

# 本立比頌恩堂

## Burnaby Pacific Grace Church

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### **Baptism Application**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We will hold the Baptism and Membership Transferal Ceremony on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Thanksgiving Sunday). If you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, and also attend our church Sunday worship, fellowship, and Sunday school regularly, we sincerely invite you to get baptized in order to publicly witness your commitment to Christ. Applicant is required to attend the "Baptismal Class", of which the time and date will be announced later.

You will also need to prepare a personal testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the pastoral staff.

Yours in Christ,  
Burnaby Pacific Grace Church

# Who Are the Mennonites and Mennonite Brethren?

## *A. Mennonite Roots are Traced back into Anabaptism.*

1. **Conrad Grabel, a well educated scholar converted under the ministry of Ulrich Zwingli in 1525 became an enthusiastic evangelical.**

\*Within 2 years, conflict developed between Zwingli and "radicals" like Grabel and Felix Mantz who wanted a complete break with all church practices that were different from the teachings of the NT.

\*The key areas of disagreement were:

- {a}. Separation of church and state.
- {b}. Elimination of the mass.
- {c}. Wished to celebrate the Lord's Supper in homes.
- {d}. Wanted to practice believer's baptism upon confession of faith.

2. **Zwingli failed to persuade the "radicals" to follow his teachings on some of these key areas. This lead to a Zurich City Council decision "against the free believers church, decreeing that all children must be baptized within 8 days of birth and that non-compliers would be banished from the church.**

When Grabel, Mantz & others refused to comply, they were banished from the church. They met in Mantz's house where Grabel baptized George Blauroch, a former priest, who then baptized the others.

The newly baptized then pledged themselves as true disciples of Christ, to live lives separate from the world and its evil works, to spread the Gospel and keep the faith.

Since they rejected infant baptism and practiced believers baptism upon the personal confession of their faith in Jesus Christ, they were labeled as **ANABAPTISTS**.

3. **During the next months, many Anabaptist leaders were arrested and persecuted, but the movement continued to grow.**

>In March 1526 the authorities decreed death by drowning for anyone who practiced re-baptising.

>On January 7, 1527, Felix Mantz was drowned in Zurich, and became the 1st Anabaptist martyr.

>Persecution resulted in Anabaptism spreading to Germany & Holland and also other countries in Europe.

>Anabaptism required a deep commitment to take Jesus seriously in everyday life. The key element was experiencing the new birth through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**4. Menno Simons, a converted Catholic Priest became one of the Anabaptist leaders. He was respected for his Biblical teachings about faith and life.**

\*Those who followed his teachings about the Bible and lifestyle would become known as the Mennonites.

\*Over the years Mennonite groups have emerged in countries like Holland and Germany and have also scattered to different countries in search of a new and better life as well as religious & political freedoms.

***B. The Origin of the Mennonite Brethren.***

**1. Many Mennonites moved to Southern Russia in the late 17 hundreds to take up farming.**

\*Here, they received favorable status with the government as well as extensive privileges like the right to control their religion, civic and educational systems and an exemption from military service.

\*However their spiritual vitality was lost when prosperity and materialism became more important than faith in Christ.

**2. The Mennonite Brethren church came into being as a result of a revival in Southern Russia on January 6, 1880.**

{a}. After a period of Bible Study and prayer a group of 18 family heads formed a church dedicated to the principles of NT faith.

{b}. The most notable areas of revival were evidenced in:

**\*\*Deep concern about the spiritual welfare of each other...**

**\*\*Taught that Christians could have assurance of their faith...**

**\*\*Practiced baptism by immersion as a prerequisite for membership...**

**\*\*Evangelistic meetings were common...**

**\*\*Practiced a congregational form of church government {brotherhood}.**

**\*\*The Mennonite Brethren church stands faithful allegiance to Christ.**

{c}. The MB church has grown since then to a denomination of about 50,000 members in North America. In Canada about 30,000 and in the United States about 20,000 as well as many more world wide through MB Missions/Services. {In India nearly 70,000 & about 72,000 in Congo {formerly Zaire}.

{d}. Nearly half of all Mennonite Brethren in Canada live in B.C. (nearly <sup>17,000</sup>~~15,000~~) scattered in <sup>101</sup>~~82~~ churches across the province.

# ABRIDGED STATEMENT OF FAITH

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In essential beliefs we have unity.

