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WHO ARE WE?

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada is an association of over 140 churches and 100 missionaries united by a mutual commitment to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, a common Statement of Faith, a shared Character and Calling, and a commitment to the Word of God.

We are committed to cooperate with one another in ministry and fellowship in Canada and around the world. We partner with more than 1400 Evangelical Free Churches in the United States and participate with more than 30 members of the International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches.

Evangelical refers to our commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ and to the authority of Scriptures as the only safe and sufficient guide to faith and practice. Key terms that highlight who we are as **evangelical**:

- **Scripture:** The Bible reveals the gospel and is our authority for faith, life and practice.
- **Saviour:** Jesus Christ, God in flesh, died for our sins and rose again, saving us and restoring our relationship with God and each other.
- **Share:** The Church has the privilege and calling of being witnesses of Jesus in word and deed.

Free is a term that historically designated a church as being independent from state control. In the North American context, the term conveys a commitment to congregational church government and to local church autonomy with regard to the purchase of property, calling of pastors, setting of budgets and determining of ministries. Evangelical Free Churches depend upon the active participation of all members in ministry and decisions. Churches and members voluntarily band together inter-dependently and freely to promote missions, church planting, theological education, publications and other ministries. Key terms related to **Free**:

- **Governance:** Our churches are free from state control and vice versa.
- **Growth:** Each church takes responsibility for its own ministry.
- **Grace:** Our churches cooperate with like-minded believers in the spirit of our motto:

***“In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, charity.
In all things, Jesus Christ.”***

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

The theological essentials of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada are summed up in a ten-article **Statement of Faith**.

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada is an association of autonomous churches united in a common commitment to God's evangel – the gospel of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to give us eternal life. To God's glory, the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Our essential theological convictions are vitally connected to this gospel.

***God's gospel originates in
and expresses the wondrous perfections of
the eternal, triune 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.

God's gospel is authoritatively revealed in the Scriptures.

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 endeavour 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.

God's gospel alone addresses our deepest need.

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.

***God's gospel is made known supremely
In the Person of 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.

God's gospel is accomplished through 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.

God's gospel is applied by the power of 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.

***God's gospel is now embodied in the new
community called 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.

God's gospel compels us to Christ-like living and witness to the world.

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.

God's gospel will be brought to fulfillment by the Lord Himself at the end of this age.

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels when He will bring His kingdom to fulfillment and exercise His role as Judge of all. This 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.

God's gospel requires a response that has eternal consequences.

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.

We collaborate in gospel ministry with many groups that hold differing views on some of these theological issues, yet these 10 Articles unite EFCC churches around gospel-centered theology. The 10 Articles are, however, intentionally silent on a host of theological issues upon which believers at differing times and places (though equally committed to the authority of the Word) have failed to agree. Our Character and Calling explains why the Statement of Faith is silent on those issues.

WHAT IS OUR ETHOS?

OUR CHARACTER and CALLING

OUR CHARACTER:

The Kingdom of God is His eternal possession, and is present in part but not in fullness in the world today. By God's decree, under His direction, and empowered by His grace, the universal Church is responsible for the care and expansion of that Kingdom. Every local church, denomination, and ministry organization is a part of that Kingdom and carries some responsibility in the work of the Kingdom. As a part of that Body of Christ the Evangelical Free Church of Canada (EFCC) desires to understand and fulfill its particular calling in the work of the Kingdom. The EFCC will seek to live out our calling to be a New Community in Christ, reflecting the fullness of His vision for the Kingdom of God "on earth as it is in heaven". We will do this by putting aside the prevailing values of our time and replacing them with the radical demands of the gospel of God's grace.

OUR CALLING:

IN ESSENTIALS, UNITY.
IN NON-ESSENTIALS, CHARITY.
IN ALL THINGS, JESUS CHRIST.

The calling and spirit of the EFCC is summed up well in this well-known motto. We both define our call and express our aspirations for the 21st century through this quote.

IN ESSENTIALS, UNITY...

Essential Truths: We are called to embody and proclaim the essential truths of Christianity as articulated in the Word of God, expressed through the centuries in the great creeds of the church and defined for us in our Statement of Faith. We continue in the tradition of our EFCC forefathers who said; "Where stands it written?" These truths have led us to Jesus Christ who said "he is truth" and that the "truth would set us free."

