

Summary of MBCM Constitution/Bylaw Changes

Location	Old Version	New Version	Changes Explained
Here you will find the Article number, the section number and the title of the Article.	Here the old version of the constitution is either written or described for you.	Here the updated version of the constitution is either written out or described (depending on length of changes).	Here you will find an explanation of the changes, that will hopefully help you understand why the changes are being made/recommended.

Please note that some smaller changes have also been made, such as correcting grammar, formatting, or misspellings, those changes have not been noted here.

Only articles and sections with changes have been listed here. If an article or section is not listed it means that no changes have been made and it remains the same as the previous Constitution/Bylaws. (aside from correction any grammar, formatting, or misspellings)

Constitution of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba

(suggested revisions, August 2021)

Prayer for the Conference

This is a new addition to our Constitution, beginning with a prayer submitting our Conference and our Constitution to the Lord. This was recommended by CCMBC, but not a requirement.

Article 1 - Name

No changes have been made to Article 1.

Article 2 - Confession of Faith

2.1.1 Our Confession	N/A	Added "as amended from time to time".	This reflects the fact that there are occasional changes to the confession of faith. An example being the recent updates to the baptism article.
2.1.3 Our Confession		Added "The Manitoba Conference shall have a Provincial Faith and Life Team that serves in	Added at the recommendation of CCMBC. This statement shows that as a conference we

		relationship with the National Faith and Life Team since the Confession of Faith is a national document belonging to the denomination as a whole.”	will have a PFLT and that it will work together with the NFLT. Further information on the PFLT can be found in Article 12.
2.1.4 Our Confession		Added “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.”	Added at the recommendation of CCMBC. By accepting this statement churches in MB agree to accept and follow decision of the PFLT as it relates to our Confession of Faith.

Article 3 - Membership

3.1 Membership		“For the purposes of the Constitution and its bylaws, “congregation” means a local Mennonite Brethren church within the boundaries of Manitoba.”	Added a definition of congregation in order to clarify what it means in the document.
3.2 Congregations becoming Members		Added more detailed information on the process of a church becoming a member of MBCM.	This process now follows the CCMBC bylaws.
3.2	A Congregation may not be a member of any other denomination.	A Congregation may not be a member of any other denomination. This does not apply to a Congregation that is already a member of	Added a ‘grandfather clause’ for current congregations who are members of two denominations.

		another denomination on December 31, 2021.	
3.3 Investigation, Suspension, Revoking Membership, Reintegration	Was 2 separate sections in the old constitution.	Combined 'Revoking Membership' and 'Investigation of Membership Issues' into one section now titled 'Investigation, Suspension, Revoking Membership, Reintegration'.	This is now one section rather than 2 as it is all very related.
3.4 Other Membership Matters	N/A	This section includes guidance on Voluntary Termination of Membership, Automatic Termination of Membership, Reintegration of a congregation, Division of a Church, Closing of a Congregation, Transfer of Membership of a congregation, Liability of Membership, Autonomy of Congregations, Individual Membership in a Congregation, and Individual Participation on Board, Committee, or service as an MBCM representative.	This information was not previously in our constitution and was added at the recommendation of CCMBC.
3.5 Membership Responsibilities and Rights	Was titled 'Membership Responsibilities'	Now titled 'Membership Responsibilities and Rights'	Section 1. deals with responsibilities and contains additions in order to align with CCMBC. Section 2. explains a congregation's rights as a member of

			CCMBC.
3.6 Provincial and Canadian Membership	“Each congregation is also a member of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, with which Conference the Manitoba Conference is united.”	This section now includes more detailed explanations and information on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Canadian Conference 2. The Manitoba Conference 3. The Manitoba Conference bylaws Authority of the Conferences Congregational Membership in Canadian Conference Dissolution	This new and more extensive information regarding the Conferences comes from the CCMBC checklist.

Article 4 - Congregations

No changes made to Article 4.