*"There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one home, when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."* Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs we have liberty.

*"Accept him whose faith is weak without passing judgement on disputable matters. Who are you to judge someone else's servant. To his own master he stands or falls. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. So whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourselves and God."*

Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In all our beliefs we show love.

*"If I hold in my mind, not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God and have the faith that can move mountains but have no love, I amount to nothing at all."* 1 Corinthians 13:2 (Phillips)

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|------------|---|
| We believe | in God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.   |
| We believe | that God revealed Himself in creation, through the Old and New Testaments, and supremely through Jesus Christ, His Son. The inspired Word of God, the Bible, is our guide for faith and Christian living.   |
| We believe | that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, is truly God and truly man.   |
| We believe | that man was created in the image of God. By sinning he broke fellowship with God, incurring physical and spiritual death upon himself and the entire human race. But Christ died for our sin, rose for our justification, and now lives to intercede for believers.                          |
| We believe | in God, the Holy Spirit, who convicts of sin, regenerates the believer and guides and empowers for victorious living and dedicated service.   |
| We believe | that all who put their trust in Christ receive the forgiveness of sin and are born again by the Holy Spirit as children of God.   |
| We believe | that the Christian, through the power of the Holy spirit, follows the Lord, giving evidence of the fruit of the spirit and practises love in all situations and relationships.  |
| We believe | that the church is the body of Christ, consisting of all true believers whose supreme task is to make disciples through teaching, preaching and ministries of compassion. Believers minister to others through gifts endowed by the Spirit of God and help one another in the Christian life. |
| We believe | that Christians should be baptized in obedience to Christ's command, and as a covenant expression of union with Christ in His death and resurrection.   |
| We believe | that the Lord's Supper expresses the communion of believers with one another and with Christ.   |
| We believe | that God instituted marriage for the fulfilment of both partners, who should share a common Christian commitment.   |
| We believe | that God intended man to work diligently. He also set aside one day for rest and worship.   |
| We believe | that Christians should always speak the truth and avoid oaths ("I affirm" rather than "I swear").   |
| We believe | that because God instituted the state to maintain civil order, Christians should obey all laws not contrary to Scripture and pray for and witness to the authorities.   |
| We believe | that Christians should avoid war and violence, and practice Christ's law of love in all situations.   |
| We believe | that Christ is coming again and will judge all men, punishing the unjust with eternal torment and rewarding the just with eternal joy in heaven. Christ will establish a new heaven and a new earth where God will be all in all.   |

- For a more complete doctrinal statement see Confession of Faith of Mennonite Brethren Churches of North America.

# **Constitutional Bylaws of Burnaby Pacific Grace Church**

*Last revised: April 7, 2024*

- 1 The name of the church is Burnaby Pacific Grace Church (the "Church").
- 2 Our Church is affiliated with and forms part of the B.C. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.
- 3 Doctrine: Our Church accepts in totality the confession of faith of the B.C. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.
- 4 Church Membership: Membership is granted to those baptized in this Church or accepted through membership transfer per procedures stated below:
  - 4.1 Application for baptism: Applicants must be 12 years of age or above, enlightened by the Holy Spirit to repent of their sins and to confess the Lord Jesus as Savior, accepting the faith of our Church, attending its services regularly, and having completed the baptismal class. Upon recommendation by the lead pastor and after gaining approval from the board of deacons through a testimony and an interview session on faith, the applicant may be accepted as members after the baptism.
  - 4.2 Application for membership transfer: Baptized believers of other evangelical Christian churches transferring due to reasons of moving or special circumstances necessary to leave their former churches and who have subsequently attended this Church regularly for at least three months, ready to accept the stated confession of faith and abide by the constitutional bylaws of this Church, shall, through the recommendations of the lead pastor and the approval of the board of deacons, be accepted as members.
- 5 Duties of Members
  - 5.1 To regularly study the Bible, pray, follow God's teachings, and attend Sunday services and other meetings.
  - 5.2 To seek to glorify God in their daily living and conducts.
  - 5.3 To witness for the Lord diligently and lead others to Christ.
  - 5.4 To understand the truth of stewardship, giving material offering, gifts, and time to God, sharing in responsibilities of the church and serving the Lord in one accord.
- 6 Review of Membership
  - 6.1 Officers or members of this Church who have acted or taught contrary to the teachings of God's word, the Church's Statement of Faith, or in the considered opinion of the board of deacons bring disgrace to God's Holy name or the reputation of this Church, and refuse to repent even after counseling, may, upon the approval of the board of deacons, be disciplined according to the severity of the issues in the following ways:
    - 6.1.1 Termination or suspension of duties
    - 6.1.2 Termination or suspension of participation in the Holy Communion