IN NON-ESSENTIALS, CHARITY...

Generosity of Spirit: We are called to a generosity of spirit that frees us to embrace a wide variety of Christian brothers and sisters - “simply believers” - some with whom we will not agree in matters that are outside our Statement of Faith. Our spirit is one of warm welcome to all believers who share our commitment to our Statement of Faith and who seek to follow Jesus’ command to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves.

Kingdom Minded: This generous spirit encourages us to joyfully work with those outside our own denomination, those of “like precious faith” who endeavour to expand the kingdom of heaven.

IN ALL THINGS, JESUS CHRIST.

The Great Command and Great Commission: We are called to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the Lord God. Through His grace and through His Spirit we seek to fulfill His command to love our neighbour by loving each and every person, especially the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. We seek to fulfill His great commission by making followers of Him from all people groups.

Godly Living: From the practice and teachings of Jesus, from the present ministry of the Holy Spirit working within us, and from the pietistic model of our forefathers, has grown a spirit that hungers for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, one that will transform our hearts, our heads, and our hands, and will reveal itself in both a Christ-inspired value system and a holy lifestyle.

OUR CORE VALUES

The Gospel

The power of God and the hope of the world.

The Local Church

With a mandate to share Jesus as Lord.

The Word

Authoritatively revealing the gospel of Jesus.

Culturally-Sensitive Servant Leadership

Humble and passionate to share good news.

Prayer

Inviting the Holy Spirit to lead us in our mission.

Creativity & Diversity

In methods, styles, to share with all peoples.

Interdependent Ministry

Local, national and international gospel sharing.

Personal Transformation

Lives changed by the gospel and Holy Spirit.

OUR PURPOSE

*We exist to help lives be transformed
by the power of the gospel.*

OUR VISION

*To become a growing network of believers and churches
united around the EFCC ethos,
and empowered to carry out
the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.*

WHAT IS OUR STRUCTURE?

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada is a movement that is committed to the local Church. It is our conviction that the local Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head, is the ideal context for producing personal life change in fulfillment of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

We also believe that being a voluntary, interdependent network of churches enables us to fulfill the mandate of the Church more effectively.

Districts in the EFCC connect Evangelical Free Churches by province or geographical region. In each district, a superintendent and board provide services such as pastoral care and placement, credentialing of pastors, church consultation and the strategic establishment of new churches.

The names of the current District Superintendents are available by contacting the EFCC Home Office, or by visiting our website: www.efcc.ca.

Just as each local church is autonomous, so too is each district. Delegates selected from churches in their districts meet in conference to elect officers and to transact the business of the districts. Issues pertaining to district finances and the setting of budgets are dealt with at district conferences.

Local churches are governed **congregationally**. While some churches invest authority with elders or bishops or regional synods, authority in a Free Church rests with the collective will of the congregation's members. The congregation is free collectively to delegate some authority to staff, the board, committees, and so on, but at minimum the congregation's collective will prevails on issues such as budgets, hiring of senior pastors, purchasing of property, and constitutional changes.

EFCC DISTRICTS

Lower Pacific District (LPD)

(Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, British Columbia)

Canadian Pacific District (CPD)

(Interior British Columbia and Yukon)

Alberta Parkland District (APD)

