

## Benefits of Belonging

*(Updated February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019)*

### **“Working at those things we can do better together”**

The purpose of this document is to give a picture to congregations of the benefits we gain from belonging to Mennonite Church British Columbia.

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.

1. 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. We, together with the people of the Mennonite Church across Canada and the USA, discerned what we wanted to say about what we believe. It was approved, published and made available to the church in 1995.
2. Resources for connecting with your Indigenous Neighbours.
3. A source of available speakers.
4. Resources for developing a missional vision for our congregations.
  - a. Kevin Barkowsky is our Church Engagement Minister to help congregations with this.
5. Financial support for missional initiatives and congregational revitalization.
6. Learning and building relationships with other MCBC congregations and leaders through:
  - a. the LEAD Conference
  - b. Annual Gathering
  - c. Pastor/Spouse Retreat
  - d. education seminars
7. Licensing and ordination procedures for pastors.
8. Assistance in discerning and calling pastoral leadership.
9. Care for our pastors.
10. The connection to our church camp – Camp Squeah.
11. Provision of a licencing privilege for public video viewing.
12. Provision of software licences for church computer programs – facilitated by MCBC.
13. Property insurance facilitated by MCBC.
14. Liability insurance for church workers facilitated by MCBC.
15. Extended health benefits for our Church Staff – facilitated by MCBC.
16. This is our line of connection to:
  - a. Mennonite World Conference and global Mennonite ministries
  - b. MCC work in BC, nationwide and globally
  - c. Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)
17. Stewardship resources through Abundance Canada.
18. Youth Ministry

- a. MCBC Youth Pastors collaborate to put on annual Junior and Senior High Impact Retreats
  - b. MCBC Youth Pastors collaborate to put on other connecting events through the year
19. Connection to Anabaptist Bible College and Seminary education.
- a. Columbia Bible College, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Canadian Mennonite University, Conrad Grebel College
20. For those interested in the ministry opportunities available through the Nationwide Mennonite Church
- a. International Witness
    - i. We can become part of a Witness Support Team for current workers in various parts of the world.
    - ii. We can propose a new Witness ministry. Our primary connection for new witness will be through the Mennonite World Conference network of international partner churches.
  - b. Connection to MennoMedia
    - i. Books and other resources written with an Anabaptist perspective
  - c. Connection to Education Resources at [www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca) for borrowing or purchase (although these are available online to anyone)
    - i. Anabaptist Sunday School material
    - ii. Advent and Lent worship materials
    - iii. Much more
  - d. The provision of pension plans and retirements savings for pastors and mission workers.
  - e. Biannual Nationwide gatherings for worship, fellowship and learning.