

Baptism and Membership

Baptism is an act of membership. If membership reveals identity, service, and accountability with Christ and his Church, can baptism be any less? Who would officiate at a wedding where a couple did not expect to live together? The rich meaning of baptism, as a covenantal act of membership, belongs to basic Christian education.

Catechism, anyone?

A catechism provides an orderly overview of Christian teachings on many subjects. This could include the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. How does your congregation use these summaries of Christian teaching and ethics?

Close to Home (list) from MennoMedia

Bullying	Child Abuse
Gambling Addiction	Acquaintance Rape
Electronic Addiction	Overwhelming Debt
Spousal Abuse	Infertility
Eating Disorders	Bi-polar Disorder
Pornography	Elder Abuse
Alcoholism	Dementia
Depression	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Extreme Anxiety	Self-Harm
Marital Discord	Teenage Pregnancy
Drug Addiction	

Revised Common Lectionary

The Revised Common Lectionary provides weekly OT, Gospel, and NT selections to guide weekly worship and instruction. It is free at various websites, including at Vanderbilt Divinity School (the RCL is being supported, not necessarily Vanderbilt). Why not learn from the lectionary's discipline? Here's a suggestion: base the service and sermon on at least three publicly read passages (OT, Gospels, later NT) that show how Scripture leads to Christ, tells of his life, and reflects on him.

Preaching is a Dialogue

Is preaching an outdated, boring monologue? Not necessarily. Effective preaching welcomes and anticipates listeners' questions and concerns. A sermon is a divine-human dialogue. God starts the discussion through His Spirit and Word within a pastor's heart long before the sermon leaves the study. In its style of writing and presentation, a sermon is a dialogue in the pulpit before it ever crosses into the pews—where many other dialogues begin.

The Christian Life booklet

The Christian Life booklet is being revised, a two-year project of the EM, EMM, and Chortitzer conferences. Meanwhile, the current version will remain available.

Key Links

- ◆ www.acf-film.com (Audio Cine Films video licensing)
- ◆ www.mennomedia.org (Christian Education materials)
 - www.faithandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice
 - www.faithandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome
 - www.mpn.net/worship
- ◆ www.emconference.ca
 - www.emconference.ca/ce-resources
 - www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos
 - www.emconference.ca/catalogue
 - www.emconference.ca/worship-resources
- ◆ resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver
- ◆ www.mennonitechurch.ca (*What is an Anabaptist Christian?* booklet)
- ◆ www.themeetinghouse.ca (*Inglorious Pastors* series)
- ◆ re-worship.blogspot.com (Dr. Christine Longhurst's worship blog) and faithmatters.ca
- ◆ www.cmu.ca/portable.html (CMU short courses)

Blessings on the teaching ministries within your churches!

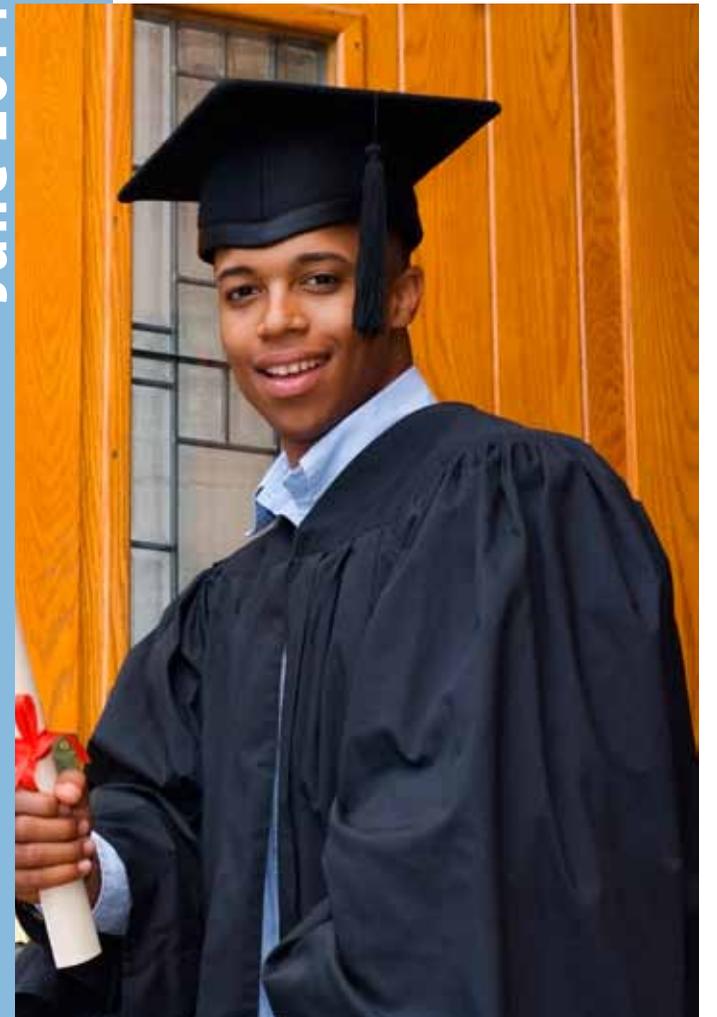
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Christian Education Update

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Licensing Questions

Q: Does my local EMC church need to purchase its own music license?

A: Yes, the conference license through CCLI only covers music use at regional and national events, not your local church.

Q: Does my local EMC church need to purchase its own video license?

