

Membership Application

First Evangelical Free Church of Colorado Springs

Why become a member?

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household. Ephesians 2:19

1. **Personal sense of belonging.** By choosing to become a member, you are making a conscious choice to identify with and become part of this church family.
2. **Personal voice and vote.** Someone once said that attending a church without becoming a member is like being a spiritual “foster child”. Foster children can participate in a family, but they are never a full participant in the family with all the responsibilities, and legal rights. Church members are given a clear voice and vote at all congregational meetings. Members can participate in the decision making and vote on new pastoral staff, church leadership, new members, church finances, and major decisions. Note: Non-members are welcome to freely participate in all congregational meetings, but only members can vote.
3. **Personal significance.** Becoming a member will open up new opportunities for you to serve in significant ministry roles within our church family.
4. **Personal relationships.** By actively identifying with our church, you will enter into new meaningful relationships you would not experience if you stay on the fringe of our church family.
5. **Personal development:** By committing yourself to becoming a member, you will have a greater focus to use and develop your gifts, abilities and serving skills and leadership within our church family.
6. **Personal rewards:** Jesus Christ promises to reward us for our service for others. Your loving service within our church family will have eternal significance in your life and the lives of others. You will also experience the joy and reward of being part of what God is doing with and through our entire church family.
7. **Personal accountability:** By becoming a member of this church, you are committing yourself to a personal path of spiritual growth, Christian maturity, and godly service. Through the relationships you choose to build, you will become more accountable to others in your spiritual journey.

Who can become a member?

Eligibility: This congregation receives into membership anyone who is born again through faith in Jesus Christ and professes Him before the world; who has reached eighteen years of age; who has a good reputation as to life and character; and who accepts the Statement of Faith, Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws of this congregation.

What is expected of members?

We expect members to participate in fulfilling our vision statement, which is to:

“Bring help and hope as we develop fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.”

1. **Members should seek to “Bring help and hope” by...**
 - Sharing the love of Christ the hope of glory with others through actions and words.¹
 - Encouraging one another in obedience to God’s Word and Christ’s model.²
 - Helping one another in practical ways.³
 - Inspiring hope in others and ourselves in this otherwise hopeless world through scripture and service.⁴

2. Members should seek to become “fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ” as they...

- Acknowledge they have personally received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and have eternal life.⁵
- Love God daily through scripture reading, prayer & following Christ.⁶
- Celebrate God by participating in a weekly worship service.⁷
- Grow in loving relationships by being part of a small group, class or ministry team.⁸
- Transform their lives by learning God’s word and following God’s will.⁹
- Pursue active service according to their abilities, gifts and God-given desires.¹⁰
- Give generously and faithfully to God’s work at our church and beyond.¹¹

References for church Vision Statement:

¹Mt 5:16, Col 1:10, Mk 1:17, 2Cor 5:19-21, Acts 26:17-18

²Job 16:5, Isa 1:17, Eph. 6:22, 2Thes 2:16-17, Titus 1:9, Hebrews 10:25

³Lev 25:35, Num 11:17, Neh 6:16, Ps 18:6, Ps 33:20, Ps 124:8, Acts 11:29, Acts 20:35, 2Cor 9:2, 1Thes 5:14, 1 Tim. 5:5, Heb 4:16, Heb 6:10

⁴Job 11:18, Ps 9:18, Ps 31:24, Ps 33:20, Ps 62:5, Ps 147:11, Rom 5:5, Rom 12:12, 2Cor 1:10, 1 Tim 5:5, 1 Tim. 6:17

⁵John 1:12, 1 John 5:11-13

⁶Mat 22:37, Ps 119:105, John 14:23-24, John 12:25-26, Luke 11:2, 1Thes 5:17

⁷Ps 145:7, Heb 10:25, Acts 2:42

⁸Heb 10: 23-25

⁹Ps 145:4, Prov 13:20, Rom 12:1-2, Ps 119:1-4, 2Cor 5:17

¹⁰Eph 2:10, Rom 12:4-8, Gal 5:13, 1Cor 12

¹¹2 Cor 9:7, Prov 3:9-10, Mal 3:8-10, Deut 14:22

3. Members must be in agreement with our statement of faith, and should be familiar with the distinctives of the EFCA.

Statement of Faith

The Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) 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 premillennial 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. *Adopted June 2009*

Distinctives of the Evangelical

Free Church of America

In essentials, unity; In non-essentials, charity;
In all things, Jesus Christ.

The Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) is a believers' church—membership consists of those who have a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

The great heritage of EFCA people around the world includes the fact that fellowship and ministry opportunities in the local church are based solely on one's personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and trusting in Him alone for salvation. Membership requires commitment to sound doctrine as expressed in our Statement of Faith. However, a person is not excluded from membership because he or she does not agree on every fine point of doctrine. Within the EFCA, there is allowance for legitimate differences of understanding in some areas of doctrine.