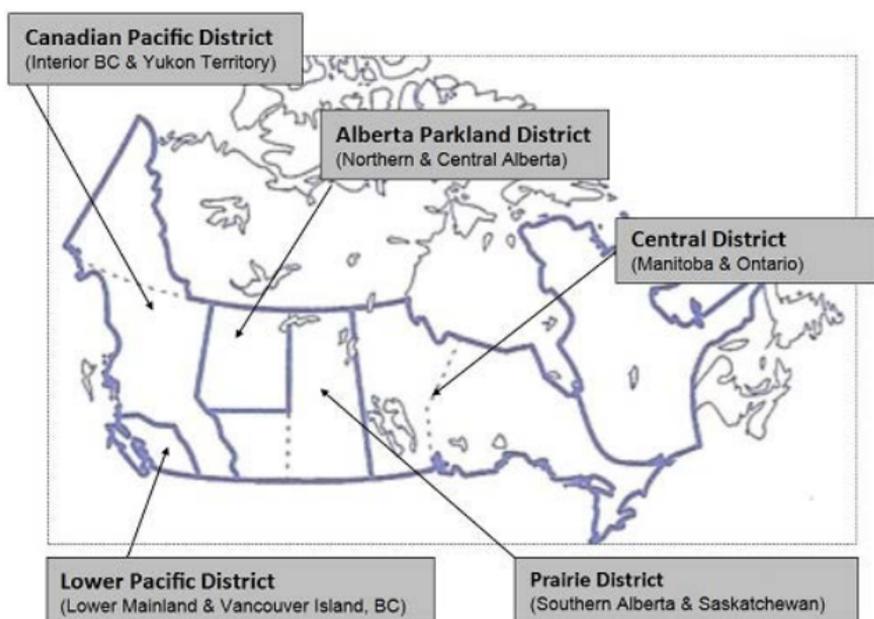
(Northern and Central Alberta)

Prairie District (PRA)

(Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan)

Central District (CEN)

(Manitoba and Ontario)



ANACEFC

ANACEFC is the Association of North American Chinese Evangelical Free Churches, whose purpose is to provide a network by which to multiply healthy Chinese Evangelical Free Churches in North America, and to that end encourages its member churches to be supportive of the vision through prayer, participation and financial resources. ANACEFC serves as a partner to the EFCC and the EFCA and to the districts of both denominations to facilitate Chinese work and church planting within the Chinese community.

EFCC Home Office Services

EFCC Home Office is situated in Fosmark Centre, on the campus of Trinity Western University, in Langley, British Columbia. The offices of the Executive Director, the Director of National Mission, the Director of International Mission, Finance, Communications, and administrative Staff are at Home Office.

The Board of Directors and various National and International mission teams and committees, regularly hold meetings at Home Office.

How does Home Office serve Churches?

1. **Administers important support ministries** (health insurance, life insurance, savings plans and long-term disability provisions for EFCC pastoral staff, missionaries and employees).
2. **Provides Missionary Care**
 - Administers Mission Services (supplies, equips and supervises a variety of efforts to help local churches develop missions programs)
 - Facilitates short term mission trips
 - Supplies, equips and supervises a variety of efforts to help churches to develop missions programs
3. **Provides Resources**
 - Welcome to the Family (membership manual)
 - A Closer Look (a succinct introduction to the EFCC, its history and structure)
 - EFCC Church Directory (List of EFCC Districts, Churches, and Pastors)
 - EFCC National Directory (List of National Missionaries, Catalysts and Church Planters)
 - EFCCM Directory (List of Areas and Missionaries)
 - Prayer Calendar (includes monthly prayer and praise items from EFCC Leaders and Missionaries)
 - The Pulse (bi-weekly newsletter, email delivery)
 - Seasonal and topical newsletters
 - Church and leader policies, training (practical assistance for churches, available online)
 - Basecamps (online/email forums for pastors, missionaries, and other ministry workers)

4. Organizes EFCC Events

- Biennial Conference and Annual General Meeting
- Missionary Candidate Interviews and Pre-Field Orientations
- Missionary Re-Connection Days (for Missionaries on Home Assignment)
- Pastor's Orientation (with District Offices)
- Theological Conferences
- Board of Directors and Committee Meetings

5. Coordinates Credentialing Procedures

- Assists the Ministerial Standing Committee in the credentialing process
- Issues Ministry and Ordination Certificates
- Maintains credentialing files

6. Networks within and outside the EFCC

- Networking coaches with those desiring coaching
- Networking churches and individuals to pray
- Networking church planters
- Representing Free Church churches with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and other evangelical groups in Canada and across the globe

EFCC Executive Director

The Office of the Executive Director provides visionary, administrative leadership to the Evangelical Free Church of Canada, and serves under the EFCC Board of Directors, which is responsible for overall vision and oversight of all ministries of the EFCC between Conferences. The Executive Director is responsible to provide spiritual and visionary direction to the movement; general ministry oversight, and supervision of pastoral care to Pastors, District Superintendents, and other leaders in the EFCC. He represents the EFCC on various Boards and Committees in Canada, the USA (EFCA) and at the International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches (IFFEC).

