

## The child and the congregation

The birth of a child is an expression of God's work in creation. In a service of consecration, we praise God and bring the child into a relationship with the body of Christ.

Infants presented to God and the church are placed in the care of the congregation. In this consecration service, Christian parents commit themselves to the call to nurture their children into faith.<sup>1</sup>

Pilgram Marpeck, in his Confession of 1532, states, "We admonish the parents to cleanse their conscience, as much as lies in them, with respect to the child, to do whatever is needed to raise the child up to the praise and glory of God, and to commit the child to God."<sup>2</sup>

Infants and children have no need for baptism, since they are safe in the care of God. When they are able to be accountable for their own actions, they are able to make the church's faith their own.<sup>3</sup>

1. Paragraphs one and two are based on the 1998 *Minister's Manual*, page 121
2. From *The Writings of Pilgram Marpeck* (1978, Herald Press, Scottsdale), page 147
3. From *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, Article 11, Commentary, item 2

CERTIFICATE OF PARENT AND CHILD DEDICATION  
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# Certificate of Parent and Child Dedication

in the  
Mennonite Church



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**F**or it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

—David in Psalm 139:13-14a

**F**or this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.

—Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:27-28

**K**eep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

—Moses in Deuteronomy 6:6-7

**L**et the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. . . . And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

—Jesus in

Mark 10:14, 16



**This certifies that**

\_\_\_\_\_ (parents' names)

presented themselves  
in dedication to God and  
to the Christian nurture of

\_\_\_\_\_ (child's name)

born \_\_\_\_\_

(date)

in \_\_\_\_\_

(place of birth)

They were joined in this service  
of dedication by the brothers  
and sisters of

\_\_\_\_\_ (church name)

in \_\_\_\_\_

(city, state/province)

who share with them in mutual love,  
praying that together they may be nurtured  
in the faith and service of Jesus Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (minister[s])