

ABBREVIATED STATEMENT OF FAITH
FOR THE
EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(Prepared by the National Conference Faith and Doctrine Committee)
Approved January 6, 2005

Believing the Bible to be our final authority for faith and Christian living, we affirm the following:

That the universe is the purposeful creation of a personal, loving, almighty God.

That all human beings are made in the image of the Creator and are of infinite worth.

That our world is under the sway of sin as a result of a historical and a personal human rebellion against God, so that suffering, death and separation from God are the experience of humankind; and that without the intervention of God's grace, this will be the eternal state of all persons.

That Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, through his virgin birth, sinless life, sacrificial death on the Cross, and glorious resurrection and ascension, graciously offers new life to all who receive him by faith.

That the Holy Spirit, indwelling believers, gives them a desire and an ability to follow biblical standards of conduct in their personal lives and in society.

That the Christian faith is lived in the community of the church, where worship and witness are embodied through the spiritual gifts of its members.

That Jesus Christ will return to this world, bring an end to history as we know it, inaugurate the final judgment, and welcome believers into his eternal kingdom.

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