

MENNONITE BRETHREN CONFSSION OF FAITH AFFIRMATION

The following is based on the complete and official Confession of Faith including scriptural references, which is available online at <https://usmb.org/confession-of-faith-4/>. Please review the document and comment on areas of similarity and difference with your own theological beliefs.

CONFSSION OF FAITH

1. God

We believe in the one true God, the source of all life, who reigns over all things as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and who lovingly cares for all creation. God the Father planned the redemption of humanity and sent Jesus Christ the Son to be the Savior of the world. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, bringing good news to the poor and triumphing over sin through His obedient life, death and resurrection. God the Holy Spirit empowers believers with new life, indwells them and unites them in one body.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

2. The Revelation of God

We believe God has made Himself known to all people. Beginning with creation and culminating in Jesus Christ, God has revealed Himself in the Old and New Testaments. All Scripture is inspired by God, and is the authoritative guide for faith and practice. We interpret the Scripture in the church community as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

3. Humanity and Sin

We believe God created the heavens and the earth, and they were good. Humans, God's crowning act, were created in the image of God. Sin has alienated humanity from the Creator and creation, but God offers redemption and reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

4. Sin and Evil

We believe sin is individual and corporate opposition to God's good purposes and leads to physical and spiritual death.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

5. Salvation By Grace

We believe God saves all people who put their faith in Jesus Christ. By His obedient life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, Christ delivers people from the tyranny of sin and death and redeems them for eternal life in the age to come. All creation eagerly awaits its liberation from bondage into the freedom of the glory of God's children.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

6. The Nature of the Church

We believe the church is the covenant community called by God through Jesus Christ to live a life of discipleship and witness as empowered by the Holy Spirit. The local church gathers regularly for worship, fellowship and accountability and to discern, develop and exercise gifts for ministry.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

7. The Mission of the Church

We believe the mission of the church is to make disciples of all nations by calling people to repent, to be baptized and to love God and neighbors by sharing the good news and doing acts of love and compassion.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

8. Christian Baptism

We believe baptism by water is a public sign that a person has repented of sin, received forgiveness, died with Christ and has been raised to new life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is also a public declaration of a believer's incorporation into the body of Christ as expressed in the local church.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

9. Lord's Supper

We believe that in obedience to Christ, the church observes the Lord's Supper as a remembrance of His atoning death and to celebrate forgiveness, new life and the fellowship and unity of all believers.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

10. Discipleship

We believe Jesus calls people who have experienced the new birth to follow Him in a costly life of service to God. The power of the Holy Spirit transforms believers from the unrighteous pattern of the present age into a life of joyful obedience with God's people.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

11. Marriage, Singleness and Family

We believe that singleness and marriage are honored by God and should be blessed by the church. God instituted marriage as a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman for the purpose of companionship, encouragement, sexual intimacy and procreation. Children are a gift from God and should be nurtured by parents in the ways of God.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

12. Society and State

We believe that God instituted the state to promote justice and to maintain law and order. Christians' primary allegiance is to Christ's kingdom. Believers are called to witness against injustice, exercise social responsibility and obey all laws that do not conflict with the Word of God.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

13. Love, Peacemaking and Reconciliation

We believe that God in Christ reconciles people to Himself and to one another, making peace through the cross. As peacemakers we alleviate suffering, reduce strife, promote justice and work to end violence and war, that others may see a demonstration of Christ's love. As in other Peace Churches, many of us choose not to participate in the military but rather in alternative forms of service.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

14. The Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that God is creator and giver of life and highly values each person. Procedures designed to take human life are wrong. We oppose all attitudes that devalue human life, especially the defenseless lives of the unborn, disabled, poor, aging and dying.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

15. Stewardship

We believe the universe and everything in it belongs to God the Creator, and that we have been entrusted by God to manage its resources. All God's gifts, including money, time, abilities and influence, are to be received with thanksgiving, used responsibly and shared generously.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

16. Work, Rest and The Lord's Day

We believe God's act of creation provides the model for work and rest. In work, we use our abilities to glorify God and serve others. In rest, we express thanks for God's provision and trust in God's sustaining grace. In worship, we gather to commemorate the resurrection through worship, instruction, fellowship and service.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

17. Christianity and Other Faiths

We believe God's atoning work in Jesus is the only means of reconciling people with God. God has not left any without a witness to the Creator's goodness and power. Christians treat people of other faiths with respect, but urgently proclaim Christ as the only way of salvation.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

18. Christ's Final Triumph

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will return triumphantly at the end of this age to destroy all evil powers, condemn all who have rejected Christ to eternal punishment and unite believers with Christ to reign forever with God in glory.

Fully Support Some Variance Major Variance

Comment:

I affirm the above responses:

Signature: _____

Date: _____