Catalysts

National Mission Director

The National Mission Director facilitates the development of key prayer leaders across the EFCC and EFCCM, to pray for and with District Superintendents, Pastors, Church Leaders and Missionaries, and to offer resources, introduce prayer initiatives and gather and communicate stories of answered prayer. The NM Director catalyzes with districts and local churches gospel sharing and church planting across Canada including networking EFC chaplains, church planters and national missionaries.

Leadership Catalyst

The Leadership Catalyst supports and develops activities that aid the EFCC and EFCCM in multiplying mature godly leaders who will share the gospel in both word and deed. The Leadership Catalyst additionally facilitates pastor training and board development events, and seeks to cultivate a culture of coaching and other discipleship opportunities that bring pastors and lay leaders together across the EFCC.

Stewardship Catalyst

The Stewardship Catalyst works with the Executive Director in fundraising and providing stewardship education, especially in the area of estate planning and wills, to individuals, churches and districts. The EFCC partners with Abundance Canada in this latter task.

Education

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada is grateful to God for Trinity Western University, located in Langley, British Columbia. The EFCC serves as the sponsoring denomination for this unique Canadian university.

The mission of Trinity Western University is, ***as an arm of the Church, to develop godly Christian leaders: positive, goal oriented university graduates with thoroughly Christian minds; growing disciples of Jesus Christ who glorify God through fulfilling the Great Commission, serving God and people in the various market places of life.***

Trinity Western Seminary is one of a number of seminaries functioning as a consortium known collectively as the Associated Canadian Theological Schools (ACTS Seminaries) that forms TWU's Graduate School of Theological Studies. TWS is also located on TWU's campus in Langley.

In 1961, a small group of people had an extraordinary vision to establish a Canadian Christian university to prepare leaders of integrity. They purchased Seal-Kap Dairy Farm and in 1962 opened the first classes of Trinity Junior College with 17 students. The College grew to 800 students by 1984, when it was granted membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). In 1985, the British Columbia Legislature granted a charter under the name Trinity Western University.

TWU is Canada's largest independent Christian university, with an annual total enrolment of over 4000. With a broad based liberal arts and sciences curriculum, the University offers 42 undergraduate majors, including biotechnology, biblical studies, education, music, theatre, and nursing, and 16 graduate degrees including business, counselling psychology, theology, interdisciplinary humanities, and leadership.

WHAT IS OUR HISTORY?

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada is an association and fellowship of autonomous and interdependent congregations of like faith and polity whose purpose is to glorify God.

It was as a result of revival movements among Norwegian immigrants in 1911 that the Evangelical Free Church of Canada came into being. These revivals resulted in the establishment of a short-lived congregation in Winnipeg in 1913. In June of 1917 at Enchant, Alberta, a congregation was organized which continues to this day as our longest enduring church and the official birthplace of the EFCC.

As a result of a revival movement in Enchant, members of the Fosmark family were converted. The Fosmark family, particularly brothers Carl and Lee, gave noteworthy leadership to the early development of the EFCC. In 1993, in recognition of and appreciation for their vision and contribution, the building that now houses the Free Church seminary, Trinity Western Seminary; the other seminaries of the ACTS consortium; and the Home Office for National and International ministries of the EFCC was named the Fosmark Centre.

During the 1930s and 1940s, churches continued to be planted. The first Evangelical Free Church in British Columbia was organized in 1938. In 1957 the Fellowship of Gospel Churches merged with the Evangelical Free Church, bringing the number of organized churches in Canada to 56. By 2008, Evangelical Free Churches in Canada extending from the Province of Quebec to the Pacific Coast numbered approximately 140.

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada was incorporated under a federal charter in 1967, but continued in affiliation with the Evangelical Free Church of America until 1984, at which time it became autonomous.

Rev. Don Kroening served as its first President and contributed much to the organization of the EFCC. In 1985, Rev. Ron Swanson became the second President and brought a strong passion for outreach and evangelism. In 1993, Rick Penner was elected as the third President and his ministry concluded early in 2001.

