

CONSTITUTION OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF MANITOBA (Draft, 2021)

Prayer for the Conference

Lord, we humbly bring the words of this Constitution before You and we pray for the health of our denomination and conference of churches. While we understand that these words are written under the authority of government acts, we proclaim that our heart, soul, mind and strength are dedicated to You, and to Your service to bring You glory. Lord, please help all who seek guidance in this Constitution to deal with one another according to Your words in scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

Section 1 - Official Name

The name of this corporation shall be "The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba".

Section 2 - Details of Incorporation

The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba is incorporated by a special act of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, assented to on April 5, 1940, and re-enacted on November 14, 1990.

Section 3 - Naming

This Corporation may be referred to as "The Manitoba Conference" and such reference shall be deemed to mean "The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba".

ARTICLE 2 CONFESSION OF FAITH

Section 1 - Our Confession

1. The confession of faith of the Manitoba Conference shall be the Confession of Faith that is adopted by the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America (herein known as the Canadian Conference), as amended from time to time.
2. Neither the Manitoba Conference nor its congregations shall pass or accept resolutions or practices which are in conflict with this Confession of Faith.

3. The Manitoba Conference shall have a Provincial Faith and Life Team that serves in relationship with the National Faith and Life Team since the Confession of Faith is a national document belonging to the denomination as a whole.
4. The Member Churches of The Manitoba Conference shall accept the wisdom, guidance and rulings of the Provincial Faith and Life Team and the National Faith and Life Team in matters relating to the faith and practice described in the Confession of Faith

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership

The Manitoba Conference shall consist of all the local Mennonite Brethren churches (congregations) within the boundaries of Manitoba. For the purpose of this Constitution, “congregation” means a local Mennonite Brethren church within the boundaries of Manitoba.

Section 2 - Congregations becoming Members

1. Membership Application Process
 - a. Any local church desiring membership in the Manitoba Conference shall pass a resolution to that effect, setting out approval of all items set out in the Membership Requirements (Article 4, Section 3) at a properly constituted meeting of its members. A certified copy of the resolution shall be filed with the Board. Such resolution will also require that the church will not be a member of another denomination upon admission into membership. Upon acceptance of such a resolution, it may petition to the Manitoba Conference for reception into same. Upon receipt of such petition, the Leadership Board of the Manitoba Conference (Leadership Board), or authorized representatives of same, shall visit the local church, determine whether the church meets the criteria for membership as outlined in this Constitution and make such investigations as the Board may deem necessary regarding the foundation of faith of the church in question, its organization, and such other matter the Board may deem necessary.
 - b. The Manitoba Conference may grant membership to any church or assembly of believers which professes the same faith as that of The Manitoba Conference, accepts its resolutions, values and mission, understands the responsibilities and expectations of membership, and participates in its common undertakings.
 - c. If the Board approves the application, the Board shall then bring a recommendation concerning membership to the next Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference (Assembly of Congregations). At such Assembly of Congregations, the Manitoba Conference, through its delegates, shall vote on the membership of such local church.

- d. After approval by the Assembly of Congregations and prior to being officially received into membership, the church must complete the steps of incorporating into its bylaws the Confession of Faith and adherence to the Constitution of The Manitoba Conference. A certified copy of the bylaws shall be filed with the Board.
 - e. Upon the passing of a final resolution by the Board that all conditions have been met, the church is received into membership of The Manitoba Conference as well as membership in the Canadian Conference.
2. A Congregation may not be a member of any other denomination. This does not apply to a Congregation that is already a member of another denomination on December 31, 2021.

Section 3 - Investigation, Suspension, Revoking Membership, Reintegration

1. Investigation

The Manitoba Conference shall begin investigation of any congregation that, in the opinion of the Board, fails to adhere to the polity as described in this Constitution or the Canadian Conference Bylaw, or fails to adhere to the Confession of Faith, or does not accept the decisions of the Manitoba Conference, or causes ill reports because of internal unseemly conditions, such that it could create undue risk spiritually or financially or legally, or in any other manner that damages the unity, purpose and mission of The Manitoba Conference. The desired outcome, where possible, is for any such issues to be rectified in order for the congregation to remain in good standing with The Manitoba Conference.

