



SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE OF
MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

Our Vision

We see a church passionately in love with God, led by His Spirit on mission bringing Jesus' Gospel of redemption and restoration to the four corners of Saskatchewan.

SKMB Common Understandings

These statements describe the ethos and priorities that we as Mennonite Brethren churches in Saskatchewan share and to which we aspire.

They are intended to encourage, guide and inspire each of us to greater faithfulness and effectiveness and promote understanding for those who are new to our fellowship.

1 Jesus at the Centre of Everything (COLOSSIANS 1:17)

2 Preaching and Discipleship shaped by Scripture (PSALM 119:105, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 4:2)

3 Community formed by the Holy Spirit (JOHN 16, 1 CORINTHIANS 12, GALATIANS 5)

4 A Church that Reflects Jesus' Transforming Life (1 PETER 2, JOHN 13:14)

5 A Church that is on Mission (GENESIS 12:1-3, MATTHEW 28:18-20, ACTS 1:8)

6 A Church that Serves in an atmosphere of Cooperation and Accountability (HEBREWS 10:25 PHILIPPIANS 2:2)

Our Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith remains the authorized and comprehensive doctrinal foundation upon which these understandings are built.

1. Jesus at the Centre of Everything

We see ourselves first and foremost as followers of Jesus Christ. We are a people redeemed and justified by Christ's atoning death and victorious resurrection. We now seek to put His life and teaching at the centre of our lives as we:

- read the Bible illuminated by Jesus' life and work
- discern our ethics through the lens of Jesus' example
- worship God, radiantly revealed in Jesus Christ
- experience community created by Jesus' indwelling Spirit
- live out God's gospel mission with Jesus' authority and power

2. Preaching and Discipleship shaped by Scripture

God's Word, the Bible is our functional and final authority for faith and life. We read, understand and obey the Bible in the context of community. We value both the ministry of preaching and teaching the scripture, as well as the participation of each member of the community as we search the scriptures to discern God's will and leading together. Our churches place a high value on equipping people to think biblically about our world.

3. Community formed by the Holy Spirit

Our common experience of the living Spirit of Jesus filling our lives and our gatherings, generates the holy character of Jesus within us and motivates us to live lives of worship and mission. Our prayer life is an essential link by which the Lordship of Christ and leading of the Spirit is cultivated. The gifts and fruit of the Spirit at work in our lives, build up the church, empower us in mission, and allow us to live in gracious accountability.

4. A Church that Reflects Jesus' Transforming Life

Following Jesus means we practice biblical justice, generosity and peace-making in our relationships and in our community engagement. Our allegiance to the Kingdom of God commissions us to live selflessly, as visible reminders of God's love and goodness and to seek the peace and well-being of our society. We glorify God by being creative and careful stewards of culture, by speaking prophetically against idolatry, and by enduring the persecution and sacrifice to which Christ calls us.

5. A Church that is on Mission

God who came into this world to seek and to save the lost and to set the captives free is now sending His people out with the same mission. Through prayer we receive power and guidance to participate in God's redemptive mission. Both locally and globally, we empower and support one another to preach and live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

6. A Church that Serves in an atmosphere of Cooperation and Accountability

Our collective commitment is that each church will give expression to these common understandings in a culturally relevant manner and will seek to remain supportive and engaged with the wider Mennonite Brethren family and its ministries. Belonging to this family includes affirming our Confession of Faith, pastoral credentialing and engaging Mennonite Brethren agencies and ministries with financial support and participation.



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OUR MANDATE

Supporting SKMB churches and camps in making disciples.

CONTACT US

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Our Common Covenant

Community Covenant of the Saskatchewan MB Conference

Saskatchewan Mennonite Brethren churches are created, called and gifted by God for his mission and purposes. The head, cornerstone and capstone of a Mennonite Brethren church is Christ. We are Christ's ambassadors, his living stones, spiritual house and holy priesthood. The Holy Spirit shapes and empowers the church as He desires. As a provincial family of churches, we exist to bring glory to God in our worship and service, through our actions and words.

Individual local churches best fulfill the mission and purposes of God in Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world through unity and community. We bring glory to God together. With this in mind, we invite each of our Saskatchewan Mennonite Brethren church members to embrace a fresh sense of belonging and commitment to our larger family of churches and to the collective impact we believe we are called to make, as expressed through our Common Understandings and Common Covenant.

(Ps. 147:1; Jn. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:3-8; 1Cor. 3:10-17; 2Cor 5:20; Eph. 2:6-7,20; 4:1-16; Col. 1:18; 1Peter 2:5-9)

We call each of our churches to:

Participation in Community

Be counted as a visible and contributing church in the Saskatchewan MB Conference.

1. Make every effort to involve leaders in your church in networking and decision making events organized by the provincial and national conference (eg. Pastor Clusters, Leadership Forum, Assembly and Equip).
2. Commit to intentional prayer for your sibling churches and the Conference.
3. Speak well of and seek opportunities to encourage and support sibling churches.
4. Actively share your expertise, experience, skill set and learning with sibling churches.
5. Be available for mentorship and support of church leaders in your area as God creates the opportunity or as the Conference facilitates the relationship.
6. Practice generous giving to SKMB's mission and ministry. In addition, consider our MB partners in ministry in your budgeted giving. (CCMBC, ICOMB, Multiply, MB Seminary, MCC, MDS, Thrive School of Discipleship and Horizon College & Seminary.)

Formation in Community

Be intentionally shaped by and into the MB community and in turn offer your best to shape the community.

1. Conduct the leadership, teaching and ministry of your church in line with the MB Confession of Faith and Common Understandings, maintaining your status as an MB church in good standing as defined by our bylaws (1.1).
2. Ensure that all pastoral staff complete the credentialing process no later than three months into their ministry (not including attending PCO).
3. Ensure that your leadership (elders, council, board, etc.), as a team, affirm the Confession of Faith.
4. As able, participate in the regional, provincial and national events for pastors and church leaders
5. Develop a discipleship and leadership plan for all ages and stages of faith, utilizing MB resources whenever possible
6. Relate with other leaders in a spirit of trust, assuming the best intentions and taking responsibility for conflict resolution or relational reconciliation as necessary.

The SKMB Conference leadership and staff commits to:

1. Active participation in the national collaborative structure, representing SKMB while holding forth a national vision
2. Collaboratively developing church resources in the area of spiritual health and theology, leadership and mission
3. Listening to the church leaders in our province and responding to the best of our ability
4. Being present to help our churches in times of need or crisis
5. Intentionally praying for each of our churches and the national Conference
6. Servant leadership, to the best of our ability, in humility and transparency, God being our Helper

We believe we can do better together than alone. We appreciate that all our churches lead by example on some points, while having room to grow on others. Through this family covenant, we desire a commitment to direction more than perfection; to covenant more than contract. In that spirit, we invite you into a two year transition to growing into the full scope of each statement, inaugurating a rhythm of covenant review, renewal and re-affirmation anticipated every five years.

The Executive Board of the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches is inviting member churches, as represented by their leadership, to sign this covenant agreement as a renewed and renewable statement of their commitment to our denominational church family. We realize that each of our churches has a unique context. We, therefore, embrace and eagerly welcome heartfelt conversations to help us grow our family toward this deeper place of connection and commitment, for the sake of Christ.

Through signing this covenant, the leadership of [CHURCH NAME], desires to live and serve in partnership with the larger church family of Saskatchewan Mennonite Brethren Churches. We give thanks for our place in this larger family of faith and embrace the privilege of fellowship and ministry.

Lead/Senior Pastor

Date

Board Chair/Lead Elder

Date

SKMB Moderator

Date