



Lifestyle Covenant

Shared Beliefs and Values: Virginia Mennonite Missions embraces the teachings of the 1995 *Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective*. God is the creator of all that exists. The Bible is our fully inspired and trustworthy guide for who God is, what God is doing in the world, and how we can live as God's people. Scripture also exposes the sin that holds us and our world captive to the forces of evil. We can find salvation through Christ alone. Through the atoning and victorious work of Christ's life, death, and resurrection we may be reconciled to God. All who open themselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit can experience forgiveness, healing, new life, and a new community of peace and joy. As baptized believers, we proclaim and live out the good news of Jesus Christ in the midst of a broken world. We gather regularly to worship and celebrate, discern God's will, give and receive counsel, bear one another's burdens, and be sent into God's mission in the world. We seek to be peacemakers and wise stewards of the resources God has given us. Though we often fall short of God's plan, the church is the foretaste and instrument of God's reconciling activity in the world. We look forward to the day when Jesus Christ will return to make all things new.

Mission: VMMissions equips the church to share new life in Jesus Christ with neighbors near and far.

Vision: VMMissions envisions a Spirit-filled church of many cultures living out God's kingdom in every sphere of life.

Personal Qualities: VMMissions believes that certain shared commitments are essential for participation in God's mission. VMMissions seeks people who:

- Live daily under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture.
- Participate in a local fellowship as available in the assigned place of service.
- Express faith in ways that help others to know God through Jesus Christ.
- Adapt to different cultural and social environments with sensitivity to local believers regarding appearance, conduct, values, and traditions.
- Nurture their own emotional, social, spiritual, and physical well-being.
- Adopt a lifestyle consistent with the biblical teachings of respect for all life including peacemaking, non-violence, compassion, and stewardship of creation.
- Demonstrate willingness, as guests, to respect the host culture.
- Embrace sexual wholeness and reserve sexual activity for a marriage relationship between one male and one female and refrain from supporting other sexual activity or practice (premarital, extramarital, and homosexual).
- Practice self-control by refraining from pornography, substance abuse and other addictive behaviors.
- Recognize God's presence in the global church as well as in individual caring communities.
- Are accountable to appropriate and designated supervision.

I recognize that as a representative of VMMissions, I am an ambassador. I represent Christ, the Christian church, the Mennonite sending community, and VMMissions to everyone I meet. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, affirm, and commit to this rule of life while serving in this capacity.

Signed: _____ Date: _____