### 6.1.3 Termination or suspension of membership

- 6.2 Those whose participation in the Holy Communion or whose membership have been terminated may have their privileges reconsidered for restoration by the board of deacons if they truly repent and have demonstrated an obvious change of behavior.
- 6.3 Members who are 18 years of age or above shall have the privilege to vote.
- 6.4 Members who are 21 years of age or above shall have the privilege to be elected as an officer or deacon of the Church.
- 6.5 Members who have not attended Sunday service for over six months without sufficient reasons shall have their privilege to vote and privilege to be elected as an officer or deacon of the Church reviewed by the board of deacons, who may decide to terminate or suspend their privilege.

## 7 Organization and Election:

- 7.1 For the purpose of calculations using the number of active members in this section, the membership roster of the Church compiled for any deacon election shall be considered as an accurate count of active members.

### 7.2 Membership Meetings

- 7.2.1 An Annual membership meeting shall be called once a year by the chair of the board of deacons by April 30 of each year, to approve the Church financial statements and ministry reports of the previous year, the annual budget of the current year, and any other items placed on the agenda by the board of deacons. If an annual budget is not approved before the commencement of an applicable year, the board of deacons shall operate on the budget approved by them for that year until the Annual membership meeting.
- 7.2.2 In case of special circumstances, the board of deacons may call for special membership meetings. A special membership meeting shall also be called within 28 days after the board of deacons receives a request signed by at least 15% of the number of active members setting forth the purpose of the meeting and after attempts, within the above stated 28 days, by the board of deacons to resolve the stated issues prove unsuccessful.
- 7.2.3 For every membership meeting, the Church must provide 14-day advance notice to each member together with the agenda for such meeting.
- 7.2.4 Membership meetings shall be conducted orderly (refer to: "Parliamentary Procedure: Standing Rules", adopted from the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches). Business must not be conducted at a membership meeting at a time when a quorum is not present. A quorum is 35% of the number of active members at the time the meeting was called.
- 7.2.5 Voting is done by show of hand or, if required by 10% of the members attending the meeting, by secret ballot. Voting by proxy is not permitted. All motions at the membership meeting must be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present in the meeting.

### 7.3 The board of deacons

- 7.3.1 The members of the board of deacons shall consist of each member of the pastoral staff and each of the deacons elected by the members at an annual meeting for the applicable term. The board of deacons shall select a chair (preferably from the elected deacons), and a vice-chair, a secretary, and a treasurer from the elected deacons.
- 7.3.2 An executive committee, whose members consist of the chair, the vice-chair, the secretary and a leading pastor of the board of deacons, shall be formed to deal with any matters arising and requiring to be dealt with between meetings of the board of deacons. Decisions thus made by the executive committee are required to be subsequently submitted to the next meeting of the board of deacons for ratification.
- 7.3.3 Permanent Part time pastoral staff members (with normal average working hours of no less than 20 hours per week) shall also have the right to attend meetings of and vote at the board of deacons.
- 7.3.4 A minimum of eight board of deacon meetings shall be held each year. In case of special circumstances, the chair of the board of deacons may call for a deacon meeting. The summary of minutes of deacon meetings shall be made available to the members within three months of the meetings.
- 7.3.5 The board of deacons shall consist of at least 5 elected deacons. The number may be increased according to the needs of the Church, up to a maximum of 12 elected deacons. The term for each deacon is two years. A deacon may not serve for more than four consecutive years, after which he/she must retire for at least one year before being eligible to run for deacon election again. The preferred number of newly elected deacons would be no greater than half of the total number of deacons in the board. Each current board shall determine the number of deacons for the following year. The number of deacons to be elected shall be announced at the onset of the annual deacon election process. In case of special need, the board may invite deacons who have completed their terms to extend their service for a maximum of one further year.
- 7.3.6 If a deacon resigns from the board, the position for the balance of the term shall be filled by the candidate with the next highest vote in the preceding deacon election. If no such candidate exists, or that candidate is unwilling to assume the position, the position shall be filled by holding a deacon by-election following the same procedure as a regular deacon election. A deacon by-election shall take place within 3 months after the effective date of the resignation. In cases where the resignation occurs with less than 8 months to the end of the term, a deacon by-election is not required.
- 7.3.7 The members may remove a deacon before the end of his term in a membership meeting by a special resolution of the members in attendance with 75% majority. The position shall be filled as stated in 7.3.6.
- 7.3.8 An act or proceeding of the board of deacons is not invalid merely because there are less than the prescribed number of elected deacons in office.

