

**Bethel Bergthaler Mennonite Church**  
**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

1. We believe that the Holy Scriptures, the Old and the New Testaments, are the Word of God, divinely inspired and infallible, the only trustworthy guide; in faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; I Thess. 2:13)
2. We believe in the one, living, true and triune God who exists from all eternity as God the Father, Creator, Sustainer and Ruler; God the Son who became fully human and fully God in Christ Jesus; God the Holy Spirit who is one with the Father and the Son who indwells believers. (Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Matthew 16:16; Luke 1:31-33; John 14:16 & 17; John 15:26; John 16:7-14).
3. We believe in a visible church, the body of Christ, made up of those who through repentance and regeneration have come to the Christian faith, have received the Holy Spirit, and have become members of the fellowship on earth. Jesus Christ is its head and foundation. It is responsible to preach the Gospel to all people according to the command of Christ. It will be characterized by its evangelical faith, teaching, love, behavior, works and the observance of its ordinances according to the command of Christ. It will be preserved by Christ until the end of the age of grace (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:18; Acts 17:30, 20:21; Gal. 3:26).
4. We believe in the following biblical ordinances:
  - 4.01 Baptism  
We believe that all who through repentance and faith in Christ have been regenerated and have become children of God, should, upon confession of faith submit to water baptism according to Christ's command.  
(Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27)
  - 4.02 Lord's Supper  
We believe in the observance of the Lord's Supper as a privilege and a responsibility of believers, celebrated as a memorial of the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ and for fellowship with God and with fellow believers. We believe further, that each person who partakes of this meal needs to go through a self-examination in order to be in true fellowship with others and with the Lord. (I Cor. 11: 23-29)
5. We believe in the institution of marriage of one man and one woman who are of one faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a union should not be dissolved by separation or divorce. (Matt. 19: 1-9; I Cor. 7).
6. We believe that the ordination of pastors and ministers is taught by Holy Scripture, and shall be carried out in accordance with the teaching of Scripture. (I Tim. 4:14; 5:22; Titus 1:5-9; I Tim. 3:1-13).

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7. We believe in the biblical teaching of peace, love and non-resistance as Christ Himself practiced this in His life and as we learn it from the teachings of Christ and the apostles. (Matt. 5:38-48; 26:47-56; Luke 6:27-38; John 18: 33-37; Romans 12:17; I Cor. 13; I Peter 3:9).
8. We believe in affirming the truth, therefore we do not practice swearing an oath on the Bible. Jesus said, "Make no oath at all, either by heaven for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet. But let your statement be, Yes, yes, or No, no; anything beyond these is of evil." (Matt. 5: 34-37).
9. We believe in the practice of church discipline according to New Testament teaching. (Matt. 18: 15-18; I Cor. 5:5; II Cor. 6:1-7; Titus 3:10; Gal. 6:1)
10. We believe that we have been called with a holy calling to live a life of separation from sin and the world. (Eph. 1:4; I Peter 1:15; Col. 1:22).
11. We believe in the personal, visible, imminent, premillennial return of Christ. (Acts 1:11; John 14:3; Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7, 5:9,10; 20:4-6).