



Mennonite Church Manitoba

Constitution and General Operating Bylaw

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MENNONITE CHURCH MANITOBA

Constitution and General Operating Bylaw

ARTICLE I. GENERAL

I. Name

The name of the Corporation shall be **Mennonite Church Manitoba, Incorporated** (also referred to as “Mennonite Church Manitoba” and abbreviated as “MCM”) as set forth in the Letters Patent.

II. Head Office

The head office of the Corporation shall be in the City of Winnipeg, in Manitoba, or at such other place as the members of the Corporation may from time to time decide.

III. Corporate Seal

The seal of the Corporation shall have inscribed on it the name of the Corporation, and it shall be in the form impressed on the margin of the original copy of this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw.

IV. Fiscal Year

The Corporation’s fiscal year shall be the calendar year, and it shall end on the last day of December of each year, or as may otherwise be determined by the board.

V. Definitions

As used in this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed, namely:

“*Act*” shall mean Manitoba’s *The Corporations Act* as amended from time to time, or any successor legislation governing non-share corporations.

“*Church*” in the upper case “C” (Church) shall mean Mennonite Church Manitoba.

“*Conference*” shall mean Mennonite Church Manitoba.

“*Congregation*” shall mean a group or association of individual persons, whether or not it is formally incorporated, which meets regularly for Christian worship, and which conducts or participates in programs and activities designed to further its religious objectives.

“*Confession of Faith*” shall mean the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* adopted in 1995 by the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Church, and subsequently by Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church Manitoba.

“*Corporation*” shall mean Mennonite Church Manitoba.



“*Delegate*” shall mean an individual person who is authorized to represent a congregation which is a member of Mennonite Church Manitoba, at a general session or special session of MCM, and to speak and vote at that session on behalf of the member congregation which he or she represents.

“*General Session*” shall mean the annual general meeting of members of MCM.

“*Letters Patent*” shall mean the incorporating document creating the Conference of Mennonites in Manitoba, namely the Letters Patent of Incorporation dated the 29th day of November, 1963, as amended by Articles of Amendment dated the 20th day of September, 1982, and further amended, changing the name to Mennonite Church Manitoba, by Article of Amendment dated the 20th day of September, 2001.

“*Member*” (sometimes referred to as “congregational member”) shall mean a congregation which has been accepted as a member of MCM pursuant to the terms of this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw or pursuant to any previous Constitution governing the Conference, and which congregation has not terminated its membership in MCM or had its membership revoked by MCM.

“*Special Session*” shall mean any general meeting of the members of Mennonite Church Manitoba other than the general session.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Conference shall be as set forth in the *Vision and Mission Statement* of Mennonite Church Manitoba, attached to this Constitution as Appendix “A”.

The Conference shall in all matters be governed by its *Confession of Faith*, a summary of which is attached to this Constitution as Appendix “B”. Notwithstanding the attached summary, any questions relating to the *Confession of Faith* shall be dealt with by reference to the full *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, reference copies of which shall be kept in the MCM head office.

Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be associated with and work cooperatively with Mennonite Church Canada, or with any respective successor conferences or organizations.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND POLITY

I. Membership

- a) Eligibility - A congregation in or near the province of Manitoba that is in substantial agreement with the *Confession of Faith* and each tenet therein, and that is in agreement with this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw, including all appendices hereto, is eligible for membership in Mennonite Church Manitoba.



