



PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

Guiding the mission of
Mennonite Central Committee
in the name of Christ

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.



Bold-faced statements were approved by MCC boards of directors, Sept. through Nov. 2009. Commentary was approved by the executive directors and board chairs of the former MCC (binational), MCC Canada and MCC U.S., Jan. 2011.

Biblical references are from *The Holy Bible: New International Version*.

IDENTITY

Mennonite Central Committee is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches.

Mennonite Central Committee is a place where Anabaptist churches come together in service ministry.

Rooted in the Anabaptist heritage and as part of the Anabaptist churches across the globe, we believe that God wills the well-being of all people and the healing of creation; and that the first fruits of the new creation, the Kingdom of God, are manifest in the peoplehood called the church.

MCC is a ministry of the church. In this ministry, we serve in the name of Christ, who is the head of the church and through whom God's work of reconciliation, "whether things on earth or things in heaven," takes place.

Colossians 1:18-20

PURPOSE

MCC shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.

We embrace God's requirement of us "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

We are Christ-centered in our disaster relief, sustainable community development and justice and peacebuilding responses. We follow Jesus as Jesus proclaims good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; and sets the oppressed free.

We serve in Christ's name because, as a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, we are connected as a branch to the true vine of Jesus Christ and dependent upon God the gardener.

Through Jesus we claim our interdependence. We celebrate being part of the rich diversity of the body of Christ.

With the assurance that God is working out God's purposes, born out of God's triumph over the power of sin and death through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we are freed to till the soil through our work with others, waiting upon God to bring good fruit from these efforts.

Micah 6:8; Luke 4:18; John 15:1-8

VISION

MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

While recognizing that the creation God pronounced good has fallen away from its created purposes, we joyfully confess that through Jesus Christ, humanity and the world has been reconciled to God.

As an arm of the church, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, proclaiming through word and deed the Good News that in Christ there is a new creation. Amid human brokenness; violence along ethnic, political and religious divisions; and environmental degradation; by God's grace, we are called in our ministry to embody a foretaste of a restored creation and a reconciled humanity.

Genesis 1; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21



PRIORITIES

MCC's priorities in carrying out its purpose are disaster relief, sustainable community development and justice and peacebuilding.

Inspired by the Sermon on the Mount, we seek to follow Jesus in accompanying the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted because of righteousness.

By sharing food with the hungry, extending a cup of cold water to the thirsty, and welcoming the stranger, we join Jesus in participating in the lives of those who suffer. We show our love for others by looking out for their interests and not just our own.

Matthew 5:3-10; Matthew 25:31-46; Philippians 2:4

APPROACHES

MCC approaches its mission by addressing poverty, oppression and injustice—and their systemic causes; accompanying partners and the church in a process of mutual transformation, accountability and capacity building; building bridges to connect people and ideas across cultural, political and economic divides; and caring for creation.

In the spirit of Revelation 7, where there is a great multitude standing before the throne from every nation, tribe, people and language, we seek to be guided and transformed by God's Spirit, who breaks down barriers of racism, sexism and other structural forms of oppression.

Because Jesus Christ reigns over all of history and creation, we expect to encounter Jesus not only within familiar walls, but also in the stranger and in our apparent enemies.

Empowered by the Spirit, we are committed to addressing root causes of poverty, oppression and injustice; to being faithful stewards of God's creation; to reaching across divides of enmity; and to allowing God to mold us into a new humanity as the potter molds clay.

Revelation 7; Matthew 25:40; Isaiah 64:8

VALUES

MCC values peace and justice. MCC seeks to live and serve nonviolently in response to the biblical call to peace and justice.

MCC values just relationships. MCC seeks to live and serve justly and peacefully in each relationship, incorporating listening and learning, accountability and mutuality, transparency and integrity.

Our commitment to nonviolent action for justice and peace is rooted above all in God's plan of shalom (peace) for all of creation, a peace most fully and definitively expressed in the teachings and life of Jesus.

The justice and peace God desires for the world are reflected in the Ten Commandments, in which God sets forth expectations for how peoples must live in relationship with one another.

We commit ourselves to working toward justice and peace, dedicating ourselves to accompanying and serving with persons of less privilege.

We believe Kingdom values call us as individuals and as an institution to allow the fruit of the Spirit to shape how we relate with one another.

Deuteronomy 5; Exodus 20; Galatians 5:22-23

CONVICTIONS

MCC is part of the larger mission of the church and embraces the “Shared Convictions” of global Anabaptists,* inspired by Anabaptists of the 16th century who modeled radical discipleship to Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God, we seek to live and proclaim the good news of reconciliation in Jesus Christ. As part of the one body of Christ at all times and places, we hold the following to be central to our belief and practice:

- God is known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Creator who seeks to restore fallen humanity by calling a people to be faithful in fellowship, worship, service and witness.
- Jesus is the Son of God. Through his life and teachings, his cross and resurrection, he showed us how to be faithful disciples, redeemed the world, and offers eternal life.



- As a church, we are a community of those whom God's Spirit calls to turn from sin, acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, receive baptism upon confession of faith, and follow Christ in life.
- As a faith community, we accept the Bible as our authority for faith and life, interpreting it together under Holy Spirit guidance, in the light of Jesus Christ to discern God's will for our obedience.
- The Spirit of Jesus empowers us to trust God in all areas of life so we become peacemakers who renounce violence, love our enemies, seek justice and share our possessions with those in need.
- We gather regularly to worship, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, and to hear the Word of God in a spirit of mutual accountability.
- As a world-wide community of faith and life we transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, gender and language. We seek to live in the world without conforming to the powers of evil, witnessing to God's grace by serving others, caring for creation, and inviting all people to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

In these convictions we draw inspiration from Anabaptist forebears of the 16th century, who modeled radical discipleship to Jesus Christ. We seek to walk in his name by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we confidently await Christ's return and the final fulfillment of God's kingdom.

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