



In January 2006, the student ministry for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students at CBC changed its name to TREK. Prior to that it was known as MBY (“Mennonite Brethren Youth”), but we desired a name that better reflected who we are (identity) and what we’re about (purpose).

So...why TREK? We’re glad you asked! Below is the definition of the noun form:

trek (trĕk) *n.* **1.** A journey or leg of a journey, esp. when slow or difficult. **2.** A migration. **3.** A journey by ox wagon in South Africa. [Afr., to travel by ox wagon < Du. *trekken*, to travel.]

I can’t comment on the South African ox wagon part, but a “trek” by definition is a *journey*, a migration from one point to another. Collectively, *all* of us are on this journey called life. Spiritually speaking, some don’t know Jesus yet, some are growing to know Him, and some are passionate about living for Jesus. But no matter each traveler’s point along the spiritual journey, we come together to grow and learn what it means to follow hard after Jesus.

Below are some key words or concepts that accompany the letters T-R-E-K:

- **T – Transformation**. Our student ministries are focused on bringing significant and lasting transformation (Romans 12:1-2). We desire to allow God to change us from the inside out and transform who we are and how we live.
- **R – Relationships**. CBC’s vision statement is “*building relationships with God, family, and community.*” Relationships are so important, especially during the teenage years, and we want to be about building relationships that will help us live life to the fullest (John 10:10).
- **E – Exalting, evangelizing, encouraging, equipping, extending**. Sound familiar? These are the “5 E’s” or core values of CBC, and we want to live these out in youth group too:
  - Exalting God through worship
  - Evangelizing others through outreach
  - Encouraging people through fellowship
  - Equipping people through discipleship
  - Extending love through ministry
- **K – Kingdom-building**. Our goal is not to build our own little “kingdoms” but rather to advance *God’s* Kingdom on earth. In other words, we have a *mission* to positively affect the world around us for *God’s* glory, not our own. TREK provides many opportunities for kingdom-building through regular weekly meetings, mission trips, service projects, etc.

As a youth group of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and caring adult sponsors, TREK is about *following hard after Jesus*. A trek is not a quick joy ride – it may be slow or difficult at times, but it is journey worth savoring and enjoying. Are you ready? *Then let the journey begin!*