

AFTERWORD

THROUGHOUT THE GOSPELS, Jesus reminds his disciples that the Good News is linked to the kingdom of God. He shared that the kingdom of God is near, the kingdom of God belongs to such as these, and the kingdom of God is within you, (cf. Mark 1:15, Mark 10:14, Luke 17:21). He described it through answers to the rhetorical question: “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?” Luke 13:20. And in like manner, we believe that the Good News of Jesus Christ is the ultimate link to understanding our connection to God and our purpose for living.

This manual exists as an intersection for the curious, the doubtful, the passionate, and the serious students of God’s Word, the Church, and life with God himself. Throughout these pages, our hope is that readers have seen a picture of their own personal link to the kingdom of God. As people examine our humble beginnings under God’s influence, digest the substance of our scriptural understandings, journey along the biblical pathways toward freedom, and envision the current direction and expansion of the E.C. Church, we anticipate they will encounter the living Christ who is reconciling the world to himself, (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:19).

It is with gratitude to Jesus Christ that we present this compilation of writings for those interested in understanding their connection to the Evangelical Congregational Church. We are also grateful for the many contributors who have helped with the formation, composition, editorial work, proofreading, and publishing of this manual. We are optimistic that readers will receive the benefits of understanding God’s kingdom from the pages of the *E.C. Link*.

In Christ,

Rev. Jeffrey Byerly
Editor-in-Chief