

STATEMENT OF FAITH
(Revised October 30, 2021)

Christian Life Mennonite holds the following statement of faith. For a more detailed statement see 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 has revealed Himself in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inspired Word of God, and supremely in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
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 as 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, affects the new birth, gives guidance in life, empowers for service, and enables 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, serve as leaders, administer the ordinances, lead the church in the exercise of discipline, and 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 that the church should observe the communion of the Lord's Supper 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 saints' feet as a symbol of brotherhood, cleansing, and service. We believe the giving of the right hand of fellowship and the holy kiss are 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 shall 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 everlasting bliss with Christ, who is coming again, and will raise the dead, sit in judgment, and bring in God's everlasting kingdom.

Supporting Scriptures are cited following each article of the 1963 Mennonite Confession of Faith.

ARTICLE 6

Church Organization

Section 1. Qualifications of Workers: Any person serving in any capacity at CLM must have assurance of salvation in Christ; be willing to work in harmony under the guidelines and leadership of the congregation; be willing and able to place the work of the church ahead of business, hobbies and personal desires; and be interested in the spiritual conditions and needs of men's souls.

Section 2. Pastors or Ministers: The congregation shall be served by a Senior Pastor and Assistant Pastor, who have the ability of giving spiritual leadership to the congregation. They should exhibit Spirit led preaching and teaching. They shall give evidence of being born again, and of God's call to the ministry of the Gospel and of being willing to adhere to the Code of Regulations, Bylaws and principles of Scripture in governing church leadership. They shall be men of Christian character and conduct.

As God prospers and the congregation grows in number, additional ministerial help may be needed. The Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor and the Board of Directors shall determine when such a need arises and present it to the congregation for approval and implementation. This may include ordinations for evangelist, teacher, missionary, youth minister, church plant and other specialized ministers. Additional members of the Pastoral team would serve on the Board of Directors at the discretion of the Board.

Section 3. Senior Pastor: The Senior Pastor shall serve as President of the Board of Directors. He shall carry out the responsibilities of President as described in Section 3 of this Article 4. He shall also be responsible for giving direction in the spiritual leadership of the church, regular preaching schedule,

officiating at weddings, communion and ordinations.

Section 4. Assistant Pastor: The Assistant Pastor shall serve as Vice President of the Board of Directors. He shall carry out the responsibilities of Vice President as described in Section 3 of this Article 4. He shall assist the Senior Pastor as needed. He shall also have a regular preaching schedule.

Section 5. Removal: Should questions arise about the Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor or any minister's ability to perform the duties of their office, the Board of Directors shall first discuss the issues involved with the Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor or Minister. If these cannot be resolved, the question of termination of his position shall be brought to the membership at a meeting called for the removal of leaders. The leader may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members.

Section 6. Laypastor/Deacons: A slate of candidates for the office of Laypastor/deacons shall be chosen according to the principles found in Titus 1:5-9 and I Tim. 3:1-7, approved by the Pastors and the Board of Directors, and submitted to the congregation for selection. If additional Laypastor/deacons are needed as determined by the Pastors and other Laypastor/deacons, the Pastors and the Board of Directors shall present a slate of additional names to the congregation for election. The term of service of the Laypastor/deacon shall be indefinite with a review every two years by the Pastors and review board. At the time of review the Laypastor/deacon may ask to be released of responsibilities or be asked by the Pastors and review board to step down. He would be eligible to be elected through the normal process of selection after a two year time off.

Responsibilities of the Laypastor/deacon shall include: giving spiritual and organizational leadership to a small group; visitation and counseling; being an example; encouraging and helping people to live a victorious Christian life; helping the Pastors in creating vision and setting goals for the spiritual growth of the church; meeting at least monthly with the Pastors.

Section 7. Youth Laypastor: Should the Board of Directors determine the need for a Youth Laypastor, he shall be chosen in the same manner as a Laypastor/deacon. He shall have the same term review as other laypastor/deacons. He shall be assisted by a youth leader couple. The responsibilities of Youth Laypastor shall be to assist the Pastors in giving spiritual leadership to the youth group of the church, and helping them grow spiritually and develop Godly convictions. He shall be involved in planning organized activities for the youth at least once per week. Considering the fact that the church sees value in our youth being involved with the greater body and their family, each youth should belong to a regular small group and support that group. Consideration should be given in not planning too many youth meetings on Wednesday and Sunday nights. If the youth do have a church sponsored activity on the same night they have small groups, the youth activity takes precedence.

Section 8. Assistant Youth Leader: An Assistant Youth Leader couple shall be chosen by the church to assist the Youth Laypastor as needed. They shall serve a term of two years. They may attend youth activities, especially in the Youth Laypastor's absence, and assist in other ways to reduce the time commitment of the Youth Laypastor.

