

Moncton Wesleyan Church's Doctrinal Statement



Moncton Wesleyan Church's Mission Statement

Our Mission: We must use every available method, in every available place, at every available time, to reach every available person for Christ. Everything we do and everything we are is for that purpose.

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1. The Holy Trinity

We believe in one living and true God, eternal and of infinite power, wisdom, goodness, and righteousness. He is a loving and faithful God who is the Creator and preserver of all things. (Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Timothy 1:17). In the unity of this Godhead there are three persons of one substance with identical qualities and attributes: the Father (God), the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit (John 1:1, 2; 4:24, 5:18; 10:30).

2. The Father

We believe the Father is the source of all that exists. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, HE made man in His image. By intention He relates to man as Father, thereby forever declaring His goodwill toward man. In love, He both seeks and receives the penitent sinner (Psalm 68:5; Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 7:11; John 3:17; Romans 8:15, 1 Peter 1:17).

3. The Son of God

We believe in the divine nature of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. Christ was both fully man and fully God. He walked our earth, suffered at the hands of men, was crucified, died, and was buried as a sacrifice for the sins of all men and women everywhere. The purpose was to restore our relationship to God which is broken by sin (disobedience) (Luke 1:27; 31:35; John 3:16; Romans 5:10;

Ephesians 5:2). Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven in full victory over Satan and sin. He now intercedes for the body of believers to God, the Father (Matthew 28: 5-9; Luke 24: 4-7).

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the person of the Holy Trinity who lives within us, giving us the power to live a holy life and guiding us to truth (Romans 8:9; Galatians 4:6).

5. The Authority of Scripture

We believe that the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments combined constitute the Holy Bible; no books may be added or deleted. The Holy Bible is inspired and inerrant (that is, without error or failure of basic contents and meaning in the original manuscripts). The Holy Bible contains all the necessary truth to lead men and women into salvation (Psalm 19:7; John 17:17; Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17).

6. Man

We believe that mankind was created by God in His own image (Genesis 1:27), but because of Adam's sin (disobedience), man inherits a corrupt nature that inclines him to do wrong (Genesis 3:6; 6:5; Romans 5:12). Man is not capable of achieving a life without sin on his own (Proverbs 20:9; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16). Because man is created in God's own image, we have a "Godlikeness" which includes knowledge

between right and wrong, the ability to choose which course we will take, and the responsibility for our actions, or our choices (Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 20:40; John 7:17).

7. Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ, the living Son of God, was given by God as a sacrifice for the sins of all men. Christ died on the cross to mend the broken relationships which were caused by man's sin of disobedience. The severed relationship between God and man may be restored into perfect harmony through belief in Jesus Christ by faith, and not on the basis of works (Galatians 5:4,5; Ephesians 2:8,9). This belief and faith in Jesus Christ, recognizing Him as Lord and Savior, gives men and women the free gift of eternal life (John 1:29; 3:6 1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:2 1 Peter 1:19). After receiving salvation by faith through belief in Jesus Christ, the "born again" (John 3:3) Believer may live free from the judgment of God by living a life according to the teaching of the scriptures and trusting the Holy Spirit for the power to live a holy life according to God's Word.

8. Good Works

We believe that even though men and women cannot receive salvation by good works, their good works are still pleasing to God and show evidence of a true faith in God, and Jesus as Lord of the believer's life (Matthew 5:16; 7:16-20;

Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; James 2:18,22).

9. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the work of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, making the believer pure in heart and totally committed and dedicated to God. This work is both instantaneous and gradual (or progressive). It begins when a person is saved and continues throughout life. In this process of sanctification, there is a time when the believer is convicted of a "lukewarm" Christian life and looks to Christ with a total commitment and dedication to "Christ-like" living. For some this occurs soon following salvation and for others much time elapses. But for all believers sanctification is the will of God (1 Thessalonians 4:3). Sanctification is the point in life when a believer renounces the desire to live for self and desires to live totally for the glory of God. The believer is then empowered by the Holy Spirit, making him able to live a life of holiness. This does not mean perfection of the believer, but purity of heart soul and mind (Deuteronomy 30:6; Luke 1:74-75; Acts 15: 8-9; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; James 4:8).

10. Gifts of the Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to all believers for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and bringing glory to God. The gifts are to be exercised in love and emphasize the

need for unity (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11, 18, 21-25; Ephesians 4:11-16).

11. Sacraments

We believe that God ordained two sacraments: The Lord's Supper and Baptism. The Lord's Supper is received in remembrance of Christ's death for our sins; the bread representing His body and the wine, His blood. It is the remembrance of God's love and grace toward us, and the love we must share with one another (Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22 – 24; 1 Corinthians 10:16). Baptism is an outward symbolic act signifying salvation and cleansing of sin (Numbers 8:7, Mark 16:16; Acts 22:26). At Moncton Wesleyan Church, we baptize by immersion.

12. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that those who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior and are unrepentant will be judged by God in His perfect justice and doomed to eternal punishment (Ecclesiastes 12: 14; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:16). We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to receive His believers into heaven and eternal life. The time of His return is unknown, but may be at any moment. This is the glorious hope of all God's children (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; James 5:7-8; Revelation 22:12, 20).