- b) Application for Membership - A congregation that wishes to become a member of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall present a written application for membership to the Conference head office at least one full month prior to the next general session of the Conference.
- c) Granting of Membership - Membership in Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be granted by a majority vote of the delegates approving an application for membership, at a general or special session of MCM, and may be subject to such conditions, if any, as the members determine.
- d) Withdrawal of Membership - Any congregation which is a member of Mennonite Church Manitoba may withdraw its membership and is strongly encouraged to use a process with the following steps:
1. Notify the MCM head office of its intentions,
 2. Engage in a period of prayer and discernment of up to one (1) year as follows:
 - i. Meet with representatives of the MCM Board of Directors and staff to review the issues and reasons for withdrawal,
 - ii. Be open to further dialogue between congregational leaders, the congregation, other MCM congregations and MCM representatives to work at resolving any outstanding issues.
 - iii. If resolution of the issues cannot be reached, to process the question of withdrawal with the congregation.
 3. Notify the MCM head office in writing of the decision regarding withdrawal of membership from MCM.
- e) Revocation of Membership - A congregation which is a member of Mennonite Church Manitoba may have its membership terminated by a 75% majority vote of the delegates approving a resolution to revoke that congregation's membership, at a general or special session of the Conference, provided that the MCM Board of Directors uses the following process:
1. Notify the congregation of MCM's concerns and possible intentions,
 2. Engage in a period of prayer and discernment of not less than (1) year and no more than (2) years as follows:
 - i. Meet with representatives of the congregation to review the issues and reasons for the proposed termination,
 - ii. Enter into further dialogue between congregational leaders, the congregation, other MCM congregations and MCM representatives to work at resolving any outstanding issues,
 - iii. If resolution of the issues cannot be reached, give the congregation written notice of the proposed resolution to revoke its membership, at least 90 days prior to the general or special session at which such resolution is put to a vote.
 3. Notify the congregation in writing of the decision of the MCM delegate session regarding the termination of membership.
- f) Rights and Duties of Members - Members shall enjoy the following rights and carry out the following duties, namely:
1. Full participation in planning for and decision-making of Mennonite Church Manitoba
 2. Participation in the election of the Board of Directors and of the Moderator of Mennonite Church Manitoba.



3. Supporting Mennonite Church Manitoba and its ministries, by participating in its general and special sessions, by participating in other events presented or promoted by Mennonite Church Manitoba, by prayerfully promoting its ministries to and among the individual members of the congregations, and by providing financial support to Mennonite Church Manitoba and its ministries.
- g) Mennonite Church Canada Membership – A congregation that is granted membership in Mennonite Church Manitoba also becomes a member of Mennonite Church Canada. The entitlements and expectations of membership are outlined in the Mennonite Church Canada General Bylaws.
 - h) Affiliate Membership – Affiliate membership is open to a congregation that:
 1. Is a new and emerging or multiple denomination congregation and/or
 2. Is committed to exploring and discerning the meaning of full membership; and,
 3. Meets the eligibility requirement in Article III 1. a);

Affiliate Membership:

1. Will be considered on application in writing in accordance with Article III 1. b);
2. Will be granted on the basis of five (5) year renewable terms with a period of prayer and discernment at the end of each term;
3. Carries with it the rights and duties of members identified in Article III 1. f) except that:
 - i. Their delegates are not entitled to vote at delegate sessions;
 - ii. Their congregational members may be elected to Mennonite Church Manitoba committees, reference groups or related organizations, but may not serve on the Board of Directors.

II. Polity of Congregational - Conference Relationships

- a) The local congregation is the body of Christ and is organized to represent Christ in worship, fellowship, service and education. Individual congregations shall retain full privileges of self- determination in their own programs. However, membership in Mennonite Church Manitoba requires the congregation's responsible support of resolutions and ministries developed by the congregational members working together as Mennonite Church Manitoba.
- b) Mennonite Church Manitoba is the body of Christ. Its function is to administer the ministries assigned to it by its member congregations. In fulfilling this mission Mennonite Church Manitoba seeks to serve and strengthen the local congregations, not to control them. The member congregations, on the other hand, have the responsibility of supporting Mennonite Church Manitoba in fulfilling its assigned tasks.

ARTICLE IV. DELEGATE MEETINGS

I. Meetings

- a) Mennonite Church Manitoba shall hold a general session annually, at such a time and place as may be determined by the Board of Directors.



- b) The Board of Directors may call a special session of Mennonite Church Manitoba as and when they determine such a session is necessary or appropriate.
- c) The Board of Directors shall call a special session of Mennonite Church Manitoba upon receipt of a proper written request for such a meeting, such session to be held within two months of the date on which such written request is provided to Mennonite Church Manitoba head office. Such written request shall be deemed to be proper if it is signed by at least five member congregations, and if it clearly identifies the matters to be discussed at the special session.