Dr. Ron Unruh was elected the EFCC's fourth President in July 2002 at the Conference held in Lethbridge, Alberta. Dr. Unruh retired at the end of July 2008 and was succeeded by Bill Taylor, who was elected as the fifth President at the Conference held in Edmonton, Alberta.

Following Bill Taylor's election, by his choice and with the approval of the Conference, his title was changed to Executive Director. This title more accurately reflects the structure and ethos of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada.

Further Reading

From Hardship to Harvest, by Calvin Hanson

The Significance of Silence, by Arnold T. Olson

From Infancy to Adolescence, by Bill Taylor

Gospel Truths, by Greg Strand

All books are available through EFCC Home Office.

Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission (EFCCM)

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission (EFCCM) serves as the international arm of the EFCC. Prior to 1977, Canadian Free Church Missionaries served with the Evangelical Free Church of America Mission. The EFCCM was established in 1977, with its own Canadian Director, Rev. Lea Little. Dr. Arvid Olson served as Overseas Director from 1992 to 2000 and was succeeded by Dr. David McKinley who served until his resignation in 2007. From 2007 until 2013, the EFCCM was led by a Director Team that included two Area Directors, the Personnel Director, the Church Partnership Director and the EFCC Executive Director. In September 2013, the search for a new EFCCM Director concluded with the selection of former Free Church Pastor, Dave Penner.

In 1980, the EFCCM began its first international ministries in Europe in Russia, Ukraine and Hungary. A few years later, the first work in Latin America, in NW Mexico, commenced.

The EFCCM has expanded its ministries in Europe, Latin America, South America, Asia and Africa. With the primary purpose of gospel sharing and church planting, our efforts include working among the Muslims in Ukraine and Central Asia. We are ministering among diverse ethnic minority groups such as the Chinese in Panama and low-German Mennonite people in Bolivia. There are over 100 missionaries serving in approximately 20 countries.

The ministries in these regions are diverse: radio broadcasting, orphanages, homes for hurting women and street kids, coffeehouse with an internet café, teaching English in schools, training pastors and planting new churches. We are using compassion ministries to demonstrate the reality of the gospel so that people will be drawn to Christ.

Numerous ministry opportunities are available around the world through the EFCCM for those who have a commitment to evangelism, discipling and church planting. Categories of ministry range from short-term to career ministries, internships, professional and bi-vocational opportunities.

WHAT IS OUR CHALLENGE?

The vision of the EFCC is to become a network of believers and churches united around the EFCC ethos, and empowered to carry out the Great Commandment and Great Commission. We exist to help lives be transformed by the power of the Gospel. The local church is God's idea and is His provision for lives to be saved and transformed from the spiritual darkness of our country and the world.

This is our challenge!

Helping our churches and missionaries share the good news and plant churches is the goal of Home Office, the Executive Director, Directors of Mission, and District Personnel. For this purpose they provide vision, support, counsel and encouragement to our existing churches in Canada and around the world, always born from hearts to serve.

Inherent to healthy gospel sharing and church planting is a growing sense of family (and unity around our ethos), growing leaders who will humbly share good news, and growing churches that will multiply disciples and congregations.

The urbanization of Canada, shifting cultural values and increasing multiculturalism present enormous challenges. Canada is a needy mission field – every major Canadian city needs scores of new evangelical churches, communities of believers in which it becomes clear that God is at work. We look to share good news across the country and the world.

Our challenge is to grow a network of healthy, reproducing churches in Canada and across the globe where churches interdependently share the Good News of Jesus Christ. ***Our prayer*** as the Evangelical Free Church of Canada is that we might be found faithful to fulfill our mission in Canada and around the World.

Our Lord and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, modeled the most fantastic demonstration of selfless love the world has ever seen. By His earthly ministries and sacrificial death, He taught us what it truly means to be a servant. It is this example that we seek to emulate.

We pray it may be seen in every Pastor, Missionary, District Superintendent, Church Leader and Leader of the EFCC. We pray it may be sent and shared through our career and short-term missionaries serving overseas. We pray it may be so in every Evangelical Free Church congregation across Canada and around the world!

For further information, contact EFCC Home Office at:

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1-877-305-EFCC (3322)**

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Web: www.efcc.ca**

*or contact your local
Evangelical Free Church.*



**EFCC
Unity.
Charity.
Jesus Christ.**

