At Evergreen, Scripture is central to our preaching, discipleship, decision-making and life together. Experiences, traditions, culture and personal opinions are ultimately submitted to the authority of God's Word.

KEY SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 3:16–17 · 2 Peter 1:20–21 · Psalm 119:105 · Hebrews 4:12 · John 17:17

02 God

One God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE there is one true and living God, eternally existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit — three Persons, one God.

God is holy, loving, just, merciful and faithful. He created all things and continues to sustain His creation.

God is not distant from humanity. He has made Himself known and invites us into relationship with Him.

Everything begins with God and ultimately exists for His glory.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:1 · Deuteronomy 6:4 · Matthew 28:19 · 2 Corinthians 13:14 · Revelation 4:11

03 Jesus Christ

Jesus is at the centre of everything.

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, fully God and fully human.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, proclaimed and demonstrated the Kingdom of God, died on the cross for our sins and physically rose from the dead.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus defeated sin and death and made reconciliation with God possible.

He ascended to the Father, reigns as Lord and will return.

Christianity is therefore not primarily about becoming a better person or adopting a religious system. It is about **Jesus Christ — knowing Him, trusting Him and following Him.**

At Evergreen, Jesus is not simply part of our message.

Jesus is the centre of our message.

KEY SCRIPTURES

John 1:1–14 · Colossians 1:15–20 · Philippians 2:5–11 · 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 · Hebrews 4:15 · Acts 1:9–11

04 Humanity, Sin & Salvation

We are saved by grace and invited into new life.

WE BELIEVE every human being is created in the image of God and therefore possesses God-given dignity and value.

Humanity, however, has been broken by sin. Sin affects our relationship with God, ourselves, one another and creation. We cannot restore ourselves to God through morality, religion or human effort.

God, in His love, acted to rescue us through Jesus Christ.

Through Christ's death and resurrection, forgiveness and reconciliation with God are offered freely. Salvation is received **by grace through faith in Jesus Christ**, not earned by our works.

We respond to the gospel through repentance and faith — turning from sin and placing our trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Through Christ we are forgiven, made new, adopted into God's family and given eternal life.

But salvation is more than a moment.

Jesus calls us to **follow Him.**

The Christian life is an ongoing journey in which the Holy Spirit transforms us to increasingly reflect the character of Christ.

At Evergreen, our goal isn't simply to produce church attenders.

We want to make disciples of Jesus.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:26–27 · John 3:16–17 · Romans 3:23 · Romans 6:23 · Romans 10:9–10 · Ephesians 2:8–10
· 2 Corinthians 5:17 · Luke 9:23 · Matthew 28:18–20

05 The Holy Spirit

God is present with us and at work within us.

WE BELIEVE the Holy Spirit is fully God and is actively at work in the world and in the Church today.

Every person who belongs to Christ receives the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings new life, assures us that we belong to God, produces Christlike character in us, guides us into truth and empowers us to live as witnesses of Jesus.

We believe the Christian life is meant to be lived in an ongoing relationship with the Holy Spirit. Scripture calls believers to continually **be filled with the Spirit**. We therefore desire to live surrendered and responsive to His presence and leading.

Being Spirit-filled is not primarily about having a particular spiritual experience. It is a life increasingly shaped by the **presence, character, power and purposes of God**.

At Evergreen, we desire both the **fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit** to be evident in our lives.

Spiritual power without Christlike character is not maturity.

KEY SCRIPTURES

John 14:16–17, 26 · Acts 1:8 · Romans 8:9–16 · Galatians 5:22–25 · Ephesians 5:18 · 2 Corinthians 3:17–18

06 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We welcome the continuing work and gifts of the Spirit.

WE BELIEVE the gifts of the Holy Spirit described in the New Testament continue to be available to the Church today.

These include prophecy, healing, tongues and other gifts given by the Spirit for the strengthening of believers, the building up of the Church and participation in God's mission.

We encourage believers to desire spiritual gifts and remain open and responsive to the Holy Spirit while recognising that gifts are given by God according to His grace and purposes.

Spiritual gifts should never become a means of comparison, superiority or division.

They are given to **serve others and glorify Jesus**.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

We believe speaking in tongues is a biblical gift of the Holy Spirit and a meaningful expression of Spirit-led prayer.

Scripture presents tongues within the gathered life of the Church and in the believer's prayer life. Paul speaks of praying with his spirit as well as with his understanding, describes speaking in tongues as personally edifying, and himself valued and practised the gift.

We therefore encourage believers who exercise this gift to embrace it as part of their prayer life. Speaking in tongues may accompany prayer, praise, thanksgiving and intercession, particularly when our own words feel inadequate.

At the same time, **we do not teach that speaking in tongues is the necessary evidence of salvation, receiving the Holy Spirit, or spiritual maturity**. Every person who belongs to Christ has received the Holy Spirit.

In our corporate gatherings, we seek to follow the principles of 1 Corinthians 12–14. We welcome the activity of the Holy Spirit while exercising spiritual gifts with **love, discernment, biblical order and sensitivity toward the whole church**.