.Article 5 - Conference Responsibilities

5.1 Responsibilities	The Manitoba Conference shall assume responsibility in the following areas related to the faith and life of member congregations and to conference ministries.	Added to end of previous sentence, “as part of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan.”	This is to indicate us aligning our conference responsibilities with the new CUSP presented by CCMBC.
5.1 Responsibilities	Resourcing Congregations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Worship and fellowship within congregations (b) Mutual concern and spiritual assistance within the congregations 	Spiritual Health and Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theological clarity and spiritual depth and faithfulness to the Confession of Faith - Resources for confessional and spiritual health within the 	This responsibility is now more focused on resourcing congregations in the areas of spiritual health and theology. Following Townhall meeting - language changes were made.

	(c) The spiritual life of the congregations	congregations. - Work with churches and leaders in credentialing and orientation	
5.1 Responsibilities	Developing Leaders: (a) Participating in funding initiatives.	Leadership Development - Formal and non-formal training and skill development - Working in collaboration with educational institutions	This responsibility has been expanded to see the conference more engaged in leadership development.
5.1 Responsibilities	Initiating Mission: (a) Missions (b) Education within Manitoba (c) evangelism	Misson - Mission and evangelism training - Developing missional churches - Church planting - Promote global partnerships	This responsibility remains mostly the same, but the new wording will hopefully better explain the ways the conference will promote and support mission.
5.1 Responsibilities	N/A	Organizational Health - Systems and operational effectiveness - Board and lay leader training and resources - Human Resources policies and resources, salary grid, etc.	This is a new responsibility that has been added to the constitution. However it is something that the conference has already been seeking to provide to congregations.
5.2 Sister Organizations		This section is deleted.	This was redundant, as the only organization listed was CCMBC, and that affiliation is dealt with in other parts of the constitution.

Article 6 - Assemblies of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference

6.1 Purpose	“... for the purpose of deliberating business of the Manitoba Conference, electing its officers and directors, and dealing with finances.”	“... for the purpose of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deliberating business of the Manitoba Conference 2. to hear and receive reports from the Canadian Conference 3. to provide feedback to the Canadian Conference 4. electing its officers and directors 5. dealing with finances.” 	2 new purposes were added to why we have Assembly every year. These new purposes show how MBCM churches will hear about and provide feedback to CCMBC in the new Collaborative Model.
6.2 Representation of Congregations	“Congregations shall be represented at Assemblies of Congregations...”	“Congregations in good standing shall be represented at Assemblies of Congregations...”	Added “in good standing” as a requirement to participate fully in Assembly.
6.6 Decision-making Process		Added, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Clarified some rules around voting to be in conformity with CCMBC bylaws.

Article 7 - Councils of Representative of the Manitoba Conference

No changes made to Article 7.

Article 8 - Election

8.2 Nominating Committee	The old constitution gave instructions for how the committee	Nominations for elected office shall be put forward at	The new wording reflects the change from an ongoing
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	should be formed, including appointees from different areas of the province, and the length of terms.	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.	committee, to an ad hoc committee as needed. This has been the way that our nominations have been functioning for some time.
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Article 9 - Organization

9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	“The activities of the Manitoba Conference shall be carried out by a Leadership Board, standing committees of the Leadership Board, or by membership in specified incorporated ministries. These shall include the following:”	“The activities of MBCM 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.”	There have been some significant changes to the committees of MBCM. Many committees no longer exist, and their responsibilities have been shifted to Leadership Board, PFLT, and staff. These changes are outlined below.
9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	a) Nominating Committee	Deleted.	Since the 2008 Constitution this committee has ceased to exist as a standing committee. Current practice has the responsibility for Nominating being with the Conference Secretary, who has the authority to create an ad hoc committee to exist as needed.

