

CBOQ Core Values

Core values are beliefs which Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ)—and the people who inhabit it—hold in common and endeavour to put into action.

Faith

- We are committed to the adoration and worship of God
- We cherish a personal and growing experience of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord as the heart of our faith
- We depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit in our corporate decision-making and seek the Spirit's empowering of our ministries through prayer
- We value our distinctive combination of beliefs, which helps to identify us as Baptists:
 - The Lordship of Christ
 - The Authority of Scripture in matters of faith and practice
 - The Priesthood of all believers
 - A believer's church - the church which consists of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, visibly expressing their faith in local church membership upon profession of faith and baptism
 - Two ordinances: believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's supper, which are symbols of spiritual realities
 - Soul liberty and freedom of conscience
 - Autonomous and interdependent local churches who together constitute the body of Christ as part of the church universal
 - The local church as a community of persons who covenant together how they will walk in obedience to Christ
 - The independence of Church and State

Community

- We value our sense of community in Christ in CBOQ, in Associations and other groups, in local churches and with other Christians as God's people, recognizing our accountability to each other.
- We value a community shaped by:
 - Our Baptist distinctive
 - Our shared experiences and relationships
 - Our common mission
- Our faith community is characterized by a deep concern for:
 - The sanctity of life
 - Care for the vulnerable
 - Family integrity
 - Careful stewardship of God's creation
- Our community honours the diversity that exists amongst us



Mission

- Our unifying purpose is to glorify God through reaching individuals for Christ through our witness to Christ's presence, love and saving power. We recognize the imperatives of the Great Commission to go and make disciples and the Great Commandment to love God and neighbour, serving others through social care and striving for justice and peace for all people
- We acknowledge that the local church undertakes mission at home and around the globe. It is CBOQ, Associations and mission organizations such as Baptist Women and Canadian Baptist Ministries that provide assistance and support to local churches to make choices and establish direction for mission

Churches

- We place importance on the local congregation as the body of believers established for worship, spiritual growth, fellowship and mission
- Churches minister to those within the body and lead in mission to those outside the body, promoting trust and love amongst both, and striving for spiritual wholeness and health in a safe environment
- We recognize the autonomy of the local congregation to act according to its understanding of God's will

Cooperation

- We promote voluntary partnerships with others to do things which individual churches can accomplish more effectively together
- We value our associations with others in mission, spiritual growth and fellowship
- We strive to build trust through establishing relationships and undertaking joint equal endeavours committed to carrying out our responsibilities and obligations



Leadership

- We recognize, as a priority focus, the development, training and support of pastoral leaders
- We place equal importance on the training of the laity for effective Christian service and witness
- We place emphasis on identifying, developing, training and supporting individuals (often working in teams) to provide effective pastoral and lay leadership to churches, Associations and CBOQ, in Canada and the world

Learning

- We place special importance on each individual learning to be a disciple, a lifelong process which involves studying Scripture, reflecting on and practicing faith, engaging in personal and corporate mission and discerning and using spiritual gifts
- We place emphasis on the local congregation as a place for both personal and corporate learning

Prayer

- We are convinced that effectiveness in ministry is dependent upon prayer. Therefore, the dreaming, planning and execution of ministry will be saturated in prayer