

## What Do We Believe?

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.

--- Augustine of Hippo

Note: This is a compilation of positions discussed in various classes, Elder meetings, or found in various McKnight documents (such as our website or Welcome Packet). See footnotes and endnotes for specific references.

### §I. Essentials:

We affirm our submission to the authority of Christ<sup>1.(A)</sup>

- We submit to the authority of God's Word in scripture, always pointing us to Jesus Christ – his person, work, and words.
- The authority of the Church rests in Christ as the building, foundation, and Head of the Body

About Salvation: We affirm the need for every person to have a saving relationship with Christ<sup>2.(A)</sup>

- Because of our sin and disobedience, we are saved through Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father.
- We are made right with God through the grace given in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- We come to Christ through faith, repentance, baptism.
- We request all members to be baptized by immersion as a pledge of commitment to God, and to receive every blessing he offers his children.

About Our Unity: We affirm the priority of maintaining unity in Christ.<sup>3.(B)</sup>

Our unity is based in the cross of Jesus Christ. We maintain this unity of the spirit by affirming:

- One body – the Church
- One Spirit – the indwelling Holy Spirit
- One Hope – eternal life with God
- One Lord – Jesus Christ, son of God
- One Faith – the saving message
- One Baptism – faith response to Christ
- One Father God – all things, especially God's children, are for God's glory

We believe in a priesthood of all believers, which means ...

1. Direct Access to God

In the Old Testament, priests served as intermediaries between God and His people. Through Christ's sacrifice, this intermediary role is no longer needed. Believers now have direct access to God through Jesus, the ultimate High Priest (Hebrews 7:23-28).

2. Equal Spiritual Responsibility

All believers share the responsibility of serving, teaching, and spreading the gospel. Every member has a role to play in worship, discipleship, and ministry, without reliance on a special clergy class.

3. Worship and Ministry Participation

Our worship reflects this belief: no distinction is made between clergy and laity. Leadership roles like preaching, leading singing, or teaching are shared among qualified members of the congregation.

4. Spiritual Service in Daily Life

The priesthood extends beyond worship. Believers serve as representatives of Christ in their homes, workplaces, and communities, offering spiritual sacrifices such as good deeds, prayer, and sharing the gospel (Romans 12:1).

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 5:39, 20:30-31; Col. 1:15-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-4, 4:12; 1 Cor. 3:10-11; Eph. 2:19-22

<sup>2</sup> See Matt. 28:18-20; John 14:6; Acts 2:36-38, 4:12; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6

<sup>3</sup> See Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 1:1-31, 3:10-11, 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 4:1-16; Titus 1:2, 3:7



## §II. Non-Essentials:

About our Worship:

We affirm the importance of growing through worshipping Christ<sup>4</sup>

- We worship God in Spirit and Truth (as temples of the Holy Spirit and with Christ Jesus as our true High Priest). We gather to share songs, communion, prayer, the Word, our gifts, and our lives. This happens as we gather together on Sunday.
- In small groups (Connect Groups, prayer, and breakfast groups).
- In our individual lives of prayer and devotion to God.
- We worship through lives of service to God at all times and in all places.

### What members of this church are expected to do.

The Shepherds ask that McKnight Crossings members be committed to:

1. Learn to love God deeply through prayer and worship.
2. Develop relationships and speak positively of one another.
3. Use your gifts to serve the body and the community.
4. Give generously.

### MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

- Live Faithfully – Ephesians 4:1
- Participate Regularly – Hebrews 10:23-25
- Serve Willingly – I Peter 4:10-11
- Give Generously – II Corinthians 9:6-7
- Speak Positively – Colossians 4:5-6
- Pray Continually – I Thessalonians 5:17

### Marriage:

We believe that sex is only authorized inside of a marriage relationship. We also affirm that marriage is a divinely ordained union between one man and one woman, intended for companionship, procreation, and mutual support. (c)

### Women's roles:

As a leadership, at this time, we do not believe that a woman should be the primary teaching minister (which necessarily requires leadership) for the church or serve in the role of an elder. If our principles allow women to use their gifts more fully ... we will encourage and build upon an inclusive use of gifts ... including leading worship and preaching a sermon. (D)

### Qualification of an Elder (Mariage and Divorce):

During the May 2021 Elder meeting it was decided that the statement that "*a shepherd should be the husband of but one wife*" (1 Tim 3:2) is interpreted as not having been divorced. This position is open to be revisited.

The de facto standard at McKnight has been that divorce excludes a man from Elder selection. The articles reviewed and associated discussion did not present a clear and compelling reason to change direction on this position and consensus agreement remains that an Elder should not have been divorced.

Although there was consensus on the conclusion, we realize there is nuance in the passages that kept them from being clearly black and white. Both sides of the position were discussed. However, one theme that we returned to in our discussion was that of the many listed qualifications of an elder the marriage covenant is a sacred thing, and not to be taken lightly.

<sup>4</sup> See John 4:21-24; Heb. 7-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:1; Col. 3:1-17; Matt. 5:16; Heb. 10:25



**General Elder Oversight:**

It was affirmed in the November 2024 meeting that the Shepherds should review and approve sermon series, budget, classes (all ages), and church calendar.

**Instrumental worship:**

We believe instruments are allowed but not required in worship<sup>5</sup>.

**End Notes:**

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- (A) MX Welcome Packet (<https://shared.mxcoc.xyz/2024/MX-WelcomePacket.pdf>). Also MX Core Beliefs (B)
- (B) Unity Reminder: It is important to note what is not included in our core beliefs. This does not mean that other teachings are unimportant. It simply means they are not the basis of our unity. On many topics we may hold differing views yet maintain the unity of the Spirit.
- (C) McKnight Crossings Core Beliefs ([https://shared.mxcoc.xyz/2024/MX-CoreBeliefs-Schedule\\_A.pdf](https://shared.mxcoc.xyz/2024/MX-CoreBeliefs-Schedule_A.pdf))
- (D) McKnight Crossings – Gender Summary (Fall 2014 - <https://shared.mxcoc.xyz/2024/McKnightCrossings-GenderSummary-Fall2014.pdf>)

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<sup>5</sup> Reference McKnight Crossings class notes here – <https://www.mxchurch.org/instrumentalworshipclass>.