2. Suspension or Termination of Membership for Cause

Before membership is suspended, the Board, in consultation with the Provincial Faith & Life Team, will:

- a. Send to the Congregation written notice of the proposed discipline, including the reason for such proposed suspension or expulsion, and
- b. Give the Congregation a reasonable opportunity to make representations to The Manitoba Conference respecting the proposed discipline.

Upon a resolution of the Board, a church that is suspended is considered to be in “not good standing” with The Manitoba Conference as well as with the Canadian Conference.

Membership in The Manitoba Conference will be revoked:

- a. After a careful examination of the circumstances by and report from the Provincial Faith and Life Team (Article 12, Section 2.3.c);
- b. upon the recommendation of the Board; and
- c. A special resolution passed by Assembly of Congregations

Termination of membership in The Manitoba Conference also terminates membership in the Canadian Conference.

3. Reintegration of a Congregation

- a. Any Congregation whose membership has been suspended for the reasons listed above (Section 3.1) can be reinstated by a resolution of the Board upon the Board's satisfaction that the concerns have been adequately rectified.
- b. Any Congregation whose membership has been revoked for the reasons listed above (Section 3.2) can be reinstated after completing the membership application procedures as described above (Article 3, Section 1 and 2).

Section 4 - Other Membership Matters

1. Voluntary Termination of Membership

- a. A congregation may voluntarily withdraw from The Manitoba Conference at its own request, by submitting to the Board a certified copy of the official minutes of a properly convened church meeting whereby a resolution was passed by its members to withdraw from The Manitoba Conference.
- b. A congregation that joins another denomination shall be deemed to have voluntarily withdrawn from membership in The Manitoba Conference.
- c. Termination of membership in The Manitoba Conference also terminates membership in the Canadian Conference.

2. Automatic Termination of Membership

Unless granted special dispensation as acknowledged by a resolution passed by the Board, membership in The Manitoba Conference automatically terminates upon the occasion of any of the following events:

- a. Revocation or loss of charitable status as granted by the Canada Revenue Agency;
- b. Revocation or loss of the legal registration under which the church was formed;
- c. Dissolution or closing of the church; or
- d. Joining another denomination.

Termination of membership in The Manitoba Conference also terminates membership in the Canadian Conference.

3. Reintegration of a congregation

- a. Any congregation whose membership has been suspended for the reasons listed above (Article 3, Section 3.2) can be reinstated by a resolution of the Board upon the Board's satisfaction that the concerns have been adequately rectified.
- b. Any congregation whose membership has been revoked for the reasons listed above (Article 3, Section 3.2) can be reinstated after completing the membership application procedures as described above (Article 3, section 3.3).

4. Division of a Church

When an existing congregation deems it advisable to divide or establish a new congregation, the Provincial Faith and Life team shall be informed and consulted at the initial planning stages. After such a division has been completed, the new congregation may apply to the Board for membership according to the steps outlined in the Membership Application Process (Article 4).

5. Closing of a congregation

The initiative for the closing of a church normally comes from the membership of that church at such a time when continuing as a church entity is no longer a viable option. Before a decision to close a church is reached, the church shall invite consultation with The Manitoba Conference. The church's membership is terminated upon closing the church.

6. Transfer of Membership of a Congregation

Membership in The Manitoba Conference is not transferable.

7. Liability of Membership

Congregations shall not, as such, be held answerable or responsible for any act, default, obligation or liability of The Manitoba Conference or for any engagement, claim, payment, loss, injury, transaction, matter or thing relating to or connected with The Manitoba Conference.

8. Autonomy of Congregations

Each congregation is autonomous in the management of its local affairs, but only to the extent that the congregation's local affairs are not subject to the Confession of Faith, Letters Patent, the Constitution, policies, or procedures of The Manitoba Conference.

9. Individual Membership in a Congregation

Each congregation shall establish in its governing documents all conditions for an individual to be a member in good standing of their church, including procedures for acceptance, termination, discipline, withdrawal, and transfer of an individual's membership. The congregation's governing documents shall be used to determine the number of members in the church. All membership policies and practices should align with the guidelines of The Manitoba Conference and Canadian Conference.

10. Individual Participation on Board, Committee, or Service as MBCM representative

A person must be an active member in good standing of a Member Church that is in good standing with The Manitoba Conference to be qualified to be a member of the Board, a committee, or a representative of The Manitoba Conference.

