



## Faith and Beliefs

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### Our Statement of Faith

The MCC General Conference, meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in July 2016, voted the following statement of faith.

#### Preamble

Metropolitan Community Church is one chapter in the story of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are people on a journey, learning to live into our spirituality, while affirming our bodies, our genders and our sexualities.

We don't all believe exactly the same things. And yet in the midst of our diversity, we build community, grounded in God's radically inclusive love for all people.

We are part of an ongoing conversation on matters of belief and faith, shaped by scripture and the historic creeds, building on those who have come before us. Our chapter begins when God says to us: "Come, taste, and see."

#### Our Faith

"Come, taste, and see." Jesus Christ, You invite all people to Your open table.

You make us Your people, a beloved community. You restore the joy of our relationship with God, even in the midst of loneliness, despair, and degradation. We are each unique and we all belong, a priesthood of all believers.

Baptised and filled with Your Holy Spirit, You empower us to be Your healing presence in a hurting world.

We expect to see Your reign on earth as it is in heaven as we work toward a world where everyone has enough, wars cease, and all creation lives in harmony.

We affirm Your charge to all of humanity to care for the land, sea, and air. Therefore, we will actively resist systems and structures that are destroying Your creation.

With all of creation we worship You—every tribe, every language, every people, every nation. We know You by many names, Triune God, beyond comprehension, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who invites us to the feast. Amen.

## **Beliefs and Teachings**

The Bible texts that follow aim to amplify, explain and apply the above statement of faith. They are not an exhaustive explanation but simply a summary of the main Bible teachings.

### **The Bible**

You have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:15-17*

### **The Godhead**

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. *Matthew 28:18-20*

### **God The Creator**

But Jehovah is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. *Jeremiah 10:10-12*

### **The Word**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through the Word all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:1-3, 14*

### **The Holy Spirit**

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.” *John 15:26*

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. *Ephesians 4:30*

### **Salvation**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:6-8*

### **The Person of Jesus Christ**

Christ Jesus, in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:5-11*

## Jesus Christ

- Lived from eternity past *Micah 5:2*
- Born in Bethlehem about 4 BC *Luke 2:1-20*
- Lived in Nazareth *Luke 2:39-40*
- Baptised at age 30 in Jordan River *Matthew 3:13-17*
- Life of service, ministry, teaching, healing *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
- Showed us what God has always been like *John 14:6-11*
- Arrested, condemned, died, buried *Luke 22 – 24*
- Rose on the third day and ascended to heaven *Luke 24:1-52; Acts 1:1-11*
- Great high priest, only mediator *Hebrews 4:14-17, 1 Timothy 2:5*
- We look for Jesus return the second time *John 14:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

## Second Coming of Jesus

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. *John 14:1-3*”

## Saved by Grace

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

## Baptism

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ... Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. *Acts 2:38-41*

## The Christian Life

Christ in you, [is] the hope of glory... So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. *Colossians 1:27, 2:6,7*

## Growing as a Christian

- The Bible
- Prayer
- Church
- Fellowship
- Love one another
- Social justice
- Generous giving
- Following Jesus example

## Communion

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

**The Church**

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him, the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. *Ephesians 2:19-22*

**Priesthood of All Believers**

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. *1 Peter 2:5,9,10*

**Mission**

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. *Mark 16:15*