

to full fellowship with God and His people. If the member persists in their erring doctrine or practise they will be taken off the membership list and asked not to attend the public meetings of the church until they repent and produce fruit in keeping with repentance. The elders may elect to deal with the matter in confidence, or before the assembled church, at their discretion.

Changes to the constitution - Items in the constitution may be changed providing that these changes do not conflict with the teaching of the Word of God. The new wording should be given to the members at least 1 month before the matter comes up for a vote. The proposed changes will be considered carried if 75% of the voting members are present at the meeting and 80% vote in favour of the changes. Alternatively, ballot papers may be used.

Members Promise

We, the members of Ennis Evangelical Church, do join together in the fellowship of the Gospel. We covenant together, God helping us

"to love one another, pray for one another and seek to help one another grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will put away from us all bitterness, wrath, anger and evil speaking; and we will be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves for worship and service, but will honour the Word of God and will seek to follow those who have the spiritual rule over us. We will seek to use our time, our talents and our resources for the glory of God. We will seek to win others to Christ by sharing the Gospel in word and deed. As we have opportunity, we will do good to all people especially those who are of the household of faith. We will strive to carry out Christ's commission to make disciples throughout the whole world until the Lord calls us home".

Relevant Scripture

Romans 12:10
1 John 3:11
James 5:16
2 Peter 3:18
Ephesians 4:31-32

Hebrews 10:2
1 Thessalonians 2:13
Hebrews 13:7
2 Corinthians 5:20
Galatians 6:10

Ennis Evangelical Church

To Know Jesus Christ and Make Him Known



Constitution

Statement of Identity
Statement of Faith
Statement of Practice
Statement of Procedures
Members' Promise

Statement of Identity

Ennis Evangelical Church began in 1977 as a Bible study and prayer group. This eventually became known as the Ennis Christian Fellowship. As the work of God in Ennis grew the name Ennis Evangelical Church was chosen. This name describes exactly what the church is:

Ennis is where we meet

Evangelical means Gospel which is what we believe and proclaim

Church is what God has made us, a gathering of His people.

Ennis Evangelical Church seeks to base all teaching and practise only on the Bible. Our aim is to glorify God by knowing Him and making Him known.

Statement of Faith

Before God, we confess the faith of the apostles, as we are taught in The Holy Scriptures.

1. We believe in one God, the Creator, Keeper and Perfector of heaven and earth. He is spirit, unique, existing as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is eternal, unchangeable, omniscient, almighty, omnipresent, of endless love, truth and faithfulness, perfect in wisdom, justice and holiness.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, true God and true man. We believe that He was crucified and died to redeem us to God, that He was bodily risen from the dead and ascended to heaven, now sitting at the right hand of God the Father. We believe that He will return in glory to be united with His church, to establish His reign of peace and to judge the rebellious at the final judgement.
3. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives life through His work of rebirth and holiness. Every believer is baptised with the Holy Spirit and therefore incorporated in the body of Christ, the church. He wants to fill every believer, lead them in truth, give them strength and enable them to bear fruit for the glory of God.

members be present. Members will vote by secret ballot and the nominees will be considered approved if they receive 80% of the vote.

Voting Practices - The following guidelines will be used in voting:

- * Proposals must always be in line with Biblical teaching
- * Members who are 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote on church matters. Associate members and regular attendees can join in discussion on proposals but are not entitled to vote
- * Proposals will be considered carried if a majority of the voting members are present and 75% of their ballots are in favour of the proposal. For choosing officers or changing the constitution, 75% of members must be present
- * Members may choose to vote on proposals by a show of hands or ballot papers.

Meetings - Meetings -- The writer of Hebrews (10:24-25) placed an emphasis on the church gathering for worship, encouragement and edification. Therefore each member of Ennis Evangelical Church should make an effort to regularly attend the Family Worship time and the mid-week Bible study / Prayer meeting. If a member is unable to consistently attend church meetings for a period of three months, they will be placed on an associate membership list by the Church Secretary. Associate members are still under the pastoral care of the church but they will not be entitled to vote. An associate member can resume voting after a three month period of consistent attendance and the approval of an Elder.

There will also be an annual church meeting for voting on proposals and nominees for church office if there are any. A revision of the membership roll and a report on the financial situation will be presented at this meeting. Other meetings can be called by the elders as the need arises. In special circumstances, the elders may request that those under the age of 18 not be present at some meetings.

Church Discipline - The guidelines for restoring a member who is out of harmony with Biblical teaching or practise are recorded in Matthew 18:15-20, Galatians 6:1 and Titus 3:9-11. All correction should be done in love and only after prayerful consideration. An erring member will be approached by a fellow believer who is aware of the matter. If the member does not turn from their sin, then the person who is seeking to restore them is to bring a fellow brother or sister in the Lord to act as witness to the matter. If the erring believer is still not willing to deal with their sin then they will be asked to meet with the elders as a means of restoring them

Leadership - The church will seek, according to the Biblical model, to be governed by a team of elders. It will try to keep the balance between understanding God's will through the leadership of the elders and a strong engagement of all believers forming the church (a theocratic - democratic - governing). The Deaconate will be chosen to serve in the church. The qualifications of these elders and deacons are laid out in Acts 6:1-6, Romans 16:1, 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. The following procedures will be used in selecting, approving and nominating the leaders of the church.

Elders

Elders will be men who have been members of the church for at least one year and who meet the qualifications laid out in Scripture. They will be appointed for a renewable 7 year term. Elders will be responsible for the spiritual guidance, and pastoral care of the church. They must believe, teach and safeguard the doctrines and practices of the church.

Deacons

Deacons will be people who have been members of the church for at least one year and who meet the qualifications laid out in Scripture. They will be appointed for a renewable 3 year term. Deacons are responsible for the practical and benevolent needs of the church.