A: It depends. If the specific film title is covered by Audio Cine Films (check its website), your local church is covered by a conference-wide license and the answer is no. But if the film is not covered, the church would either not use the film or would have to purchase a license from another supplier.

Q: Does my local EMC church need to purchase its own CCVL?

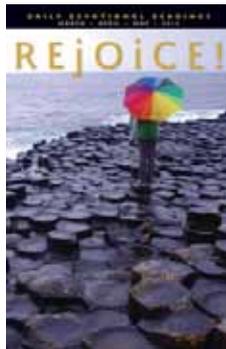
A: If it wants one, yes. ACF's license and CCVL are not the same.

Q: My local church livestreams our services, including music, beyond our building. Do we need a live streaming music license?

A: Yes, according to our information. The conference has purchased one for its regional and national use, but this does not cover local churches.

Resources for EMC Churches

- For Sunday School or Vacation Bible School materials, small group books, youth materials and more, check out **MennoMedia** (www.mennomedia.org) for a full product listing.
- A **List of Resources** is available at www.emconference.ca/ce-resources to assist in your church's teaching ministries.
- **Ancient Future: A Mennonite Catechism**, an 18-lesson guide on Christian beliefs within an Anabaptist perspective, is available free from Fort Garry EMC (in electronic version). Contact Fort Garry EMC at 204-261-1084 or fortgarryemc@mts.net.
- A **2011 Peace and Discipleship Sermons by EMCers** booklet is available (pdf at www.emconference.ca/ce-resources)
- **Rejoice!** is an Anabaptist daily devotional guide produced by MennoMedia (www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice).
- **Theodidaktos: Journal for EMC Theology and Education** (editor Darryl G. Klassen) is available free on-line (www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos) and in print. The *Journal* provides an in-depth look at issues and a voice for EMCers.

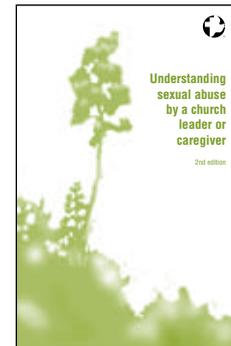


- **What is an Anabaptist Christian?** is a booklet from Mennonite Church Canada that can be downloaded free (www.mennonitechurch.ca, search "Anabaptist Christian"). It focuses on "Jesus is the center of our faith. Community is the center of our lives. Reconciliation is the center of our work."
- A free **Worship Guide** is available from www.mpn.net/worship, produced by Mennonite Church USA and MC Canada.
- **Close to Home** by MennoMedia is a contemporary series of pamphlets on many issues faced by EMCers. Please check www.faihandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome for a full listing of titles printed and others being planned. (See later in *C.E. Update*.)
- The **EMC Video Resource Library** catalogue is online at www.emconference.ca/catalogue. Rental fees are designed on a cost-recovery basis to help maintain and expand the library. Title suggestions are welcomed.
- Need helping in planning a worship service? A **Worship Service Handbook**, produced by Dave Wiebe (Taber EMC), reflects some of his MA studies at Briercrest Seminary. An electronic copy is available free, posted on the EMC website (www.emconference.ca/worship-resources).



Free Booklet to 'spare much grief'

An updated booklet *Understanding sexual abuse by a church leader or caregiver* is available free from MCC. Sexual abuse by church leaders is a topic many avoid, says MCC, but "the knowledge and understanding this booklet provides could spare so much grief in the church." Call 888-622-6337 or download it (resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver).



Some Useful Writings on Arminian Theology

"Mennonites have been historically Arminian in their theology," said Dr. Harold Bender, "whether they distinctly espoused the Arminian viewpoint or not." A short list of Arminian materials is available upon request to assist leaders interested in further study.

Worship Blog and Seminars

Dr. Christine Longhurst, a Mennonite Brethren educator, has a blog: re-worship.blogspot.ca. Worship workshops and seminars for local churches can be found at faithmatters.ca.

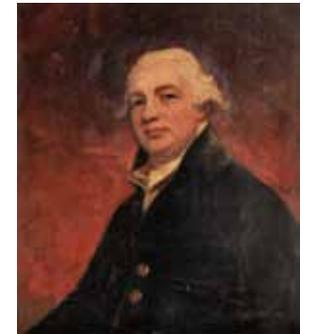


CMU Short Courses

Canadian Mennonite University offers 17 short courses (three or four sessions) on a range of topics to be held in area churches (www.cmu.ca/portable.html). It is possible that other educational institutions in your region do the same.

When Sunday School Was Opposed

Robert Raikes (1735-1811), a newspaper editor and publisher in England, met Thomas Stock, who had started a Sunday School to serve neglected children. Raikes began one in his parish in 1780. Schools later started in other parts of England and then Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and America. Raikes' school taught children manners, to read and to write, and Bible instruction. Child labour was common in the British Isles; education was needed but hard to obtain. The schools met on Sunday, the children's day of rest.



Robert Raikes

In its early years, Sunday School was sometimes opposed, often by ministers: it was seen as the devil's agent, did not honour parents, might divide the church, would educate lower class people who would become dissatisfied with their low pay, and end the amusement of others.

With the help of Queen Victoria, John Wesley, William Fox, and many others, it succeeded.

Sources: C. B. Eavey, *History of Christian Education* (Moody, 1964); K. O. Gangel and W. S. Benson, *Christian Education: Its Philosophy and History* (Moody, 1983); "Raikes, Robert," *Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Zondervan, 1978).