

Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995)

Selected Statements Related to Care of Creation

“The biblical concept of peace embraces personal peace with God, peace in human relations, peace among nations, and peace with God's creation.”

From Article 5, Creation and Divine Providence

- We believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews what has been made.
- We believe that the universe has been called into being as an expression of God's love and sovereign freedom alone.
- We acknowledge that God sustains creation in both continuity and change.
- We therefore are called to respect the natural order of creation and to entrust ourselves to God's care and keeping, whether in adversity or plenty.

From Article 6, The Creation and Calling of Human Beings

- God formed them from the dust of the earth and gave them a special dignity among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation.
- As creatures according to the divine likeness, we have been made stewards to subdue and to care for creation out of reverence and honor for the Creator. As creatures made in the divine image, we have been blessed with the abilities to respond faithfully to God, to live in harmony with other human beings, and to engage in meaningful work and rest.

From Article 21, Christian Stewardship

- We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls us as the church to live as faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.
- As stewards of God's earth, we are called to care for the earth and to bring rest and renewal to the land and everything that lives on it.

From Article 22, Peace, Justice, and Nonresistance

- We believe that peace is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world.
- The biblical concept of peace embraces personal peace with God, peace in human relations, peace among nations, and peace with God's creation.
- As followers of Jesus, we participate in his ministry of peace and justice. He has called us to find our blessing in making peace and seeking justice.

From Article 24, The Reign of God

- The church is called to live now under the rule of God as a witness to the reign of God. Our life together now is to be patterned after our life together in the age to come. This means that the reign of God is relevant to this world, and the ethics of God's rule should not be postponed to some future time. Yet the church is not identical with the kingdom, or reign, of God. Nor must the church harbor illusions that it can bring about the kingdom fully in the present age, either all at once or by gradually improving conditions in this world.