

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Foundational Documents

Seven Core Convictions (Mennonite World Conference, Adopted 2003)

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, the following are central to our belief and practice.

1. God is known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Creator who seeks to restore fallen humanity by calling people to be faithful in fellowship, worship, service and witness. *And the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will restore, support, strengthen and establish you.* I Peter 5:10

2. Jesus is the son of God who showed in his life and teaching how to be faithful, and through his cross and resurrection redeemed the world. *But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.* John 1:12

3. The church is a community of those whom God's Spirit calls to turn from sin, acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, receive baptism upon confession of faith and follow Christ in life. *The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, repent and believe in the good news.* Mark 1:15

4. The faith community, under Holy Spirit guidance, interprets the Bible in the light of Jesus Christ to discern God's will for our obedience. *And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments.* II John 1:6

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. *But love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return.* Luke 6:35

6. The faith community gathers regularly to worship, to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to hear the Word of God in a spirit of mutual accountability. *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* Acts 2:42

7. 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 as Savior and Lord. *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....* Romans 12:2

Anabaptist Faith in Practice

1. Central Christian School (CCS) students know they are loved and valued by God, which enables them to value and love each other.
2. Peacebuilding, including the use of restorative discipline, is regularly modeled and practiced as a lifestyle of nonviolence, seeking justice and being part of a reconciling faith community.
3. CCS values and is responsive to cultural, racial and socioeconomic diversity.
4. CCS provides a welcoming community where it is emotionally safe to raise questions, to value and learn from differences, and to care for each other.
5. CCS enables students to practice global awareness, cultural sensitivity, anti-racism, and compassionate living.
6. Students grow in their understanding of stewardship of all God has entrusted to them, including the natural environment.
7. Staff members are committed to modeling the life of Jesus Christ.
8. Students grow in understanding the process of biblical discernment by asking questions, practicing spiritual disciplines, and engaging with other Christians.
9. Students are encouraged to grow in relationship with Jesus and to follow Jesus daily in life through attitudes and practice.
10. CCS does everything it can to eliminate the obstacles that exclude or hinder the ability of students to receive a faith-infused education of excellence.
11. Stories and symbols of faith and reconciliation are regularly shared in our school community.
12. CCS invites parents to become partners in the faith formation of their child.
13. CCS is a community that lives the gospel message through praying, serving others, and enabling students to grow in understanding that they can make a positive difference in the world globally and locally.
14. CCS builds a strong faith and learning community in which students and staff support each other.
15. CCS enables students to live a life of curiosity, wonder and mystery as they join with God to bring the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven.

(Mennonite Education Agency, Approved June 30, 2015)

The Core of Our Authority

Central Christian School is blessed with wonderful students and families who are nurtured by gifted pastoral leadership within our churches. The foundational platforms for raising children (i.e. the home, the church and the school) are becoming more and more important as society moves further away from a Christian worldview. When the home, church, and school are not attentive to the ever-increasing social pressures placed on our students from the rapid-paced secular world, we allow our children to be confused with multiple, mixed messages. When these three foundational pillars are in conflict with each other, the next generation truly has a shaky foundation. There is a growing need for the school to work hand-in-hand with the home and the church.

Central Christian School Board of Trustees (“CCS Board”) would like to recognize and gratefully affirm the authorities who visualized our school and empowered its existence. We would like to publicly recognize and define our authorities. The four authorities identified by the CCS Board as sources of this permission are God, Scripture, the Church and the Family. The purpose of this document is to define these authorities, articulate the responsibility we have to each, and encourage ways they can be honored.

We believe that this affirmation is central to the development of our future long-range plan. We will use the honoring of our authorities as a barometer to determine long-range goals and objectives.

Our First Authority Is God

God is our ultimate authority. We best understand God through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, His Son, as presented in Scripture and through the personal guidance of the Holy Spirit.

“We believe that God exists and is pleased with all who draw near by faith. We worship the one holy and loving God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally. We believe that God has created all things visible and invisible, has brought salvation and new life to humanity through Jesus Christ, and continues to sustain the church and all things until the end of the age” (Confessions of Faith from a Mennonite Perspective).

The CCS Board affirms that God, through Jesus Christ, is the supreme authority for granting permission for our school to exist. We recognize that our very existence is dependent on the will and grace of our Creator. We, as a school, are committed to honoring and obeying God’s principles and commandments to the very best of our ability.

Because God is our primary authority, the one from whom all things were created and are sustained, we encourage all persons associated with the school to honor God by implementing practices of spiritual disciplines, by speaking and singing words of affirmation and praise to God our Maker, and by living a life of outreach and encouragement to others.

Our Second Authority Is Scripture

Scripture is the Word of God. Scripture is primary to understanding the will of God and His plan for His people. "We believe that all Scripture is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. Led by the Holy Spirit in the church, we interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ" (Confessions of Faith from a Mennonite Perspective).

The CCS Board believes that Scripture as the Word of God is indispensable to the education of each child. Everything we teach should be through the lens of Scripture. Scripture is the book from which we find our written guidance. Therefore, we encourage all persons associated with the school to honor Scripture by seeking to have a regular routine of reading and memorizing the Bible and striving to live a life that is in obedience to the commands and expectations of God's Word. We recognize that we live in an imperfect world as imperfect children of God and are in constant need of Holy Scripture for counsel and authority.

Our Third Authority Is the Church

God in His wisdom has created the Church as the Spiritual authority for the family structure. "We believe that the church is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The church is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim the reign of God and to provide a foretaste of the church's glorious hope. The church is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit. The church, the body of Christ, is called to become ever more like Jesus Christ, its head, in its worship, ministry, witness, mutual love and care, and the ordering of its common life". (Confessions of Faith from a Mennonite Perspective)

The CCS Board affirms that the Church is an authority for granting permission for our school to exist. We recognize that our very existence is dependent on the vision and support of the Church. We, as a school, are committed to honoring the authority of the Church in the life of the school to the very best of our ability.

Because the Church is our authority, the body of Christ that guides us and holds us accountable for faithful living, we encourage all persons associated with the school to honor the Church by committing allegiance to a local congregation through weekly attendance and giving of tithes and offerings. We believe it is important for all Christians to submit to the godly counsel of the pastor and church community. We also believe that church attendance and involvement is one of the best ways to teach children about the

nature and principles of God. The Church is also the primary source of individual, family and community protection and enhancement.

Our Fourth Authority Is the Family

God in his wisdom has created the family as the primary social structure. “We believe that God intends human life to begin in families and to be blessed through families. Even more, God desires all people to become part of the church, God’s family. As single and married members

of the church family give and receive nurture and healing, Christian family relationships can grow toward the wholeness that God intends. We are called to chastity and to loving faithfulness in marriage “. (Confessions of Faith from a Mennonite Perspective)

The CCS Board affirms that the family is the primary social structure. We recognize that God, in His infinite wisdom, established parents for the nurturing and training of their children. We, as a school, are committed to respect parents’ God-given authority over the lives of their children, and we desire to work in partnership with parents as they educate their children.

When families bring their children to us for education, we recognize and affirm that God gave the child to the parents, and the parents gave the child to us. Therefore, we recognize the authority of the parents over their child in our school.

Because the family is our authority, an institution designed by God to be the primary social structure, we encourage all persons associated with the school in any way to honor the family by seeking counsel from the parents for matters of discipline, goal setting, and curricular choices.

CCS Board of Trustees
Approved March 2014