II. Notice of Meetings

- a) The date(s) and location(s) of every general session shall be provided by the Board of Directors to each member congregation in writing at least four weeks before such meeting.
- b) The date(s) and location(s) of every special session shall be provided by the Board of Directors to each member congregation in writing at least four weeks before such meeting, together with an agenda or notice of the matters intended to be discussed at that special session.
- c) Written notice may be sent by mail, in which case the recipient shall be deemed to have received it within three business days of the date of mailing, or it may be sent by facsimile, e-mail or other electronic transmission as the member congregation may have authorized, in which case the recipient shall be deemed to have it on the next business day following such transmission.

III. Representation by Delegates

- a) Every member congregation shall be entitled to be represented at every general and special session of Mennonite Church Manitoba by delegates selected by that congregation. Although it is preferred, it is not necessary that such delegates be members of the congregation that selects them.
- b) Every member congregation shall be entitled to one delegate for every thirty (30) of its individual members or fraction thereof except that each congregation shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) delegates. Each delegate shall have one vote at the session of Mennonite Church Manitoba for which she or he is selected.
- c) Every member congregation shall present its list of delegates to the secretary of the meeting at which such delegates are authorized to represent that congregation, prior to the commencement of that meeting.
- d) The role of the assembled delegate body shall be as follows, in addition to those matters which are incumbent upon members of non-share corporations by virtue of the Act or by virtue of law:
 1. Elect the Board of Directors
 2. Receive reports of the Board of Directors
 3. Hold the Board of Directors accountable for their actions
 4. Provide policy direction in setting ministry priorities for Mennonite Church Manitoba
 5. Meet annually or as special sessions are called



6. Approve any amendments to this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw
7. Nominate candidates for the Board of Directors

IV. Proxies

Until authorized by law, proxies as such shall not be permitted at any session of Mennonite Church Manitoba.

V. Quorum and Related Matters

- a) The quorum for decision making in any general or special meeting of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be a minimum of 50 persons, representing at least 50% of member congregations with at least 1 delegate each.
- b) Except as may be otherwise provided in this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw, or except as may otherwise be provided in the Letters Patent in the Act or by law, all decisions at any general or special session of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be by simple majority of the votes cast by delegates at that session.
- c) Voting at any general or special session of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be by a show of hands; provided that the Moderator shall call for a ballot vote if such a vote is requested from the floor and the Moderator is of the opinion that it is in the best interests of Mennonite Church Manitoba that such a vote be taken by ballot; and provided that any vote on financial expenditures exceeding \$100,000.00, including the annual budget, shall be taken by ballot.
- d) Written notice of amendments to this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw, or of any new Bylaw or amendments to any Bylaw, shall be provided to the members of Mennonite Church Manitoba at least two months prior to the session at which such resolution is put to a vote. Any such proposed amendments will be deemed to be defeated unless they are passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at the session in which they are considered.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I. Composition

- a) The Board of Directors shall be comprised of eight elected persons, namely a Moderator and seven Directors.
- b) Each director shall be elected as hereinafter provided for a three-year term. No one person shall serve as a Director for more than two consecutive terms or a maximum of six consecutive years; and any person who has served as a Director for two consecutive terms shall not be eligible to serve as a Director again until the expiration of one year following the end of his or her previous term as a Director.
- c) The Directors shall be elected at general sessions of Mennonite Church Manitoba, based on the following regional representation: one Director shall be elected from each of the Eastern, Central and combined Western and Northern regions, and two Directors shall be elected from each of the Southern and Winnipeg regions. The



boundaries of the regions shall be as the Directors may from time to time determine.

- d) The Moderator shall be elected at the general session of Mennonite Church Manitoba for a three year term. No one shall serve as Moderator for more than two consecutive terms (six consecutive years); and any person who has served as Moderator for two consecutive terms shall not be eligible to serve as Moderator again until the expiration of one year following the end of his or her previous term as Moderator.
- e) Each of the Directors and the Moderator shall be members in good standing of a congregation of Mennonite Church Manitoba.
 - f) Employees of MCM may not be elected to the Board of Directors.
 - g) The Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint up to three additional members to provide additional and specific expertise or representation as the board sees fit. When making appointments the board shall define the terms, provided that they do not exceed the outlines of Article V. I. b) of these bylaws.