2. The Evangelical Free Church of America is evangelical—we are committed to the inerrancy and authority of the Bible and the essentials of the gospel.

The EFCA was born out of a heritage of commitment to the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. We have deep convictions based on the authority of God's Word, but we do not

draw battle lines over minor points. Nor do we make minor issues of doctrine a test of fellowship in the local church. We are evangelical. We believe in separated living and personal holiness, but we are not separatists.

3. The Evangelical Free Church of America embraces a humble orthodoxy in partnership with others of like faith.

We believe in the spiritual unity of the Church though not necessarily in structural union. We join with other Christians and other denominations of like, precious faith in common goals and ministries to accomplish the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. But we believe that there is strength in diversity and that it is important to preserve our distinctives. We recognize that union in structure does not guarantee unity of spirit. Our foremost concern is unity of spirit with our Lord, with each other and with other Christians.

4. The Evangelical Free Church of America believes in Christian freedom with responsibility and accountability.

We believe in Christian liberty, but freedom always has its limitations. Responsible Christians do not abuse freedom. The apostle Paul wrote forcefully about Christian liberty in the Book of Galatians. He shattered

the legalists with the doctrine of grace. But in First and Second Corinthians and Romans, the apostle also rebuked believers when liberty was abused. He declared boldly the principles of Christian liberty, but spoke with equal forcefulness about Christian accountability. The EFCA desires to preserve our freedom in Christ. We encourage our people to be responsible, godly men, women and young people who desire to live under the control of the Holy Spirit in obedience to the principles and precepts of God's Word, and in harmony with God's will for life as revealed in the Scriptures.

5. The Evangelical Free Church of America believes in both the rational and relational,

i.e. the head and the heart, dimensions of Christianity.

We believe the Scriptures must be applied to our individual lives with warmth of heart, warmth of message and warmth of concern. We believe it is essential to have solid, biblical content in our doctrinal understanding of faith, but it is equally important to have a dynamic, vital relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son and to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. Sound Christian doctrine must be coupled with dynamic Christian experience. Ours is a ministry of love and spiritual reconciliation.

6. The Evangelical Free Church of America affirms the right of each local church to govern its own affairs with a spirit of interdependency with other churches.

The EFCA is committed to a congregational form of government as stated in our Articles of Incorporation: *"The Evangelical Free Church of America shall be an association and fellowship of autonomous but interdependent congregations of like faith and congregational government..."* Strong pastoral leadership coupled with discerning and well-equipped Christian lay people can produce spiritual growth as well as significant church growth. While the EFCA affirms the right of each local church to govern its own affairs, we also believe in the biblical values of interdependence and cooperation.

We are a movement of churches committed to working with one another in order to fulfill the Great Commission in the United States and abroad. This is only possible when there are strong ties with other EFCA churches, with local district organizations and with the national EFCA ministries.

Our Invitation To You:

If you are in agreement with our statement of faith, and desire to join us as a member of the First Evangelical Free Church, we invite you to complete the form below and return it to the church office.

First Evangelical Free Church Membership Application:

I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, and desire to become an active member and support the ministries of this church. Therefore, I hereby apply for membership.

First & Last Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone*: _____ Cell Phone*: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail*: _____ Occupation: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widowed Remarried

Church previously attended (name of church & city/state): _____

*If available and applicable.

Family Members in Your Current Household	Relationship	Birthdate

Please write out your personal testimony of how you came to Christ on the back of this form.

Have you been baptized (date)? _____ If not, do you wish to be? Yes No

I have had access (www.1freechurch.org or by request from the church office) to copies of the Statement of Faith, Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and am in full agreement with them in both word and spirit. As a member of this church, I will abide by these documents, and seek to fulfill the membership responsibilities to the best of my ability, and will endeavor to fulfill my responsibilities to the Lord and to His work.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please turn this form into the church office at 3022 W. Fontanero, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 or email it to office@1freechurch.org Within 1-4 weeks you will be contacted by the church elders who will set up an interview to hear your testimony (i.e. personal story) of how you came to put your personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Following the successful completion of this interview, you will be recommended for membership at the next congregational meeting.

Note: Our churches Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws make no allowance for membership transfers. Please submit a separate Membership Application form for each individual applying for membership to the church office. An Elder will contact you to arrange a time for a membership interview.

Personal Testimony of _____

When and how did you come to know Jesus Christ as your Savior?

Lined area for writing the testimony.

Office Use Only

Interview by Elder Team ___/___/___

Elder Team Recommendation:

Congregational Meeting Decision ___/___/___