



For a variety of reasons, congregations around the country are seeking a healthy denominational connection, and asking questions about The Evangelical Methodist Church. The Evangelical Methodist Church (Indianapolis IN) embraces a high view of Scripture, affirming the verbal plenary inspiration of the Word of God and its supreme authority. We are thoroughly Wesleyan/Arminian in our theological underpinnings, and operate within a connectional and congregational polity. The

information below is given to help answer some key questions about the EMC, regarding its history, polity, and theology.

## Why Affiliate with the Evangelical Methodist Church?

EMC International  
General Superintendent  
Rev. Max  
Edwards



- **How and when did the EMC originate?** The founders of the EMC left the Methodist church in 1946, seeking to establish a conservative, Bible-believing faith family that is committed to preaching a holiness of heart and life. [Click here for more HISTORY](#)
- **What are the basic beliefs of the denomination?** We are solidly evangelical and trinitarian, with a deeply held Wesleyan/Arminian view of sin and salvation. We believe that The Holy Spirit illuminates the Word of God to us; reveals Christ to the world; and empowers believers to serve God acceptably, growing in grace and living a sincere and sanctified life. [Click here for a summary of our BASIC BELIEFS](#)
- **What is the stance of the EMC regarding human sexuality?** Christ died to provide forgiveness and cleansing from sin. We welcome sinners, desiring them to hear the gospel so that they may repent and be converted. Like all sexual sin, we believe Scripture teaches that homosexual practices are sinful, leading to spiritual death. No practicing homosexual shall be permitted to be an official member of any Evangelical Methodist Church nor a candidate for the licensed ministry in the EMC. Our local churches and clergy may NOT be used to perform same-sex or transgendered unions. (Discipline ¶1215) [\(Resolutions on Sexuality - Discipline ¶1172 & ¶1178\)](#)
- **What is the mission of the local church?** We believe each local church must promote Christian worship, teach the whole Bible, and preach the teachings of Christ to evangelize the unsaved, and to disciple believers. Each local body must be reaching out multiculturally, both at home and abroad, ministering to needs of the people in their communities, fostering fellowship among its members, and applying the teachings of Christ to everyday life. [\(See EMC Discipline ¶201-323\)](#)
- **Does the EMC have a “trust clause” requiring denominational ownership of property?** No, fully affiliated congregations own their own properties and may disaffiliate from the EMC with their properties intact. [\(See EMC Discipline ¶209\)](#)
- **How many EMC churches are there in the USA, and are there Global partners or Conferences?** There are currently around 85 congregations in the United States. We are small, but growing! New congregations are being planted, and existing churches are making the decision to affiliate with the EMC. [We currently have 5 Global Conferences](#) outside the continental US, bringing our global church affiliations to nearly 400. [Click here for a list of our USA CHURCHES](#)
- **What are the basic differences between the EMC and the UMC?** The polity of the EMC differs significantly, mainly along two lines. First, we do not operate under a clergy appointment system. Each local church calls their own ministers from the pool of denominational approved clergy. And second, as shared before, our local churches own their own properties. We describe our polity as a blended system of congregational and connectional elements. Our structure affords a great degree of freedom for the local church. Each church is empowered to set its own budget; establish its own worship atmosphere; and operate its own set of local ministries. Churches are asked to contribute “Conference Support” equal to 10% of their regular general fund income. [Click here for more information on these DIFFERENCES](#)