

CONSTITUTION
AND
BYLAWS



Member

British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

2017

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the church shall be Ross Road Community Church, hereafter referred to as 'the Church'.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND MISSION

The purpose of the Church shall be to help people find and follow Jesus: by our praise, worship and daily walk; by being a caring community of growing disciples who study God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE III AFFILIATION

The Church is a member of the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and thereby is affiliated with the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. It shall give moral and material support to all projects and activities and Bylaws of the above-named conferences.

ARTICLE IV FAITH AND CONDUCT

The confession of Faith of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches shall be the Confession of Faith of this Church. The Church accepts the Scriptures as the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. All Members of the Church pledge to be subject to all its rules and regulations which must at all times agree with the Scriptures.

BYLAWS

PART 1 - DEFINITIONS

BYLAW 1.1 Terms

Absent Member: a Member who is currently not attending as described in Bylaw 7.1.B.

Annual General Meeting: a Membership Meeting held in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.B.

Annual Ministry Meeting: a Membership Meeting held in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.A.

Associate Pastor: a Member who serves the church in a leadership role according to bylaw 5.2.

Church: the Ross Road Community Church (RRCC).

Church Covenant: a document setting out responsibilities of Members as approved by the Members at a Membership Meeting.

Church Fiscal Year: January 1 to December 31.

Church Ministry Year: June 1 to May 31.

Church Office: the office located at 3160 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC, for services and records.

Church Records: includes meeting minutes, roll of Members, financial statements, ministry reports, notices of meetings, and other required documents.

Confession of Faith: as set out in the document published by the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

Deacon: a Member who serves the Church in a leadership role according to Bylaw 6.

Deacon Ministry Teams: the teams of Deacons affirmed in accordance with Bylaw 6.1.

Discernment Team: the team of Elders and Deacons affirmed under Bylaw 6.3.

Elder: a Member who serves the Church in a leadership role according to Bylaw 4.

Elder Team: a meeting of Elders in accordance with these Bylaws with a majority of Elders present.

in good standing: a Member is in good standing unless placed under Church discipline as defined in Bylaw 2.3.

Lead Pastor: a Member who serves the church in a leadership role according to bylaw 5.1.

Member: a person who has been accepted into membership by the Church in accordance with Bylaw 2.1 and who has not subsequently been released from membership in accordance with Bylaw 2.2.

Member-Called Meeting: a Membership Meeting held in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.D.

Membership Meeting: a meeting in accordance with these Bylaws in which Members in good standing can vote.

Notice: proper notice under these Bylaws is publication in the weekly Church bulletin at least 14 days prior to a Membership Meeting, and may include one or more of any of the following: posting on the Church web site, an electronic communication, and verbal announcement.

Officers: the Moderator, Treasurer, and Secretary are considered officers of the Church.

Parliamentary Procedure: as defined by "Parliamentary Procedure: Standing Rules", by Frank C. Peters and John H. Redekop, 1984.

Pastoral Ministry Team: the Lead Pastor and Associate Pastors.

Secretary: the Elder appointed as Secretary in accordance with Bylaw 4.4.A.

Special Resolution: a resolution passed by a majority of not less than 75% of Members present and eligible to vote at a Membership Meeting for which Notice has been given.

Treasurer: the Elder appointed as Treasurer in accordance with Bylaw 4.4.A.

Words importing the singular include the plural and vice-versa, as the context requires.

PART 2 - MEMBERSHIP

BYLAW 2.1 Admission to Membership

A person may become a Member by any of the following methods:

A. By Baptism

A person who confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who gives evidence in conduct of new birth, who agrees to abide by the Confession of Faith and the Church Covenant, and who gives personal testimony, shall upon baptism by immersion and affirmation by the Elder Team, be a Member.

B. By Transfer

A member of another Mennonite Brethren Church who agrees to abide by the Confession of Faith and the Church Covenant, who gives personal testimony, shall upon receipt of written recommendation from the previous church and affirmation by the Elder Team, be a Member.

C. By Testimony

A person who has been baptized in accordance with the Confession of Faith, who agrees to abide by the Confession of Faith and the Church Covenant, and who gives personal testimony, shall upon affirmation by the Elder Team, be a Member.

BYLAW 2.2 Release from Membership

A person will be released from membership by any of the following methods:

A. By Transfer

A Member who desires to join another Mennonite Brethren Church, may request a written recommendation of transfer to that church. When this request is approved by the Elder Team, the Member is released from membership.