II. Role of Board of Directors

- a) The Moderator shall act as chairperson of every general and special session of Mennonite Church Manitoba, and at every meeting of the Board of Directors.
- b) The affairs and business of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors, which shall have the control and management of the affairs, property and funds of Mennonite Church Manitoba, and which shall transact all such business on behalf of Mennonite Church Manitoba as shall come before it. The Board of Directors shall carry out the policies and directives of Mennonite Church Manitoba as determined by the members.
- c) The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the following matters, in addition to those matters which are incumbent upon the Board of Directors by virtue of the Act of by virtue of law:
 - 1. Initiate and maintain dialogue with congregations regarding the ministries and policies of Mennonite Church Manitoba.
 - 2. Set broad policy direction for Mennonite Church Manitoba.
 - 3. Develop specific policies for Mennonite Church Manitoba.
 - 4. Approve and monitor ministries as the staff and administration of Mennonite Church Manitoba may develop.
 - 5. Engage and employ an Executive Director for Mennonite Church Manitoba, on such terms and for such remuneration as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
 - 6. Ensure that appropriate candidates are available to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors as such vacancies arise.
 - 7. Provide full reports of the activities of the Board of Directors to the delegate body at every general session of Mennonite Church Manitoba.
 - 8. Appoint committees and define the roles of such committees as outlined in Article



VI.

- d) In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors between general sessions of Mennonite Church Manitoba, including a vacancy in the position of Moderator, the remaining members of the Board may appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy, but such appointment shall be in accordance with the regional representation requirements of the Board (set out above), and shall last only until the next general session of Mennonite Church Manitoba, when the delegates shall fill the vacancy.
- e) The Board of Directors may annually appoint such officers, other than Moderator, from its own membership, with such duties as it may be consider appropriate.

III. General Provisions for the Board of Directors

- a) If all the Directors consent, a Director may participate in a meeting of the Board of Directors by means of such telephone or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and a Director participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting. Any such consent shall be effective whether given before or after the meeting to which it relates, and may be given with respect to all meetings of the Board of Directors held while a Director holds office.
- b) Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any place inside or outside Canada.
- c) Written notice of meetings of the Board of Directors shall be provided to each member of the Board at least seven days prior to such meeting. Notice of an adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors is not required if the time and place of the adjourned meeting is announced at the original meeting. Notices in writing shall be given in accordance with the provisions of Section II (c) of Article IV of this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw.
- d) The Board of Directors may appoint a day or days in any month or months for regular meetings of the Board of Directors at a place and hour to be named. A copy of any such resolution of the Board fixing the place and time of such regular meeting shall be sent to each Director forthwith after being passed, but no other notice shall be required for any such regular meetings, except where the law requires the purpose of such meeting or the business to be transacted at such meeting to be specified.
- e) A Director of the Board who is a party to, or who is a Director or Officer of or has a material interest in any person who is a party to a material contract or proposed material contract with Mennonite Church Manitoba shall disclose the nature and extent of his or her interest at the time and in the manner provided by law. Any such contract or proposed contract shall be referred to the Board of Directors or the members for approval even if such contract is one that in the ordinary course of Mennonite Church Manitoba's business would not require approval by the Board or members, and a Director interested in a contract so referred to the Board shall not vote on any resolution to approve the same except as may be provided by law.
- f) The Moderator and Board of Directors of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall serve without remuneration, and no member of the Board of Directors shall directly or



indirectly receive any profit from her or his position as such. A Director may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by him or her in the performance of her or his duties.

- g) The Board of Directors may exercise all such powers of Mennonite Church Manitoba as are not by law or the Bylaws required to be exercised by the members of Mennonite Church Manitoba. The Board of Directors shall furthermore have power to authorize expenditures on behalf of Mennonite Church Manitoba, subject to any limitations contained in the Bylaws or imposed by the members of Mennonite Church Manitoba. The Board of Directors shall have power to assign specific areas of responsibility to any or all members of the Board of Directors.
- h) The Board of Directors may prescribe such rules and regulations not inconsistent with this constitution and General Operating Bylaw relating to the management and operation of Mennonite Church Manitoba as it deems expedient.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors may appoint committees, either standing committees or ad hoc committees, for such length of time and with such purposes as it may require or deem appropriate, and it may appoint members to and remove members from any such Groups or committees.