<p>9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.</p>	<p>1. Leadership Board</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.</p>	<p>2. Executive Committee</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.</p>	<p>d) Credentialing Committee</p>	<p>Deleted.</p>	<p>The responsibilities of this committee are now part of the PFLT responsibilities.</p>
<p>9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.</p>	<p>e) Missions & Church Extension Committee</p>	<p>Deleted.</p>	<p>The responsibilities of this committee were previously transferred to C2C. Now that C2C is no longer part of our conference, the responsibilities have become part of the Conference's priority areas, which are outlined in Article 5. Further information on this change is described below in "Article 14 - Missions & Church Extension Committee".</p>
<p>9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.</p>	<p>f) Conflict Resolution Committee</p>	<p>Deleted.</p>	<p>Since the 2008 Constitution this committee has ceased to exist as a standing committee. The responsibilities transferred to the staff position Director of Church Ministries. Going forward the PFLT will also carry</p>

			some of these responsibilities in collaboration with the Direction of Church Ministries.
9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	4. Finance & Audit Committee	No changes.	The Article for this committee has been renamed from 16 to now being Article 13, due to the deletion of other Articles.
9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	h) Personnel Committee	Deleted.	Since the 2008 Constitution this committee has ceased to exist as a standing committee. Current practice has the responsibility for the Constitution being with the Conference Assistant Moderator, who has the authority to create an ad hoc committee to exist as needed.
9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	i) Constitution Committee	Deleted.	Since the 2008 Constitution this committee has ceased to exist as a standing committee. Current practice has the responsibility for the Constitution being with the Conference Secretary, who has the authority to create an ad hoc committee to exist as needed.
9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	5. Board of Concord College/Canadian Mennonite University	No changes.	
9.2 Leadership	6. Member of	No changes.	

Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute Inc.		
9.2 Leadership Board, Provincial Faith & Life Team, Standing Committees and Incorporated Ministries.	7. Member of Family Life Network Inc.	No changes.	
9.10 Staff Leadership Team		Deleted.	Section removed as it reflects the old board structure where each board hired staff, who then needed the constitution to enable them to work together. This is no longer relevant.

Article 10 - Leadership Board

10.2.4 & 5 Duties	Lead Staff	Provincial Director	Updated to reflect current staff title.
10.2.5 Duties		Added "and to assign a committee to conduct an annual review of the Director's fulfillment of said duties."	Previously the responsibility to conduct a review of the Director was with the Personnel Committee. As that committee no longer exists, this responsibility has been shifted to the Leadership Board, and in particular to the Assistant Moderator. This is also outlined in the changes made in Article 9.2 and 11.3.

10.2.9 Duties		Added "To attend National Assembly conventions to represent The Manitoba Conference and participate in decision making under the Collaborative Model."	This was added to reflect the new structure of the Collaborative Model.
10.2.10 Duties		Added "To appoint one of its Board members to serve on the Executive Board of the Canadian Conference."	It is the duty of the Leadership Board to appoint a member of the Board to serve on the Executive Board of CCMBC. This addition clarifies that the Board can send a member of their choosing, rather than only being able to send the Moderator as was previous practice.

Article 11 - Terms of Duties of Executive Officers

11.3 Duties of Individual Officers 2. Assistant Moderator	"...and shall be a member of the Personnel Committee."	"...and shall appoint and be a member of the Personnel Committee for its occasional duties."	As we no longer have a standing Personnel Committee, the responsibility to create an ad hoc one as required falls to the Assistant Moderator.
11.3 Duties of Individual Officers 3. Secretary		Added "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	As we no longer have a Nominating or Constitution Committee, those responsibilities fall to the secretary to maintain and form an ad hoc committee as needed.

		Constitution Committee for regular review of the Constitution.	
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Article 12 - Staff Leadership Team

This article has been deleted, as this was relevant to the old structure of MBCM

Article 12 - Provincial Faith and Life Team

This is a new article that outlines the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PFLT. Some of the responsibilities in this article were previously in the article on the Credentialing Committee, which no longer exists.

12.1 Organization	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 MBCM 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 	Section 1 deals with the organizational structure of the PFLT and explains the authority and responsibility given to the PFLT. It also explains that they are accountable to the MBCM Board and by extension the MBCM churches.
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		on the National Faith and Life Team of the Canadian Conference.	
12.2 Duties	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Provincial Faith and Life Team oversees, promotes, and facilitates the spiritual health and theological integrity of the Mennonite Conference and credential holders. 2. Key Functions include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. It shall maintain the centrality of the Confession of Faith and shall interpret and apply it to all Manitoba Conference ministries and program in a manner consistent with interpretation and practices of the Canadian Conference and the National Faith and Life Team. b. Credentialing/ ordination/ registration c. Conflict resolution in Manitoba Conference. 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. 	This section outlines the duties of the PFLT. In addition to overseeing the Confession of Faith, the PFLT is responsible for areas of credentialing, conflict resolution, and membership. The areas of credentialing and conflict resolution were previously their own committees, but are now part of the PFLT responsibilities.

