

# Congregational Covenant



**Shared Beliefs and Values:** 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 Holy Spirit's transforming power can experience forgiveness, healing, new life, and a new community of peace and joy. As baptized believers, we proclaim and live out Jesus Christ's good news in 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.<sup>1</sup>

**Mission:** Evana Network invites people to faithful living in Jesus Christ by forming and enabling congregations to be healing and sending communities.

**Vision:** Evana Network seeks God's direction in calling out and sending forth a growing, ethnically diverse community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to transform the world and to be transformed through Jesus Christ's reconciling work.

**Congregational Qualities:** Evana Network believes that certain shared commitments are essential for participation in God's mission. Evana seeks congregations that:

- Promote daily living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture.
- Participate in Evana Network as a place of equipping for pastors and church leaders.
- Express faith in ways that help others to know God through Jesus Christ.
- Examine our own cultural & social practices in order to remove barriers to knowing Jesus as Lord & Savior.
- Nurture the emotional, social, spiritual, and physical well-being of our local community.
- Adopt congregational values consistent with the biblical teachings of respect for all life including peacemaking, nonviolence, compassion, and stewardship of creation.
- Adopt an approved evangelical Anabaptist confession of faith or theological statement as the congregational confession.
- Be committed to respecting and serving the local community.
- Embrace sexual wholeness and reserve sexual activity for holy matrimony, a covenant between one male and one female for life, and refrain from supporting other sexual activity or practice.
- Encourage self-control by refraining from destructive and addictive behaviors and help others to find healing and freedom from the same.
- Implement church policies to protect against abuse and also develop processes on how to care for those who have experienced harm.
- Recognize God's presence in the global church as well as in individual caring communities.
- Adopt Evana Network's values and by-law changes within the congregation. These by-law changes include only calling pastors & leadership board members who have themselves made Evana's Personal Covenant.

We recognize that as a member or partner congregation of Evana Network, we are ambassadors. We represent Christ, the Christian church, Evana Network, and ourselves to everyone. By signing below, we acknowledge that we adopt this rule of life within our congregation as we are joined with Evana Network.

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Signature

Date

(Elder or Congregational chair, please include signatures of other board members on the reverse side)

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Signature

Date

(Lead Pastor, please include signatures of other pastors on the reverse side)

<sup>1</sup> Evana Network embraces the teachings of the *Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective*, 1995.