

CONSTITUTION
MOUNT ROYAL MENNONITE CHURCH
OF SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Constitution Adopted: 1970

Amended: December 19, 2010

PREAMBLE

We are a Christian church. We believe in **Jesus Christ**, the Word of God become flesh. He is the Saviour of the world, and the foundation for our church.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This congregation shall be named the MOUNT ROYAL MENNONITE CHURCH of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

ARTICLE II: AFFILIATION

To facilitate our fulfilling of the Great Commission and as points of identity and doctrinal reference beyond our congregation, we have chosen to be affiliated with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask.). And through that affiliation, we also recognize our membership in Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada) and Mennonite World Conference. This congregation also participates in the missional work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

ARTICLE III: VISION AND MISSION

Vision: "God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as a community of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world." (This statement is adapted from MC Canada's vision statement.)

Mission: Our biblical mission is to nurture each other as we grow through worship, study and prayer; seeking to obey God's call to bring healing, wholeness and hope to our world through Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV: CONFESSION OF FAITH

As members of Christ's Church, we seek to know, trust and follow our God. To help in this mission, we use scripture as one teacher. Our congregation has also adopted "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective", a document compiled by the national church bodies. This confession is a guideline for interpretation of scripture and provides us with guidance for belief and practice. As Christians, we also turn to our belief in prayer to communicate with God, that we may better learn God's direction.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this church will be based on that person's acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Each candidate for membership should give a testimony of their faith in Christ and demonstrate a desire to live a Christian life. Candidates for membership are

to have had a meaningful baptism or confirmation experience. All candidates will be made thoroughly familiar with our Anabaptist understanding of faith, and should exhibit an acceptance of our Confession of Faith (Article IV), and the Constitution and By-laws of this congregation. Persons transferring membership from other congregations should have a Certificate of Transfer of Membership or similar letter of release. The church, through its officers, shall examine and receive candidates for membership upon affirmation of their faith.

Membership is discussed in more detail under our church By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI: ADMINISTRATION

This church recognizes Jesus Christ as the Head and supreme authority for all its actions and functions. The ministry of Mount Royal Mennonite Church will be governed by a set of By-laws established in accordance with this Constitution.

Under Christ, the administration of this church shall be vested in its members acting through its elected representatives in accordance with the church's By-laws. In all matters, the goal shall be to function by consensus and in unity, seeking to follow the mind and heart of Christ.

ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION

All members share equally in the property owned or that which may be acquired by the congregation. Those who leave the church, voluntarily or otherwise, shall forfeit their share in all church property and lose all claims to it. In the event that the membership should decide to dissolve itself, all assets shall be transferred to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Written notice of proposed changes shall be made to the congregation at least 4 weeks prior to a meeting at which the changes will be addressed. Proposed amendments shall be presented to Council in writing, at least forty five days prior to the proposed meeting.

This constitution may be amended by four fifths (4/5) majority of those present at the congregational meeting and casting a vote, provided a quorum of thirty three percent (33%) of the resident active membership is present.

APPENDIX A: Summary Statement of Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective

This summary is taken from:

General Conference Mennonite Church; Mennonite Church. Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective. Scottsdale, Pennsylvania: Herald Press, 1995, 112pp. ISBN: 9780836190434. Any amendments or new editions forthcoming from our affiliated conference bodies shall form part of Article IV of this constitution.