If the office of Youth Laypastor is vacated or not yet filled, a second couple shall be chosen by the church. They shall serve a term of two years, with the terms of the two couples to be staggered so that one couple is elected every year. The couple serving in their first year shall serve as assistant Youth Leaders. The couple serving in their second year shall act as senior Youth Leaders and fulfill the responsibilities of a Youth Laypastor. Couples may serve consecutive terms as Youth Leaders. If a couple serves a second term, they shall be considered assistant Youth Leaders for the first year as

defined above.

Section 9. Music Director: The congregation shall elect a music director annually. He shall be responsible under the direction of the pastorate in planning and implementing the music ministry of the church.

Section 10. Greeters: Greeters shall be elected annually and be responsible to greet people at the door, show guests to coat, restroom, and nursery facilities (if needed), and present them to the ushers.

Section 11. Ushers: A minimum of two ushers shall be elected annually. Additional ushers may be added as needed. The Pastor or his designate shall meet with them to elect the head usher. They shall be responsible to provide courteous guidance for proper seating to members and guests at all public services. They shall also make arrangements to provide seating for everyone during larger services.

Section 12. Audio and Video Committee: The Audio and Video committee shall consist of three individuals. Their responsibilities shall include: (1) operation of the sound equipment during services, (2) recording and duplicating as needed, (3) maintenance of sound equipment.

The committee shall consist of one director and two assistants. The Pastor or his designate shall meet with them to elect the director. In the event of a tie vote in determining a director, the Pastor or his designate shall also vote to break the tie. The director shall be primarily responsible to carry out the duties of the Audio and Video Committee, with the assistants operating the equipment on a regular basis in order to remain current with changes that may be made to the equipment and procedures. It is recommended that the assistants each operate the equipment a minimum of 8 services per year.

This position can be filled by a volunteer, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 13. Facility and Grounds Committee: The Facility and Grounds committee shall consist of two individuals from the Board of Directors. They shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors. Their responsibilities shall be to give oversight to the Janitor in maintaining facilities, grounds, and access ways and to hire custodians and other help as needed to keep the facilities clean and in good condition, yard maintained and parking lot maintained and cleared of snow.

Section 14. Janitor: The janitor shall be elected annually by the congregation. His responsibilities shall be to: (1) maintain a comfortable temperature at all services, (2) organize at least one major cleaning annually (in the spring if only one cleaning is scheduled), (3) supervise the paid custodian, (4) keep sidewalks cleared, and notify whoever is contracted for removing snow from the parking lot, (5) notify Grounds and Facility Committee of any other needed repairs or maintenance, (6) prepare building and grounds for all services including cleaning up between services if regular cleaning is not scheduled during that time.

Section 15. Laypastor/Deacon Review Board: The Laypastor/Deacon Review Board shall consist of the Pastor, Assistant Pastor, and one Director elected annually by the Board of Directors.

Section 16. Librarian: A librarian shall be elected annually from the membership by the congregation. He/she shall keep a proper record of reading materials and work with the Pastor and Sunday school superintendent in ordering books as needed and as funds are available.

This position can be filled by a volunteer, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 17. Historian: Two historians shall be elected by the congregation for a term of six years with terms staggered so that a new historian is chosen every three years. They are responsible to record important happenings within the church, take pictures of people and events, and file these items as church property. All items shall be turned over to successors.

This position can be filled by a volunteer, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 18. Mission Board: The Mission Board shall consist of two members for a term of six years. The terms of service shall be staggered so that one member is elected every three years. Their responsibilities include: (1) oversight of the mission fund (although the church treasurer is responsible for balancing and record keeping), (2) working with members going into service, and (3) keeping the church aware of ministry opportunities that are available, and helping to facilitate involvement by the Church.

Section 19. Benevolence Committee: The Benevolence Committee shall consist of three individuals from the Board of Directors. They shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors. Their responsibilities shall be: (1) to assist the Laypastor/Deacons in deciding when to help members financially from church funds, (2) to distribute the alms fund within the Church. They may be available to the Laypastor/Deacons in helping meet the needs of members that encounter heavy financial burdens. This may be through counseling, fund raising or other ways in which we minister to the needs of the brotherhood. This committee would also be responsible for any financial expenditure from church funds to help people of the community in a benevolent way, if the Mission Board is not involved.

Section 20. Sunday School Administration: A Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected from the membership by the congregation for a four year term. He shall first serve as Assistant Superintendent for one year. At the expiration of that year he will serve as Superintendent a four year term.

The Superintendents, along with the Pastor or his designate, shall constitute the executive committee of the Sunday school. They shall present a slate of candidates for teachers to the congregation for voting. They shall also organize the various ages into classes and shall provide appropriate material to fulfill the purpose of Sunday school.

Section 21. Sunday School Teachers: Teachers shall be elected semi-annually from the membership by the congregation. Individuals may volunteer to teach, subject to the approval of the executive Sunday school committee.

Section 22. Vacation Bible School Committee: The VBS committee shall consist of two couples to be elected from the membership by the congregation for a two-year period. The terms shall be staggered. The couple serving in their second year shall be coordinators, with the couple in the first year serving as assistants. The VBS committee's responsibilities shall include coordinating and facilitating Vacation Bible School, including but not limited to choosing a curriculum for Vacation Bible School and delegating responsibilities.

