

## **Confessions of Faith**

From its early years the Remonstrants have aimed at being a church which allows room for a variety of views. They were not against a creed as such: what they were against was a tyrannical use of it. Such a use is opposed to the testimony of the Bible itself and also in conflict with human conscience, they say. For this reason the Confessions of Faith of 1621 and 1940 were to be appreciated as declarations and professions of faith: they were beacons and sign posts, but were never to be used to condemn views of others.

In this same way, they have accepted their new Confession of Faith in their General Assembly of June 10, 2006. The introduction to this Confession states that in the Remonstrant point of view no confession is indisputable. It has no other intention than "to point out the road, carefully and lovingly".

### **The Confession of Faith of 2006**

We are aware and we affirm

that we do not find our peace in the certainty of what we confess,  
but in wonder of what befalls us and what we are given;

that we do not find our destination in indifference and greed,  
but in vigilance and in connection with all that lives;

that our existence is not fulfilled by who we are and what we possess,  
but by what is infinitely greater than we can contain.

Guided by this awareness, we believe in God's Spirit  
who transcends all that divides people  
and inspires them to what is holy and good,  
that in singing and in silence,  
in prayer and in work,  
they worship and serve God.

We believe in Jesus, a Spirit-filled human,  
the face of God, seeing us and disturbing us.  
He loved humanity and was crucified  
but he lives, beyond his own and our death.  
He is our holy example of wisdom and courage  
and he brings God's eternal love close to us.

We believe in God, the Eternal,  
who is love unfathomed, the ground of being,  
who shows us the way of freedom and justice  
and beckons us to a future of peace.

We believe that  
weak and fallible though we are,  
we are called to be church,  
connected to Christ and all who believe,  
in the sign of hope.

For we believe in the future of God and the world,  
in a divine patience that gives time  
to live and to die and to rise,  
in the kingdom that is and will come,  
where God will be for eternity: all in all.

To God be the glory and honour  
in time and eternity.

Amen

The Confession was put to [music](#) by Hans Jacobi.

<http://www.remonstranten.org/site/index.php?page=beliefs>

## What do we believe?

*The Remonstrant Church is a community of faith which, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and true to its principle of freedom and tolerance, seeks to worship and serve God.*

Ever since their [foundation](#) in 1619 the Remonstrant Church has been a community of discerning, curious, freethinking people, where a high emphasis is placed on tolerance, freedom of faith and thinking. Remonstrants have always contributed to the modernization of theology. They were one of the first to allow women to become ministers and they were among the founding members of the [World Council of Churches](#). In 1986 they were the first church in the world to bless marriages of same-sex couples.

## The Statement of Principle

The Statement of Principle mentioned above sets out what motivates Remonstrants. This Statement can be viewed as a charter which unites them as a religious community. New members declare their agreement with it. The Statement does not say what to believe, but leaves room for everyone's own beliefs. In this way it is not a confession, but rather a description of the kind of community the Remonstrant Church wants to be.

By signing the Statement people indicate that they subscribe the goals and principles of the Remonstrants, and that they want to be a part of the community. In addition, each Remonstrant is allowed and encouraged to write his/her own confession of faith.

Apart from the Statement of Principle, over the years there have been three common [Confessions of Faith](#), the last of which was written by the cooperating Remonstrant ministers in 2006.

## What do we think about...

### ... the Bible

Remonstrants see the Bible as a special and inspiring collection of testimonies. It testifies of people's experience of a presence or absence of God in their lives and in the world. It is a special book, because its stories can still guide us today towards an understanding of how God and humanity can be united. The history of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the words of the prophets, the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth: all are still of relevance for today's world.



### **... Baptism**

Baptism is seen as the ritual by which the message of God's creative and recreative power is revealed to the individual in the community of faith. Baptism is done in the name of the father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. When baptised, one is accepted into the Universal Church of Christ: we do not automatically consider children that are baptised a member of our specific community.

We have a baptism for children and for adults. Baptising a child stands for the acknowledgment by the congregation and by the parents that their children, from the moment of birth, are safe in God's grace.

### **... the Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is the sharing of bread and wine and the celebration of the community of Faith. It is done in remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Participation in the Lord's Supper is open to anyone "who sincerely wishes to take part in this Supper in communion with Christ" whether he or she is a member of the Remonstrant or another church or of no church at all. In most Remonstrant congregations the Lord's Supper is celebrated several times a year.

**Please complete the form below if you want to know more about the Remonstrant Church and possibilities to join as a member.**