



COMMUNITY CHURCH

cultivating Christian community

grace • equipping • participation • collaboration • sending

application for membership

NAME: _____
(please print)

As a believer in Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him as Savior and Lord of my life, and having been baptized, I would like to become a member of Community Church of East Gloucester. I have read and understood the church's doctrinal statement, its distinctives, and its mission statement (attached to this application). I choose to partner with the Community Church according to these documents as the articulated heart of this church.

I am a regular attender of Community Church and I commit to contributing my time and energy to the church by using the gifts and abilities the Lord has given me to support the ministry and work of the body. I commit to a lifestyle of extravagant generosity which includes giving to the church as a declaration of God's rule over all areas of my life and an expression of thankful worship for the Lord's provision.

I willingly submit myself to the leadership of the church in matters of Christian faith and practice, asking the church as a community to keep me accountable to the faith I profess. I commit myself to growing in my relationship with Jesus Christ toward Christian maturity for the glory of God. Should my lifestyle cease to be consistent with a growing, maturing faith, I ask the church to intervene with love and grace in matters of church discipline.

I recognize that I have the opportunity to meet with an elder to discuss any questions or concerns about the church before signing and submitting this application, and that I have taken advantage of that opportunity if it was necessary.

signature: _____

address: _____

Please do not include my contact information in the church directory.

phone: _____

email: _____

Thank you so much for your interest in and commitment to our body at Community Church. Please give this signed application to one of the elders and we will review and act on it at one of our upcoming meetings. If you have any questions about the church or any of the statements on the following pages, please contact one of the elders. A full copy of the Church's by-laws is available upon request. To contact the elders, call the church or email them at <elders@eastgloucester.org>, or speak to one of them on a Sunday morning.

COMMUNITY CHURCH of east gloucester

seven chapel street, gloucester, massachusetts, 01930 • 978.283.5527 • www.eastgloucester.org



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mission and distinctives

MISSION STATEMENT:

As a church, we acknowledge and participate in broad mission of every church, namely to exalt God, equip the Church, and extend God's grace to an unbelieving world. Our church is unique, however, in how we accomplish the broader mission of the Church.

The mission of Community Church is to cultivate Christian community.

"*Cultivate*" is a biblical concept found in the teachings of Jesus and the Apostle Paul. Cultivation emphasizes the Christian life as a process of life-long learning involving effort, nurturing, providence, growth, harvesting, and reproduction.

"*Christian*" is defined and clearly articulated in our Doctrinal Statement. It reminds us that we share a common set of beliefs with millions of Christians worldwide, including: the deity of Jesus Christ; the Bible as the word of God and foundation for all matters of faith and practice; the person and work of the Holy Spirit; relevant, expository, and biblical preaching; and the importance of public worship, evangelism, missions, and prayer.

"*Community*" is our unique approach to cultivating Christians. Community is defined by our distinctives (core values): grace, equipping, participation, collaboration, and sending. In a Christian community, grace governs all relationships, believers are equipped for life and ministry, members participate in ministry, leaders work collaboratively, and disciples live lives of purpose, seeing themselves as being sent into the world to make a redemptive impact.

DISTINCTIVES:

We also recognize that we are distinct due to our church culture, which emphasizes community, the core components of which are grace, participation, collaboration, equipping, and sending.

Grace We believe grace should govern all relationships. Therefore, we extend grace to one another for the sake of unity, growth, and witness; and we extend grace to unbelievers with the hope that they may experience redeeming grace.

Equipping We believe it is the duty of the church to make disciples by training Christians for life and ministry. Therefore, we desire to help every believer to identify their gifts, to develop their abilities, and to equip them for effectiveness in ministry.

Participation We believe that every Christian is called to ministry and uniquely gifted to build up the church and engage the world. Therefore, we invite every believer to cultivate a lifestyle of ministry and provide opportunities for participation in ministry.

Collaboration We believe that ministry and church leadership should be a group effort. Therefore, we embrace collaboration at every level of ministry and leadership to ensure that multiple perspectives are creatively brought to bear on our ideas, decisions, and ministries.

Sending We believe that all Christians are sent into the world to serve the spiritual and practical needs of their neighbors for the sake of the gospel. Therefore, we communicate the gospel in relevant ways to people in our community and partner with those who are active in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.



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doctrinal statement

As a church we accept these areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all biblical Christians. However, because of our conviction that we are part of a larger body of believers, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is accurately based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue that hinders the ministry to which God has called us.

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God, and that it is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks. (2 Tim. 3:15,16; 1 Peter 2:2)

We believe there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Duet. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; Mark 12:29; John 5:17-30)

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His complete and perfect humanity.

We believe in the virgin birth, in His sinless life and His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal, future return to Earth in power and glory to rule over the nations. (Isaiah 7:14; Acts 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Acts 1:9-11)

We believe that man and woman were created good and upright in the image of God, but that they voluntarily sinned by disobeying God and thereby were alienated from God, and incurred both physical and spiritual death. That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation. Because of the fall, each person's nature is corrupted, and they are thus totally unable to please God. (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 5:12-19)

We believe that regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to salvation, and His indwelling presence necessary for the living of a Godly Christian life; and that it is only by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ that people can be saved. The salvation of all who believe is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. (Luke 24:37; Rom. 3:16; 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7)

We believe in the Holy Spirit as a person, separate and distinct from and co-equal in the triune Godhead with the Father and the Son. He is sent to dwell within the heart of each child of God, to comfort and to lead into all truth. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 2:4; 10:44-46; 5:8,9)

We believe in the victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to judgment and condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life. (Matt. 25:26; Mark 9:34-38; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body, which is composed of all people, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith. God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures and for mutual encouragement. (Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23)

We believe that Christians are to be baptized as believers and to partake in the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. (However, since our church believes that persons of other Christian denominations are part of one body of believers; we recognize and accept baptisms by other Bible believing churches.) (Matt. 29:19; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:20-29)