B. By Baptismal Certificate or By Recommendation

A Member who desires to join a church other than another Mennonite Brethren Church, may request that a baptismal certificate and/or a written recommendation be sent to that church. When this request is approved by the Elder Team, the Member is released from membership.

C. By Voluntary Withdrawal

A Member may voluntarily withdraw from membership by submitting notification to the Elder Team.

D. By Removal

A Member may be removed from Church membership in accordance with Bylaw 2.3

E. By Death

A Member is automatically removed from membership on death.

BYLAW 2.3 Care and Discipline of Members

A. Care of a Member

If a Member is not in contact with the Church, or is absent for **any reason** over an extended period **as determined by the Elder Team**, the Elder Team shall **make all reasonable efforts to contact the Member**. If no contact can be made, or after having counseled the Member, and there is no reasonable prospect of the Member returning to fellowship, **the Elder Team may take action that the Elder Team considers appropriate**, including removal from membership.

B. Discipline of a Member

In accordance with the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-19, the Elder Team may determine that a Member is living in a manner that is inconsistent with the Scriptures, the Confession of Faith, the Church Covenant, or other standards of conduct and faith adopted by the Church from time to time. If, **after having been contacted by the Elder Team and having been given a reasonable opportunity to make submissions to the Elder Team**, the Member continues to live in this manner, the Elder Team shall determine appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include a written notification from the Elder Team that the Member ceases to be in good standing. Disciplinary action may also include removal from membership.

The aim of discipline is to be corrective in order that the Member may be brought to repentance and restoration to full fellowship.

If such a person gives evidence of sincere repentance and of their renewed fellowship with Christ, the Member may be reinstated after giving testimony before the Elder Team, and when applicable before the Church (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

BYLAW 2.4 Member Rights & Obligations

A. Member Rights

All Members in good standing who are not on the Absent Member list and are physically present have the right to vote at Membership Meetings.

B. Member Obligations

All Members are obligated to abide by the Confession of Faith, and the Church Covenant.

PART 3 - MEETINGS

BYLAW 3.1 Notice of Meetings

A. Notice of Meetings

Notice of all Membership Meetings shall be announced to the Church at least fourteen days prior to the meeting. All known agenda items must be included with the Notice, **but the omission of an item from the agenda shall not preclude it from being considered at the Membership Meeting to the extent permitted by Parliamentary Procedure.**

BYLAW 3.2 Membership Meetings

A. Annual Ministry Meeting

The Church shall meet for an Annual Ministry Meeting no later than the end of the Ministry Year to receive annual reports from the Pastoral Ministry Team, Elder Team, and Deacon Ministry Teams, to respond to recommendations submitted with such reports, and to conduct further business as outlined in these Bylaws. All Ministry reports, except the finance reports, **will normally** be presented at this meeting.

B. Annual General Meeting

The Church shall meet for an Annual General Meeting no later than 90 days after the fiscal year end to receive the annual financial reports for the preceding year and to vote on budget proposals for the next fiscal year.

C. Elder-Called Meeting

The Elder Team may call additional Membership Meetings as required.

D. Member-Called Meeting

The Elder Team must call a Membership Meeting if it receives a request that:

- is in writing, and received by the Church office.
- states the purpose of the Membership Meeting.
- is signed by at least 10% of Members in good standing.

A Member-Called Meeting must be held no later than 28 days after receipt of a valid request.

BYLAW 3.3 Meeting Procedures

A. Agenda for Meetings

The Moderator, in consultation with the Lead Pastor and Elder Team shall **ensure an agenda is prepared for Membership Meetings**. All agenda items shall be reviewed by the Elder Team prior to appearing on the agenda. A Member in good standing may propose additional items when the agenda is being presented for approval by the membership. Items in these bylaws that require a Membership Meeting to be announced for a specific purpose may not be added in this manner.

B. Procedure for Meetings

Business procedures and debate shall be conducted according to the accepted Parliamentary Procedures. **Decisions are determined by majority vote unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.**

C. Minutes of Meetings

All minutes shall record topics under discussion and decisions reached by vote or consensus at the Membership Meeting.

BYLAW 3.4 Quorum and Voting

A. Quorum

Quorum for any Membership Meeting shall be no less than 10% of Members in good standing who are not on the Absent Member list.

B. Voting

All Members in good standing who are not on the Absent Member list and are physically present have the right to vote at Membership Meetings. Voting may be conducted by secret ballot at the request of a Member, **or by determination of the chairperson**. Proxy votes are not permitted.

