



Confession of Faith

Camp Evergreen takes its Confession of Faith from the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. Following is a “digest” version of the Confession; it can be found in full version on the Canadian Conference's website at http://www.mbconf.ca/home/products_and_services/resources/theology/confession_of_faith/. If you have questions, please let us know! You can email us (director@camp-evergreen.com) or call us (403-638-4230).

God | We believe in One God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in God the Father, the Creator and Sustainer of this universe, who in His infinite wisdom and love planned the redemption of mankind and accomplished it through Jesus. We believe in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, was crucified for our sins, rose from the dead and was exalted to the right hand of God. We believe in the Holy Spirit who affects redemption in the lives of those who believe in Christ. He convicts, guides, teaches, rebukes, indwells, empowers, comforts, intercedes, unites believers into one body, and glorifies Christ.

The Revelation of God | We believe that God has made His power and deity known in creation. He revealed Himself also in word and deed in the Old Testament. He revealed Himself supremely and finally in the Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament. We believe that all Scripture is inspired by God as men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit. We accept the entire Bible as the infallible Word of God and as the authoritative guide for the faith and life of Christian discipleship.

Man and Sin | We believe that man was created in the image of God, sinless and in fellowship with God, with a free will to make moral choices. By sinning man brought death upon the whole human race. As a consequence all people are sinful by nature, guilty before God and in need of forgiveness and restoration.

The Christian Life | We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and transforms him into the image of Christ and enables him to witness for his Lord in daily life. The Christian lives in fellowship with God and other believers and joins a local church in baptism. The believer contributes to the building of the body of Christ with his material and spiritual gifts. By the means of grace provided Christ, the believer seeks to grow to maturity, as this is expressed particularly in the “fruit of the Spirit”. Since his body is a “temple of the Holy Spirit” he refrains from those things which harm the body and the mind. In his striving for perfection the believer recognizes his complete dependence on God and that he is constantly in need of His forgiving and cleansing grace.

The Church of Christ | We believe that the church was established through Christ’s redemptive work in history, and that it is comprised of all who put their faith in Him, and who are baptized by the Spirit into one body, regardless of nation, race or social class. Despite the diversity in congregations and denominations, the Holy Spirit creates unity among all the people of God. The local church is an association of baptized believers. Mennonite Brethren churches, whose policy is in agreement with this constitution of the General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, work together in a spirit of interdependence, love and submission one to another under the Lordship of Christ. Believers manifest loving concern for each and submit to brotherly admonition and discipline. Those who fail or refuse to be corrected are excluded from the fellowship of the church; those who repent are forgiven and restored.

Mission of the Church | We believe that the Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation” and that the command to make disciples of all nations is the primary mission of the church. Every member of the church is called to participate in the mission of the church as he/she is enabled by God’s grace.

The Christian Ministries | We believe that God through the Holy Spirit has endowed all His children with gifts for Christian ministries. Some members of the church, however, are called to lead, to preach, to teach, to evangelize, to nurture; others to perform decanal ministries. The church commissions or ordains people for such ministries and loves, respects and supports those who serve faithfully. Those in leadership are to live exemplary Christian lives.

Christian Baptism | We believe that Christians should be baptized in water upon confession of their faith in Jesus Christ. The Mennonite Brethren Church practices baptism by immersion, although it receives into fellowship those who have been baptized on confession of their faith by another mode. By baptism a believer enters in to the fellowship of the local church and commits him/herself to a life of discipleship and service.

The Lord's Supper | Believers who have been baptized observe the Lord's Supper. In preparation every believer is to examine him/herself so as to partake in a worthy manner. Those who are at peace with God and their fellow man are invited to the Lord's Table.

Marriage and the Christian Home | We believe that God instituted marriage. Believers who marry should have a common Christian commitment; a believer should not marry an unbeliever. We believe that divorce is not God's intention for marriage, however human sinfulness may lead to divorce. Christian parents should nurture their children through exemplary living, prayer, worship, instruction in God's word and godly discipline.

The Lord's Day and Work | We believe that God has called us to work and that work is honourable. However, the Christian also need to have time for worship, instruction in faith and fellowship. Therefore, following the example of the New Testament Church, Mennonite Brethren gather on the Lord's day for spiritual up-building and limit their labours on the day to work of necessity and deeds of mercy.