#### **7.4—Ministry Committees**

Ministry Committees are to be formed under the jurisdiction of the board of deacons. They shall plan and coordinate various ministries in accordance with the development directions and goals of the church. These Ministries may include: (1) Chinese Worship, (2) Chinese Music, (3) Chinese Discipleship, (4) Chinese Evangelism, (5) Chinese Caring, (6) Chinese Fellowship, (7) English Worship, (8) English Discipleship, (9) English

Fellowship, (10) English Community Time, (11) Children Worship, (12) Children Sunday School, (13) Kids Club, (14) Mission. The number of ministries may be adjusted according to the needs of the church. The ministry leaders shall be appointed by the board of deacons in accordance to their gifts. Each ministry leader shall serve a term of two years and preferably not serve in the same position for over two consecutive terms. The committee members under the ministry leaders shall be appointed by the ministry leaders with the approval of the lead pastors.

#### 7.5 Deacon Nomination and Election:

- 7.5.1 Deacon nomination shall be carried out in accordance to Appendix 1: "Guidelines for Deacon Election Committee." The dates for deacon nomination and election shall be established and announced in the Church calendar at the beginning of the year.
- 7.5.2 Deacon Election Committee: The deacon election committee shall consist of at least 5 members: one or two pastoral staff, two departing members from the current board of deacons, and two members nominated in writing to the board of deacons from the general membership. Where there are less than two departing deacons, the outstanding positions may be filled by other deacons. In case where more than two members are nominated, the board of deacons shall work with all nominated members to agree on which two members shall be on the deacon election committee. The deacon election committee is responsible for evaluating prospective candidates for next year's board of deacons, in accordance to the deacon qualifications set forth in the Section 7.6.
- 7.5.3 Nomination Procedure: After the deacon election committee is formed, members of the Church have two weeks to submit written nominations without informing the nominees. Nominations must be each signed by two members not related by blood or marriage, along with a letter of recommendation from each nominating member, to the deacon election committee in accordance to the qualifications for deacon nominees. All members of the Church, including staff, current deacons, and members of the deacon election committee, have equal right to submit nominations. The deacon election committee, in its sole discretion, shall determine the final list of nominees.
- 7.5.4 Deacon Election: Deacon elections are done by ballot voting, with the nominees receiving the highest votes to be elected to fill the predetermined number of positions. In case the number of nominees is less than or equal to the number of deacons to be elected, the deacon election shall take the form of confidence vote for individual nominees, in which a nominee is elected by receiving a minimum of 75% support from all valid ballots cast.

#### 7.6 In order to qualify for nomination as a deacon, a person must be:

- 7.6.1 A born again Christian, baptized for at least three years (1 Timothy 3:6), a member of this Church for at least three years, proven to be consistently attending various church meetings, and actively participating to serve in different Church ministries.
- 7.6.2 Monogamous, irreproachable in heterosexual marital relationship and relationships with the opposite sex (1 Timothy 3:2).
- 7.6.3 Of good reputation (1 Timothy 3:7; Acts 6:3).
  - 7.6.3.1 Living out a good personal life, not indulgent in bad habits or committing immoral or illegal acts (1 Timothy 3:3, 3:8-9)



- 7.6.3.2 Living out a good family life, with the support, respect, and obedience of spouse and children, if applicable. (1 Timothy 3:4-5).
- 7.6.4 Fulfilling one's responsibility in tithes and offerings, thus capable of being an example to others in the area of stewardship (Leviticus 27:30-33; Matthew 6:21).
- 7.6.5 Spiritually mature (Galatians 5:22-23) and willing to work with others in serving the Lord (1 Corinthians 12:24-25).
- 7.6.6 Reliable, available, faithful, and teachable, as well as demonstrating leadership in various church ministries, preferably having served in a leadership position such as deacon, department head, Sunday school teacher, or fellowship counsellor (1 Timothy 3:10; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Timothy 2:2).

