

Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

~ March 12, 2016 ~

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Definitions

In these Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:

"Act" - means the Private Act Chapter 122 of the *Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1953* (effective April 1, 1953) as amended by the *Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1954, c.96; 1978, c.68 **; 1990-91, c.01 and 1993, c.02.

"Canadian Conference" - means the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Church of North America;

"Confession of Faith" - means the theological centre of the Saskatchewan Conference's core belief as stated in the Confession of Faith of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Church of North America;

"Delegate" or "Delegates" - means those persons delegated by member churches to represent them at meetings of the Saskatchewan Conference;

"Executive Board" - means the governing board of the Saskatchewan Conference;

"Member" or "Member Church" - means a church which has been accepted as a member of the Saskatchewan Conference. "Members" or "Membership" means collectively all of the member churches of the Saskatchewan Conference;

"Saskatchewan Conference" - means the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches;

"Board and Team Conduct Policy" - means the Board and Team Conduct Policy required to be signed by all Executive Board and Teams.

Bylaw 1 – Membership

1.1 Becoming a Member Church

- 1.1.1 The Saskatchewan Conference may grant membership to any church or assembly of believers which:
- 1.1.1.1 professes the same faith as that of the Saskatchewan Conference as described in the Confession of Faith; and
 - 1.1.1.2 accepts its resolutions; and
 - 1.1.1.3 participates in its common undertakings.

1.2 Closing a Member Church

- 1.2.1 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 Saskatchewan Conference.

1.3 Removing a Church from Membership

- 1.3.1 The Saskatchewan Conference may remove a church or assembly of believers from membership if a church or assembly of believers ceases:
- 1.3.1.1 to professes the same faith as that of the Saskatchewan Conference as described in the Confession of Faith; or
 - 1.3.1.2 to accept its resolutions; or
 - 1.3.1.3 to participate in its common undertakings.

Bylaw 2 – Membership Meetings

2.1 Convention

- 2.1.1 The Saskatchewan Conference membership will be called into convention annually.
- 2.1.2 The Executive Board shall determine the time of the convention and the agenda.
- 2.1.3 Representation:
- 2.1.3.1 Member churches are represented at the convention by one pastor and additional delegates calculated on the basis of one delegate for every twenty-five members or fraction thereof. Members of the Saskatchewan Conference Executive Board and Teams shall be recognized as delegates in addition to the above ratio.
 - 2.1.3.2 Delegates will be members who are in good standing with their home churches and who have been duly authorized by their home church to be their representatives.
 - 2.1.3.3 Where churches or an assembly of believers are in the process of being considered for membership in the Conference, their pastors are to be granted full delegate status, and members of those churches or assemblies may be invited as guests.
- 2.1.4 Quorum shall consist of those delegates present at a duly called convention.

2.2 Interim meetings

2.2.1 The Executive Board may call additional membership meetings as they determine.

Bylaw 3 – Executive Board

3.1 Authority and Role

- 3.1.1 The Directors of the Saskatchewan Conference shall be the Executive Board and their authority is anchored in the membership.
- 3.1.2 The Executive Board are the “keepers of the vision” and as such are to lead the Saskatchewan Conference in major decision-making and strategic initiatives.
- 3.1.3 With the interest of the general welfare of the Saskatchewan Conference in mind, the Executive Board shall develop policies that give structure and direction in the attainment of the Saskatchewan Conference’s purposes.
- 3.1.4 In exercising its authority, the Executive Board may not cause or allow the Saskatchewan Conference to be in violation of the Act, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Conference, nor the laws of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan.
- 3.1.5 The Executive Board may act as the Conference in interim when necessary.

3.2 Qualifications

- 3.2.1 All members of the Executive Board shall:
 - 3.2.1.1 be at least 18 years of age; and
 - 3.2.1.2 be a member in good standing of a member church; and
 - 3.2.1.3 agree with the Confession of Faith; and
 - 3.2.1.4 be interested in furthering the Saskatchewan Conference’s purposes; and
 - 3.2.1.5 sign the Board and Team Conduct Policy; and
 - 3.2.1.6 not be declared incapable by a court; and
 - 3.2.1.7 not have the status of a bankrupt.

3.3 Disqualification

- 3.3.1 All members of the Executive Board shall not be an “ineligible individual” as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

3.4 Elections

- 3.4.1 The term of office for all Executive Board positions shall be two years, with the exception of the provincial representatives to Canadian Conference Boards whose terms shall align with Canadian Conference policy.
- 3.4.2 The terms of the Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall expire in alternate years.
- 3.4.3 Upon presentation of the slate of nominees prepared by the Executive Board, opportunity shall not be given for additional nominations from the floor.
- 3.4.4 All elections shall be by ballot and each position shall be voted on separately.
- 3.4.5 A simple majority vote shall be required to elect a person.
- 3.4.6 The term of office for newly elected Executive Board Members shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the convention.

3.5 General

- 3.5.1 Members of the Executive Board shall not be remunerated for serving as such.
- 3.5.2 If a vacancy occurs between terms, the Executive Board may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the Conference.
- 3.5.3 A member shall not hold office in more than one Executive Board position at one time.

Bylaw 4 – Fiscal

4.1 Fiscal Year

- 4.1.1 The fiscal year end shall be December 31.

Bylaw 5 – Amendments to Bylaws

5.1 Process

- 5.1.1 Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall first be submitted to the Executive Board, who shall in turn give thirty (30) days of notice to the membership before the Saskatchewan Conference convention.
- 5.1.2 A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present at Saskatchewan Conference convention is required for approval.

Effective Date: March 12, 2016

Moderator – Philip Gunther

Assistant Moderator – Tony Martens

Member at Large – Terry Rapsey