

Laurel Street Mennonite Church

February 5, 2023

Worship Leader: Karen Sensenig
Music Leader: Pastor Judy Zook
Facilitators: Pastors Ron & Judy Zook

***Baskets are available to receive offerings and prayer requests. Please feel free to use these baskets any time throughout the morning. Prayers will be gathered and lifted up during the prayers of the people.**

Gathering

Welcome & Table Connections
Announcements and Celebrations
Household Introduction: Ben Stutzman
Call to Worship and Prayer
Singing: Summoned by the God Who Made Us (VT 1)
Tu Eres Todo Poderoso (VT 89)

Encounter

Children's Church dismissal (ages 4-7)
Discussions at tables (see next pages)

Share

Prayers of the people

Benediction

Teach Me to Dance

SHARED CONVICTIONS

In 2006, Mennonite World Conference adopted seven global shared convictions. How might we live into these convictions in our context at Laurel Street? Think about how we might translate the religious language into today's everyday language and apply them to our church and community. In these convictions we draw inspiration from Anabaptist of the sixteenth century, who modeled radical discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

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. We are linked to the past and scattered in many places.

1. **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, witness.

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. John 14:23,25-26

QUESTION: In what ways might God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit "God in community" provide a model for relationships at Laurel Street and guide us in our fellowship, worship, service, and witness at Laurel Street?

2. **Jesus is the Son of God. Through his life and teachings, cross and resurrection, he showed us how to be faithful disciples, redeemed the world, and offers eternal life.**

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends....I no longer call you servants....Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:13-15

QUESTION: In what way(s) has Jesus been one of the following in your life or in your congregation—healer, the way, teacher, the truth, good shepherd, life, light, friend?

3. **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, & follow Christ in life.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:1-2

QUESTION: How, can we as a community work together to encourage each other to grow as disciples of Christ? What practices are helpful? What new practices might we begin?

- 4. 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.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

QUESTION: What ideas do you have about how we interpret the scriptures together so that it reorients our lives and shapes the faith of all ages?

- 5. 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.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

QUESTION: In what concrete ways is God inviting LSMC to live as an example of justice in our community? What specific injustice(s) should we be making right?

- 6. We gather regularly to worship,** to celebrate the Lord's Supper, and to hear the Word of God in a spirit of mutual accountability.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Col. 3:16

QUESTION: This conviction gives three reasons to gather. Why do you choose to gather for worship? With increased demands on our time, what ideas do you have

about how we gather and continue to nurture a spirit of worship and mutual accountability?

- 7. 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.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, Eph. 2:14

QUESTION: What borders or boundaries is God inviting LSMC to cross? What powers of evil might we resist?

The book *What We Believe Together* can be found in PDF at:
https://mwc-cmm.org/sites/default/files/resource-uploads/what_we_believe_together_2015.pdf