

**CORE DOCUMENTS OF THE
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES**

As adopted at General Conference XXVI, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

MCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

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Statement of Faith

Preamble

Metropolitan Community Churches 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, 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. Baptized 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 which 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.

Our Doctrine

Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and is the religion set forth in the Scriptures. Jesus Christ is foretold in the Old Testament, presented in the New Testament, and proclaimed by the Christian Church in every age and in every land. (John 1:29)

Founded in the interest of offering a church home to all who confess and believe, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches moves in the mainstream of Christianity.

Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds: Apostles and Nicene.

We Believe

In one triune God, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God, our Parent-Creator; Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God, God in flesh, human; and the Holy Spirit, God as our Sustainer. (John 14:26)

The Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 3:16)

Jesus...the Christ...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is God incarnate, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God's image. (Philippians 2:9-11)

The Holy Spirit is God making known God's love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in God's keeping. (John 14:16, 17)

Every person is justified by grace to God through faith in Jesus Christ.
(Romans 3:24)

We are saved from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of grace, as was declared by our Savior. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

The Church serves to bring all people to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the Scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.
(Mark 16:15)

Sacraments: Our Church embraces two Holy Sacraments

Baptism by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God's service. Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified as God's own Child.
(Matthew 28:19)

Holy Communion is the partaking of blessed bread and fruit of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign: This is my body...this is my blood. (Matthew 26:26-28)

All who believe, confess and repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by Jesus Christ's sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ's resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.

Inclusive Language

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) seeks to be open to all people and to include all of God's people in every aspect of Church life makes every effort to not use wording that excludes any group of God's people; doing so would be inconsistent with the nature of a loving God. By using inclusive language in our public Worship Service, Bible Studies, written statements, and public prayers we expand our understanding of God

and of the people God has called. Inclusive language reflects a sensitivity to overcome barriers that exist between individuals among communities in such areas as gender, race, class, age, physical differences, nationality, theological beliefs, culture and lifestyle.

One aspect of inclusive language is not to limit our understanding of God by addressing God in any single gender term. We do this primarily by using non-gender terms such as “Creator” or “God” instead of “Father.” Another aspect is when referring to people we seek to use terms that include all people. An example of this might be to use the term “brothers and sisters” instead of just “brothers” in certain readings.

It is understood that Jesus was indeed born a male and we do not seek to challenge or change that fact. We do not seek to change the meaning or content of scripture; we seek to identify more clearly what Jesus meant when he said, “whosoever believes in me shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3.16). It is also understood that our relationship with God and Christ is a personal one.

Inclusive language is necessary to promote justice, reconciliation and love, the agenda to which we Christian have been called. Inclusive language frees us to grasp and convey the wider truth. Paul urged the Corinthians to widen their hearts that they might fully experience the gospel (2 Cor. 6.13). In the same spirit, we are urged to widen our understanding so that we might better grasp the richness and fullness of God as well as our own humanity. It is our openness to move beyond comfortable and familiar images that enables us to grow in our relationship with God. The importance of inclusive language is that it serves to liberate everyone.

The inclusive language policy is used at all levels of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church yet is not written in stone – our understanding of what it means to be inclusive must continue to evolve.