

VALUES

October 2009

The Pastors Connection

"Values"

Conestoga members walk in the footsteps of generations who faithfully impacted Christ's kingdom. Farms and businesses were run by Godly principles blessing our community with employment and resources. People came to Christ. Churches were planted. Missionaries were commissioned. A retirement home, Christian school, summer camp and Re-Uzit were started and flourished.

By seeking to listen to our story and God's heart for our generation I've formed a draft of values to define what motivates us. What follows is adapted according to feedback I received from the draft distributed during worship September 20th. I list them below to invite the wider circle who receives Connections to also shape this draft. I list them also to give members another venue to review them. Thank you for your feedback!

We hold as **Guiding Values** that we:

Listen Attentively: We listen as God speaks through scripture,¹ Jesus,² and His Spirit in people³ to transform our minds and lives setting us free in Him⁴.

Live Joyfully: Christ's Spirit pours healing and hope through us drawing individuals, families and our tri-county communities toward God and one another.⁵

Worship Responsively: Worship of the God who first loves us⁶ is a lifestyle of celebration, prayer, rest, work and service that glorifies God and encourages others⁷.

Educate Dynamically: Leaders equip members who mentor others⁸ to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God⁹ so we all grow in the knowledge of Christ.

Fellowship Wholesomely: Community deepens when forgiveness, truth and grace is expressed;¹⁰ and when we honor our heritage¹¹ in the Mennonite family of faith.

Steward Actively: Active care of all we are and own¹² enables us to partner generously with Christ to fulfill His mission by enlarging justice and mercy on earth¹³,

Witness Boldly: Telling others that Jesus is the victor over sin and death¹⁴ invites them to consider a Christ centered life¹⁵ replacing prejudice with peacemaking¹⁶.

Celebrate Eternally: Restoration is God's desire for all creation¹⁷; motivating us to strive for excellence relevant to God's purposes for our generation¹⁸.

I invite referencing the scriptures. Expression of concern, affirmation or counsel is welcomed. The goal is to come to one mind so that having shaped the words, the words will shape us.

Living His story with you,
Pastor Bob

*Textual references: (1)-II Tim.3:16, (2)-Jn. 1, (3)-Acts 15:6-28, (4)-Gal. 5:13-14, (5)-Acts 2:38-47, (6)-I Jn. 4:10-13, (7)-Is. 58:3-9, (8)-Eph. 4:11-13, (9)-Micah 6:8, (10)-I Jn. 1:7, (11)-Eph. 6:2-3, (12)-Gen. 2:15, (13)-Lk. 4:18-21, (14)-II Tim. 1:8-10, (15)-Acts 3:1-8, (16)-II Cor. 5:14-19, (17)-Jn. 3:16-17, (18)-Heb. 12:1-3