PART 4 - ELDERS

BYLAW 4.1 Selection of Elders

A. Nomination of Elders

The Discernment Team shall discern **and identify** new or additional Elder candidates for affirmation by the Members. This will include inviting the Members to pray for God's guidance and discernment, and to submit nominations in keeping with the qualifications required.

B. Qualifications of Elders

Elder candidates must be Members in good standing, **meet the character qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4, and have appropriate spiritual gifting.**

C. Affirmation of Elders

Suitable candidates shall be presented to the Members for affirmation at a Membership Meeting. Affirmation of Elders must be done by Special Resolution by secret ballot in a Membership Meeting called for that purpose.

D. Elder Vacancies

The Elder Team may, at any time, appoint a Member in good standing as an Elder to fill a vacancy that arises because of resignation, death, or incapacity of an Elder during the Elder's term in office. An Elder appointed to fill a vacancy must be affirmed at the next Membership Meeting and the term will normally be the unexpired portion of the term of office of the Elder whose departure created a vacancy.

BYLAW 4.2 Number of Elders, Term & Role

A. Number of Elders

The Elder Team shall consist of no fewer than five and no more than ten Elders who are affirmed by the Members at a Membership Meeting (subject to Bylaw 4.1.D).

B. Term of Elders

An Elder shall normally be affirmed for a three-year term, and is eligible for a second three-year term. After a second consecutive three-year term, an Elder shall be required to wait at least one year before being eligible for re-affirmation. This limitation may be waived by the Members on a yearly basis if no suitable replacement has been found.

C. Role and Responsibilities of Elders

The role and responsibilities of the Elders shall include the following:

- 1. Provide spiritual direction and oversight for the Church within the broad mandate provided by the membership.**
- 2. Serve together with an attitude of openness and servant leadership.**
- 3. Regularly evaluate the ministry and needs of the Lead Pastor, and manage his hiring in keeping with the bylaws, or removal if deemed necessary for the good of the Church.**
- 4. Manage the affirmation of Associate Pastors, Deacons, and staff as needed, including hiring and removal, as deemed necessary for the good of the Church.**
- 5. Oversee the spiritual and business affairs of the Church through the Pastoral Ministry Team, Deacon Ministry Teams, or other means.**
- 6. Oversee the discernment and establishment of any new ministry.**
- 7. Provide counsel, encouragement and support to the Lead and Associate Pastors.**
- 8. Affirm those requesting baptism and/or membership.**
- 9. Pray with, and anoint with oil those who are ill and request this ministry.**
- 10. Oversee the care and discipline of Members.**
- 11. Approve the Church's policies and procedures.**

12. Provide input in the annual review of staff salary, benefits, responsibilities, and working conditions.
13. Disclose any direct or indirect interest in a proposed contract or transaction including the nature and extent of that interest prior to discussion and decision.
14. Oversee the acquisition and disposal of the Church assets.

D. Remuneration of Elders

There is no remuneration of Elders, **but they may be reimbursed for expenses on behalf of the Church as may be approved by the Elder Team.**

BYLAW 4.3 Organization of the Elder Team

A. Organization of the Elder Team

The Elder Team shall consist of all Elders who have been affirmed by the Members. The Lead Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Elder Team. Associate Pastors may serve as ex-officio members at the discretion of the Elder Team. Ex-officio members participate in discussion and discernment but do not vote.

BYLAW 4.4 Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer

A. Affirmation of Officers

The Elder Team must appoint a Moderator, Treasurer, and Secretary from existing Elders following the Annual Ministry Meeting. The Elder Team shall organize itself as needed to carry out the mandate of the membership.

B. Moderator

The Moderator shall be responsible for leadership of all Membership Meetings. The Moderator shall act as necessary on issues of immediate concern in consultation with the appropriate pastors, staff, Deacon Ministry Teams, or Members with such actions presented to the Elder Team for information or affirmation.

C. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep accurate Church Records and normally place a copy of the Church Records in the Church office within two weeks of each meeting. The Secretary shall also ensure the updating of the Church Constitution, Bylaws, and Church Covenant **as approved by the Members in accordance with these Bylaws.**

D. Treasurer

The Treasurer will serve as the liaison member on the Deacon Ministry Team responsible for finance. The Treasurer is one of the designated, authorized signatories of the Church.

