

# communitychurch of east gloucester

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 statement of mission and vision, and its distinctives, and I choose to partner with the Community Church according to these documents as they represent the direction and efforts 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 as 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 a member of the leadership team 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 leadership team members, 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 the leadership team. A full copy of the Church's by-laws is available upon request. To contact a member of the leadership team, call the church or email them at <leadteam@eastgloucester.org>, or speak to one of them on a Sunday morning.

tear off this page and submit.  
keep the remaining pages for your records.

## mission & vision

### OUR UNCHANGING MISSION

We understand that the mission of the church — every church — comes from God as he has revealed it in His Word. Accordingly, the mission of our church is aligned directly to this unchanging and universal call to churches everywhere.

***The Church exists to EXALT God, to EQUIP His Church, to EXTEND His grace into the world, and to ENJOY His presence.***

These “four E’s” define us and guide us as we invest our time, energy and resources into life together as a church. Our mission will never change, because it is a statement of purpose that has been revealed in Scripture. Even as we discuss vision below, it is important to see that who we are, and our overall purpose as a church is not changing at all.

### OUR CURRENT VISION

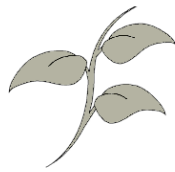
***“Making disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city.”***

We believe that we are being called beyond our own experience of Christian community as a church into a season of life together where we recognize that we are a part of the larger city of Gloucester and the many other cities represented as we worship together on Sunday mornings — cities into which God has intentionally placed us. We are being called outward into the city to love and serve our neighbors in tangible and concrete ways because that’s how God loves us all. We work *for the good of the city*.

Yet, even as we head outward into the city, we will not settle for mere voluntarism or activism; we are focused on the glory of Jesus, and understand our calling to share the good news about Jesus in clear, relevant and meaningful ways. We want to celebrate Jesus and bring Him glory. So we work *for the glory of Christ*.

Bringing these two ideas together, we also recognize that the highest good for our cities is for our neighbors, coworkers, family members and friends to have the opportunity to meet Jesus and to respond to His saving grace, which brings Him great glory. In this way, we work for the glory of Christ *and* the good of the city.

To accomplish all of this, as a church we need to be making disciples — people who are following Jesus with their whole lives as we participate in our neighborhoods, as we serve in our cities, and as we love and serve those around us. So we invest in equipping the church for worship, for growth, and for sharing the love of Christ in tangible ways by *making disciples* and learning together how to follow Jesus more and more in all areas of our lives.



**community**church  
of east gloucester

grace

equipping

participation

collaboration

sending

## distinctives

### **DISTINCTIVES:**

Though our mission, we are united with Christians around the world and throughout history, aligned with the biblical purposes God has established for His Church. We also recognize that we are distinct due to our local church culture and leadership style, which emphasize grace, participation, collaboration, equipping, and sending. These distinctives shape our ministry philosophy and the begin to articulate the kind of community we are aspiring to become.

**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. We also encourage members of our church to be actively involved in discipling one another, as we recognize every Christian's role in an equipping lifestyle.

**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. We also encourage members of our church to be actively participating in the larger community in meaningful and service-oriented ways as good citizens and as those who care deeply about the cities in which we live.

**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 strive to communicate the gospel in relevant ways to people in our community, and we partner with those who are active in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.



## 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)