

COVENANT BETWEEN PASTOR AND CONGREGATION
Approved – September 28th, 2009
Part I

Preamble

This is a covenant for member congregations of Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC). The *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* is the guideline for the beliefs and practices of MCBC congregations.

The intent of this covenant is to help establish a strong pastor/congregation relationship at the outset of a new pastoral calling. For our congregations to be healthy, they need pastors who appreciate and commit to minister according to the guidance given by our *Confession of Faith*.

We understand that there may be occasions when pastors may change their theological perspective, and that they may distance themselves from the *Confession of Faith*. There may also be occasions when pastors realise that the theological perspective that they hold is not in agreement with the *Confession of Faith* as they originally perceived it to be when they began serving an MCBC congregation. This covenant is to be clear from the outset as to how to handle these situations, should they arise.

1. I, (.), promise to uphold and promote the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.
2. I promise to preach, teach and practice Biblical values and beliefs according to our *Confession of Faith*.
3. I promise to faithfully attend denominational assemblies and meetings as much as the congregation is able to support.
4. I promise to faithfully attend the MCBC Pastor/Spouse Retreat as much as the congregation is able to support.
5. I promise to serve the congregation, MCBC and Mennonite Church Canada as my gifts allow and with the permission and encouragement of the congregation that I am serving.
6. Should I, in the course of my tenure choose a view or belief that is different from the *Confession of Faith*:
 - a) I promise to dialogue with the congregation and MCBC representatives.
 - b) Should I not be able to reconcile my views and beliefs with the congregation and MCBC, I promise to resign in good faith and move on.
 - c) In this transition, I promise that I will not hinder the well-being of the congregation.
 - d) I promise that I will not intentionally influence members in the congregation to follow me into another denomination or a congregation of my making.

PASTORS SIGNATURE

PART II

1. We, the congregation (.), promise to arrange for our pastor to attend the assemblies and meetings of MCBC and Mennonite Church Canada as appropriate and as much as we are able. We consider attendance at these assemblies and meetings a priority and will ensure that our congregation is represented by the pastor and/or members of the congregation unless circumstances dictate otherwise. If no representation is possible, we will be in conversation to inform MCBC.
2. We, the congregation (.), promise to arrange for our pastor to attend the MCBC Pastor/Spouse Retreat as much as we are able.
3. We, the congregation (.), promise to establish a Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee (Support Team) to listen, pray, support, and give encouragement.
4. We, the congregation, promise to assist the pastor with the work of the church and to be faithful with our prayers and our encouragement.
5. We, the congregation, desire transparent and mutual sharing so that issues and concerns can be addressed with Christian love and wisdom.

CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE _____