

## **Benefits of Belonging.**

### **“Working together at those things we cannot do apart”**

This is a listing of reasons to belong to the Mennonite Church family – it may not be complete, but it gives a picture. The purpose of this document is to help congregations understand the benefits we gain by belonging to Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church British Columbia. *Submitted by Garry Janzen*

A definition of Anabaptist/Mennonite: (“Anabaptism” is more of a movement and “Mennonite” is a specific church group, yet the terms are often used interchangeably.) The basics of being Anabaptist/Mennonite include: baptism upon the confession of personal faith in Christ, following Christ in all areas of life, worship and discernment of God’s truth as a community, being nonviolent peacemakers, and commitment to helping others.

### **Benefits of Belonging to the National Church – Mennonite Church Canada**

**Christian Witness** – This is our avenue for serving in mission work beyond our neighbourhood.

Get involved by going. Check out HYPERLINK "<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/serve/>" <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/serve/>.

Get involved by praying. Subscribe to the Witness PrayerNet for monthly and emergency prayer updates by going to HYPERLINK "<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/prayernet/>" <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/prayernet/>.

Missional Resources for developing vision for our congregations and understanding how God can use us in: International ministry, Native ministry, Christian service, Multi-cultural ministry, Pastoral leadership.

Education Resources:

Sunday School material,

Advent and Lent worship materials,

Stewardship resources (through Mennonite Foundation Canada – Arnie Friesen in BC),

Our line of connection to: Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Canadian Mennonite University, Conrad Grebel College.

The Canadian Mennonite – informational, educational, and a discussion tool for church topics.

The Resource Centre, Mennonite Publishing Network – a whole host of books and other resources written with an Anabaptist perspective.

Youth Ministry – biannual gatherings of youth from across Canada to worship, learn, serve and have fun together.

The “Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective” is our statement of how we interpret Scripture and how we seek to live in faithfulness to Christ.

Annual Assemblies – a place of fellowship with other Anabaptist/Mennonites across Canada.

This is our line of connection to Mennonite World Conference and the global Mennonite ministries.

The provision of pension plans and retirements savings for pastors and mission workers.  
The development and coordination of licensing and ordination procedures for church workers.

## **Benefits of Belonging to the Area Church – Mennonite Church BC**

Ideas and assistance for us to do outreach and church planting/multiplication.

Assistance in discerning and calling pastoral leadership.

Care for our pastors.

Education – our line of connection to Columbia Bible College.

Leadership Development – our Annual LEAD Conference, Multicultural leaders training,

Relationships with Integrity training, and more.

A place of fellowship with other Anabaptist/Mennonites across BC.

The connection to our church camp – Camp Squeah.

Provision of a licencing privilege for public video viewing.

Provision of software licences for church computer programs – facilitated by MCBC.

Property insurance facilitated by MCBC;

Liability insurance for church workers facilitated by MCBC.

Extended health benefits for our Church Staff – facilitated by MCBC.

Credentialing processes for special ministries and ordination.

Title for church properties are held by MCBC.

A source of available speakers.

Promotion and building relationship with our sister congregations facilitated by MCBC through the LEAD Conference, Annual meeting, pastor/spouse retreat; education seminars, biannual joint worship gatherings.