

The background of the page is filled with abstract, flowing blue lines that curve upwards from the bottom left towards the top right. The lines vary in thickness and opacity, creating a sense of movement and depth. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'The Spring'.

The Spring



Church Covenant

We the members of The Spring Community Church at Stanger Springs, having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

We do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort;

To promote the prosperity and spirituality of this local assembly; to sustain its worship, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children; to seek the salvation of our family, friends, and acquaintances;

To walk holy and uprightly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, to avoid all gossiping, and excessive anger; to honor Christ in every stage and season of our life.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay. To submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in our relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if need should ever arise.

We understand that if we relocate and are unable to attend The Spring Community Church, or if we choose to become members of another church, we will inform church leaders of the move.



Statement of Faith

We Believe:

1. In the verbal, complete inspiration of the Old and New Testaments and hold them to be inerrant in the words of the original manuscripts, the very work of God, the supreme and final authority. (Matt 5:17-18; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Luke 1:1-3)
2. In one God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three Persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Is 45:5; Mark 12:29-32; John 1:1-20)
3. That Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and is true God and true man. He lived a sinless life and died for our sins according to the Scriptures... as a representative, substitutionary and complete sacrifice. He rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven and is today our High Priest and Advocate. (John 1:1-14; Matt 1:18-25; Heb 4:14-16; Rom 5:1-11)
4. In the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. He indwells every believer in Christ, and is an abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. (John 3:5-7, 14:16-17; Rom 8:26-27; Eph 1:13, 5:18)
5. That man was created in the image of God, that man sinned and thereby incurred the curse of death; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, lost... without hope except in His sovereign mercy and grace. (Gen 1:27, 5:1; 1 Cor 11:7; Rom 6:23)
6. That salvation is received by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. All who trust in Him alone are justified and assured of eternal life by His shed blood. (Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:17; 1 John 3:1-2; Rom 3:14-17)
7. That Christians are called to live a holy life of service and testimony for the glory of God and the well-being of their fellow man. (1 Peter 1:15-16; John 12:25-16; Acts 1:18; 1 Cor 3:12-15)
8. The Universal Church embraces all true believers. It is the body and bride of Christ, formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The local church consists of a community of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith and associated for worship, work and fellowship. (Eph 1:22-23, 4:11-16; 1 Cor 12:12-27; Heb 10:24-25)
9. In the imminent coming of Christ for His church and the visible and personal coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to establish His world-wide kingdom on the earth. (Titus 2:13; 1 Thess 1:10, 4:13-18; Matt 24:21-30, 25:31-46; Rev 3:10, 20:11-15)

10. In the bodily resurrection of the righteous to everlasting communion with God – the unrighteous to everlasting separation from God. (Dan 12:2; John 5:28-29, 14:1-3; Luke 16:22-28; Rev 20:11-15)
11. That Satan and his demons are about the business of attempting to destroy the power and work of Christ, and the authority of the word of God. (Is 14:12-15; Rev 14:11, 19:20, 20:10).
12. The ordinances of the church, given by our Lord are baptism and the Lord's supper. (Matt 16:16, 26:26-39, 28:19-20; Acts 2:8-41; Rom 6:3-4)
13. In the Great Commission our Lord gave to His church, which is to evangelize and make disciples of all nations. This is the great mission of the church. (Matt 28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 22:44-49; Acts 1:36-47; 1 Peter 3:15-16)



By-Laws

Membership

Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior who gives satisfactory evidence of having been born again, who is not otherwise disqualified under these By-Laws, and who is willing to submit to the terms and conditions of The Spring Community Church Covenant, Statement of Faith, and By-Laws may, after being interviewed by the Elder(s), be received into the membership of The Spring Community Church at Stanger Springs.

Requirements for Membership

Membership within The Spring Community Church is first predicated on one becoming a genuine follower of Jesus Christ through having responded in faith by the drawing of the Holy Spirit to the message of the gospel. In accordance with this response, every person desiring membership at The Spring Community Church is also required to have been baptized or to submit to baptism by immersion upon membership approval. All members of The Spring Community Church must maintain general agreement with The Spring Community Church Statement of Faith. In addition, members shall have agreed to The Spring Community Church Covenant, as it is revised, amended or restated from time to time, thus committing themselves to the responsibilities therein assigned.

Admission Process

The admission process is the responsibility of the Elder(s), and requires the following steps:

- 1) Interview with a member of the Elder(s);
- 2) Affirmation of agreement to The Spring Community Church Covenant which includes affirmation of membership commitments and general agreement with the statement of faith;
- 3) Affirmation of prior baptism OR baptism by immersion upon membership approval;
- 4) Unanimous approval by the ordained leaders by vote at a duly convened meeting;
- 5) Presentation to the church congregation in a worship service or congregational meeting. The candidates will not be required to give a public testimony but may do so if they wish. Following presentation to the congregation, the candidate will then be received into the fellowship.

