

Core Values Summary

[Final Draft for action January 16, 2011]

(Gray quotes from *Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective 1995*)

1. **We value discipleship.** As followers of Jesus we are committed to a life of growth into Christ's likeness. This means that we place Jesus first in all things. Every disciple of Jesus Christ is set apart from the world and strives to please the Lord in every area of life.
(Mark 8:34-38, Luke 9:23)

17. We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to discipleship, to take up our cross and follow him. Through the gift of God's saving grace, we are empowered to be disciples of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, following his teachings and his path through suffering to new life. As by faith we walk in Christ's way, we are being transformed into his image. We become conformed to Christ, faithful to the will of God, and separated from the evil in the world.

2. **We value prayer.** Our personal relationship with Christ is sustained and nourished through the discipline of prayer. We believe that prayer is essential to the effectiveness of our ministry.
(John 15:5, Acts 2:42)

18. We believe that to be a disciple of Jesus is to know life in the Spirit. As the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes shape in us, we grow in the image of Christ and in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is active in individual and in communal worship, leading us deeper into the experience of God.

3. **We value the scriptures.** The Bible is the Word of God written. We look to the Bible as the primary source for preaching and instruction in the church and at home.
(2 Timothy 3:16ff 2 Peter 3:16-21)

4. We believe that all **Scripture** is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the written Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. Led by the Holy Spirit in the church, we interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ.

4. **We value our church community.** The Christian life is intended to be lived in community where we learn and practice the values of God's Kingdom. In the congregation, we discern God's will, we celebrate and suffer together, give and receive instruction, practice mutual aid, and extend care to one another in real and practical ways.
(1 Corinthians 3:9-15, 12:12-13)

9. We believe that the **church** is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim the reign of God and to provide a foretaste of the church's glorious hope. It is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

5. **We value participating in God's mission.** God calls us to make disciples of all nations by inviting others to faith in Jesus Christ and teaching them to follow Him. Therefore, pursuing a lifestyle of service, we will participate in projects that share our faith and serve those in need, at home and far away. (Matt 16:18, 28:18ff, Acts 1:8, 2 Cor. 5:20, Col 3:17, James 2:14-26)

10. We believe that the mission of the church is to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned the church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all things he has commanded.

6. **We value the gifts entrusted to us by God.** We understand that our time, abilities, and material resources are gifts from God. As Christian stewards, we encourage the development of spiritual gifts, an attitude of generosity, and a lifestyle of simplicity.
(Luke 12:41-48, Matt 25:14-30, 1 Cor 12-14, Ephesians 4)

21. We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls us as the church to live as faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

7. **We value Christ-Centered worship.** Gathering together regularly to honor and glorify God is an integral part of our spiritual lives. Authentic worship provides opportunities for us to connect with God. (Heb 10:24-25, Acts 2:47, Matt. 18:20)

8. **We value peace and reconciliation.** We have been reconciled with God through Christ, and given the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore we call people to a right relationship with God, work to resolve conflict, attempt to restore broken relationships, and aspire to live peacefully with all persons.
(Matthew 5-7, Rom. 12:18ff, II Cor. 5:16-21, Matt 5: 38-48)

22. We believe that peace is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing nonresistance even in the face of violence and warfare.