



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 by 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 other 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. Through baptism a believer enters into 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 shall enjoy eternal bliss in the presence of God.
