**Killarney Park Mennonite Brethren Church**

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**CONSTITUTION June 1997**

**(First amendment May, 2000)**

**(Second amendment February, 2015)**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

This body was duly organized on June 20, 1961 as the Killarney Park Mennonite Brethren Church, hereafter referred to as the “Church.”

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

We, the members of Killarney Park Mennonite Brethren Church, are a community of believers who seek to glorify God (Father, Son and Spirit) and engage His mission in the world. We claim Jesus Christ’s great commission in Matthew 28.19,202 as the primary task of the church. We seek to expand the Kingdom of God as a local church through: Adoring our God................................................in Worship and Service Teaching and Nurturing the Faith......................in Christian Education Encouraging One Another.................................in Spiritual Fellowship Sharing our Lives...............................................by Caring Loving our Neighbours......................................with Justice and Compassion Sharing the Gospel............................................through Evangelism and Mission Managing our Resources...................................as Stewards of God’s Blessings

2“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**ARTICLE III - AFFILIATION**

**3.1** The Church is a member of the B.C. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, and thereby is also affiliated with the Canadian Conference of M.B. Churches and the General Conference of M.B. Churches of North America. The Church will give moral and material support to ministries carried on by the above named conferences.

**3.2** The articles of this constitution will not conflict or be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of the above named conferences.

**ARTICLE IV - FAITH AND CONDUCT**

The Confession of Faith of the General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches will be the Confession of Faith of the Church. The Church accepts the Bible as the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

**ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

**5.1 Admission to Membership** (see Confession of Faith - Article 8; reviewed and re-endorsed by Killarney Park MB Church Board, Autumn 2013)

**5.1.1 By Baptism:** Baptism is a sign of the believer’s incorporation into the body of Christ as expressed in the local church. Persons who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who give evidence of being practicing Christians, who understand the meaning of baptism, and who voluntarily request it, are eligible for baptism. Baptismal candidates, upon the public confession of their faith before the congregation, will be baptised and accepted as members of the Church. The names of baptismal candidates will appear in the church bulletin at least one Sunday prior to baptism.

**5.1.2 By Transfer from M.B. Churches:** Persons having been baptised on confession of their faith in Jesus Christ, and desiring admission to membership from other M.B. Churches may do so by letters of transfer. Upon the public confession of their faith before the congregation, they will be accepted as members of the Church. Names of those requesting transfer will appear in the church bulletin at least one Sunday before being presented to the congregation.

**5.1.3 By Testimony:** Persons having been baptized on confession of their faith in Jesus Christ, and desiring admission to membership will be interviewed by members of the Church Board. Upon the recommendation of the Church Board and the public confession of their faith before the congregation, applicants will be accepted as members of the Church. Names of those requesting membership will appear in the church bulletin at least once before being presented to the congregation.

**5.2 Termination of Membership**

Every manner of release, whether by letter of transfer, release of non-attending members or excommunication is by Church action. (See Appendix A for termination policy.)

**ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**6.1 Annual Membership Meeting**

The Church membership will convene for an Annual General Meeting to receive reports and when necessary conduct elections.

**6.2 Special Membership Meetings**

**6.2.1** The Church membership will convene for meetings when the Board considers it necessary.

**6.2.2** At the discretion of the moderator, brief matters of business may be dealt with before or after regular public worship services.

**6.3 Governing Policies**

**6.3.1 Notice of Meeting:** Notice for membership meetings will be published in the bulletin at least two Sundays preceding the meeting.

**6.3.2 Church Board Consultation:** All items of business will be reviewed by the Church Board in advance. At the discretion of the moderator, new items may be raised for discussion and decision at membership meetings.

**6.3.3 Quorums:** Unless stated otherwise, a quorum for any membership meeting will be 20% of Church membership.

**6.3.4 Voting Privileges:** All members in good standing are eligible to vote in all matters of the church

**6.3.5 Amending the Constitution**

**6.3.5.1 Initiation of Amendments:** Any member or organization of the Church may initiate a proposed amendment to these articles by submitting it in writing to the Church Board.

**6.3.5.2 Review of Amendments:** The Church Board will review and study the proposed amendment and present it to the Church at the next regular membership meeting.

**6.3.5.3 Adoption of Amendments:** Amendments to the Constitution may be submitted at any time for consideration at any regular membership meeting of the Church. A minimum of fourteen days must elapse before a vote may be taken. A two-thirds majority is required for adoption of any constitutional amendment. Publication of the proposed amendments in the Church bulletin at least two Sundays prior to the vote of their adoption will be considered proper notice under this section.

**6.3.6 Waiving a Clause of the Constitution:** A clause of the Constitution may be waived for special cases as deemed necessary by a 90% majority of all votes cast at a membership meeting where a quorum of 30% of the Church membership is present.

