

This year I commit to deepening our community and core values



through  
**Prayer**  
by  
praying for others in my church  
community

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through  
**Gratitude**  
by being thankful for the people in  
my life, recognizing God's design and  
desire for deep relationship

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through  
**Study**  
by  
learning more about Mennonite  
history and/or theology

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through  
**Vulnerability**  
and Trust  
by cultivating a culture in which we  
can share and be heard safely

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through  
**Scripture**  
by  
choosing to read the Bible through  
the lens of the life, ministry, and  
restorative mission of Jesus

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through  
**Expansion**  
of our understandings:  
by giving value to others' experiences  
and thoughts

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through Intentional  
**Awareness**  
by acknowledging God's presence in  
all people and all creation, and  
participating in that sense of  
belonging and inclusion

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through  
**Experience**  
by gathering with other believers in  
worship and service opportunities,  
especially ones that stretch my  
comfort zone

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through  
**Hospitality**  
and  
finding ways to experience joy  
through relationships

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through  
**Collaboration**  
by working together with others,  
recognizing each other's gifts and  
serving humbly

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through  
**Encouragement**  
by expressing empathy, choosing to  
build each other up and providing  
hope

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through  
**Searching**  
my own heart:  
and asking questions about my  
identity and relationship to others  
and Christ

### **Gratitude**

- Say a prayer of gratitude for each person you meet.
- Deliberately reflect on the positive influences and deep relationships you have with the people closest to you.

### **Vulnerability**

- Create spaces for “real” conversations; don’t be afraid to open up, and no “judgey”ness allowed!
- Can your church find a way to share struggles and walk alongside each other? Prayer partners, prayer request “line”, small groups, etc.

### **Expansion of our understandings**

- Join the worship service of a church led by people from a different culture.
- Find the website of another MCA congregation and listen to/read some sermons posted there.
- Challenge ourselves about preconceptions or biases we may have.

### **Experience**

- Try something new (even better if you do it together with someone else)—a new way of praying, worshiping or serving.
- Try doing something familiar but with someone new.
  - God is good and the life God gives is good. Celebrate!

### **Collaboration**

- Join a committee or action group in your church or MCA
- Volunteer in your weekly worship service or mid-week programming
  - Mentor or be mentored.

### **Searching my own heart**

- Ask yourself some questions: Who am I? Who is my brother/sister? Who do I include/exclude? What does being a Christian/Mennonite really mean to me? Where does “family” begin and end? When do I spend time just with Jesus/God?
- Do some research on the “God house” within each of us.

### **Prayer**

- Pray for your church community as a whole and/or small groups or committees.
  - Pray through your church directory.
  - Start a prayer circle in your church.

### **Study**

- Listen to podcasts.
- Read a new book (or partner with another person to both read the same book).
  - Join a study group.

### **Scripture**

- Try reading the Bible in a new way: the way of the mystics, using “we” instead of “I”, and/or framed through a key word like “love”, “covenant” or “healing”.
- Use a commentary to find all the references to specific words, especially ones that relate to community or the church.

### **Intentional Awareness**

- In every conversation remind yourself that both you and the other person are beloved children of God.
- Look for the “Divine Spark” in all of the created world (beauty, justice, mercy, humility, love, joy, creativity, etc.) and let it bring peace and balance to your life.

### **Hospitality**

- Surprise someone each week with a cup of tea/coffee.
- Invite someone new into your home each week, or to go for a walk with you.
- Invite someone to church (without a secret agenda!) Leave it up to the Holy Spirit to see what happens next.

### **Encouragement**

- Write a note, thanking someone each week for some small thing they did.
- Use the gift of listening and ask the Holy Spirit to supply the right words if any are needed.