

Feature / Doctrine	Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) - "7 Essentials"	Providence West Chester (PWC) - "Core Beliefs"	Comparison / Contrast
1. Scripture	Implicit: High view of Scripture (e.g., "according to the Scriptures," "Word of God is preached in its purity"), but not a standalone essential.	Explicit & Primary: First stated belief. "Verbally inspired and authoritative words of God, and therefore both infallible and inerrant."	Contrast: PWC explicitly names and details the inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture as its foundational belief. EPC's statement implies a high view but doesn't make it a distinct essential.
2. God (Trinity)	"One God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."	"Trinitarian God. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal in their divinity, yet separate in person."	Agreement: Both affirm orthodox Trinitarianism, co-equality and co-eternality of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. God the Father	Mentioned as part of the Trinity.	Detailed Focus: "Sovereign Creator of all things... created everything out of nothing. Everything is made for His glory...sent the Son to make payment for our sins, providing the way into a restored relationship."	Contrast (Emphasis): PWC dedicates a separate section to detailing the Father's role as Creator and orchestrator of salvation, emphasizing His glory and grace. EPC includes Him as part of the Trinitarian statement.
4. Jesus Christ	"Living Word... became flesh through His miraculous conception... virgin birth. True God became true man... died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins... arose bodily... ascended into heaven... High Priest and Mediator."	"Son of God, fully man and fully God. Firstborn over all creation... By Him and through Him all things were created and are sustained... physical revelation of God... conceived supernaturally... reigns at the Father's right hand... Through His life, death, and resurrection, the gift of salvation is offered."	Agreement: Strong alignment on Incarnation (virgin birth, fully God/fully man), Atoning Death, Bodily Resurrection, Ascension, and present reign/mediation. PWC adds more emphasis on His role in creation and sustenance.
5. Holy Spirit	"Come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work... convicts us of sin and draws us... indwelling our hearts... gives new life... empowers and imparts gifts... instructs and guides... seals us."	"Person of the Holy Spirit, fully God and worshipped and adored... convicts the world of sin and reveals... has volition, emotion, and intellect. He guides, leads, directs, and teaches the believer."	Agreement: Both affirm the Holy Spirit's full deity, personhood, and crucial work in conviction, regeneration, sanctification, guidance, and empowerment of believers.
6. Humanity & Sin	"Estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness."	"All humanity is made in the image of God... our choice to sin caused a breach... rendering us powerless to restore... sin also distorts our view of God, self, and others... unable to remedy our lost condition."	Agreement: Both agree on the fallen, sinful nature of humanity and our inability to save ourselves. PWC provides more detail on the origin and impact of sin on relationships and self-perception.

7. Salvation	"Wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone... justifies them... born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God."	"God pursues all who are lost... gift of salvation... received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed... substitutionary death, Jesus bore all of our sins, shame, and guilt... satisfying the covenant justice of God, and thus removing the estrangement."	Agreement: Strong alignment on salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone, emphasizing Christ's substitutionary atonement, justification, and new birth. PWC adds the nuance of God actively "pursuing" the lost and the "covenant justice of God."
8. The Church	"True Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith... and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united... visible yet imperfect expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached... sacraments are administered... scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting she awaits the return of her Lord."	"Church is the Body of Christ, the hope of the world. The one true Church is composed of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Wherever God's people meet regularly, there is the local expression of the church."	Agreement: Both define the Church as the Body of Christ, comprising all true believers, and recognize the local congregation as its visible expression. Contrast: EPC specifies additional elements of local church life (sacraments, discipline, fellowship) and explicitly mentions awaiting the Lord's return in the context of the Church's perfecting.
9. Sacraments	Explicit: Mentioned as being "administered in their integrity" within local congregations. (Reflects Presbyterian tradition of two sacraments: Baptism and Lord's Supper).	Not Explicitly Listed: While undoubtedly practiced, sacraments are not named as a separate core belief.	Contrast: EPC explicitly highlights the administration of sacraments as an essential part of the visible church. PWC does not list this as a distinct core belief.
10. Christ's Return	"Jesus Christ will come again to the earth personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God."	Implied: Mentioned that Jesus "lives now in physical form, reigning at the Father's right hand," and the Church is empowered to "restore this broken world" through its mission. (Strongly implies future return but not a separate point).	Contrast (Emphasis): EPC explicitly includes Christ's bodily return and judgment as a distinct essential. PWC's statement implies it but doesn't feature it as a separate, enumerated point.
11. Great Commission	"Commands all believers to proclaim the gospel... and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience... requires total commitment... calls us to a life of self-denying love and service... for good works."	"Jesus ascended in order to empower His church to help restore this broken world. They are living their mission through our surrendered lives and community."	Agreement: Both emphasize the mission of the church to impact the world with the gospel. Contrast: EPC uses the specific language of the "Great Commission" and links it to disciple-making and good works, while PWC frames it as empowering the church to "restore this broken world" through surrendered lives and community.

12. Confessional Basis	As part of the EPC denomination, implicitly adheres to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms (with modifications).	Appears to be a self-developed statement of core beliefs, common for non-denominational churches.	Contrast: EPC has a defined historical confessional standard beyond its essentials; PWC's statement is presented as its primary theological summary.
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