



# Membership

Are you considering becoming a member of Fellowship of Christ? Would you like to know more about...

Who we are,

What we believe, and

Why become a voting member?

This booklet addresses these questions.

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## Why Belong

I am the vine; you are the branches. John 5:15

You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and belong in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:15b

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

Each one of you is a part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. Colossians 3:15

Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoys its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. James 3:18

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Acts 2:42

God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:5.

The Body of Christ becomes visible to the world in the congregation gathered around the Word and Sacrament. The congregation is a presence all the world can see. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in *The Cost of Discipleship*



# Baptism

Through Holy Baptism we are united in Christ's death in repentance of our sins; raised to new life in Him through the power of the resurrection; incorporated into the Body of Christ; and empowered through the work of the Holy Spirit to go on to perfection. Holy Baptism is God's gracious gift to us, flowing from the once for all work of Christ Jesus, and our pledge to follow as His disciples. This truth holds whether we were baptized as adults or confirmed infant baptism when old enough to speak for ourselves. Those within the covenant are the Body of Christ we call the church. Therefore, baptism is typically conducted during the public worship of the congregation. Baptism is one of two sacraments (the other being Holy Communion).

Christians are encouraged to reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant from time to time. If you have been baptized, then please prayerfully renew your vows in your own private way. If you have not been baptized and are ready to be, then please let the pastor or any Council member know. We will offer baptism before the membership vows. If you would like more information about baptism before committing, please let us know. We will arrange a one-on-one visit with the pastor or another church member.

Baptism vows cover your renunciation of sin and profession of faith:

*Do you renounce the devil and all his works, and reject the evil powers of this world?*

***I renounce them.***

*Do you repent of your sin, turn to Jesus Christ, and confess Him as your Lord and Savior?*

***I do.***

*Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?*

***I do.***

*Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit?*

***I will.***



## Membership Overview and Vows

Those wishing to become professing members of the Global Methodist Church may present themselves to the pastor of any local congregation and, after any appropriate counsel, be baptized if they have not already done so, and join by professing their faith in Jesus Christ and agreeing to the vows of discipleship. Membership extends baptism's covenantal relations to Christ's work through a community of believers. It is a commitment to join with others in worship, family, discipleship, service, and mission. Vows are made in public at worship if able. Those homebound may join remotely in special arrangements with the Church Council.

Vows of discipleship in Fellowship of Christ are:

*Do you believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit?*

*Do you repent of your sins and confess Jesus Christ as Savior, putting your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord?*

*Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures?*

*Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of your life as a faithful member of Christ's holy church?*

*Will you be a faithful member of the Fellowship of Christ, doing all in your power to strengthen its ministries through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness as Christ's representative in this world?*

Church membership is not required to be a Christian or to participate in the activities of Fellowship of Christ. But it is required for certain privileges on the business side of our community: To participate in church leadership, to elect those who lead the church, to vote on a motion at a church business meeting, and to see church financial statement or meeting minutes.



# Statement of Faith

## Introduction

The Statement of Faith is a Fellowship of Christ document that stated our doctrines and social positions when an independent church. Now, as a Global Methodist local church, we endorse, believe and teach the doctrines and social witness of the Global Methodist Church. See <https://global-methodist.org/> → Menu → Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, Parts One and Two. The two documents, ours and GMC's, say basically the same thing. After all, we designed Fellowship of Christ to be a scripture-based church with strong Methodist roots. Now, the Statement of Faith serves as a short overview of GMC's more thorough rendition.

## A. Doctrines

**1. Foundation.** Fellowship of Christ professes the Christian faith, established on the confession of Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God, and resurrected Lord of heaven and earth. Jesus is the unique incarnate Word of God, and He lives today, calling all to receive Him as savior, and as the one to whom all authority has been given.

**2. Holy Scripture.** Fellowship of Christ believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God from Genesis to Revelation. The 66 canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities or interpretations must be measured.

**3. The Gospel.** "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." (Romans 1:16) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

**4. Sacraments.** Fellowship of Christ recognizes two sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion.

**5. Trinity.** Fellowship of Christ believes God exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three in One, the Trinity.

**6. Christian Expression.** We are first and foremost Christian. Within Christianity we are Protestant; within Protestantism we are Methodists.



**7. Heritage.** Our doctrine is guided and aided by three key movements in history.

**a. Creeds.** In the first four centuries after Christ on earth, in addition to the canonization of Scripture, we received the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed.

**b. Protestant Reformation.** In the sixteenth century, the Protestant reformers asserted the primacy of Scripture, the necessity of grace and faith, the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9) and limited the sacraments to baptism and holy communion. The Reformers emphasized the Five Solas: Sola Gratia (grace alone—Romans 3:10-12; Ephesians 2:8-9), Sola Fide (faith alone—Romans 4:4-5), Sola Christus (Christ alone—John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9); Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone—2 Timothy 3:16-17), and Soli Deo Gloria (glory to God Alone—1 Corinthians 10:31; Titus 3:4-5).