Section 5 - Membership Responsibilities and Rights

1. Congregations shall be responsible for carrying out decisions of the Manitoba Conference, including existing and continuing obligations and further obligations accepted by the Assemblies of Congregations. A congregation shall commit to working collectively on mission under the Collaborative Model of The Manitoba Conference and Canadian Conference. Each congregation accepts as binding upon it the decisions of The Manitoba Conference concerning the operation and finances of the projects of The Manitoba Conference and shall conscientiously carry out those decisions within The Manitoba Conference so far as it is able. Each congregation shall conduct its affairs as required by and consistent with this Constitution and shall not pass resolutions or bylaws that conflict with The Manitoba Conference. A congregation shall be led by a pastor who has been credentialed by The Manitoba Conference.
2. A congregation in good standing has the right to identify itself as a Member of the Mennonite Brethren denomination in Canada and to operate under any rights and privileges afforded to the denomination, including having credentialed and licensed pastoral staff. Congregations can join into fellowship at meetings to pass resolutions and elect office holders for ministry. Congregations can access a variety of ministry resources and can participate in financial and operational programs offered by The Manitoba Conference for its Members.

Section 6 - Provincial and Canadian Membership

1. The Canadian Conference

The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches (the “Canadian Conference”) is the national body incorporated by an act passed by the Senate on 22nd November, 1945. It is comprised of all the Mennonite Brethren churches in Canada, which in turn are generally organized into regional conferences, usually on a provincial basis.

2. The Manitoba Conference

- a. The Manitoba Conference is a Member Organization of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and shall support its activities and carry out its decisions as described in the Canadian Conference Bylaw and the Collaborative Model.
- b. The purpose of The Manitoba Conference shall be to promote, maintain, superintend and carry on in accordance with the doctrinal laws, constitution, acts and rulings of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, any or all of the work of that body.

3. The Manitoba Conference Bylaws

Pursuant to the governing documents of the Canadian Conference, The Manitoba Conference is at liberty to apply for the issuance of letters patent and to prepare and adopt bylaws of its own according to its existing needs, provided that such are in harmony with the governing documents of the Canadian Conference.

4. Authority of the Conferences

- a. The Manitoba Conference and the Canadian Conference, as a nationally recognized religious denomination, may grant its congregations with legal standing pertaining to credentialing of clergy, land holdings, tax relief and other affiliations available.
- b. The Manitoba Conference shall exercise authority in matters that relate to the common work and welfare of congregations in keeping with the Bible, Confession of Faith and this Constitution.

5. Congregational Membership in Canadian Conference

As defined in the Canadian Conference Bylaw, each congregation is also a member of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, with which the Manitoba Conference is united.

6. Dissolution

If upon dissolution or winding up of The Manitoba Conference there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and obligations, any property or assets whatsoever, then said property or assets shall be given or otherwise transferred to the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, or, if not in existence, then to some other Canadian charitable organization or organizations having cognate or similar objects, provided that such organization is a charitable organization within the meaning of the Income Tax Act for the time being in force.

ARTICLE 4 CONGREGATIONS

Section 1- Mandate for New Congregations

The Manitoba Conference shall have the right and duty to establish and organize new congregations and to receive them into its membership.

Section 2 - Churches planting Churches

A group of believers who desire to establish a Mennonite Brethren Church shall consult with the local Mennonite Brethren Church, if there is one, and may then request assistance from the said church or the Leadership Board of the Manitoba Conference in establishing a new church.

Section 3 - Criteria for New Congregations

The principal criteria for the establishment and organization of new congregations shall be as follows:

1. Only such persons shall be accepted for congregation membership who upon the confession of their faith have been baptized and are living a Christian life. If they are members of Mennonite Brethren congregations, their certificates of membership shall be forwarded to the new church.
2. If prospective members come from other churches and have been baptized upon the confession of faith and are living a Christian life, they shall be admitted to membership on the basis of their personal testimony.
3. Acceptance of the Confession of Faith of the Canadian Conference and co-operation in undertakings of the Manitoba Conference shall be required for admission into the church.

Section 4 - Local Congregations

The congregation shall provide for the filling of all offices within the church and shall apply for registration as a Canadian charitable organization.

Section 5 - Congregational Autonomy

Subject to Articles 3 and Appendix I, neither the Manitoba Conference nor another congregation shall interfere in the affairs of a congregation unless and only to the extent requested by such congregation.

Section 6 - Assistance when Needed

In the event a congregation shall fall into either spiritual or temporal difficulty, other congregations and the Manitoba Conference shall offer assistance and resolution of such difficulty.

