

Sunnyside Mennonite Church Covenant (December 2017)

This covenant reaffirms 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. This relationship is expressed by our participation in a life of discipleship, fellowship, and reconciliation. Covenant renewal is a way to remember our identity and calling in Jesus Christ. It is a way to live into God’s unfolding story as individuals, as households, and as a 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 by the biblical story and witnessed to in the Church. We claim the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995) as a contemporary expression of our faith. Our faith is also expressed by the lives of ordinary people who have confessed Jesus as Lord, and have committed to following after his teaching and example in community, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we become more and more like him in the world.

Our Hope: Our hope for the world is not rooted in a political ideology, economic system, or sociological group. Our hope is rooted in Jesus Christ and grows out of the biblical story. This is the story of creation, rebellion, redemption and restoration. This is the story we are living into at Sunnyside Mennonite Church. We hold this hope as a treasure in jars of clay, and we seek to be a community that is real about our brokenness as we journey toward wholeness in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Love: As followers of Jesus, we are called to relate to others in the same way that Jesus did. Jesus reaffirmed the teaching of the law to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This means that we must also love our enemies. Finally, Jesus gave us a new command to love each other in the same way that he loved us, by laying his life down for us. This is how the world will know that we are his disciples.

Because God is in the process of renewing all things, we are called to pay attention to how God is at work in the world and join in. Our practices of gathering for worship, praying, reading and memorizing scripture, mentoring serving, eating together, and listening to each other’s stories help us pay attention to God and become more like Jesus in the world. We are a member congregation of Lancaster Mennonite Conference which is part of the body of Christ around the world and through time.