

Statement of Faith in Brief

Italics indicate amendments to the 1963 "Brief Statement of Mennonite Doctrine"

- A. We believe in one God eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- B. We believe that God has revealed Himself in the *inerrant and infallible* Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inspired Word of God, and, supremely, in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. We believe that, in the beginning, God created all things by His Son. He made man in His divine image, with free will, moral character, and a spiritual nature. *He is sovereign over all things.*
- D. We believe that man fell into sin, bringing depravity and death upon the race; that as *a* sinner, man is self-centered and self-willed, unwilling and unable to break with sin.
- E. We believe that there is one Mediator between God and *mankind*, the Man Christ Jesus, divine Son of God, *born of the virgin Mary*. He died, *shedding His blood*, to redeem us from sin and arose bodily from the grave for our justification.
- F. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, a free gift bestowed by God on those who repent and believe.
- G. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, effects the new birth, gives guidance in life, empowers for service, and enables perseverance in faith and holiness.
- H. We believe that the church is the body of Christ, the brotherhood of the redeemed, a disciplined people obedient to the Word of God, and a fellowship of love, intercession, and healing.
- I. We believe that Christ commissioned the church to go into all the world, making disciples of all the nations, and ministering to every human need.
- J. We believe that those who repent and believe should be baptized with water as a symbol of baptism with the Spirit, cleansing from sin, and commitment to Christ.
- K. We believe that the church should observe the communion of the Lord's Supper as a symbol of His broken body and shed blood, and of the fellowship of His church, until His return.
- L. We believe in the washing of the saint's feet as a symbol of brotherhood, cleansing, and service, and in giving the right hand of fellowship and the holy kiss as symbols of Christian love.
- M. We believe that God has established unique roles for man and woman, symbolized by man's bared head in praying and prophesying, and by woman's veiled head.
- N. We believe that Christian marriage is intended by God to be the union of one man and one woman for life, and that Christians shall marry only in the Lord. *We believe that any sexual union or intimate sexual activity apart from marriage is sin, including, but not limited to, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and incest.*
- O. We believe it is the will of God that there should be ministers to teach the Word, to serve as leaders, to administer the ordinances, to lead the church in the exercise of discipline, and to serve as pastors and teachers.
- P. We believe that Christians are not to be conformed to the world, but should seek to conform to Christ in every area of life.
- Q. We believe that Christians are to be open and transparent in life, ever speaking the truth, and employing no oaths.
- R. *We believe that human life begins at conception, that it is a sacred gift from God, and that only God has the right to terminate life. Therefore, we believe that it is the will of God for Christians to refrain from force and violence in human relations, including the voluntary taking of human life through abortion, suicide, euthanasia, and murder; and to show Christian love to all men.*
- S. We believe that the state is ordained of God to maintain order in society, and that Christians should honor rulers, be subject to authorities, witness to the state, and pray for government.
- T. We believe that at death the unsaved enter into everlasting punishment and the saved into conscious and everlasting bliss with Christ, who is coming again, and will raise the dead, sit in judgment, and bring in God's everlasting kingdom.