**6.3.7 Congregational Rule:** The membership of the Church constitutes the final authority within the Church. All major decisions will be made by the members in the context of membership meetings. The Church Board must not exercise its authority independent of the wishes of the people whom they serve and to whom they are answerable.

**6.4 Nominations**

**6.4.1 Leadership Development Team:** The Church will establish an ad hoc team to review leadership needs within the Church and identify interested and capable individuals. The Leadership Development Team will nominate members for the following positions: Moderator, Church Board and Chairs of Deacon’s Councils. Additionally, the Leadership Development Team will identify members and adherents interested and able to serve on Deacon’s Councils as ‘At-Large’ members.

**6.4.2 Composition:** The Leadership Development Team will consist of three persons. The proposed Leadership Development Team will be selected at a Membership meeting with adequate time to identify needs and identify individuals before the June AGM. Selection will be comprised of one nominee from the Board and two nominees from the membership. Term will be one year with the option for renewal up to two times.

**6.4.3 Duties:** The duties of the Leadership Development Team will be as follows:

**6.4.3.1** To discern the spiritual gifts, interests and leadership qualities of the members and adherents of the congregation.

**6.4.3.2** To carefully and prayerfully seek the consent of individuals to serve on the Church Board and Deacon Councils and to nominate them for office.

**6.4.3.3** To present the nominations list to the Church Board for review.

**6.4.3.4** To distribute the nominations list to the membership at least two Sundays prior to the Annual General Meeting

**6.4.3.5** In the event of temporary vacancies or incomplete elections at the Annual General Meeting, the Board, in consultation with the Leadership Development Team, may appoint individuals to these positions. Such appointments are to be affirmed by the Congregation at its next membership meeting. The term of office would carry through until the next Annual General Meeting.

**6.4.4 Nominations From the Congregation:** With the prior consent of nominees, nominations from the congregation will be accepted by the Church Office Secretary in time to be published in the Church bulletin one Sunday prior to the Annual General Meeting. With the prior consent of nominees, nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.

**6.5 Election of Officers**

**6.5.1 Tenure of Office:** Officers to the Church Board, Deacon Councils and standing committees will be elected at the annual membership meeting. When possible, elections should be staggered to provide continuity.

**6.5.2 Eligibility for Office:** Members in good standing are eligible for all offices. Adherents are not eligible to hold office on the Church Board but they may serve on Deacon’s Councils in all capacities and to participate in all other aspects of church work.

**6.5.3 Limitation of Office:** No member will be chairperson of more than one Deacon Council any one time.

**6.5.4 Required Vote to be Elected:** Unless stated otherwise, the nominee receiving the highest number of legally cast votes at the Annual General Meeting is elected.

**6.5.5 Voting procedures:** All elections and votes will be conducted by a simple show of hands following an appropriate motion and seconding. A secret ballot can be held if any member so requests it.

**6.5.6 Conference Delegates:** The Church membership will elect delegates for the Provincial, Canadian and General Conference conventions, and the Mennonite Central Committee convention. When at all possible, the pastor(s) will be declared a delegate.

**6.5.7 Other Committees:** The Church membership will have the right to establish any other Deacon Council or standing committee as may be necessary. These committees will report to the Board and the membership.

**ARTICLE VII - PASTORAL STAFF**

**7.1 Calling of Pastoral Staff**

**7.1.1 Board Responsibility:** When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate, the Church Board will appoint a Search Committee who will be responsible for guiding the Church membership in the selection of another Pastor. When the committee has found a suitable candidate it will present the candidate to the Board. The Board is to have candidates presented one at a time. Upon the recommendation of the Board, the candidate will be presented to the Church.

**7.1.2 Interim Leadership:** During the time when there is a vacancy in the pastorate, the Church Board will be responsible to provide for leadership of the Church.

**7.1.3 Required Vote:** The call of a Pastor will require a 75% majority vote of members present at a meeting called for that purpose.

**7.1.4 Term of Office:** The term for which a Pastor is called will be specified by the Church Board and approved by the membership at the time the Pastor is called.

**7.2 Pastoral Staff Organization**

**7.2.1 Qualifications:** Pastors will be ministers in good standing with the Mennonite Brethren Church and must accept in good conscience the M.B. Confession of Faith. Pastors must provide evidence and testimony of their call to ministry.

**7.2.2 Responsibilities:** Pastors will preach the Gospel, administer the ordinances, watch over and care for the people of the Church, promote the spiritual interest of the Church and give leadership in organizing and developing the Church for the best possible service in the Kingdom of God.

