



What is a congregational church?

A congregational church is a church that functions with a specific form of government that is ruled by the congregation. The last and final court of appeal in a matter of life of the local church is, and should be, the local congregation itself. Each congregational church is autonomous and entirely free from the external control of a larger governing denomination (such as a Presbytery in the Presbyterian denomination, or Bishops in the Episcopal church). Baleville is part of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), an organization that provides encouragement and support to congregations.

Congregational churches emphasize the rights of the local church in decision making guided by a Biblically based conscience (1 Timothy 3:9), and the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9-10). There is strong biblical evidence for congregational churches throughout the New Testament. Many scripture passages indicates that the church made corporate decisions (Acts 1:23-26; 6:3-5; 13:2-3; 15:23) as well as the fact that the Apostle Paul would often address letters to churches rather than church leadership.