

Sunnyside Mennonite Church Covenant (October 2013)

This covenant affirms our relationship with each other through Jesus Christ as active members of Sunnyside Mennonite Church. Through our baptism we enter into a new relationship with Christ and the Church—locally, globally and throughout history. Our participation in the communal life of worship, mission and fellowship expresses this relationship. Covenant renewal is a way to call us to remember our baptismal identity and calling in Christ Jesus. It is a way to help us continue to grow and live into God's unfolding story as individuals, as households, and as a particular community cultivating faith, hope and love.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

Our Faith:

Our faith is centered in Jesus Christ as revealed in the biblical story and witnessed to in the Church. We have received the witness of Scripture and other confessions of faith through the Church. We name the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (1995) as a contemporary articulation of our faith. Our faith has also been cultivated through the witness of ordinary people who have confessed Jesus as Lord and attempted to live simple faith in real ways. Through this confession and our baptism we also are in Christ with this local, global and historical community of believers. This is our faith story.

Our Hope:

Our hope is rooted not in a political ideology, economic system, or sociological group. Our hope is rooted in Jesus Christ and grows out of the biblical story. It is the story of Creation, Chaos, Covenant, Exile, Incarnation, Death, Resurrection and Reconciliation. This is the Story we are living into at Sunnyside Mennonite Church. Since we hold this treasure in jars of clay, we seek to be a community that is real about our brokenness even as we continue the journey toward healing in Christ by the power of the Spirit.

Our Love:

As followers of Jesus, we see ourselves called to a new identity rooted in God's love and forgiveness. Among other things, this means we are called to relate to others the way Jesus would. Jesus reaffirms the teaching of the law to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength and all our mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus also teaches us to love our enemies. Our desire is that God's love would be expressed through us in the world as we learn to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

Because God is in the process of renewing all things, we see ourselves as called to pay attention to how God is at work in the world and join in. Our practices of gathering for worship, praying, reading scripture, serving, eating together, and listening to each other's stories help us pay attention to God in our lives and form us more and more into the image of Christ.

*We are a member congregation of Lancaster Mennonite Conference
which is part of the body of Christ around the world and through time.*