Section 7 - No Proprietary Rights

Subject to Appendix I, the physical assets of the congregation shall be deemed to belong to its continuing members. Withdrawal from membership shall not entitle any member of a congregation to a rateable portion of the church's assets.

ARTICLE 5 CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1 - Responsibilities

The Manitoba Conference shall assume responsibility in the following priority areas related to the faith and life of member congregations and to conference ministries, as part of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan.

Spiritual Health and Theology

1. Theological clarity, spiritual depth, and faithfulness to the Confession of Faith.
2. Resources for confessional and spiritual health within the congregations.
3. Work with churches and leaders in credentialing and orientation.

Leadership Development

1. Formal and non-formal training and skill development.
2. Working in collaboration with educational institutions.

Mission

1. Mission and evangelism training.
2. Developing missional churches.
3. Church planting.
4. Promote global partnerships.

Organizational Health

1. Systems and operational effectiveness
2. Board and lay leader training and resources
3. Human Resources policies and resources, salary grid, etc.

ARTICLE 6

ASSEMBLIES OF CONGREGATIONS OF THE MANITOBA CONFERENCE

Section 1- Purpose

An Assembly of Congregations (which may also be called a Convention) of the Manitoba Conference shall consist of an assembly of delegates for the purpose of

1. deliberating the work of the Manitoba Conference,
2. electing its officers and directors,
3. dealing with its finances.
4. to hear and receive reports from the Canadian Conference, and
5. to provide feedback to the Canadian Conference

Section 2 - Representation of Congregations

1. Congregations in good standing shall be represented at Assemblies of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference by their leader or pastor and one (1) delegate for every fifteen (15) members or a fraction. Only delegates shall have voting privileges.
2. All delegates shall be in good standing with their local member congregation and shall have been authorized by it to be one of its representatives.
3. The Executive may invite any person to participate in deliberations at any Assembly of Congregations.

Section 3 - Frequency of Meetings

The Manitoba Conference shall be called into a regular Assembly of Congregations once in each calendar year at a time and place to be determined by the officers of the Manitoba Conference. The time between annual Assemblies of Congregations shall be referred to as an "Assembly of Congregations term".

Section 4- Special Assemblies

Special Assemblies of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference may be called by the Executive to deal with urgent matters. Particulars of such matters shall be delivered to the congregations at least forty-five (45) days in advance.

Section 5 - Time and Place of Meeting

1. At the conclusion of a regular Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference, the date(s) for the next regular Assembly of Congregations, as determined by the officers of the Manitoba Conference, shall be announced.
2. The officers of the Manitoba Conference shall determine the place of meeting of any regular or special Assembly of Congregations.

Section 6 - Decision-making Process

1. Unanimity shall be sought when possible on all ordinary questions that are submitted to an Assembly of Congregations for a vote, but a simple majority of the delegates present shall carry such vote.
2. Each delegate to a convention shall have one vote, which must be cast in person.
3. Proxy voting shall not be permitted. Absentee voting shall not be permitted.

Section 7 - Parliamentary Rules

The customary parliamentary rules shall be observed by all Assemblies of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference.

Section 8 - Manitoba Conference in Interim

To the minimum extent necessary, the Leadership Board of the Conference shall function as the Assembly of Congregations in Interim to take action on urgent matters. Such actions shall be ratified at the next Assembly of Congregations.

ARTICLE 7

COUNCILS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MANITOBA CONFERENCE

Section 1 - Purpose

A Council of Representatives of the Manitoba Conference shall consist of an assembly of delegates in one or more sessions for the purpose of deliberating the affairs of the Manitoba Conference.

Section 2 - Representation of Congregations

1. Congregations shall be represented at a Council of Representatives of the Manitoba Conference by their leader or pastor, the moderator (or equivalent) and one other.
2. All delegates shall be in good standing with their local congregation and shall have been authorized by it to be one of its representatives.

3. The Executive Committee may invite any person to participate in deliberations at any Council of Representatives.

Section 3 - Frequency of Meeting

The Manitoba Conference shall be called into a Council of Representatives at least once in each calendar year at a time and place to be determined by the officers of the Manitoba Conference in consultation with the local congregation which functions as host to such Council of Representatives.

