

What is the Confession of Faith for?

- ~~• Litmus test to decide if someone belongs~~
- Guidance for interpreting Scripture and for faith and practice for our time and place
- Build a foundation for unity in the church
- Starting point to explain Mennonite faith and practice to new members, other Christians, or people of other faiths/no faith.

“Authority”?



Confession of faith = tool for teaching and discernment

Exodus 34:5-6

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness...

God

We believe that **God** exists and is pleased with all who draw near by faith. We worship the one holy and loving God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally. God has created all things visible and invisible, has brought salvation and new life to humanity through Jesus Christ, and continues to sustain the church and all things until the end of the age.

Colossians 1:15, 19-20

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible
God, the firstborn over all creation...

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his
fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to
reconcile to himself all things...

Jesus Christ

We believe in **Jesus Christ**, the Word of God become flesh. He is the Savior of the world, who has delivered us from the dominion of sin and reconciled us to God by his death on a cross. He was declared to be Son of God by his resurrection from the dead. He is the head of the church, the exalted Lord, the Lamb who was slain, coming again to reign with God in glory.

John 14:16-17

- ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Holy Spirit

We believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the eternal Spirit of God, who dwelled in Jesus Christ, who empowers the church, who is the source of our life in Christ, and who is poured out on those who believe as the guarantee of redemption.

Hebrew Word Family

'Emeth –
truth, reliability,
faithfulness

'Emunah –
faithfulness,
trustworthiness

'Amen –
truly, surely,
so be it

'Aman –
to be
trustworthy
reliable,
faithful

'Emun –
faithful
trustworthy

He'emin –
trust, **believe**

Questions

- Why is it hard to talk about our beliefs? How do your beliefs impact the way you live?
- What's the balance between clear language about who God is and allowing God to be mystery? What images, metaphors, or stories of God do you connect with most?
- What about Jesus, or his life, teaching, cross, and resurrection, do you find most compelling?