



From time to time individuals searching for a church home or ministry position within CBWC want to know more about our denomination. The list below provides a window through which you can see who we are, what we believe, and how we approach ministry.

- We believe the following three statements represent our core beliefs as Canadian Baptists of Western Canada.

1. The Carey Theological College Statement of Faith endorsed by CBWC in Assembly

We accept wholeheartedly the revelation of God given in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and confess the faith therein set forth. We here explicitly assert the doctrines which we regard as crucial to the understanding and proclamation of the Gospel and to practical Christian living:

- The sovereignty, love, and grace of God, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
 - The divine inspiration of Holy Scripture and its entire trustworthiness and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
 - The value of each human being as created by God. The universal sinfulness of humankind since the fall, which alienates all from God and subjects all to condemnation.
 - The full deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, whose substitutionary sacrifice is the sole ground of redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin.
 - The justification of the sinner by the grace of God through faith alone in Christ crucified and risen from the dead.
 - The illuminating, regenerating, indwelling and sanctifying work of God, the Holy Spirit, in the believer.
 - The church as set forth in the New Testament and understood historically by the Baptist community.
 - The expectation of the personal, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ, our participation in the resurrection, and the hope of eternal life.
2. The Apostle's Creed
 3. The Nicene Creed
- We are a community of vibrant, Christ-centred churches being God's love and hope among our neighbours. We have prayerfully chosen these ministry priorities:
 1. *Cultivating Leadership*
 2. *Investing in Relationship*
 3. *Engaging in Mission*

These three areas come together, bringing balance to ministry. Significant resources are provided to assist congregations and train pastors to provide meaningful ministry and community impact within the neighbourhood/region of the congregation.

- We work together in a congregationalist style

While congregations remain autonomous they engage in ministry together. The congregations “in Assembly” (assembled church representatives and pastors) entrust to elected CBWC leadership and their appointed staff to fulfill and develop our ministry priorities between Assembly meetings.

- We believe that ministry advancement is the responsibility of the whole congregation

Pastors and other ministry staff are called to lead congregational ministry. However the vitality, mission, and growth of that ministry are dependent on each member’s (staff included) response to the continuing work of God’s Spirit within the congregation and community. Using the Apostle Paul’s metaphor, the Church is one body made up of equally important parts to fulfill one corporate function - to genuinely love God, to sacrificially serve Him, to generously respond to needs beyond our own, and to, by faith, live out and teach the truths of Scripture.

- We affirm the role of women and men in ministry

Women and men are recognized as equal servants in the work of the Lord. CBWC seeks to recognize the gifts of all individuals whether they are female or male. Both may serve on all boards, fulfill the responsibilities of a chairperson, and may be called to pastor a congregation and be ordained to Gospel Ministry.

- We expect pastoral leaders to participate in cluster groups for mutual support

Within western Canada, the majority of our churches fall into fourteen geographic clusters. The purpose of these regional clusters is to bring the ministry staff together to uphold one another in prayer, to encourage each other in difficult times, to engage cooperatively in new ministries, and to encourage ministry skill development. It is also understood that regional congregations will support each other in good and difficult times. In cases where pastors are geographically isolated, they are expected to participate in clusters within their particular community and/or through telephone, email, or videoconferencing.

- We require all ministry staff to adhere to CBWC Assembly approved ministerial protocol

Firstly all pastors are to commit themselves to and exemplify the moral and spiritual values reflected in God’s Word as referred to in our statements of belief. Specific standards regarding requirements for and behaviour within ministry are found within the Ministerial Protocol Manual (MPM) which is approved with any revisions by a vote of Assembly. Each CBWC minister is accountable to the statements within the MPM.

- We hold to clear statements on marriage & sexual behaviour

CBWC defines marriage as a “publicly recognized covenanting together for life, between a woman and a man who live together in a relationship, characterized by truth and fidelity, and for the purpose of lifelong companionship, mutual interdependence and responsibility for each other, and potential procreation. It is symbolic of God’s relationship to his people and Jesus Christ’s relationship to his church.” Any sexual behaviour outside of monogamous heterosexual marriage behaviour is not affirmed.

¹ The contents of this document, as compiled by the Executive Staff of the CBWC, are meant for orientation purposes and to describe what is perceived to be the trajectory of our CBWC churches deemed consistent with the decisions of the CBWC in Assembly. Some inclusions do not necessarily reflect the practice of each individual congregation because of local church autonomy.

Edited January, 2019