

CONSTITUTION
of
FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH, CALGARY
2600 Richmond Road S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 4M3

PREAMBLE

The congregation of First Mennonite Church, Calgary, in light of a felt need, decided to revise its Constitution and By-laws at a congregational meeting on 30 May 1996, with such a revision seeking to be faithful to the Confession of Faith of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada, and to the history and origins of First Mennonite Church (FMC).

FMC owes its foundation to the gathering of Mennonite people in Calgary following World War Two. They organized as Scarboro Mennonite Church on 29 May 1946. The growing membership of FMC dedicated a new church building at 2600 Richmond Road on 16 March, 1958. While helping to sponsor new congregations such as Pineridge Christian Fellowship, and Trinity Mennonite Church, FMC has maintained a vital ministry at this location, celebrating its 50th anniversary in October 1996.

As a motto FMC has adopted the following:

*“Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is -
his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Romans 12:2 (N.I.V.)

CONSTITUTION
of
FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH, CALGARY
2600 Richmond Road S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 4M3

Article I - Name and Affiliation

The name of this congregation is First Mennonite Church, Calgary. The Church is a member of the Conference of Mennonites in Alberta, of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada, and of the General Conference Mennonite Church.

Article II - Purpose and Goal

The purpose and goal of this Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to nurture and to educate its members in a true Christian spirit, to provide the opportunity for corporate worship, fellowship and growth, and to be an arm for service and evangelism, thus helping to build the body of Christ to the glory of God. To grow as a community of grace, joy, and peace, we want to call and nurture congregational members for ministry in a changing environment, to practice love, forgiveness, and hospitality that affirm our diversity and heal our brokenness.

Article III - Confession of Faith

The confession of faith of FMC is the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective with its twenty four (24) articles and commentaries as guide to “congregational life, in faith and practice.”

Article IV - Membership

Membership of FMC shall consist of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, have been baptized upon their faith (except as provided for in the Bylaws), are in harmony with the aims and teachings of the Gospel, and who have been received by the congregation as outlined in the Bylaws.

Article V - Privileges and Duties of Church members

- a. All members are to be servants of one another, encouraging one another in faithful Christian conduct and growth.
- b. All members who are able are expected to participate willingly in the ministry of FMC. The church encourages the use of their spiritual gifts and talents for worship, decision making, teaching, learning, mutual care, and for furthering God’s mission in the world.
- c. All members who are able are expected willingly to give of their time and financial means to the work of FMC and to Conference projects.
- d. All members are encouraged to maintain family devotions in their homes and be a witness to Christ in their lives.

CONSTITUTION
of
FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH, CALGARY
2600 Richmond Road S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 4M3

- e. All members who are able are expected to share in the organized life of FMC as expressed through its congregational meetings and Ministries.

Article VI - Organization and Administration

1. The highest authority under the Lordship of Christ is vested in the membership of FMC as the visible manifestation of the body of Christ.
2. All members of FMC have been given gifts to be used 'for the common good,' both individually and collectively. Collective use of these gifts in the work of the congregation is organized through Ministries, the Executive Officers, and Pastor(s) as described in the Bylaws.
3. The calling of congregational meetings, quorums, and matters pertaining to voting procedure are described in the Bylaws.

Article VII - Church Property and Assets

All property and assets owned or which may be acquired by FMC remain the sole property of the congregation. All members have equal rights to the same. Persons whose membership is voluntarily terminated by transfer or withdrawal, or terminated through disciplinary action, or whose names have been placed on the 'inactive members' list, have no claim to any property or assets of the congregation. Should FMC dissolve for any reason, all property and assets, following payment of all liabilities, shall be donated to the Conference of Mennonites in Alberta or such other charitable benevolent or educational organization as may be decided by the congregation in a general meeting.

Article VIII - Church Seal

The Seal of the congregation shall be in the custody of the Recording Secretary or such other person as may be designated by the Council of Church Ministries. All papers or documents requiring to be sealed on behalf of the congregation shall be sealed in the presence of the Chairperson and Recording Secretary, or of other persons as may be designated by resolution of the Council.

Article IX - Constitution Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be made either at the annual congregational meeting in January, or at a special meeting, provided that two weeks notice of motion as to proposed changes has been given. Amendments to the Constitution are deemed to be "important", as defined in the Bylaws.

Adopted: 11 December, 1997