Christian Integrity | Christians are obligated to speak the truth at all times. As a witness to our integrity, we refuse the making of oaths, in keeping with what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Also we avoid holding memberships in lodges and secret societies, but rather seek to foster fellowship among believers, God, and witness against corruption and injustice in society.

The State | We believe that God has instituted the state. Our chief concern and primary allegiance however, is to Christ's kingdom. We pray for our government, respect those in authority, pay taxes, obey all laws not in conflict with the word of God. And witness against corruption and injustice in society.

Love and Non-Resistance | We believe that Christians should live by the law of love and practice forgiveness of enemies as taught and exemplified by Jesus. We hold that it is not God's will that Christians take up arms in military service in time of war, and seek to alleviate suffering and bear witness to the love of Christ.

Christ's Final Triumph | We believe that God will some day bring His purposes to a final consummation. When Christ returns, the dead in Christ will be raised and together with the living believers they will be transformed and they shall forever be with the Lord. In the end all evil powers will be defeated and whereas the ungodly shall suffer eternal punishment, the saints enjoy eternal bliss in the presence of God.



Community Covenant

Camp Evergreen's Community Covenant is our agreement to live, work and play together in ways that honour God and reflect that we are in relationship with Jesus. We strive to be high quality and Christ-like leaders. We support each other as we uphold a standard of conduct becoming of Christ-followers, Jesus-lovers and missionaries of the gospel (because that's who we are!). We submit to the authority placed over us – in this case, Camp Evergreen's Management Team, Executive Director and Board of Directors (2 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

The Community Covenant lays the Scriptural foundation for our behaviour – a Scriptural foundation is necessary, because we believe that God's Word is the final authority. More specific guidelines regarding community practices and acceptable and unacceptable behaviour are set out in Camp Evergreen's Code of Conduct and Safe Place Policy.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." (Proverbs 1:7)

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready." (Revelation 19:6-7)

We strive to a single standard:

Love Jesus and Lift Him Up by...

Caring for Yourself

Being Compassionate toward Others

Committing to Carrying out the Purpose of Camp Evergreen

RESPECT YOURSELF (CARING FOR YOURSELF)

(Respecting ourselves has to do with what we consume on TV and through gaming; our thought life; avoiding pornography, self-harm, and other self-destructive behaviours, including smoking, alcohol consumption and the use of illegal drugs; our approach to diet, exercise, practicing Sabbath, habits, sex & sexuality, self-image; and more.)

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

"Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Romans 12:1-2)

See also Philippians 4:4-8.

RESPECT OTHERS (BEING COMPASSIONATE TOWARD OTHERS)

(Respecting others addresses our relationships and how we treat one another; exclusive friendships; how we respond to those in leadership over us; how we deal with conflict; how and when we use Facebook, cell phones, MP3 players, music in public areas, laptops; respecting curfew; and more.)

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends...” (Romans 12:9-21)

See also Romans 14:13-18, Philippians 2:1-8 and 1 Thessalonians 5:13-18.

RESPECT CAMP EVERGREEN (COMMITTING TO CARRYING OUT CAMP EVERGREEN'S PURPOSE)

(Respecting Camp Evergreen addresses issues regarding the mission and ministry of Camp Evergreen, work ethic, the treatment of camp property and program equipment, safety standards and more.)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.” (Psalm 78:4)

Conclusion

When any member of the community steps out of bounds, the rest of us rally around to gently and humbly help the individual rejoin the community. If a specific behaviour becomes an issue, the individual(s) will be invited to join a member of the Program or Management Team to discuss the behaviour and its relationship to the Community Covenant and/or Code of Conduct (Matthew 18:15-20).

We believe that opportunities to grow come out of our struggles and shortcomings. Where there is acknowledgement of and repentance from sin or failure, every effort will be taken to be gracious. Appropriate accountability and consequences will be provided as necessary. Illegal behaviours and behaviours which endanger the spiritual, mental, emotional, or physical well-being of the individual or others are cause for immediate dismissal.