**c. Methodism.** In the eighteenth century, evangelical reformer brothers John Wesley and Charles Wesley, clergy in the Anglican Church in England, emphasized the experiential nature of faith as direct encounter with the risen Lord. They worked to develop the fruit of this faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in individual and communal life. Through the works of John and Charles Wesley, a distinctly Methodist expression of Christian faith and life, of practical divinity, emerged. Methodism placed emphasis on the universal work of grace, the new birth, and the fullness of salvation, the pursuit of entire sanctification.

## **B. Social Witness**

### **1. Marriage and Sexuality**

a. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one legitimate meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, covenantal union as delineated by Scripture. Marriage ceremonies performed in any facility or space owned, leased, or rented by this church will be only those ceremonies sanctioned by God, joining one man with one woman as their genders were determined by anatomy at birth (and not subject to change). Whenever there is a conflict between the church’s position and any new legal standard for marriage, the church’s statement of faith, doctrines, and biblical positions will govern. (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:22-23; Mark 10:6-9; I Cor. 7:1-9)



b. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage as defined in above. We believe that any other type of sexual activity, identity, or expression that lies outside of this definition of marriage, including those that are becoming more accepted in the culture and the courts, are contradictory to God's natural design and purpose for sexual activity. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

c. We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, unchangeable genders together reflect the image and nature of God, and the rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Genesis 1:26-27)

## **2. Sanctity of Life**

**a. Abortion.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being created in the image of God and must be valued and protected, (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:13-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:36, 44)

**b. Euthanasia.** We believe that an intentional act or omission that facilitates premature death, is assuming a decision that is to be reserved for God. We do not believe that discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome is euthanasia. (Ex. 20:13; 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)

**3. Love.** We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal graciously, humbly, gently, and patiently with those who oppose us. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 3:8-9; 1 John 3:17-18)

**4. Protection of Children.** We believe that children are a blessing from the Lord and must be absolutely protected within the church from any form of abuse or molestation. The church has zero tolerance for any person, whether



paid staff, volunteer, member, or visitor, who abuses or molests a child. (Ps. 127:3-5; Matt. 18:6, 19:14; Mark 10:14)



## Questions and Answers

**Why was Fellowship of Christ started?** To share biblical truth and the love of Jesus with others through worship, study, fellowship and service, so that others may come into a saving relationship with Him. We were a traditional (orthodox) church with Wesleyan roots.

**When did you start?** The inaugural worship service was on May 21, 2023, after approximately 3 months of meeting in a home basement.

**Where did the name, Fellowship of Christ, come from?** A large group of former United Methodists met regularly to evaluate and plan a start-up church. Over several meetings that name came to the top (and was available for registration within the State of Colorado).

**Are you a Methodist Church?** Yes, we are a Global Methodist local church.

**When?**

10 December 2023: Congregational vote to affiliate with GMC

4 January 2024: Fellowship of Christ's application to GMC

1 May 2024: We become a Global Methodist local church

**Where can I learn more about Global Methodist Church?** <https://global-methodist.org/>

**What is the leadership of Fellowship of Christ?** A Church Council of seven voting members who are elected by members of the congregation. The Council is advised by the pastor, a non-voting Council member.

**What if I have not been baptized?** Please let the pastor know in advance that you have not been baptized. You and the pastor will arrange a time for consultation and teaching about your decision to be baptized. The baptismal vows are performed publicly concurrent with your membership vows.

**Is membership required to serve on a church committee? Or to serve as an Officer or on the Church Council?** Yes. (Bylaws Article 3 & 4)

**Are there any distinctives about how Fellowship of Christ lives out its service to others?** Besides adhering to its strong Statement of Faith, the church has committed 10% of donations towards Missions.

**How long do you expect to worship at the school?** We are very blessed to have the space at Monument Academy! Perhaps, God willing, in time, we



will have a more permanent space including our own church building. The Council is setting aside 20% of revenue for improving facility space.

**Do you have a Book of Discipline or some other written definition of beliefs, doctrine, governance, standards of conduct, accountability?** Yes, see introduction. Plus we have Bylaws which define our legal status and organizational variances from the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline due to our small size.

**Who wrote the Bylaws?** The Church Council with the assistance of a Christian law firm, National Center for Law and Liberty.

**Where can I see the Bylaws?** Request an email copy by:

Email [fellowshipofchrist@focm.church](mailto:fellowshipofchrist@focm.church), or

Contact page at our website, [www.focm.church](http://www.focm.church).

**May females be pastor or hold church office?** Yes.

**I have another question. Who can answer?** Probably lots of people. We recommend you find a Council member for an answer that is current and accurate.