ARTICLE VII. ADMINISTRATION

I. Executive Director

- a) The Board of Directors shall engage and employ an Executive Director for Mennonite Church Manitoba, on such terms and for such remuneration as the Board of Directors deems appropriate, and such Executive Director s hall be accountable to the Board of Directors.
- b) The Executive Director shall be responsible for the following matters:
 - 1. Hiring of Ministry Directors, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
 - 2. Hiring of all other staff, subject to the policies of the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Employment and administration matters as they arise from time to time.
 - 4. Implementing policies of the Board of Directors with regard to personnel, finance and ministry areas.
 - 5. Develop recommendations regarding ministry area policies for the Board of Directors.
 - 6. Maintaining dialogue with congregations of Mennonite Church Manitoba.

II. Ministry Directors

- a) Ministry Directors shall be hired by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, for different ministry areas identified by the Board of Directors, and shall be accountable to the Executive Director.



- b) The job requirements and descriptions for each Ministry Director shall be governed by policies established by the Board of Directors.
- c) The Ministry Directors shall be responsible for the following matters:
 - 1. Administer assigned ministry responsibility on behalf of Mennonite Church Manitoba.
 - 2. Dialogue with congregations of Mennonite Church Manitoba.
 - 3. Recruit volunteers as may be necessary for the operation of the ministry area.
 - 4. Work with and relate to relevant committees of the board, at the request of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Recognizing that the Church of Jesus Christ is one, Mennonite Church Manitoba shall seek to relate to and cooperate with other church bodies, both Mennonite and non-Mennonite. In such relationships, Mennonite Church Manitoba shall seek both to learn from and contribute to the larger church. At the time of the adoption of this constitution, Mennonite Church Manitoba is formally related to: Manitoba Mennonite Youth Organization, Manitoba Women in Mission, Mennonite Church Canada, Canadian Mennonite University, Mennonite Central Committee (Manitoba), Eden Health Care Services, The Manitoba Interfaith Council, Interfaith Marriage and Family Institute, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Mennonite Disaster Service and The Canadian Bible Society. Church representation on these as well as other organizations with which it may relate from time to time, shall be governed by the bylaws of the respective related organizations, and Mennonite Church Manitoba's representatives, if any, in these related organizations shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OTHERS

I. Indemnification

Every Director of the Board of Mennonite Church Manitoba or other person, including every employee, who has undertaken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of Mennonite Church Manitoba, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns respectively, shall at all times be indemnified and saved harmless, out of the funds of Mennonite Church Manitoba, from and against:

- a) All costs, charges and expenses which such a Director of the Board or other person sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding which is brought by or prosecuted against him or her for, or in respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or permitted by her or him in or about the execution of the duties of his or her office, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by her or his own wilful neglect or deliberate illegal acts; and
- b) All other costs, charges and expenses, which he or she sustains or incurs, in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof, except such costs, charges and expenses as are occasioned by her or his own wilful neglect or deliberate illegal acts.



II. Remuneration for Services

If any Director of the Board of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be employed by or shall perform services for Mennonite Church Manitoba otherwise than as a Director of the Board, or shall be a member or an employee of a firm or a shareholder, Director of Officer of a company which is employed by or performs services for Mennonite Church Manitoba, the fact of his or her being a Director of the Corporation shall not disentitle such Director of such firm or company, as the case may be, from receiving proper remuneration for such services.

ARTICLE X. BORROWING POWERS

I. Borrowing Powers

In addition to, and without limiting such other powers which Mennonite Church Manitoba may by law possess, and unless otherwise stipulated in this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw or in any other Bylaw, the Board of Directors of Mennonite Church Manitoba may from time to time, without authorization of the members:

- a) Borrow money upon the credit of Mennonite Church Manitoba;
- b) Limit or increase the amount to be borrowed;
- c) Issue securities of Mennonite Church Manitoba;
- d) Pledge or sell such securities for such sums and at such prices as may be deemed expedient; and
- e) Secure such securities, or any other present or future borrowing or liability of Mennonite Church Manitoba by mortgage, hypothec, charge or pledge of all or any currently owned or subsequently acquired real and personal, moveable and immoveable property of Mennonite Church Manitoba, and the undertaking and rights of Mennonite Church Manitoba.

II. Delegation of Authority

The Board of Directors may from time to time by resolution delegate all or any of the powers conferred on them by Section I of Article X of this Bylaw to any Director or Directors of the Board of the Corporation to the full extent thereof or such lesser extent as the Board of Directors may in any such resolution provide.