ARTICLE 8 ELECTION

Section 1 - Eligibility for Office

1. Members in good standing with their congregation and of the age of majority shall be eligible for elected or appointed office.
2. Questions of conflict of interest shall be taken into account when considering nominees to elected or appointed office.
3. A conference employee leaving employment shall not be eligible to serve on the formerly employing board until a period of three years has passed from the cessation of his or her employment.
4. The spouse of an employee of the Manitoba Conference shall not be eligible to serve on the board while his or her spouse is employed by that board.

Section 2 - Nominating Committee

Nominations for elected office shall be put forward at Assemblies of Congregations by an ad hoc Nominating Committee led by the Secretary of the Manitoba Conference. Composition of the Committee shall be several members in good standing in member congregations, invited to participate at the discretion of the Secretary.

Section 3 - Voting at Assemblies of Congregations

Election shall be made by acclamation or by show of hands if at least two-thirds of delegates present at the Assembly of Congregations assent, but otherwise shall be by ballot.

Section 4 - Term Limits

No person shall be eligible for election to any board or appointment to a standing committee for more than three (3) successive terms.

ARTICLE 9 ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - Officers of the Manitoba Conference

The Manitoba Conference shall have the following officers, which shall constitute the Executive:

1. Moderator
2. Assistant Moderator
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Section 2 -Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees & Incorporated Ministries

The activities of the MB Conference shall be carried out by the Leadership Board, the Provincial Faith & Life Team, standing committees of the Leadership Board or by membership in specified incorporated ministries.

These shall include the following:

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| 1. Leadership Board | (Article 10) |
| 2. Executive Committee | (Article 11) |
| 3. Provincial Faith and Life Team | (Article 12) |
| 4. Finance Committee | (Article 13) |
| 5. Board of Concord College/Canadian Mennonite University | (Article 14) |
| 6. Member of Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute Inc. | (Article 15) |
| 7. Member of Family Life Network Inc. | (Article 16) |

Section 3 - Officers of Standing Committees

The officers of standing committees shall include a Chairperson and a Secretary and such other officers as such committees may from time to time require.

Section 4 - Special Committees

The Manitoba Conference may elect or appoint special committees by resolution of an Assembly of Congregations. Special committees shall be so constituted and shall carry out such functions as the Manitoba Conference by resolution of an Assembly of Congregations may direct.

The Leadership Board may appoint special committees to carry out such functions as it may direct. The creation of such special committees and their mandate shall be reported to the Assembly of Congregations.

Section 5 - Duties of Officers and Boards

The duties of officers, the Leadership Board and of standing committees shall be set forth in the Articles which follow.

Section 6 - Responsible to the Assembly of Congregations

The Leadership Board shall be directly responsible to the Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference and shall report to Assemblies of Congregations on matters under its jurisdiction and shall make to such Assemblies of Congregations such recommendations as it may, from time to time, deem appropriate.

Section 7 - Record Keeping

The Leadership Board and standing committees of the Board shall record minutes of their meetings, and their secretaries shall regularly forward copies thereof, along with any other documents, to the secretary of the Manitoba Conference.

Section 8 - Termination

The term of office of any elected or appointed member or officer may be terminated for reasonable cause by the Manitoba Conference, acting through a simple majority decision of individuals comprising the Manitoba Conference in the interim.

Section 9 - Districts

The congregations shall be divided into the following districts: Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern, Western, Winnipeg, to reflect an appropriate representation, as established by the Assembly of Congregations from time to time.

ARTICLE 10 LEADERSHIP BOARD

Section 1- Election and Organization

1. The Leadership Board shall consist of the Executive of the Conference plus six elected members at large.
2. Executive and elected members at large shall hold office for a two (2) year term, with two (2) Executive and three (3) members at large to be elected at each regular Assembly of Congregations.
3. All members of the Leadership Board may serve for three consecutive terms after which a one- year recess is required for eligibility to another term of service.
4. The Executive shall be the officers of the Leadership Board.

Section 2 - Duties

1. To provide good governance to The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba and be accountable to it for the same.
2. To establish the Vision and define the Mission of the Conference.
3. To establish the Policies that govern the collective life of the Conference.
4. To hire the Provincial Director, establish their Job Descriptions, and hold them accountable for the performance of their respective and collective duties.
5. To establish the policies which both guide and limit the Provincial Director in the performance of their duties, and to assign a committee to conduct an annual review of the Director's fulfillment of said duties
6. To be the custodians of the official seal of the Manitoba Conference.
7. To act as signing officers of the Manitoba Conference as required.
8. To report to and be held accountable by the Assembly of Congregations for annual audited financial reports
9. To attend National Assembly conventions to represent The Manitoba Conference and participate in decision making under the Collaborative Model.
10. To appoint one of its Board members to serve on the Executive Board of the Canadian Conference
11. To establish or arrange for such offices, branch offices, facilities and/or premises for conduct of activities, as and wherever those may be required, for purposes of conducting the activities of the Manitoba Conference and to arrange to appropriately equip the same.