BYLAW 4.5 Other Appointments

A. Other Appointments

To help facilitate **church ministry**, the Elder Team may **appoint an Elder to serve or act as a liaison with various Deacon Ministry Teams as needed.**

BYLAW 4.6 Meetings of the Elder Team

A. Agenda

The Moderator, in consultation with the Lead Pastor, shall **ensure an agenda is prepared for all Elder Team meetings.**

B. Minutes

Minutes shall record all topics under discussion and decisions reached by consensus or simple majority vote at the meeting. The Elder Team has discretion to designate portions of meetings as “in camera” for the purposes of protecting the confidential information of Members **or of the Church.**

C. Quorum

A simple majority of affirmed Elders is required for a properly constituted Elder Team Meeting.

D. Voting

Decisions shall be made by consensus or simple majority vote of Elders present. No proxy votes are permitted.

BYLAW 4.7 Removal of an Elder

A. Temporary Withdrawal of an Elder

An Elder **will** temporarily withdraw from the Elder Team in the face of **any** unproven allegations **of any wrongdoing, as determined by the Elder Team**, to allow a review by the Elder Team.

B. Suspension of an Elder

The Elder Team may temporarily suspend an Elder **if, in its opinion, a suspension** is required to protect the Church, including its standing in the community, until a Membership Meeting is held.

C. Removal of an Elder

An Elder may be removed by a majority vote at a Membership Meeting if that Elder has either lost the confidence of the Members or:

- ceases to be a Member in good standing,
- ceases to hold the qualifications required,
- fails to disclose a material conflict of interest.

PART 5 - PASTORS

BYLAW 5.1 Lead Pastor

A. Selection and Qualifications of Lead Pastor

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Lead Pastor, the Elder Team shall be responsible for the leadership of the Church. When a vacancy exists, the Elder Team shall be responsible to manage the search process for a candidate to fill the position.

A search team will normally include at least two members of the Elder Team and at least two Members at large presented by the Discernment Team. Once the search team has discerned a candidate, who is then affirmed by the Elder Team, that candidate shall be presented to the Members for affirmation by Special Resolution by secret ballot at a Membership Meeting called for that purpose.

In accordance with the Church's position on theological teachings and understandings, the Lead Pastor must be male, be (or be eligible to become) a Member in good standing, meet the character qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4, have suitable training or experience, have the appropriate spiritual gifting, and otherwise meet the qualifications set out in these Bylaws and as may be set by the Elder Team.

B. Role & Responsibilities of Lead Pastor

The Lead Pastor leads the church in pursuing its mission and vision. His primary responsibilities shall include that he teaches the Word of God, provides strategic leadership, helps equip the Members to serve as gifted, and encourages the church to fulfill its mission and vision. He must strive to teach and lead by word and example, and he must emphasize both the understanding and the application of God's truth. Fuller responsibilities shall be clearly defined in a job description developed by the Elder Team.

He is responsible to the Elder Team for the following:

- Resourcing the Elder Team in their role and spiritual lives.
- Leading and evaluating the Associate Pastors, and ensuring appropriate management of all staff.
- Developing an annual ministry plan with the Pastoral Ministry Team.
- Overseeing the Preaching and Teaching ministry of the Church.

C. Confirmation of Lead Pastor

The Lead Pastor shall have completed the credentialing process of the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches no later than one year after hiring. The Elder Team may grant an additional year if necessary. After the Lead Pastor has served one year, the Elder Team will initiate a review of the Lead Pastor's ministry. The purpose of the review shall be to strengthen the ministry of the Lead Pastor. The Elder Team shall assess the review with the Lead Pastor and recommend appropriate adjustments. Reviews will normally be conducted annually.

D. Tenure of the Lead Pastor

If at any time the Lead Pastor intends to resign, he should express his intent to the church through the Elder Team. Three months' notice of resignation is preferred.

If at any time, it is discerned by the Elder Team that the Lead Pastor should be removed from his position for the good of the Church, it will be determined and managed by the Elder Team.

BYLAW 5.2 Associate Pastor

A. Selection and Qualifications of Associate Pastor

In the event of an Associate Pastor vacancy or a need to hire for an additional position, the Elder Team and Lead Pastor shall be responsible to manage the search process for a candidate to fill the position.

A search team will normally include at least two members of the Elder Team and at least two Members at large presented by the Discernment Team. Once the search team has discerned a candidate, who is then affirmed by the Elder Team, the hiring process will be managed by the Elder Team.

An Associate Pastor must be (or be eligible to become) a Member in good standing, meet the character qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4, have suitable training or experience, have the appropriate spiritual gifting, and otherwise meet the qualifications set out in these Bylaws and as may be set by the Elder Team.

