

Life in Christ

Mennonite Church

Confession of Faith

The following is an abbreviated version of the 1963 Mennonite Confession of Faith

1. We believe in one eternally existing Almighty God who has manifested Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is Creator of all things visible and invisible.
2. We believe that God has revealed Himself in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. We believe that God created all things (ex nihilo) by and for His Son who upholds all things. He created man in His own image with free will, moral purity and the capability of communion with Himself.
4. We believe that man by disobedience lost his fellowship with God, bringing depravity and death upon the entire human race; that as a sinner, man is self-centered and self-willed, unwilling and unable to free himself from the bondage of sin.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and man; that by His shed blood as sacrifice for our sins, forgiveness is freely offered to all who will come to Him. In Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead lies the certainty of the justification of the believer.
6. We believe that salvation is by the grace of God through faith alone in Christ alone revealed in the Scriptures alone; that saving faith includes true repentance and acknowledgment of Christ as Lord.
7. We believe the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, effects the new birth transforming believers into new persons in Christ, gives guidance in life, empowers for service, and enables perseverance in faith and holiness.
8. 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.
9. We believe Christ commissioned the church to make disciples of all nations. We are also called to minister to the physical, social, and emotional needs of mankind, in ways appropriate to the body of Christ.
10. We believe that Christ authorized the church to appoint and ordain men as pastors and teachers who are responsible to serve as leaders under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to the Word.
11. We believe that water baptism is commanded by Christ for believers only as a symbol of Holy Spirit baptism and identification with Christ in His death and resurrection.

12. 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.
13. We believe that the observance of the washing of the saints' feet, the holy kiss, and the right hand of fellowship are biblical expressions of love, equality, and service in the body of Christ.
14. We believe that God created man and woman for specific roles and functions. These are symbolized by men's short hair and uncovered head when praying and prophesying, and by women's naturally long hair and veiled head.
15. We believe that God instituted marriage to be the union of one man and one woman for life and that believers are to marry only in the Lord.
16. We believe that followers of Christ are not to be conformed to the secular culture in which they live, but are to live in holiness and in obedience to Christ in every area of life, recognizing their bodies to be temples of the Holy Spirit.
17. We believe that Christians are to be open and transparent in life, ever speaking the truth, and employing no oaths.
18. We believe it is the will of God for His children to show love that holds all human life sacred. Therefore, participation in warfare, euthanasia, abortion, retaliation, revenge, and prejudice are forbidden for the believer.
19. We believe that civil government is ordained of God to restrain evil and to maintain order in society. Although Christians are citizens of the heavenly kingdom they will honor, obey, pray for, and pay tribute to civil government.
20. We believe that there will be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. At the final judgment the wicked will go into everlasting punishment but the righteous will enter into the glorious kingdom of our God and Savior Jesus Christ who is KING of kings and LORD of lords.