ARTICLE 11

TERMS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1 - Election and Term of Office

1. The Executive shall consist of four (4) members, being the Moderator, the Assistant Moderator, the Secretary and Treasurer (officers).
2. All officers shall be elected at a regular Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference.
3. The term of office for all officers shall commence immediately upon adjournment of the Assembly of Congregations at which the election takes place and shall continue to the end of the second regular Assembly of Congregations from such adjournment.
4. No officer shall be elected to the same office for more than three (3) successive two-year terms after which a one-year recess is required for eligibility to another term of service.
5. Any person who has served three (3) successive terms as moderator shall be ineligible for election to the office of assistant moderator for the following term.
6. In the event that the moderator shall be unable to complete a term by reason of death, illness, or otherwise, or is removed from office as herein provided, the assistant moderator shall become the moderator until the next regular Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference.
7. In the event that any other officer of the Manitoba Conference shall be unable to complete a term by reasons of death, illness, or otherwise, or is removed from office as herein provided, then a replacement shall be appointed by the Leadership Board, after consultation with the Nominating Committee, until the next regular Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference.
8. Any officer of the Manitoba Conference may be removed from office upon the petition to the Leadership Board of at least 25 members in good standing in congregations, followed by a unanimous vote of the other members of the Leadership Board.

Section 2 - General Duties

1. To prepare the agenda for the Leadership Board, chair its meetings and record minutes of the same.
2. The officers shall be collectively responsible for any matters not falling under the jurisdiction of a standing committee and/or for which no other provision has been made.

Section 3 - Duties of Individual Officers

1. The moderator shall preside at meetings of the Leadership Board, the Assembly of Congregations, the Council of Representatives, at meetings of the Executive and the Leadership Board

2. The assistant moderator shall assist the moderator in carrying out the moderator's responsibilities and shall have all the powers and responsibilities of the moderator in the moderator's absence; and shall appoint and be a member of the Personnel Committee for its occasional duties
3. The secretary shall be responsible for the recording of the minutes at Leadership Board meetings, at all Assemblies of Congregations and Councils of Representatives of the Manitoba Conference and at all meetings of the Executive. The secretary shall regularly receive the minutes and other documents from all committees and after a period of five (5) years, the secretary shall forward them to the Canadian Conference Archivist. Following each regular Assembly of Congregations, the secretary shall publish an official Manitoba Conference yearbook containing an accurate record of the minutes of the Assembly of Congregations and such information as it may direct. The secretary's duties may be delegated. The secretary shall recruit and chair the ad hoc Nominating Committee and shall maintain a current list of agencies requiring elected representatives from the Manitoba Conference. The secretary shall recruit an ad hoc Constitution Committee for regular review of the Constitution.
4. The treasurer shall be a member of the Finance and Audit Committee, will function as a consultant to the conference administrator on the financial affairs of the conference including budget development and review of financial statements, and generally, advise the Leadership Board in matters relating to the Finance Policies of the conference. The treasurer will ensure that the conference is in compliance with the law of the land.

ARTICLE 12 PROVINCIAL FAITH AND LIFE TEAM

Section 1 – Organization

1. The Provincial Faith and Life Team is a standing committee of the Leadership board.
2. As such, it receives its authority and mandate from the Leadership Board and conference of Assembly of Churches. Members shall be appointed by the Leadership Board and approved by the Assembly of Congregations.
3. It will consist of the Director of Church Ministries and no less than 3 credentialed leaders as voting members in total. In addition, up to two non-credentialed members in good standing in an MB church may serve on the team for their expertise, in a non-voting capacity.
4. The Provincial Faith and Life Team is accountable to the Leadership Board and by extension the Manitoba Conference of churches. The Provincial Faith and Life Team will report to the provincial Leadership Board on their activity.
5. It shall appoint one of its committee members to serve on the National Faith and Life Team of the Canadian Conference