B. Role and Responsibilities of an Associate Pastor

The role and responsibilities of an Associate Pastor shall be clearly defined in a job description which shall be prepared by the Lead Pastor and the Elder Team. Each Associate Pastor shall serve under the direction of the Lead Pastor and be responsible to him.

C. Confirmation of Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor shall complete the credentialing process of the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches no later than one year after hiring. The Elder Team may grant an additional year if necessary. After the Associate Pastor has served one year, the Lead Pastor will conduct a review of the Associate Pastor's ministry and provide a written report to the Elder Team. The purpose of the review shall be to strengthen the ministry of the Associate Pastor. The Elder Team shall assess the report and recommend appropriate adjustments. The Lead Pastor or Elder Team shall review the report and recommendations with the Associate Pastor. Reviews will normally be conducted annually.

D. Tenure of an Associate Pastor

If at any time, an Associate Pastor intends to resign, they should express their intent to the church through the Lead Pastor and Elder Team. Three months' notice of resignation is preferred.

If at any time, it is discerned by the Elder Team that an Associate Pastor should be removed from their position for the good of the Church, it will be determined and managed by the Elder Team.

PART 6 - DEACONS

BYLAW 6.1 Selection and Qualifications of Deacons

A. Number of Deacon Ministries

To facilitate the work of the Church, the Elder Team shall establish Deacon Ministry Teams to oversee the ministries assigned to them. Deacon Ministry Teams to be established may include, but not be limited to:

- Discernment
- Worship
- Evangelism
- Missions
- Finance
- Property
- Hospitality
- Adult
- Children

B. Discernment of Deacons

The Discernment Team shall seek new or additional Deacon candidates for affirmation. This will include inviting Members to submit nominations in keeping with the character qualifications and spiritual gifting desired.

C. Qualifications of Deacons

Deacon candidates must be Members in good standing, and meet the **character** qualifications listed in Acts 6:3-4, 1 Timothy 3:8-13, and Romans 12:6-13.

D. Affirmation of Deacons

Suitable candidates require affirmation by the Elder Team.

E. Deacon Vacancies

The Elder Team may fill Deacon vacancies during the ministry year upon recommendation of candidates from the Discernment Team.

BYLAW 6.2 Term and Role of Deacons

A. Term of Deacons

A Deacon shall normally be affirmed for a two-year term and is eligible for up to three two-year terms, after which a Deacon shall be required to wait at least one year before being eligible for **re-affirmation. This limitation may be waived on a yearly basis by the Elders if no suitable replacement has been found.**

B. Role and Responsibilities of Deacons

The Elder Team shall define the role and responsibilities of each Deacon Ministry Team. **Each Deacon Ministry Team shall be accountable to the Lead Pastor, an Associate Pastor, or the Elder Team, as determined by the Elder Team.**

BYLAW 6.3 Discernment Team

A. Composition of the Discernment Team

The Discernment Team shall **normally** consist of two Elders assigned by the Elder Team (may include the Lead Pastor), and two or more Members who have been affirmed as Deacons to serve on the Discernment Team. In the absence of a duly constituted Discernment Team, the Elder Team shall fulfill the responsibilities.

B. Role and Responsibilities of the Discernment Team

The Discernment Team will consult with **applicable Members, Deacon Ministry Teams, or pastors** and commit to prayerfully:

- Discern and present qualified **Members for Elder to the Members.**
- Discern and present qualified **Members** for Deacon to **the Elder Team.**
- Discern and present qualified **Members** for a pastoral search team to **the Elder Team.**

PART 7 - CHURCH RECORDS

BYLAW 7.1 Membership Statistics

A. Membership list

The Church shall maintain an official membership list on file in the Church Office. It shall be maintained by office staff under the direction of the Elder Team. This list shall include all Members who have joined in accordance with Bylaw 2.1 and have not subsequently been released from membership in accordance with Bylaw 2.2.

B. Absent Member list

The Church shall maintain a list of Absent Members who have requested to keep their membership at RRCC for the time being even though they are not currently attending. Members are added to this list by the Elder Team after consideration on an individual basis. Members on this list are not entitled to vote at Membership Meetings, and are not included when determining a Membership Meeting quorum, or when determining contribution levels for partnership ministries.