The elders will ask one elected deacon, or a church member to act as Church Secretary. The Church Secretary will keep the minutes of all members meetings as well as the membership roll. The Church Secretary is responsible that all procedures are adhered to.

The elders will ask one elected deacon, or a church member to act as Church Treasurer. The Church Treasurer will keep all accounts up to date. They will also publish a quarterly financial statement and an annual financial report for general distribution.

Nomination of Leaders

Nominations for new officers must be submitted in written form to the Church Secretary at least one month before a vote. The submission must include the names of two members who agree to the nomination as well the agreement of the person who is being nominated. The approving of officers will take place at the annual general meeting unless circumstances require a special meeting.

Approval of Leaders

The approval of church officers will require that 75% of the church

4. We believe that the whole Bible (the 66 books of the New and the Old Testament) is the word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and therefore without error and the only infallible rule for faith and life.
5. We believe that man, created in the image of God, fell out of his sinless state through his own fault; therefore all have sinned and are lost and unable to save themselves. We believe that the Bible teaches us about an eternal punishment in hell for those who do not trust in the Lord Jesus for their personal salvation.
6. We believe that man is saved by God's grace alone, not by anything in man, or done by man. It is God who calls man to repentance and gives him faith to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.
7. We believe that Satan, a fallen angel and adversary of God, is the instigator of the fall and is still trying to ruin (corrupt) man by leading him to sin through his lies. His destination is the final judgement and eternal punishment.
8. We believe that all the dead are going to be resurrected bodily, the believers to enter eternal glory, the unbelievers to eternal punishment.
9. We believe that Jesus Christ has established the symbols of baptism and the Lord's Supper: baptism as a testimony of the union of the believer with Christ in His death and resurrection, communion as a remembrance, as a symbol of the new covenant, as a proclamation of Jesus' death on the cross, in the anticipation of His return.
10. We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is made up of those which He has called out of the kingdom of darkness, who proclaim His name in faith, who are purified by His blood and born again by His Spirit. All those who belong to His church are called to lead a holy life, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to abstain from everything that dishonours God and to consecrate themselves to everything that brings glory to God through obedience to His Word. The church has been called to preach the Gospel and make disciples world-wide.

Relevant Scripture

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Dt 6:4, Lk 3:21-22, Jn 10:30 | 6. Eph 2:8, 1 Th 2:12, 2 Co 4:1 |
| 2. Jn 1:14, Heb 2:14, Mt 24:36-51 | 7. Job 1:6-7, 1 Pe 5:8 |
| 3. Ac 1:8, 2:38-39 | 8. Ac 24:15, 2 Ti 4:1 |
| 4. Jn 10:35, 2 Ti 3:16 | 9. Mt 28:19, 1 Co 11:26 |
| 5. Ge 1:27, Ro 3:23, 5:12 | 10. 1 Co 12:12-13, Gal 2:20 |

Statement of Practice

We recognise that Bible-believing Christians might have different opinions on issues of secondary importance. The following theological viewpoints express the character and colour of our local church without saying that this is the final word on these matters. The importance of these theological accents is to permit us to function harmoniously as a church and build unity and identity. This is of paramount importance when it comes to follow-up work and teaching of young believers. It also helps Christians who might move into the area understand what we teach and how we operate as a church.

The signs of baptism and the Lord's Supper

Water baptism is a symbol of the washing away of sins, the burial and resurrection of the believer together with Christ and the incorporation into the body of Christ. Therefore this is best symbolised by full immersion in water after a person makes a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Supper is the remembrance and proclamation of the death of Jesus Christ. It must be celebrated regularly in the church until He returns. Only those who confess to be born-again Christians and whose words and way of life confirm this, can take part in communion. We expect everybody who takes communion with us, including visitors, to live in harmony with the Lord Jesus Christ and their local church.

We conclude that no other signs have been given to the church than these two, baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit

Baptism in the Holy Spirit happens when a person is born again; that is the moment when he or she receives the Holy Spirit and is incorporated in the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit are assigned by God according to His will. He provides one or more gifts for every Believer. The gifts of the Spirit have to be developed and used for the edification of the body of Christ.

The certainty of salvation and the perseverance of the saints

True born-again Christians are secure in the palm of God's hand. (John 10:28-29). He will keep them from totally denying the faith they professed. At the same time, believers are called to persevere and to follow Christ.

Leadership of the Church

Ennis Evangelical Church will seek to follow the Biblical model of being lead by a team of Elders. Elders will be men meeting the qualifications laid out in Scripture. (Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9). Elders are responsible for giving oversight to the leading and teaching of the church.

Differences of opinion

Members who have opinions different to those held by the church, are expected to respect the church's point of view. All members must be prepared to have their views tested and be open for correction. They must also abstain from "campaigns" to convince others of their point of view and not see their view as "more spiritual" than others.

Statement of Procedures

Commitment to the local church - When a person places their trust in the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, they become a member of the Body of Christ, the church. When a person desires to commit themselves to Ennis Evangelical Church, the guidelines are as follows:

- * A person must have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their only means of salvation.
- * A person should have made a public expression of their faith in Jesus Christ through Believer's baptism unless their health prohibits this.
- * A person should be at least 12 years of age.
- * A person under the age of 18 must secure the permission of their parent(s) or guardian(s).
- * A person must be interviewed by a church elder and a deacon and presented with a copy of the constitution.
- * Upon the profession of their faith and agreement with the constitution the person will be received into membership at the next public meeting of the church on the recommendation of the elders.

The above guidelines are simply a means of encouraging Believers to express their commitment to the local gathering of God's people in Ennis. At the same time, all who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ are welcome to fellowship with us.