

What We Believe: The Church

Matthew 16:18



The universal Church is the people
of God from all times and places.

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Articles of Faith

- ♦ **The Church:** (10) We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head, and of which all people (past, present, and future) who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are members.

The universal Church is the people of God from all times and places.

Matthew 16:18

- ♦ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church (*ekklesia*), and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

The universal Church is the people of God from all times and places.

Hebrews 10:25

- ♦ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (NLT)

The local church is the regular gathering of the people of God in a specific time and location, who covenant together under Biblical teaching, leadership, and the ordinances, with a mission to share Jesus with others.

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Articles of Faith

- ♦ **The Church:** (11) We believe in the local church, believers in Jesus Christ who assemble locally under biblical leadership for the purpose of worship, teaching and equipping Christians for the work of God, and fellowship all to the glory of God.

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1 Corinthians 11:18

- ♦ In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

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1 Corinthians 5:4

- ♦ So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,

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Five marks of the local church:

1. Covenanting together

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Five marks of the local church:

1. Covenanting together
2. Biblical teaching

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Five marks of the local church:

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2. Biblical teaching

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **Acts 2:42**

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Five marks of the local church:

1. Covenanting together
2. Biblical teaching
3. Biblical leadership

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Five marks of the local church:

3. Biblical leadership

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” **Acts 6:2-4**

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Five marks of the local church:

3. Biblical leadership

- a. **Elders** lead and shepherd the church and devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

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Five marks of the local church:

3. Biblical leadership

- a. **Elders** lead and shepherd the church and devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.
- b. **Deacons** serve by meeting the physical and material needs of the church.

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Five marks of the local church:

1. Covenanting together
2. Biblical teaching
3. Biblical leadership
4. Ordinances

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Articles of Faith

- ♦ **The Church:** (12) We believe in observing the ordinances of the Lord's Supper (communion) and baptism. Our church practices baptism after confession of faith.

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Five marks of the local church:

4. Ordinances

A. Baptism

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Five marks of the local church:

4. Ordinances

A. Baptism

B. Communion

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Five marks of the local church:

1. Covenanting together
2. Biblical teaching
3. Biblical leadership
4. Ordinances
5. Mission

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Love the local church.