Note: Upon acceptance into membership at The Spring Community Church, other church memberships should be resigned. Exceptions to this policy may be requested for special circumstances or temporary ministry purposes (e.g. international mission assignments, college attendance) and must be approved by the Elder(s).

Privileges, Responsibilities and Expectations

Membership within a local church carries with it privileges, responsibilities and expectations. Members of The Spring Community Church are held accountable to the responsibilities and general Christian expectations comprehensively though not exhaustively outlined within The Spring Community Church Covenant. The privileges that attend membership are as follows:

- 1) Members are entitled to special oversight, care and consideration by the ordained leadership and fellow members of the congregation including ministry to physical and financial needs.
- 2) Members are entitled to participate fully in the activities and ministries of the Church, using one's God-given gifts for the building up of the body of Christ.
- 3) Members are entitled to have a voice in the management of church affairs.
- 4) Only members shall be eligible for consideration as candidates for appointment to any committee.
- 5) Only members shall be eligible for consideration as candidates for elective offices in the church.
- 6) Only members shall be eligible for consideration by the ordained leadership as candidates for appointment to the offices of elder or deacon.
- 7) Only members who have reached the age of 18 are eligible to vote in any congregational meeting.

Voting by Members

The Members of The Spring Community Church shall vote on the matters of:

- 1) The annual operating budget;
- 2) Any substantial expense related to upkeep or renovation of church facilities and assets;
- 3) Disposition of the church's assets;
- 4) Any expense that results in cumulative indebtedness exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
- 5) Appointment of candidates to elective offices;
- 6) Appointment of candidates to a committee;
- 7) Merger or dissolution of the church;
- 8) Any proposed changes to these By-laws that would reduce, revoke or otherwise change a right granted to the Members in the then-current By-laws;
- 9) Other actions deemed major and extraordinary by the ordained leadership.

Note: For votes on actions deemed major and extraordinary, not required by the By-Laws but voluntarily initiated by the ordained leadership, such votes may, in the sole discretion of the ordained leadership, be restricted to a subset of church members (e.g. those members affiliated with one individual committee in the church).

The time, place and nature of upcoming votes will be communicated to the church at least fourteen (14) days in advance and church members shall have an opportunity to submit questions, comments and concerns, which will be considered by the ordained leadership on a case-by-case basis. A quorum of seven (7) members must be present to conduct a vote on church business. Voting shall take place during public worship services or business meetings as determined in the sole discretion of the ordained leadership. If a member is unable to be present, provision will be made upon request for absentee balloting. A simple majority, defined as a result greater than 50% when the number of affirmative votes are divided by the number of total votes cast, shall constitute a passing vote.

In the case of a crisis requiring immediate action, the ordained leadership may call for a special business meeting (see Church Meetings). Any vote at such meeting must still maintain a quorum of seven (7) members.

Membership Removal

Members can be removed through:

- 1) Voluntary resignation of membership by one in good standing;
- 2) Death;
- 3) A decision by the ordained leadership as a result of the disciplinary process.

Note: Members are prohibited from voluntarily resigning their membership while subject to the formal disciplinary process.

Discipline

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Elder(s) and other members of the ordained leadership will be available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption and restoration rather than punishment. Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare and harmony of the church, the ordained leadership will take prayerful and reasonable measures to resolve the problem following the principles found in Matthew 18:15-17. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to initiate discipline or exclude a member, a unanimous vote of the ordained leadership at a duly convened meeting is required; and the church may proceed to declare the person no longer to be in membership of the church. All such

proceedings shall be bathed in prayer and exhibit a spirit of Christian kindness and patience.

The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded upon request of the excluded person, and by unanimous agreement of the ordained leadership upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance. Should there be a conflict within the church that involves issues between the pastor and the church membership that could destroy or hinder the work of the church, the church will call for an impartial outside mediator to work with the parties involved to make every reasonable attempt to resolve the conflict. The church should request a mediator before the problem escalates to the point that it causes a break in the unity, harmony and fellowship of the congregation.

Marriage and Human Sexuality

Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as described by Scripture. We believe that biblical marriage can only occur between one man and one woman. The Spring Community Church recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this church, its Elders, Deacons, staff and members will not participate in same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor shall its properties or resources be used for such purposes.

The Bible teaches that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, this church opposes all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, extramarital behavior, homosexual behavior and pornography.

Government

The Spring Community Church will endeavor to be led by a plurality of Elders described in Scripture as men variously referenced as "pastors," "overseers" and elders (all three terms referenced herein as "Elders") who may from time to time develop policies and procedures for the congregation.

Leadership

The leadership of The Spring Community Church shall consist of Elders (who shall have primary oversight) and Deacons (who shall give counsel and assistance to the Elders).