**7.2.3 Authority:** Pastors will model the Christian life with integrity so that their actions and words carry the authority for ministry with which the congregation has entrusted them, in accordance with the truths and principles of Scripture (cf. 1 Timothy 3.1-17; Titus 1.6-9). The Senior Pastor may be aided by Associate, and, or, Youth Pastors. Associate or Youth Pastors will work under the direction of the Senior Pastor but all Pastors are answerable and accountable to Congregation- Pastoral Relations Committee (‘The CPR’), the Church Board and ultimately the Church Membership. The Church Board will configure the assignments of the pastoral staff in ways that best match the ministry needs of the Church and the spiritual giftedness of pastoral staff members.

**7.2.4 Administration:** The Pastor(s) will be ex officio members of the Church Board, Deacon Councils and standing committees. Pastor(s) will receive notice of all meetings and, when not present, will be properly briefed on proceedings and actions taken at such meetings.

**7.2.5 Leave:** The Pastor(s) will be entitled to such vacation time as arranged with the Church Board. As Pastor(s) may have ministries beyond the Church from time to time, they may be absent to minister elsewhere for a period of up to three weeks per year but may not be absent from worship services for more than two consecutive Sundays, unless approved in advance by the Church Board.

**7.2.6 Evaluation:** The Board shall undertake periodic evaluation of the Pastoral Staff as a matter of routine at a frequency of not less than three years or sooner if deemed necessary by the CPR, the Board or at the request of the membership raising concerns to the Board or the CPR.

**7.3 Termination of Service**

**7.3.1** In the absence of any provisions to the contrary contained in the employment contract between the Church and the Pastor, the services of a Pastor may be terminated by:

**7.3.1.1** the pastor, upon giving to the Church three months notice or such other notice as may be agreed upon by the Pastor and the Church; or

**7.3.1.2** the Church, upon a resolution passed by two thirds of the members present at a duly convened membership meeting and upon giving to the Pastor three months notice or such other notice as may be agreed upon by the Pastor and the Church.

**ARTICLE VIII - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**8.1 Church Board**

The Church Board will provide spiritual and administrative leadership of the congregation.

**8.1.1 Election of Church Board Members**

**8.1.1.1 Composition of the Board:**

The Board shall be composed of the following:

* Moderator
* Pastor (ex officio)
* Representative from each Deacon’s Council
* Members-at-Large (2)

**8.1.1.2 Term of Office:** Members of the Board will be elected for a two year term. Members may serve three consecutive terms before taking a one year hiatus. The Moderator should serve as a Board member for at least 2 years before moving to the Moderator position and should serve as Moderator for a maximum of two terms. If necessary, by vote at the Annual General Meeting, the membership may extend a term of service if mutually agreeable between the individual and the Membership to facilitate a short-coming of succession planning for a minimum of one-year and a maximum of two- years.

**8.1.1.3 Quorum:** A quorum for any meeting of the Church Board will be two thirds of its members, excluding pastoral staff.

**8.1.2 Responsibilities of the Board**

**8.1.2.1** Members of the Board will model the Christian life with integrity so that their actions and words carry the authority for ministry with which the congregation has entrusted them, in accordance with the truths and principles of Scripture (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1-17 and Titus 1:6-9).

**8.1.2.2** The Board will guide and oversee the welfare of the congregation, in part, through its involvement with the Deacon’s Councils through the Board Representative.

**8.1.2.3** The Board will oversee all regular activities of the congregation, including:

**(1)** The presentation of appropriate recommendations to the membership concerning vision, goals and proposals for ministry relative to the purpose statement, and the responsibility and need of the Church.

**(2)** The oversight of Church members’ ministries, particularly those in leadership positions.

**(3)** The interviewing of all prospective Church members.

**(4)** The oversight of Church members who request transfer or release from membership.

**(5)** Any redemptive or disciplinary action needed concerning Church members.

**8.1.2.4** The Board will appoint a Search Committee to nominate candidates for vacant pastoral positions.

**8.1.2.5** The Board will provide counsel to all Pastoral staff, as well as provide periodic (not to exceed 3 years) review of staff members’ ministry which may include appropriate recommendations to the membership regarding the hiring, employment status, working conditions and termination of pastoral staff.

**8.1.2.6**: The CPR is a committee appointed by the Board in consultation with the Lead Pastor. It will include the Moderator as a member as the formal link to the Board. Other members will be recommended by the Lead Pastor to the Board for approval. The term of service for CPR members (other than the Moderator) will be limited to 2 years.

**8.1.2.7** The Board will seek and welcome the counsel of Conference leaders when necessary, particularly when facing matters of major local or internal concern.

**8.1.3 Organization of the Board**

**8.1.3.1 Moderator**

**(1) Qualifications:** The moderator will be a Church Board member.

**(2) Election:** The Leadership Development Team will present a candidate to the congregation for election. The candidate must receive 75% of all votes cast.