ARTICLE 7 Amendments

The Members at a meeting held for such purpose, may adopt an amendment to these Regulations by the affirmative vote of majority of the Members present if a quorum is present. In addition to or in lieu of adopting an amendment to the Regulations, the Members may adopt amended Regulations by the same action or vote as that required to adopt the amendment.

ARTICLE 8 Miscellaneous

Section 1. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Church shall end on the last day of December in each year or on such other day as may be fixed from time to time by the board of Directors.

Section 2. Mortgages: The Board of Directors may authorize any mortgage or pledge of all or any of the property of this Church of any description, or any interest therein, for the purpose of securing the payment or performance of any obligation or contract of this Church. No vote or consent of the Members of this Church or authorization from a court pursuant to Section 1715.39, Ohio Revised Code, is necessary for such action.

Section 3. Property: All property acquired by this Church by purchase, gift, bequest, or otherwise shall be the absolute property of this Church, unless at the time of acquiring such property it is otherwise specified in writing.

Section 4. Sale or Disposition of Assets: The Board of Directors of this Church may authorize the lease, sale, exchange, transfer or other disposition of any of the assets of this Church without the necessity of procuring authorization from the court pursuant to Section 1715.39, Ohio Revised Code, and any such lease, sale, exchange, transfer, or other disposition shall be made in whole or in part for money or other property, including shares or other securities or promissory notes of any Church for profit.

Section 5. Books and Records: The books and records of this Church may be examined by any Member or any Director or the agent or attorney of any Member or any Director for any reasonable and proper purpose at any reasonable time.

Practical Application of Biblical Principles

When the local body of believers agree on the practical application of biblical principles, a spirit of brotherhood exists, which is essential for church unity. With the many differences of interpretation among Christians, we ask that members of CLM practice Rom. 14:13-21, I Peter 3:8, I Cor. 1:10, Phil. 1:27, and Phil. 2:2-4, to promote harmony.

The Local Church:

We believe the local church is part of the greater church I Tim. 3:15, that it was divinely instituted and that it has authority from God Matt. 16:18-19.

Application: All God's children should have a desire to associate with and support the church. This is done by attending the meetings faithfully Heb. 10:25, giving greater allegiance to the church than other activities that would vie for our time, being willing to give of our time in the various work of the church.

We should not have an independent spirit and feel that we can serve God just as well without the help of other people I Cor. 12:12-27.

Worldly Things:

I John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. Matt 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Application: We should not do things that the world enjoys or holds in high esteem but which might be a detriment to our Christian life. This may include but is not limited to places of entertainment, leisure entertainment, hobbies, work, media, music, alcohol, drugs, use of tobacco, or anything which might lead us away from God.

Relationships:

Gal. 5:19-26 ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Rom. 1:24-32, Luke 16:18, Matt. 22:37-39, Luke 6:27-37, John 13:34-35, Rom. 12:9-21.

Application:

All sexual relationships outside of marriage are sin, we interpret remarriage after divorce to be wrong. Wrong feelings toward other people must be dealt with, we must recognize it as sin when we harbor anger, bitterness or unforgiveness toward those who have wronged or hurt us.

Christian Order:

We believe that men and women are created in the image of God, and are recognized as equal before God. In the creation order, God has established specific roles for men and women. To men he gives the role of sacrificial, loving leadership. He calls women to honor and respect God's order and use their gifts and abilities to serve the local church and their families. 1 Cor. 11: 1-17 speaks specifically about the created order, and the need for believers to embrace God's design.

We believe that 1 Cor. 11 teaches the biblical application of a veiled head for women during public prayer or prophesying. Men should have their heads uncovered when praying or prophesying.

We encourage our women to wear a veiling, and that they should do so based on a personal belief and conviction from scripture. We desire that individuals read 1 Cor. 11 and prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide them in how to honor God in applying this scripture.

Modesty:

We as God's children should shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation (Phil. 2:15).

We know that our society has degenerated to a shameless society, accepting almost any appearance man

can devise. As Christians we should be examples to the world. In I Tim. 2:9-10 and I Pet. 3:1-4, God's Word tells us that women's adorning should not be the outward appearance but should be a meek and quite spirit.

Application:

We consider modesty to be dress and conduct that God would approve of which does not draw undue attention to the individual. Men are expected to dress neatly and in a way which is considered normal and acceptable by God and our brothers and sisters in the church. In consideration of people that may be more conservative than us, we should in their presence dress so as not to offend them.

Women should choose clothes that are neat and modest, that do not draw undue attention to the wearer. It is important that the spirit of the woman is what is noticed rather than the outward appearance. Clothes should be of sufficient length, density and style that it does not draw attention to the body and would be considered appropriately modest by God and our Christian brothers and sisters. Cosmetics which alter the natural appearance are not to be worn.

CLM has chosen to not have their members wear jewelry, with the exception of wedding bands. based on I Tim. 2:9.