III. Limitations

The powers hereby conferred shall be deemed to be in supplement of and not in substitution for any powers to borrow money for the purposes of Mennonite Church Manitoba possessed by its Directors of the Board independently of a borrowing Bylaw.



ARTICLE XI. SIGNATURES AND EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

Contracts, documents or other instruments in writing requiring a signature of Mennonite Church Manitoba shall be signed by any one or more of the Directors of the Board (including the Moderator) of Mennonite Church Manitoba, as may be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time, and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon Mennonite Church Manitoba without any further authorization or formality. The Board of Directors has the authority to appoint Directors or employees or agents of Mennonite Church Manitoba to sign contracts, documents and instruments in writing. The seal of Mennonite Church Manitoba, when required, may be affixed to contracts, documents or instruments in writing when signed as aforesaid. The terms "contract", "documents" and "instruments in writing" as used herein shall include deeds, mortgages, charges, conveyances, transfers and assignments of real or personal property, immovable or movable, agreements, releases, receipts and discharges for the payment of money or other obligations, conveyances, transfers and assignments of shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, or other securities, and promissory notes, cheques, negotiable instruments, and all paper writings.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION AND WINDING UP

It is the unalterable provision of this Constitution and General Operating Bylaw that members of Mennonite Church Manitoba as such shall have no interest in the property and assets of the Corporation; and that upon dissolution or winding up of the Corporation, any funds and assets of Mennonite Church Manitoba remaining after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities, shall be distributed to such recognized charitable organization or organizations as may be determined by the members of this Corporation at dissolution, including, if so determined at that time, any member or members of the Corporation that is itself or are themselves recognized charitable organizations(s).

ENACTED this 16 day of February, 2002.

WITNESS the Seal of Mennonite Church Manitoba.

MENNONITE CHURCH MANITOBA

per:

Moderator

per:

Executive Director



APPENDIX A

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT OF MENNONITE CHURCH MANITOBA

VISION

Our vision is to be a community of congregations unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

Our Vision is the ideal we want and hope to become. We see ourselves growing in size and faithfulness, and building up our community of churches. Our reason for being is our faith, lived and known and, specifically, articulated in the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. As a community, we will strengthen each other and our member congregations, to follow Jesus Christ and present Him to all people.

MISSION

Our mission is to resource and empower each other, and to facilitate spiritual growth, service and evangelism.

To fulfil our mission, we are committed to ministries such as:

- _ proclaiming the gospel of Christ
- _ promoting Christian education
- _ planting and nurturing new congregations
- _ dialoguing and working with congregations, conferences and other denominations
- _ fostering relationships of mutual accountability
- _ calling, nurturing and providing leadership
- _ planning joint worship and faith celebrations

VALUES

Community - MCM is a covenant community whose sense of togetherness flows from common vision, understanding of scripture and confession of faith. Our commitment is to be together and to grow closer in love without insisting on uniformity.

Love, Care and Nurture - God's message of love motivates us to nurture and care for others and each other.

Mutual Accountability - MCM and member congregations are accountable to each other in matters of doctrine and discipleship.

Doctrine - all doctrine is grounded in the holy Word of God as found in the Bible. The core of our doctrine is articulated in the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.

Discernment - as a community and as individuals, we seek the will of God for the church through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, by searching scripture, discerning the culture and the times in which we live, and waiting patiently for God's revelation.

Discipleship - we encourage churches and their members to be obedient disciples of Christ, living holy and God-honouring lives.

Evangelism - we proclaim and witness to the good news of salvation in Christ, and God's kingdom.

Social Concern - we reach out to, and walk with, needy people afflicted by poverty, conflict and injustice.

Peace - we believe that peace is the will of God, and that we are called to live and work as Christian peace-makers.

Stewardship - we embrace the biblical message about the management of all we are and have been given under God's creation.

