



Know Christ, and Make Him Known

RIVERSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH

Statement of Faith

The twenty statements below are summary statement from the concluding pages of the 1963 Mennonite Confession of Faith.

1. We believe in one God eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that God revealed Himself in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inspired Word of God, and supremely in His Son, the Lord Jesus.
3. We believe that in the beginning God created all things by His Son. He made man in the divine image, with free will, moral character, and a spiritual nature.
4. We believe that man fell into sin, bringing depravity and death upon the race; that a sinner, man is self-centered and self-willed, unwilling and unable to break with sin.
5. We believe that there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who died to redeem us from sin and arose for our justification.
6. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, a free gift bestowed by God on those who repent and believe.
7. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, effects the new birth, gives guidance in life, empowers for service, and 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 that Christ commissioned the church to go into all the world, making disciples of all the nations, and ministering to every human need.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. We believe 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 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.
14. 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. **
15. We believe that Christian marriage is intended by God to be the union of one man and one woman for life, and that Christians should marry only in the Lord. ***
16. We believe that Christians are not to be conformed to the world, but should seek to conform to Christ in every area of life.
17. We believe that Christians are to be open and transparent in life, ever speaking the truth, and employing no oaths.
18. We believe that it is the will of God for Christians to refrain from force and violence in human relations and to show Christian love to all men.
19. 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 governments.
20. We believe that at death the unsaved enter into everlasting punishment and the saved into conscious bliss with Christ, who is coming again, and will raise the dead, sit in judgment, and bring in God's everlasting kingdom.

The following application statements relate to statements 11, 14 and 15 above, and correspond as noted by the asterisks:

* Baptism upon confession of faith is required for those of accountable age. Secondly, rebaptism is encouraged for those baptized before accountable age.

** The principle of I Cor. 11 will be taught and the symbol of the veiling be practiced by conviction rather than making it mandatory for membership

*** The New Testament teachings on divorce and remarriage will be taught. However, for those who have experienced divorce and are now remarried, each individual case will be carefully processed by the pastor/s and elders and upon recommendation be received as members.

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RIVERSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH
Statement of Commitment (Ephesians 3:14 – 5:21)

We have heard the loving call of God to be His People.

We answer His call in this faith community.

We remember there is one Body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one God and Father of all.

We long to learn the truth in Christ, to be made new in the attitudes of our minds.

We long to walk worthy of the calling we have received.

We accept His enabling gifts that we may service in His Kingdom, and build up His Body, until we all reach unity in the faith, knowledge of the Son of God, wholeness in Christ.

We will walk together in love, even as Christ loved us.

We will speak the truth. We will put away lying.

We will refuse evil thoughts and evil talk about another.

If we sin against another, we will seek immediate reconciliation.

In our occupations, we will work as unto the Lord that we may share with those in need.

We will avoid opportunities to get something for nothing.

We accept our accountability to God and to each other in our relationships of intimacy.

We refuse to sin against our bodies.

We commit ourselves to moral integrity in our thoughts, our words, our conduct.

We will speak words of encouragement and admonition as we share and receive counsel together.

We will pray for each other.

We will sing with our voices, and make melody in our hearts as we give praise and thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Together we will walk in the grace of our Lord and in the fullness of his Spirit.