Article 14 - Missions And Church Extension Committee

This article has been removed, as this committee no longer exists. When the ministry of C2C became part of CCMBBC, responsibility for church planting was given to C2C rather than having a provincial committee work on church planting. This continued with the merger of MB Mission and C2C. When the demerger happened, the responsibility for church planting became one of

the priority areas of the Conference (MBCM) responsibilities (as outlined in the revised Article 5). Moving forward, MBCM will consider the best way to promote mission and church planting, which may include the formation of a team or committee, however that team/committee would exist as part of the Conference responsibilities and so Article 5 would cover the existence of that committee, making it unnecessary to keep this article in the Constitution.

Article 15 - Conflict Resolution Committee

This article has been removed, as this committee no longer exists. As described in the changes outlined in Article 9, the responsibilities of this committee are now with the PFLT.

Article 13 - Finance Committee

Previously was Article 16, changed due to removal of other articles. Title changed. Explanation below.

13.1.1 Organization	“1. The Finance and Audit Committee shall consist of three (3) members including the Treasurer, and one member from outside the Leadership Board.”	“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.”	The change in title is recognizing that we are completing a Review Engagement as opposed to an audit. The change indicates that there will be two members of the board and one member from outside.
13.1.3 Organization	3. The Committee shall elect its own officers from among its members.		This has been removed because the position of officer is not relevant.
13.2.1 Duties	“The Finance & Audit Committee shall recommend to the Assembly of Congregations and hire an independent public auditor.”	“The Finance Committee shall prepare financial statements and budget, and recommend an accounting firm to complete a Review Engagement to the Leadership Board.”	This change is to better explain the duties of the Finance Committee. It also now better represents the process of how an accounting firm is recommended.

13.2.2 Duties	“...and ensure compliance and integrity in Conference financial affairs.”	“...and ensure compliance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and b. integrity in Conference financial affairs.	This change has been made to provide further detail on the committees activities.

Article 17 - Personnel Committee

This article has been removed, as this committee no longer exists. The responsibilities of this committee have transferred to the Conference’s Assistant Moderator and are outlined in Article 9 and 11.

Article 18 - Constitution Committee

This article has been removed, as this committee no longer exists. The responsibilities of this committee have transferred to the Conference’s Secretary and are outlined in Article 9 and 11.

Article 14 - Board of Concord College/Canadian Mennonite University

Previously was Article 19, changed due to removal of other articles. No other changes made, however, we recognize that more work needs to be done on Article 14, 15 and 16 in order for them to convey the relationship accurately. All work being presented here in this Summary is Phase 1 of the team’s work. We anticipate more work in the near future.

Article 15 - Membership Representation in MBCI

Previously was Article 20, changed due to removal of other articles. No other changes made, however, we recognize that more work needs to be done on Article 14, 15 and 16 in order for them to convey the relationship accurately. All work being presented here in this Summary is Phase 1 of the team’s work. We anticipate more work in the near future.

Article 16 - Membership Representation in Family Life Network

Previously was Article 21, changed due to removal of other articles. No other changes made, however, we recognize that more work needs to be done on Article 14, 15 and 16 in order for them to convey the relationship accurately. All work being presented here in this Summary is Phase 1 of the team’s work. We anticipate more work in the near future.

Article 17 - Amendment of the Constitution

Previously was Article 22, changed due to removal of other articles. No other changes made.

Article 18 - Previous Constitution

Previously was Article 23, changed due to the removal of other articles. Rewritten to reflect the adoption of the new constitution. (Assuming the new constitution is approved)

Appendix 1 - Property

No changes made.

Appendix 2 - Simonhouse Bible Camp

No changes made.