## 8 Ordinances:

- 8.1 Baptism: Baptism is a testimony made by Christians before God and humankind. It is to be followed by all believers, symbolizing the truth of being dead, buried, and resurrected with Christ. Baptism by immersion is practiced in this Church except in case of serious illness when baptism by sprinkling is conducted.
- 8.2 Holy Communion: Holy Communion is to commemorate Christ according to His command, conducted at least monthly for all born again, baptized Christians.
- 9 Wedding and Funeral Services: Members of this Church may request pastors of this Church to officiate wedding ceremonies or funeral services in accordance to the following stated guidelines:
  - 9.1 The marriage partner must be a Christian and the union must be biblical, in the opinion of the pastor or the board of deacons.
  - 9.2 Members who invite a pastor of this Church to officiate funerals must not allow other family members to construct altars or conduct ceremonies that resemble idol worship, chanting, occult practices, and rituals of other religions after the pastor has officiated a funeral service.
- 10 The membership delegates to the current board of deacons the authority to interpret these bylaws.
- 11 These bylaws may be amended as need arises by resolution of a two-thirds majority vote of the members present in the membership meeting.
- 12 Any other bylaws not stated in regards to administration, organization, authorities, and other aspects concerning the church should be referred to the constitution of the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.
- 13 Documents of the Church shall be kept at the address of the Church unless the deacons resolve otherwise.
- 14 The English version of the Constitutional Bylaws is the official version and takes precedence over versions of other languages.

# 本立比頌恩堂 ◆ Burnaby Pacific Grace Church

## 浸禮申請表 / Baptismal Application

Revised Mar/2022

姓名(中): Name:	性別: Gender	出生日期 Date of Birth:	出生地點: Place of Birth	職業: Occupation:
住址 Address:			電話 Tel:	電郵 Email:
初次參加本會日期 Date First Attending This Church				
經常參加 Always attending: <input type="checkbox"/> 教會崇拜 Sunday Service <input type="checkbox"/> 主日學 Sunday School <input type="checkbox"/> 團契 Fellowship				
決志日期 Date of Conversion:				
父親姓名 Name of Father		宗教信仰 Religion:		歿 Deceased
母親姓名 Name of Mother		宗教信仰 Religion:		歿 Deceased
婚姻狀況 Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> 單身 Single <input type="checkbox"/> 已婚 Married <input type="checkbox"/> 喪偶 Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 離婚 Divorced				
配偶姓名 Spouse:		有否經常參加 Always attending: <input type="checkbox"/> 教會崇拜 Sunday Service / <input type="checkbox"/> 主日學 Sunday School / <input type="checkbox"/> 團契 Fellowship		
子女 Children		有否經常參加 Always attending:		
(1) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 教會崇拜 Sunday Service / <input type="checkbox"/> 主日學 Sunday School / <input type="checkbox"/> 團契 Fellowship / <input type="checkbox"/> Awana		
(2) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 教會崇拜 Sunday Service / <input type="checkbox"/> 主日學 Sunday School / <input type="checkbox"/> 團契 Fellowship / <input type="checkbox"/> Awana		
(3) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 教會崇拜 Sunday Service / <input type="checkbox"/> 主日學 Sunday School / <input type="checkbox"/> 團契 Fellowship / <input type="checkbox"/> Awana		

相片

Photo

本立比頌恩堂乃以聖經為信仰和生活的基礎,本會聯於門諾弟兄聯會,並接納聯會根據聖經而出版之信仰宣言。該宣言及本會章則可隨意索閱。本人接納聖經為信仰基礎及上文提及之信仰宣言。謹願意加入本立比頌恩堂為會友與眾信徒聯絡,同心合意敬愛事奉真神,並填具申請書如上。

日期: \_\_\_\_\_

申請人簽名: \_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Scriptures form the basis of faith and practice for members of the Burnaby Pacific Grace Church. The General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, of which this church is an affiliate has set forth its understanding of the Scriptures in a Confession of Faith. Copies of the same and the church By-Laws are available.

I subscribe to the above and do hereby wish to become a member of Burnaby Pacific Grace Church and shall love and serve God together with the community of believers.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

教牧簽名

Signature of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

教會執事代表簽名

Signatures of Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

面見日期

Interview Date: \_\_\_\_\_

受浸日期 Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

施浸牧師 Officiating Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

備註 Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_