



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

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To: All Mennonite Church Congregations

Proposed Scripture Slogan Selection Process

Delegates to the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly at Winkler in 2004 approved the following resolution:

As Christians and Mennonites we believe the Bible must be our authority for faith and conduct. We, the delegates at Assembly 2004, ask the General Board to choose an appropriate scripture motto for Mennonite Church Canada to be brought to the assembly in 2006. We further recommend that serious consideration be given to 1 Corinthians 3:11, the guiding principle of Menno Simons.

The General Board invites all members of MC Canada churches to participate in selecting a scripture slogan. 1 Corinthians 3:11 has much to commend it, including a long history of use. It was often quoted by Menno Simons in his writings. The General Conference Mennonite Church used it for many years as a “theme verse.” It appeared on the letterhead of Conference of Mennonites in Canada from 1965 to 2000 and in the CMC constitutions of 1977, 1983, 1988, 1991 and 1995—usually quoted at the bottom of the “foreword” page.

What do you think?

There are many other scriptures that also commend themselves for such a purpose—let us know your preferences.

1. Some scripture verses represent our vision and purpose statements—e.g., 2 Cor. 5:20 commends itself as a statement of the missional understanding of the church.
2. Perhaps you would recommend a verse to reflect something about our understanding of the church—e.g., Eph. 4:15 or Eph. 3:19-20.
3. Or you may prefer one that focuses on who God is—e.g., Rev. 4:11?
4. Are you drawn to a verse that holds up an ideal as a challenge, an imperative statement such as Matt. 28:18-20 or 1 Cor. 1:10?
5. Or do you prefer one that declares something of our conviction about who we are, an indicative statement, like 1 Peter 2:9?
6. Should it speak primarily to ourselves, i.e., members of Mennonite Church Canada (such as Deut. 3:4), or primarily be a witness to others of our convictions (possibly Romans 10:9)?
7. You might recommend 1 Corinthians 3:11 because of its historical significance (in the spirit of Phil. 3:16); or something new to catch attention and lead us into the future (in the spirit of Phil. 3:13-14).

Write us!

(600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4), send us a fax (204-831-5675) or email (scriptureslogan@mennonitechurch.ca,) and tell us:

- a) What scripture verse you recommend as MC Canada’s scripture slogan.
- b) Why you think this is a particularly good choice.
- c) What translation you prefer.

Don’t forget to attach your name and contact information. And please tell us what church you attend. Group discerned recommendations are particularly encouraged. Please identify your family, Sunday school class, youth group, small group when you write.

Submissions received by Jan 2, 2006 will be considered by the General Board as it prepares a recommendation for the 2006 assembly.