Our posture is neither to suppress the gifts of the Spirit nor to sensationalise them.

We desire to be a church deeply rooted in Scripture and genuinely open to the present work of the Holy Spirit.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Acts 2:1–4 · Romans 8:26–27 · 1 Corinthians 12:4–13 · 1 Corinthians 14:1–5, 13–19, 26–33, 39–40 · 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21

07 The Church

We don't simply attend church. We belong to the body of Christ.

WE BELIEVE the Church is the people of God — all who have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and united by the Holy Spirit as the body of Christ.

Jesus is the head of His Church.

The local church is therefore more than a Sunday service, an organisation or a collection of programmes. It is a spiritual family in which believers worship together, receive God's Word, pray, share life, care for one another, exercise spiritual gifts, make disciples and participate in God's mission.

Scripture calls believers not only to a personal relationship with Jesus but also to meaningful life with His people.

At Evergreen, **Sunday gathering is central to our life together, but church extends beyond Sunday.**

We express church life through gathered worship, prayer, Life Groups, discipleship, fellowship, serving, generosity, pastoral care and mission.

We recognise that different seasons of life can affect someone's participation. Belonging is therefore not measured merely by attendance. But those who call Evergreen their church intentionally participate in the life and mission of the community rather than relating to church only through the activities they prefer.

We want Evergreen to be a community where people are **known, loved, formed, challenged and sent.**

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 16:18 · Acts 2:42–47 · 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 · Ephesians 2:19–22 · Ephesians 4:11–16 · Hebrews 10:24–25

08 Baptism & Communion

Jesus has given His Church visible practices that tell the gospel story.

BAPTISM

WE BELIEVE water baptism is an important act of obedience for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

Baptism publicly identifies a believer with Jesus in His death and resurrection and declares their new life in Him.

Baptism does not earn salvation. It is a response to the salvation we have received by grace.

At Evergreen, we encourage every believer who has placed their faith in Christ and has not been baptised as a believer to take this step.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 28:18–20 · Acts 2:38–41 · Romans 6:3–4 · Colossians 2:12

COMMUNION

WE BELIEVE communion was given by Jesus to His Church as a continual remembrance and proclamation of His death until He comes again.

When we share the bread and the cup, we remember Christ's body given for us and His blood shed for us. We celebrate the grace we have received, examine our hearts and recognise that we participate together as one body.

Communion continually brings us back to the centre:

Jesus Christ and His finished work.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 22:14–20 · 1 Corinthians 10:16–17 · 1 Corinthians 11:23–29

09 Discipleship & Spiritual Formation

Following Jesus means becoming like Jesus.

WE BELIEVE Jesus calls people not merely to believe certain truths about Him but to **follow** Him.

Discipleship is the lifelong process of becoming more like Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.

This transformation involves every area of life — our character, relationships, sexuality, finances, work, family, habits, decisions and mission.

Spiritual maturity is therefore not measured simply by how much Scripture we know, how long we have attended church, what spiritual gifts we exercise or what position we hold.

Maturity increasingly looks like Jesus.

Scripture, prayer, worship, community, obedience, generosity, serving and spiritual disciplines are some of the ways through which God forms us.

At Evergreen, we therefore want to create more than church programmes. We want to create **pathways through which people intentionally grow as disciples of Jesus.**

And mature disciples eventually help make other disciples.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 4:19 · Matthew 28:18–20 · Luke 9:23 · Romans 12:1–2 · Galatians 5:22–25 · Colossians 1:28 · Ephesians 4:13–15

10 Marriage, Family & Generations

God's design shapes our relationships, homes and generations.

WE BELIEVE marriage is a covenant established by God, joining **one man and one woman in a faithful, lifelong union**.

We believe God's design for sexual intimacy is within the covenant of marriage, and followers of Jesus are called to honour God with their bodies and relationships.

These convictions should always be expressed with **truth, grace, humility and compassion**.

Every person is created in the image of God and should therefore be treated with dignity and love. The Church should be a place where people can honestly bring their questions, struggles and brokenness and encounter both the truth and grace of Jesus.

We also believe family is an important context for discipleship. Parents carry a particular responsibility to nurture faith in their children, while the wider church community shares in creating an environment where every generation can encounter and follow Jesus.

Children and young people are not simply the future of the Church.

They are part of the Church today.

This conviction is reflected in Evergreen's vision:

Raising Generations. Transforming Communities.

We desire to see faith intentionally carried from one generation to another — not merely inherited as tradition, but personally encountered, embraced and lived.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:26–28 · Genesis 2:18–24 · Deuteronomy 6:4–9 · Psalm 78:4–7 · Matthew 19:4–6 · Mark 10:13–16 · 1 Corinthians 6:18–20 · 2 Timothy 1:5

11 The Kingdom of God & Mission

We gather to be sent.

WE BELIEVE the good news of Jesus is meant to be proclaimed and demonstrated.

Jesus announced the Kingdom of God and invited people to repent, believe the gospel and follow Him. He then commissioned His disciples to go into the world and make disciples.

