

*Thoughts from Knute Larson*

## **Considerations about joining the Evangelical Free Church of America**

Given that Community Gospel Church is a strong church and getting along fine, what are the reasons to consider about joining this fellowship?

### **STRENGTHS OF THE AFFILIATION**

**...The Evangelical Free Church is indeed evangelical or orthodox. Its doctrinal statement would not differ with yours, and it allows for liberty in areas not clearly defined in the Scriptures.**

**...This links you with a missions program that is both worldwide and very active in tragedy and emergency needs in our country.**

**...This connects you with churches and pastors in the Great Lakes area --South Bend and closeby but also Michigan and Illinois -- for annual training and retreats for pastors; monthly support groups for pastors; some outreach or collective mission opportunities; annual conferences.**

**...It will give an official connection to a very good seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; and churches of similar mood. And both of these are natural pools for pastoral staff needs.**

**...This gives support to the church if there is ever a need for arbitration from outside the actual church body -- in case of the need for an objective and wise district advisor. Both a district superintendent and a regional pastoral advisor are available, as well as pastors linked in the district.**

**...It answers the unspoken (sometimes) questions that some local or potential members may think or ask, Independent of what? Is this cultic? Are you responsible to anyone?**

### **CONCERNS ADDRESSED**

**...No new authority is imposed. All cooperative giving or mission opportunities or support obligations are voluntary. Up to you.**

