











Core Values

Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster

CMCL VISION PRAYER

THROUGH YOUR GRACE, O GOD, FORM US INTO A COMMUNITY
CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS,
KNOWN AND LOVED BY YOU,
NOURISHED THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES BY WORSHIP, RELATIONSHIPS, AND THE BIBLICAL STORY,
OPEN TO NEW VOICES AND NEW DREAMS,
COMMITTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF CELEBRATION AND DIFFICULTY,
RESPONSIVE TO HUMAN NEED WITH JUSTICE, PEACEMAKING AND COMPASSION.
MAY YOUR SPIRIT DRAW US TOGETHER INTO YOUR NEW CREATION. AMEN.

Anabaptists traditionally have been wary of creeds and fixed statements of faith and of conveying the idea that there is no possibility of our understanding developing in fresh ways. These Core Values are provisional and subject to review, but they speak to this time and place in CMCL's common life. These values function in dialog with CMCL's Covenant.

-  We are **KNOWN AND LOVED BY GOD**—This is the center of our common faith. We speak this reality to each other and we strive to model this love in our world.
-  We are **CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS**—The stories of Jesus orient our worship. Turning toward Jesus “God-with-us” at our center is more important than defining the outer edges. Our participation in the wider Mennonite church and the stream of Anabaptist theology informs this call. We respect and learn from people of religious traditions beyond Christianity.
-  We are **NOURISHED THROUGH WORSHIP**—We celebrate music and the arts as vital parts of our spiritual practice. We value worship that honors our wrestlings, our broken places and our raw edges. Our worship brings wholeness and centeredness to fragmented lives.
-  We are **NOURISHED THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS**—We are present to each other in mutual care, not for the purpose of fixing or problem-solving, but for helping one another remember or discover the wholeness and holiness God intends for us.
-  We are **NOURISHED THROUGH THE BIBLICAL STORY**—We are drawn to stories of Jesus reaching out to the marginal, listening and healing as he moves among them. We strive to understand together what the Bible means for our lives in this time and place.
-  We are **OPEN TO NEW VOICES**—We strive to speak and listen across differences in and beyond our congregation. We value cross-cultural experiences and global perspective. We welcome and embrace diversity of sexual orientation at all levels of congregational participation. We recognize challenges of building racially and economically diverse faith community and strive for reconciliation.
-  We are **OPEN TO NEW DREAMS**—We encourage all in our midst to grow and use their gifts, regardless of age, gender or length of time in the congregation.
-  We are **RESPONSIVE TO HUMAN NEED**—We want our lives to be more than solely for ourselves. We serve and celebrate our neighborhoods, especially our urban Lancaster context.
-  We strive to **RESPOND WITH JUSTICE, PEACEMAKING AND COMPASSION**—We take seriously the church’s call to address issues of social, economic and ecological justice and to challenge oppressive systems in our culture. We proclaim the building of shalom peace and right relationships as the heart of the biblical message.
-  We are **BEING DRAWN INTO A NEW CREATION**—We believe that transformation of ourselves and our world is ultimately the work of God’s Spirit.