C. Not in good standing list

The Church shall maintain a list of Members not in good standing who have been placed under Church discipline in accordance with Bylaw 2.3 B. Members on this list are not entitled to vote at Membership Meetings and are not included when determining a Membership Meeting quorum, or when determining contribution levels for partnership ministries.

BYLAW 7.2 Minutes

A. Minutes

The Secretary shall ensure that records of all Elder Team Meetings and Membership Meetings are **normally** placed in the Church office within two weeks of each meeting.

BYLAW 7.3 Access to Records

A. Minutes of Meetings

Meeting **minutes** shall be available for inspection at the Church office during regular business hours **by Members in good standing who provide** reasonable notice to the Church office.

B. Financial Statements

Annual financial statements shall be available for **inspection by Members in good standing** at the Church office during regular business hours at least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Current financial reports shall be available at the Church office during regular business hours for Members **in good standing** who provide reasonable notice to the Church office.

PART 8 - FINANCES

BYLAW 8.1 Accounting and Borrowing

A. Accounting

The annual financial statements of the Church shall be prepared or reviewed according to generally accepted accounting principles by an accredited accounting professional appointed by the Members. A report by the reviewer shall be provided for presentation to the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

B. Borrowing Authority

The Elder Team is authorized to borrow and repay money on behalf of the Church in order to carry out the purposes of the Church.

C. Borrowing Limits

Without a Special Resolution, the Elder Team may not borrow more than 5% of the Church's average total annual revenues (averaged over the Church's three previous fiscal years) in any given fiscal year.

BYLAW 8.2 Financial Account Signing Authority

A. Signatories

The Elder Team shall designate signing authority to individuals in addition to the Treasurer for financial accounts opened to carry out the purposes of the Church.

B. Signing Requirements

All Church financial accounts shall require the signatures of two authorized signatories for set up and transactions.

BYLAW 8.3 Investment

A. Investment Limits

Without a Special Resolution, the Elder Team must only invest in CDIC eligible or other equivalently insured investments, or with the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

BYLAW 8.4 Insurance

A. Insurances

The Church shall hold such insurance as required by the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. This may include, but is not limited to, third party liability, fire, theft, and property damage.

PART 9 - AMENDMENTS

BYLAW 9.1 Procedure

A. Proposed Amendments

Any Member in good standing may initiate a proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws by submitting it in writing to the Elder Team at least 30 days prior to the Membership Meeting in which it is to be considered.

B. Review of Amendments

The Elder Team shall review and study any proposed amendments, **and if they approve such amendments**, shall present them to the Members at the first Membership Meeting at least 30 days after receiving the proposed amendment.

C. Affirmation of Amendments

Any amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws must be approved by a Special Resolution at a Membership Meeting called for that purpose.

PART 10 - DISSOLUTION

BYLAW 10.1 Dissolution

A. Dissolution

The real and personal property and assets of the Church are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes, and shall not be distributed amongst Members, and upon liquidation, dissolution, winding-up, abandonment and after all financial liabilities have been paid in full (including the cost and expenses incurred in the liquidation, dissolution, winding-up or abandonment of the Church), the Elder Team shall, within one (1) year of such date of liquidation, dissolution, wind-up, or abandonment, transfer the property and assets of the Church to or as directed by the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, or **in the absence of such direction**, by the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

Church Covenant

"Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized, and being in agreement with Ross Road Community Church's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Ross Road church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other Members to do the following:

COVENANT 1 - UNITY

I will protect the unity of my church.

- ...By acting in love toward other Members**
- ...By refusing to gossip**
- ...By following the leaders, as they follow God**

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." Rom 14:19

"...live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus." Rom 15:5 (NLT)

"...have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart." 1 Pet 1:22

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Eph 4:29

"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you." Heb 13:17

COVENANT 2 - RESPONSIBILITY

I will share the responsibility of my church.

- ...By praying for its growth**
- ...By inviting the unchurched to attend**
- ...By warmly welcoming those who come**

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers." 1 Thess 1:2

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full." Luke 14:23 (NLT)

"Accept one another...just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." Rom 15:7

COVENANT 3 - SERVICE

I will serve the ministry of my church.

...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors

...By developing a servant's heart

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..." 1 Pet 4:10

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...and become mature..." Eph 4:11-13

"...in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others...have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant..." Phil 2:3-7

COVENANT 4 - SUPPORT

I will support the testimony of my church.

...By attending faithfully

...By living a godly life

...By giving regularly

"...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..."

Heb 10:24-25

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." Phil 1:27

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income..." 1 Cor 16:2

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:7

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