1. We believe that **God** exists and is pleased with all who draw near by faith. We worship the one holy and loving God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit eternally. God has created all things visible and invisible, has brought salvation and new life to humanity through Jesus Christ, and continues to sustain the church and all things until the end of the age.
2. We believe in **Jesus Christ**, the Word of God become flesh. He is the Saviour of the world, who has delivered us from the dominion of sin and reconciled us to God by his death on a cross. He was declared to be Son of God by his resurrection from the dead. He is the head of the church, the exalted Lord, the Lamb who was slain, coming again to reign with God in glory.
3. We believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the eternal Spirit of God, who dwelled in Jesus Christ, who empowers the church, who is the source of our life in Christ, and who is poured out on those who believe as the guarantee of redemption.
4. We believe that all **Scripture** is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. Led by the Holy Spirit in the church, we interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ.
5. We believe that God has **created the heavens and the earth** and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews what has been made. All creation has its source outside itself and belongs to the Creator. The world has been created good because God is good and provides all that is needed for life.
6. We believe that God has created human beings in the divine image. God formed them from the dust of the earth and gave them a special dignity among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation.
7. We confess that, beginning with Adam and Eve, humanity has disobeyed God, given way to the tempter, and chosen to **sin**. All have fallen short of the Creator's intent, marred the image of God in which they were created, disrupted order in the world, and limited their love for others. Because of sin, humanity has been given over to the enslaving powers of evil and death.
8. We believe that, through Jesus Christ, God offers **salvation** from sin and a new way of life. We receive God's salvation when we repent and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. In Christ, we are reconciled with God and brought into the reconciling community. We place our faith in God that, by the same power that raised Christ from the dead, we may be saved from sin to follow Christ and to know the fullness of salvation.

9. We believe that the **church** is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim the reign of God and to provide a foretaste of the church's glorious hope. It is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit.
10. We believe that the **mission** of the church is to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned the church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all things he has commanded.
11. We believe that the **baptism** of believers with water is a sign of their cleansing from sin. Baptism is also a pledge before the church of their covenant with God to walk in the way of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are baptized into Christ and his body by the Spirit, water and blood.
12. We believe that the **Lord's Supper** is a sign by which the church thankfully remembers the new covenant which Jesus established by his death. In this communion meal, the church renews its covenant with God and with each other and participates in the life and death of Jesus Christ, until he comes.
13. We believe that in **washing the feet** of his disciples, Jesus calls us to serve one another in love as he did. Thus we acknowledge our frequent need of cleansing, renew our willingness to let go of pride and worldly power and offer our lives in humble service and sacrificial love.
14. We practice **discipline** in the church as a sign of God's offer of transforming grace. Discipline is intended to liberate erring brothers and sisters from sin, and to restore them to a right relationship with God and to fellowship in the church. The practice of discipline gives integrity to the church's witness in the world.
15. We believe that **ministry** is a continuation of the work of Christ, who gives gifts through the Holy Spirit to all believers and empowers them for service in the church and in the world. We also believe that God calls particular persons in the church to specific leadership ministries and offices. All who minister are accountable to God and to the community of faith.
16. We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is **one body** with many members, ordered in such a way that, through the one Spirit, believers may be built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.
17. We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to **discipleship**, to take up our cross and follow him. Through the gift of God's saving grace, we are empowered to be disciples of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, following his teachings and his path through suffering to new life. As we are faithful to his way, we become conformed to Christ and separated from the evil in the world.
18. We believe that to be a disciple of Jesus is to know **life in the Spirit**. As the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes shape in us, we grow in the image of Christ and in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is active in individual and in communal worship, leading us deeper into the experience of God.
19. We believe that God intends human life to begin in **families** and to be blessed through families. Even more, God desires all people to become part of the church, God's family. As single and married members of the church family give and receive nurture and

healing, families can grow toward the wholeness that God intends. We are called to chastity and to loving faithfulness in marriage.

20. We commit ourselves to tell the **truth**, to give a simple yes or no, and to avoid the swearing of oaths.
21. We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls the church to live in faithful **stewardship** of all that God has entrusted to us, and to participate now in the rest and justice which God has promised.
22. We believe that **peace** is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing non-resistance, even in the face of violence and warfare.
23. We believe that the church is God's holy nation, called to give full allegiance to Christ its head and to witness to every **nation, government, and society** about God's saving love.
24. We place our hope in the **reign of God** and its fulfillment in the day when Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather his church, which is already living under the reign of God. We await God's final victory, the end of this present age of struggle, the resurrection of the dead, and a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace forever and ever.