Section 2 – Duties

1. The Provincial Faith and Life Team oversees, promotes, and facilitates the spiritual health and theological integrity of the Manitoba Conference and credential holders.
2. Key Functions include:
 - a. It shall maintain the centrality of the Confession of Faith and shall interpret and apply it to all Manitoba Conference ministries and programs in a manner consistent with interpretations and practices of the Canadian Conference and the National Faith and Life Team.
 - b. Credentialing/ordination/registration.
 - c. Conflict resolution in Manitoba Conference churches.
 - d. Recommendations regarding Manitoba Conference church membership.
3. The Provincial Faith and Life Team participates in and collaborates with the National Faith and Life Team to articulate and safeguard Mennonite Brethren’s theological convictions and provide discernment and guidance on current issues.

ARTICLE 13 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Section 1 - Organization

1. The Finance Committee shall consist of three (3) members including the Treasurer, one member on the Leadership Board, and one member from outside the Leadership Board.
2. Members shall be appointed by the Leadership Board, and report to it through the Treasurer.

Section 2 - Duties

1. The Finance Committee shall prepare financial statements and budget, and recommend an accounting firm to complete a Review Engagement to the Leadership Board. The Committee shall present the reviewed financial statements and budget to the Assembly of Congregations for approval.
2. It shall monitor
 - a. the financial policies of the Conference and ensure compliance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and
 - b. integrity in Conference financial affairs.

ARTICLE 14
BOARD OF CONCORD COLLEGE/ CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

Section 1 - Election and Organization

1. The Board of Concord College shall consist of fifteen (15) members:
 - a. nine (9) members shall be elected at the annual Assembly of Congregations, on a staggered basis,
 - b. one (1) member shall be selected by the Executive Committee, which member shall also be on the Board of Governors of Canadian Mennonite University,
 - c. one (1) member shall be selected by the MBCM Leadership Board from any region of Canada.
 - d. four (4) members shall be selected by supporting Mennonite Brethren conferences in provinces other than Manitoba.
2. The term of office of members of the Board shall be three (3) Assembly of Congregations terms. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to vote.

Section 2 - Duties of the Board of Concord College

1. The Board of Concord College shall be part of the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) Council as constituted under the CMU By-Law.
2. The Board of Concord College, through its member on the CMU Board of Governors shall regularly report to the Leadership Board on the affairs of CMU.

ARTICLE 15
MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION IN MBCI

Section 1 - Member Representation

Commencing from the date of incorporation of MBCI, the Manitoba Conference shall be a founding member of MBCI. The Executive shall nominate such number of delegates as are set forth in MBCI's constating documents or bylaws to be its representatives (collectively, the "MBCI Representative") at the annual general meeting of MBCI and at any other meeting of the members of MBCI. The Executive shall be entitled to remove and replace the persons comprising the MBCI Representative at any time.

The MBCI Representative shall represent the Manitoba Conference, be its proxy at all such meetings and shall have full authority to vote on behalf of the Manitoba Conference in all matters and decisions related to MBCI. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the MBCI

Representative shall, where possible, seek the approval of the majority of the Leadership Board:

1. for decisions related to a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all the property of MBCI;
2. for any amendment of MBCI's articles or bylaws, pertaining directly, or indirectly, to the religious and/or spiritual nature of MBCI.
3. for any other contract, act or transaction submitted to it in the sole discretion of the MBCI Representatives; and

such approval or ratification shall be signified in writing in minutes of a meeting of, or otherwise by a resolution of the Leadership Board.

Section 2 – Reporting

The MBCI Representative shall be required to report to the Leadership Board within sixty (60) days after each meeting of the members of MBCI, or more frequently as requested by the Leadership Board.

ARTICLE 16 MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION IN FAMILY LIFE NETWORK

Section 1 - Member Representation

Commencing from the date of incorporation of Family Life Network, the Manitoba Conference shall be a founding member of Family Life Network. The Executive shall nominate such number of delegates as are set forth in Family Life Network's constating documents or by-laws, to be its representatives (collectively, the "Family Life Network Representative") at the annual general meeting of Family Life Network and any other meetings of the members of Family Life Network. The Executive shall be entitled to remove and replace the persons comprising the Family Life Network Representative at any time.