Selection Process

The selection process is the responsibility of the Elder(s), and requires the following steps:

- 1) The Elder(s) will identify Biblically qualified candidates for Elder and Deacon among the congregation as the need arises under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The Elder(s) will approach the candidates and inquire concerning their interest in pursuing ordination.
- 3) Interested candidates and their families will meet with the ordained leadership to be interviewed.
- 4) The Elder(s) will consult with the Deacons and then the Elder(s) will vote on whether to recommend the candidate(s) to the church for consideration. A unanimous vote is required to move forward.
- 5) Approved candidate(s) will be recommended to the congregation for consideration following a Sunday morning service. The congregation will be given two (2) weeks to consider the recommendation.
- 6) The approved candidate(s) will then be presented to the congregation after the Sunday morning service. The congregation will be given the opportunity to express any concerns regarding the candidate(s). An open floor vote will be held, and the recommendation will be accepted upon approval by an overwhelming majority
- 7) If approved by the congregation, the next Sunday morning service will be treated as an ordination service and the candidate(s) will be ordained and installed.

Qualifications and Responsibilities

The Elders and Deacons of The Spring Community Church will be chosen from among the members and must give evidence of the qualifications established in the Word of God. These qualifications include personal endowments (Rom. 12:1-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-14:40; Eph. 4:1-16) as well as moral and spiritual standards (1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11). Elders and Deacons at The Spring Community Church will have responsibilities corresponding to their titles and/or according to the teaching of the Word of God. The Elder(s) may also appoint members to assist or lead various ministries of the church, such as Bible teachers and musicians.

The Deacon(s) shall be responsible for keeping a register of names of members, with dates of admission, dismissals, death or erasure, together with a record of baptisms. The Deacon(s) shall also serve as trustees (see Officers). It shall be the responsibility of the Deacon(s) to administer or delegate letters of concern, care, or appreciation on behalf of the The Spring Community Church.

Officers

Trustees and Moderator

The church shall maintain five (5) trustees to serve as legal officers for the church. They shall hold in trust the church property. All Deacons are required to serve as trustees, and any member in good standing may be elected to the office of trustee providing there are fewer than five (5) Deacons. Members who serve as trustees shall serve on a rotation basis. Members serving as trustees will serve three years, and may serve consecutive terms. One of the trustees shall be elected to serve as moderator to preside over meetings.

Treasurer

The church shall elect a church treasurer as its financial officer. The treasurer will serve three years and may be elected to serve consecutive terms. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to provide to the church at each regular business meetings an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements during the period between business meetings.

Clerk

The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a suitable record of all official actions of the church. The clerk will serve three years and may be elected to serve consecutive terms.

Committees

The Elder(s) may appoint committees for any purpose and for the required period of time. The church shall vote to appoint members to fill the committees deemed necessary by the ordained leadership.

Note: Should The Spring Community Church be left without an Elder, the Deacons may appoint a committee for the purpose of searching for a candidate outside of The Spring Community Church to serve as Elder.

Ground/Maintenance Committee

The ground/maintenance committee assists the church in matters related to properties administration. Its work includes such areas as maintaining all church properties for ready use, recommending policies regarding use of properties, and consulting with maintenance personnel.

Missions Committee

The missions committee seeks to discover possibilities for local mission projects, determines the need for new work, and recommends actions needed in establishing or implementing mission projects as necessary.

Church Ordinances

Baptism

The Spring Community Church shall receive for baptism any person who expresses faith in the triune God, who has publicly professed faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.

- 1) The Elder(s) will interview the candidate in regards to their profession.
- 2) Approved candidates will be instructed on the meaning of Baptism and a date will be set for their baptism.
- 3) Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- 4) The presiding Elder, or one approved by the presiding Elder shall administer baptism.
- 5) Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service of the church.

The Lord's Supper

The Spring Community Church shall endeavor to observe the Lord's Supper weekly to coincide with gathering together for worship.

Church Meetings

Worship Services

The Spring Community Church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening for worship. The Elder(s) shall direct the services.

Special Services

Revival services, VBS, and other church meetings essential to the mission of The Spring Community Church shall be placed on the church calendar.

Regular Business Meetings

The Spring Community Church shall hold regular business meetings quarterly.

Special Business Meetings

The ordained leadership of The Spring Community Church may conduct called business meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. Notice of special business meetings must be announced at least one (1) week before the meeting is to take place, unless extreme urgency makes such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject, date, time and place; and it must be given in a way that all resident members have opportunity to be made aware of the meeting.

Use of Church Facilities (Including Gym)

Use by Church Members

Members may request use of the facilities for non church related functions such as birthday parties, family reunions, showers for non members, etc. If the request is approved by the ordained leadership, the member will pay fifty to one hundred dollars (\$50.00-\$100.00) for use of building(s) and will clean the facilities after the event.

Use by Non Members

Any event must be approved by the ordained leadership. The persons using the facilities will pay one hundred to two hundred dollars (\$100.00-\$200.00) for the use of the building(s). The persons will clean the facilities after the event. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premises. Smoking is not permitted in any church buildings or structures.