

Why ECO?

1. Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith
2. Adaptive Change
3. Mutually supportive, accountable, and collegial ministry relationships
4. Energize the mission at CHPC

Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith

ECO anchors to a **Biblical, Orthodox, Reformed theological core**. ECO's core values include Biblical integrity, thoughtful theology and a center-focused spirituality. As the church learns to live, adapt and minister in a quickly changing world, we must have a solid, secure foundational center. ECO promotes the Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith as the agreed upon essence of Reformed, Christian Faith. We covenant to teach, promote and live according to these Biblical truths. As we pursue innovation in ministry and evangelism, we must have freedom to try new methods but also we must be **firmly tethered to the unchanging message**. ECO provides a superb explanation of the essential tenets of our faith which will serve as an secure launch pad for creative and invigorating ministry.

Matthew 7:24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

Adaptive Change

Two other core values for ECO are leadership velocity and kingdom vitality. ECO expresses this energetic leadership through bold, challenging goals like this one: **By 2018, ECO will have more baptisms than funerals**. This is not primarily a goal to increase the size of families or longevity of life. We are talking about evangelism here. ECO is serious about reaching those outside the church with the good news of God's love. In addition, it is clear that this church and the Christian church in general do not do this well. We have been having more funerals than baptisms for years. The goal represents the kind of adaptive change necessary in the church. We know there is **no quick fix** – that's why it's going to take 5 years to attain this goal. We know that our **leaders must have the energy and direction** to help lead the kind of changes necessary for the church **to adapt new methods for proclaiming the unchanging message**. For the organized church to lead the world into God's Kingdom, we must have leadership prepared for the 21st century.

Acts 2:47 "And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

Mutually supportive, accountable, and collegial ministry relationships

The first two reasons of affiliating with ECO concern weighty matters of theological integrity and bold leadership capacities. This third item may not be as weighty but has catalyzing power.

Biblical theology and bold leadership must be joined with “**accountable community**” to catalyze faithful action. ECO is committed to “**connecting leaders to one another in healthy relationships** of accountability, synergy, and care.” The church has good theology and good leaders but no one can engage in ministry today with just good ideas and skills. We need one another! ECO requires ministers and sessions to be in **mutually supportive, challenging and collegial ministry relationships**. Sessions in ECO are required to meet with other sessions annually to ask one another hard questions about the health and mission of the church.

Questions like these:

How has the Holy Spirit been evident in your congregation in the past year; through conversions, growth in the fruit of the Spirit, or other transformational experiences that make disciples of Jesus Christ?

How has your congregation extended itself beyond its bounds through the establishment of new communities of worship and discipleship, expanding the Kingdom of God?

In what ways is your congregation seeking the welfare of the community to which you have been called; devoting itself to the poor, seeking justice, and living out the whole of the Great Commission?

And these are just the first three of ten demanding questions. Every minister must also be in a peer group that commits to supporting and challenging one another toward spiritual depth and tough love in service to God and the church. The church needs this kind of shared responsibility to be true to God over the course of our ministry.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,

Energize the mission at CHPC

ECO has commitments that align directly with the commitments of CHPC. CHPC longs for God to connect us **in Jesus** no matter our differences. ECO has a core value to develop a “**Jesus shaped identity**”. The church finds its identity in Jesus even though individually we hail from different places and backgrounds. Jesus is our center. CHPC longs for God to equip us to **serve the world** like Jesus. ECO has a core value of “**Missional Centrality – evangelism, spiritual formation, compassion, and redemptive justice in our communities and around the world.**” CHPC longs to **celebrate Jesus together** to the fullness of God’s blessing. ECO’s mission is “**build flourishing church that make disciples of Jesus Christ.**” The mission and goals of ECO best align with CHPC to energize us to fulfill the mission God has for us to be a Church Without Walls.