Adopted at delegate meeting @ Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, June 17, 1998



APPENDIX B

Summary Statement

Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective

1. We believe that **God** exists and is pleased with all who draw near by faith. We worship the one holy and loving God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally. God has created all things visible and invisible, has brought salvation and new life to humanity through Jesus Christ, and continues to sustain the church and all things until the end of the age.
2. We believe in **Jesus Christ**, the Word of God become flesh. He is the Saviour of the world, who has delivered us from the dominion of sin and reconciled us to God by his death on a cross. He was declared to be Son of God by his resurrection from the dead. He is the head of the church, the exalted Lord, the Lamb who was slain, coming again to reign with God in glory.
3. We believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the eternal Spirit of God, who dwelled in Jesus Christ, who empowers the church, who is the source of our life in Christ, and who is poured out on those who believe as the guarantee of redemption.
4. We believe that all **Scripture** is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. Led by the Holy Spirit in the church, we interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ.
5. We believe that God has **created the heavens and the earth** and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews what has been made. All creation has its source outside itself and belongs to the Creator. The world has been created good because God is good and provides all that is needed for life.
6. We believe that God has **created human beings** in the divine image. God formed them from the dust of the earth and gave them a special dignity among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation.
7. We confess that, beginning with Adam and Eve, humanity has disobeyed God, given way to the tempter, and chosen to sin. All have fallen short of the Creator's intent, marred the image of God in which they were created, disrupted order in the world, and limited their love for others. Because of sin, humanity has been given over to the enslaving powers of evil and death.
8. We believe that, through Jesus Christ, God offers **salvation** from sin and a new way of life. We receive God's salvation when we repent and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. In Christ, we are reconciled with God and brought into the reconciling community. We place our faith in God that, by the same power that raised Christ from the dead, we may be saved from sin to follow Christ and to know the fullness of salvation.
9. We believe that the **church** is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim



the reign of God and to provide a foretaste of the church's glorious hope. It is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

10. We believe that the **mission** of the church is to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned the church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all things he has commanded.
11. We believe that the **baptism** of believers with water is a sign of their cleansing from sin. Baptism is also a pledge before the church of their covenant with God to walk in the way of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are baptized into Christ and his body by the Spirit, water, and blood.
12. We believe that the **Lord's Supper** is a sign by which the church thankfully remembers the new covenant which Jesus established by his death. In this communion meal, the church renews its covenant with God and with each other and participates in the life and death of Jesus Christ, until he comes.
13. We believe that in **washing the feet** of his disciples, Jesus calls us to serve one another in love as he did. Thus we acknowledge our frequent need of cleansing, renew our willingness to let go of pride and worldly power, and offer our lives in humble service and sacrificial love.
14. We practice **discipline** in the church as a sign of God's offer of transforming grace. Discipline is intended to liberate erring brothers and sisters from sin, and to restore them to a right relationship with God and to fellowship in the church. The practice of discipline gives integrity to the church's witness in the world.
15. We believe that **ministry** is a continuation of the work of Christ, who gives gifts through the Holy Spirit to all believers and empowers them for service in the church and in the world. We also believe that God calls particular persons in the church to specific leadership ministries and offices. All who minister are accountable to God and to the community of faith.
16. We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is **one body** with many members, ordered in such a way that, through the one Spirit, believers may be built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.
17. We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to **discipleship**, to take up our cross and follow him. Through the gift of God's saving grace, we are empowered to be disciples of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, following his teachings and his path through suffering to new life. As we are faithful to his way, we become conformed to Christ and separated from the evil in the world.
18. We believe that to be a disciple of Jesus is to know **life in the Spirit**. As the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes shape in us, we grow in the image of Christ and in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is active in individual and in communal worship, leading us deeper into the experience of God.
19. We believe that God intends human life to begin in **families** and to be blessed through families. Even more, God desires all people to become part of the church, God's family. As single and



married members of the church family give and receive nurture and healing, families can grow toward the wholeness that God intends. We are called to chastity and to loving faithfulness in marriage.

20. We commit ourselves to tell the **truth**, to give a simple yes or no, and to avoid the swearing of oaths.
21. We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls the church to live in faithful **stewardship** of all that God has entrusted to us, and to participate now in the rest and justice which God has promised.
22. We believe that **peace** is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing non-resistance, even in the face of violence and warfare.
23. We believe that the church is God's holy nation, called to give full allegiance to Christ its head and to witness to every **nation, government, and society** about God's saving love.
24. We place our hope in the **reign of God** and its fulfilment in the day when Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather his church, which is already living under the reign of God. We await God's final victory, the end of this present age of struggle, the resurrection of the dead, and a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace for ever and ever.