**(3) Responsibilities:**

* To preside at all membership meetings.
* To chair the meetings of the Church Board. The moderator may choose to delegate this responsibility to the Assistant Moderator when necessary.
* To be responsible for the preparation of agendas for the Annual General Meeting, Membership meetings and Church Board meetings
* To work in close harmony with the Pastor and pastoral staff.
* To oversee the signing of all employment contracts.

**8.1.3.2 Assistant Moderator**

**(1) Qualifications**: The Assistant Moderator will be a Church Board member.

**(2) Election:** The Church Board will present a candidate to the congregation for election. The candidate must receive 75% of all votes cast.

**(3) Responsibilities:** To assist the Moderator, and, when need arises, to assume full responsibilities of the Moderator.

**8.2 Deacon Councils and other councils**

**8.2.1 Election of Deacon Council Members**

**8.2.1.1 Size of Deacon Councils:** It is recommended that at least three deacons be elected to each council.

**8.2.1.2 Term of Office:** Deacons will be elected for a two-year term, after which they may seek re-election.

**8.2.2 Responsibilities of the Councils**

**8.2.2.1** Members of the Councils will model the Christian life with integrity so that their actions and words carry the authority for ministry with which the congregation has entrusted them, in accordance with the truths and principles of Scripture (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1-17 and Titus 1:6-9).

**8.2.2.2** Deacon Councils will oversee and guide specific areas of ministry as specified by the congregation or Church Board.

**8.2.2.3** Each Council will be responsible to and report to the Church Board.

**8.2.2.4** Each Council will appoint one of its members as chairperson. Additionally, each Council will select an individual to be their representative to the Board. The Board Representative must be a member of Killarney Park MB Church, but the position of chairperson of a Deacon Council is not so limited. All decisions of the Council will be minuted and submitted to the Church office for distribution to Council members, the pastoral staff and Moderator.

**8.2.2.5** Each Council will prepare recommendations pertaining to its field of ministry. Recommendations and projected budgets will be presented to the Church Board, and in particular, to the Finance Council at least one month prior to the annual budget meeting.

**8.2.2.6** Councils may deem it necessary to create ad hoc task forces to address specific short term tasks. Councils may appoint persons directly to such a task force. These persons may be from within the Council or outside the Council, and can include both Members and Adherents. If tasks are of an ongoing nature, the Council may deem it necessary to create a standing committee, in which case, members to the standing committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of office of one year.

**8.3 Deacon Council Ministry Descriptions**

**8.3.1 Finances and Properties Council**

One Council with 2 co-councils

*Finance Council*: Scope of care includes:

* + Budget development
	+ Monitoring of spending, expenses and receipts
	+ Oversight of requests for new spending.

*Properties Council:*  Scope of care includes:

* + Oversight of the care and maintenance of the facilities, including adjacent properties
	+ Input into the Capital Budget planning

**8.3.2 Body-life Council**

One Council with 2 co-councils

*Community Activities*: Scope of care includes:

* Small group co-ordination
* Hospitality activities
* Adult education
* Organization support for kitchen helpers, ushers, greeters
* Special events (Picnic, Dinners)

*Community Care*: Scope of care includes:

* Oversight of visiting and pastoral care
* Working with the Pastor to assist with care-giving
* Initiation of prayer opportunities (weekly meetings, Sunday mornings, etc)
* Prayer chains.

**8.3.3** **Worship Council**

Role in the initiation and critical and theological reflection at KPMB Scope of responsibility includes:

* Weekly worship service
* oversight of Worship Coordinators and Worship Team Leaders
* Building skillsets for Worship Leaders
* High season ‘special’ services
* Oversight of Communion
* Input at PREACHER’S CORNER

**8.3.4 Youth and Child Care**

Activities include the visioning and planning for the growth of the next generation

Oversight includes:

* Interaction with the Pre-school
* Sunday School curriculum selection
* Children’s Church curriculum and scheduling
* Junior and Senior Youth Group activities

**8.3.5 Neighbourhood Life:**

Activities indude the initiation of critical and theological reflections on being a Neighbour and to provide love and mercy and to do justice



Specific activities:

* + - Celebration for and with local community (ie, Canada Day)
		- Events of interest to a wider community
		- Communication with our Missionaries

**ARTICLE 9: DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the charity and after the payment of all debts and liabilities, its remaining property shall be distributed or disposed of in the following manner;

* as to the first recipient; The B.C. Conference of MB Churches, a qualified donee as described in subsection 149.1 (1) of the Income Act (Canada) or if not a qualified donee at the time of dissolution;
* the second recipient; Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches of North America, a qualified donee as described in subsection 149.1 (1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada) or failing that either the first or second recipient is a qualified donee at the time of dissolution;
* then to any qualified donee as described in subsection 149.1 (1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada) with similar purposes.