The Family Life Network Representative shall represent the Manitoba Conference, be its proxy at all such meeting and shall have full authority to bind the Manitoba Conference in all matters and decisions related to Family Life Network other than the following matters, which shall require the approval or ratification of the majority of the Leadership Board:

for a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all the property of Family Life Network;

for any amendment of Family Life Network's articles or bylaws pertaining directly, or indirectly, to the religious or spiritual nature of Family Life Network.

For any other contract, act or transaction as may be submitted to it in the sole discretion of the Family Life Network Representative; and

such approval or ratification shall be signified in writing in minutes of a meeting of, or otherwise by a resolution of the Leadership Board.

Section 2 - Reporting

The Family Life Network Representative shall be required to report to the Leadership Board within sixty (60) days after each meeting of the members of Family Life Network, or more frequently as requested by the Leadership Board.

ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1

The constitution of the Manitoba Conference may be amended at any Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference.

Section 2

Notice of motion for amendments may be made at any Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference, for disposition at the next Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference.

Section 3

In the alternative, notice of motion to amend the constitution may be dealt with at any Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference provided that such notice shall have been delivered to each of the congregations, together with an accurate outline of the proposed amendment, not less than 60 days before the commencement of the Assembly of Congregations at which constitutional amendment will be sought.

Section 4

Any motion to amend the constitution shall require the votes of two-thirds of the voting delegates in order to carry.

Section 5

With the exception of Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15 and Appendix I, any provision of the constitution of the Manitoba Conference may be waived for such period of time as may be proposed and agreed to at any Assembly of Congregations but any such waiver shall require the votes of three- fourths of the voting delegates.

ARTICLE 18 PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION

The previous constitution of the Manitoba Conference is hereby repealed, and the foregoing Articles numbered 1 to 17 and this Article 18 shall be, and are hereby, passed and enacted as the constitution of The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba.

APPENDIX I PROPERTY

Section 1 - Property of the Manitoba Conference

1. All property, whether real or personal, of the Manitoba Conference, as opposed to the property of the congregations, shall be subject to the direct supervision and management of the Leadership Board.
2. The real property of the Manitoba Conference shall be registered in the name of THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF MANITOBA.

Section 2 - Property of the Congregations and associated organizations

1. All property of the congregations, real and personal, shall be subject to the supervision and management of the local member church.
2. Subject to Section 3, the real property of all congregations shall be registered in the name of THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF MANITOBA.
3. The Manitoba Conference, by holding such titles to real property, shall act only as a bare trustee and the congregations shall retain full and absolute equitable ownership of their real property.
4. The Manitoba Conference shall not be liable for any debts or obligations incurred by congregations in connection with congregations' real property or otherwise.
5. The Manitoba Conference, through its Leadership Board, shall immediately upon request of the local member church sign all reasonable legal documents relating to real property.

6. Upon disassociation of any local member church from the Manitoba Conference, legal and equitable ownership in all real and personal property of such church shall immediately vest in The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, subject to any recommendations by the Leadership Board to the Manitoba Conference and any decision of the Manitoba Conference relating to the same.
7. In the event of dissolution of a local member church or of associations or organizations composed of members of the Manitoba Conference or associations and organizations composed of members of congregations, subject to any contrary decision of the members of the Manitoba Conference relating thereto, legal and equitable ownership in all real and personal property of such church, organization, or association shall immediately vest in The Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba and shall be administered through its Leadership Board for the benefit of the Manitoba Conference.

Section 3

Notwithstanding Section 2, Assemblies of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference shall be entitled to deal with all property of the congregations as such Assemblies of Congregations may deem advisable, subject only to the provisions of any trust under which such property may be held.

APPENDIX 2 SIMONHOUSE BIBLE CAMP

Prologue:

Simonhouse Bible Camp is currently owned and operated by the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, under the mandate assigned to the Board of Missions and Church Extension. In the governance structure of the Manitoba Conference as described in this Constitution, the Board of Missions and Church Extension no longer exists, necessitating a re-structuring of the relationship of Simonhouse Bible Camp to the Conference. A process of review and decision-making among stakeholders in Simonhouse Bible Camp has been initiated. In the interim, the following governance arrangement shall pertain.

Camp Committee

The existing Camp Committee of Simonhouse Bible Camp as structured by the Simonhouse Bible Camp Constitution will report to the Leadership Board. The Camp Committee will give support to the Director of Simonhouse Bible Camp with respect to the activities of Simonhouse Bible Camp. The Leadership Board will hold fiduciary responsibility for Simonhouse Bible Camp.