

Midwest Church Extension is the Church Planting Agency of IFCA International in the Midwestern States of Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

## Planting Today ... for a Harvest Tomorrow

Every aspect of MCE's ministry is geared toward the permeation of every identifiable Midwestern community with the hope of the Gospel through the biblical ministry of reproductive IFCA International churches.

Chances are there is a need for an Independent Fundamental Church in your community. Contact us soon to begin exploring the possibilities that may exist for establishing one.

Are you interested in the possibility of planting a church as an MCE missionary pastor? Call or write today and let's explore what opportunities might exist for which you may be suited.

MCE is a member organization of



[www.ifca.org](http://www.ifca.org)

### Midwest Church Extension

Henry Vosburgh, Executive Director

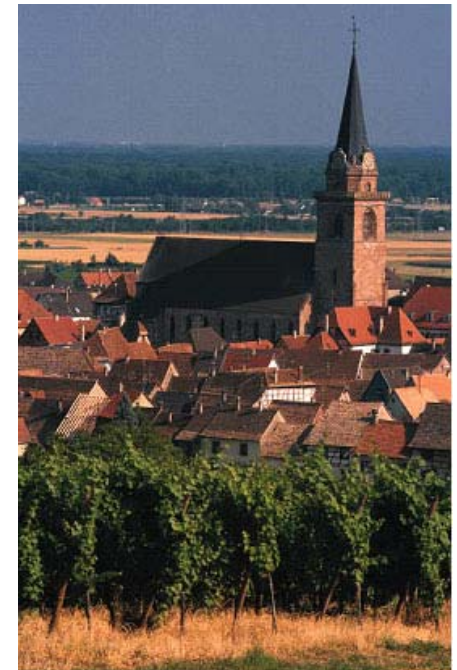
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## What Is an Independent Fundamental Church?



- Independent
- Bible Centered
- Fundamental
- Distinctive

The ministry of Midwest Church Extension is that of planting IFCA International Churches. IFCA International is a fellowship of independent churches, organizations and individuals who subscribe to the historic, biblical Christian faith including what are often referred to as the “fundamentals of the faith.” Sometimes, we are asked, “**Just what is an independent Bible Church?**” There are several identifying characteristics of such churches and, therefore, of the churches that MCE plants.



### Additional Distinctives

#### Membership

Members must have a testimony of salvation through faith in Christ.

#### Ordinances

- The Lord’s Table is open to all those who are truly born-again regardless of church membership.
- Believer’s Baptism is encouraged for all believers in testimony to their faith in Christ.

#### Interdependence

All who have trusted Christ as Savior belong to the “body of Christ” (Ephesians 1.22-23). It is generally true that independent churches will actively seek to be interdependently involved in a network of fellowship and ministry with other like-minded organizations and churches.

#### Worship

Worship that conforms to biblical principles while also being uniquely relevant to each individual church.

#### Preaching

Expository and practical for everyday living.

#### Family Orientation

Seeking to provide a varied and vital spiritual ministry to the entire family.

## Characteristics of Midwest Church Extension Churches

### Independent

Churches planted by Christ’s followers in the first century were independent churches, each one being free from outside control over its affairs. Each was a self-governing body, choosing its own officers (Acts 6.1-6), and exercising its own discipline (1 Corinthians 5.13). The local congregation resolved any internal problems (1 Corinthians 6.1-5). Preserving the purity of the church’s doctrine was the responsibility of the local assembly (1 Timothy 3.15; Revelation 2.14-16).

Following this pattern, today’s independent church relies upon the direction of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13.1-3) in choosing its own name, form of government, and specific ministries. It is free to call its own pastor and invite into the pulpit any speakers it deems sound in the faith.

Such churches have complete liberty in determining where they send their missionary support, being free to follow God’s direction in supporting those missionaries and agencies they

find acceptable. The primary aim of all missionary and evangelistic effort is personal salvation and discipleship through Christ.



Independent churches are characteristically dependent upon the Lord, looking to Him for the provision of every need. Each one is self-supported through the free-will offerings of its congregation (1 Corinthians 16.1, 2; 2 Corinthians 9.6-8). This encourages prayer, faith, spiritual growth and service among its members.

### Fundamental

As IFCA International Churches, the churches planted by MCE hold to the historic fundamentals of the faith, upholding the absolute authority of the Scripture over

any teaching based upon human wisdom alone. To be fundamental means to believe in and proclaim those beliefs such as:

- ◆ The verbal, plenary, inerrant inspiration of the Bible
- ◆ The virgin birth, absolute deity and sinless life of Jesus Christ
- ◆ The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ to provide salvation for all
- ◆ The person and work of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ The reality of Satan and his destructive work today
- ◆ The personal and bodily return of Jesus Christ
- ◆ The bodily resurrection of all men; some to eternal life and some to everlasting punishment

### Bible Centered

An independent fundamental church emphasizes the central importance of the Bible as the Word of God in all of its ministries. The Bible is regarded as the guide for daily Christian faith and living. The pastor preaches directly from the Bible in his pulpit ministry. The educational program of the church is likewise biblically based and is designed to develop biblical values and standards by which to live.