Mission is therefore not reserved for missionaries, pastors or occasional church programmes.

Every follower of Jesus is called to participate in God's mission.

This includes proclaiming the gospel, making disciples, demonstrating compassion, serving those in need, pursuing justice and mercy, and carrying the presence and values of God's Kingdom into our homes, workplaces, neighbourhoods and communities.

At Evergreen, this is expressed in our vision:

Transforming Communities.

We don't want to become a church that exists primarily for itself. We want to equip people to carry Jesus into the places where God has already positioned them.

We gather so that we can also be sent.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 5:13–16 · Matthew 9:35–38 · Matthew 28:18–20 · Luke 4:18–19 · Acts 1:8 · Micah 6:8 · 2 Corinthians 5:18–20

12 The Return of Christ & Our Eternal Hope

Our story is moving toward restoration.

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead, God's final judgment, eternal life with God for those who belong to Christ, and the ultimate defeat of sin, evil and death.

Christian hope is not simply about "going to heaven." Scripture points toward God's ultimate restoration of all things — a new heaven and a new earth where God dwells with His people.

Because Jesus will return, we live with **hope, holiness, faithfulness and urgency.**

We do not believe speculation about dates or detailed end-times timelines should distract the Church from the mission Jesus has already given us.

Our hope is ultimately not in figuring out every detail of the future.

Our hope is Jesus.

KEY SCRIPTURES

John 14:1–3 · Acts 1:10–11 · 1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 51–58 · 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 · Revelation 21:1–5 · Revelation 22:12–13

Unity, Disagreement & Christian Community

We pursue truth without sacrificing love.

WE BELIEVE Christian unity is rooted in Jesus Christ and the gospel.

Unity does not mean Christians will agree about every theological or practical question.

There are foundational truths of the Christian faith that shape who we are and cannot simply be treated as matters of preference. There are also secondary matters about which sincere followers of Jesus may reach different conclusions.

At Evergreen, **questions are welcome**.

People should be able to ask difficult questions, study Scripture, seek understanding and have honest theological conversations without fear.

Likewise, belonging to Evergreen does not require identical opinions about every secondary issue.

However, there is an important difference between **having a disagreement and creating division**.

Those who belong to a local church share a responsibility to protect its unity. When significant theological or relational concerns arise, we encourage people to bring those concerns into honest conversation with appropriate pastoral leadership rather than allowing unresolved concerns to become sources of factions, suspicion or competing influence within the community.

Scripture calls us to **speak the truth in love**, honour one another and make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit.

For those entrusted with teaching and leadership, greater influence naturally requires greater theological alignment and accountability.

Our goal is neither a community where nobody can disagree nor one where every belief becomes equally acceptable.

We want to be a church where **conviction and humility, truth and grace, freedom and accountability** can exist together.

KEY SCRIPTURES

John 17:20–23 · Romans 14:1–19 · 1 Corinthians 1:10 · Ephesians 4:1–6, 11–16 · Philippians 2:1–5 · Titus 3:9–11

14 Generosity & Stewardship

Everything we have ultimately belongs to God.

WE BELIEVE everything we have is entrusted to us by God, and followers of Jesus are called to live generously.

Christian generosity is not primarily a financial transaction or religious obligation. It is an expression of worship, gratitude, trust and participation in God's work.

We encourage believers to develop a consistent and generous practice of giving toward the work of the local church, the advance of the gospel and the needs of others.

We do not give in order to earn God's blessing or manipulate Him into giving us more.

We give because God has first given generously to us.

Stewardship extends beyond money. Our time, abilities, opportunities, relationships and resources are gifts to be faithfully used for God's purposes.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 6:19–21 · 2 Corinthians 8:7–9 · 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 · 1 Timothy 6:17–19 · 1 Peter 4:10

What This Means at Evergreen

Our beliefs shape the church we are becoming.

What we believe is not intended to remain on a webpage or in a document.

Our theology shapes our culture.

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- Because **Jesus is Lord**, we centre everything around Him.

 - Because **Scripture is our authority**, we allow God's Word to challenge and form us.

 - Because **the Holy Spirit is present and active**, we seek His presence, power, gifts and leading while exercising them with biblical wisdom and discernment.

 - Because **the Church is a body**, we don't want people merely attending services; we want people to find genuine belonging.

 - Because **discipleship is lifelong**, we intentionally create pathways that help people grow toward spiritual maturity.

 - Because **God designed marriage and family**, we seek to honour His purposes in our relationships and homes.

 - Because **every generation matters**, we intentionally invest in children, young people, adults and families.

 - Because **every believer has a part to play**, we encourage people to discover their gifts and serve.

 - Because **everything belongs to God**, we practise generosity and faithful stewardship.

 - Because **Jesus has given us a mission**, we refuse to become a church that exists only for itself.

 - And because **unity matters**, we choose honest conversation, grace, accountability and love over gossip, factions and division.
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This is not simply a statement of what Evergreen believes.

It describes the kind of people we want to become.



**Raising Generations.
Transforming Communities.**

EVERGREEN CITY COMMUNITY · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM