# CONSTITUTION OF TRINITY MENNONITE CHURCH

ADOPTED: February 27th, 1989

AMENDED: June 13th, 2001

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This Constitution replaces the previous Constitution adopted by Trinity Mennonite Church

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# PREAMBLE

This Constitution and the members of Trinity Mennonite Church (TMC) accept the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible written authority of absolute truth and direction for our faith and life.

> Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

Since the Scriptures admonish believers to do all things properly and in an orderly manner (1 Cor. 14:40);

And recognizing that the Church is a body of many interdependent parts (1 Cor. 12:12-31) having different abilities and responsibilities and even having some different understandings;

We believe that it is necessary to set out in this Constitution certain fundamental beliefs we hold in common as well as certain principles and guidelines by which we at TMC have agreed the affairs of this Church shall be conducted. We accept the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective and the following Statement of Faith and Practice.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PRACTICE

1. We believe in one God, eternally existing and manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Deut. 6:4-5; Heb. 1:1-10; Matt. 3:16-17; Deut. 5:7; John 1:1-14, 14:25-26; 15:26.
2. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, born of the virgin Mary, His perfect humanity, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into Heaven, and His personal triumphant return. John 3:16; Luke 1:30-35, 2:5-7; 1 Cor. 3:11; 1 Cor. 15:3-6; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 1 Tim. 2:16; Acts 1:9-11.
3. We believe that Jesus is present in the life of every believer in the person of the Holy Spirit who guides, teaches and enables the believer in faith and obedience. John 14:16-17, 25-26, 15:26-27, 16:7-11, 13, 14.
4. We believe in the immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the dead, and a future state determined by divine judgment. Heb. 9:24-28; John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15; Matt. 25:31-46.
5. We believe in the divine inspiration, and authority of the Bible as the primary guide to faith and life. John 21:24; Mark 13:31; Luke 1:1-4.
6. We believe a Christian is one saved by grace, whose life is being transformed into the likeness of Christ by his atoning death and the renewing and transforming power of his resurrection. Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Tim. 2:1-6; Rom. 12:1-2, 2 Cor. 3:18.

7. We believe that Christ lived and taught a way of life which is God's plan for the individual and the human race. Therefore, it behooves disciples of Christ to pattern their lives after this example and teaching, thus manifesting the love and holiness of God. We believe that this way of life does not resist evil by carnal means, but incorporates the fullest exercise of love and abandons the use of violence including warfare. We believe that the Christian life will of necessity express itself in nonconformity to the world in life and conduct. Matt. 5,6,7; Rom. 12:9-21; 1 Cor. 13.

8. We believe in the need for fellowship with God in prayer. We believe in the power of prayer. Rom. 12:12; Psalm 95:6-7; Eph. 6:18-19: James 5:16; Matt. 6:5-15.

9. We believe that the Christian Church consists of believers, who have repented from their sins, who have accepted Jesus Christ by faith and who sincerely endeavour by the grace of God to witness to their faith and to live the Christian life. John 3:1-12; Eph. 1:1-23; Eph. 3:14-19.

10. We believe in the community (Gemeinschaft) of the redeemed under the Fatherhood of God in Christ. John 17:20-26; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Phil. 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Heb. 12:1-2.

11. We believe in the priesthood of all believers and that all Christians must serve God as His ambassadors and must approach God directly for forgiveness and fellowship, not through any clergy or other intermediary. 1 Pet. 2:5 & 9; 1 Tim. 2:5.

12. We believe that to remain unmarried is within God's will and that unmarried Christians should participate in all areas of ministry and service within the church. 1 Cor. 7:8.

13. We believe that Christians should be baptized on confession of faith as a step of obedience to Christ. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 10:44-48; Mk. 16:6; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21; Matt. 10:32; Rom. 19:9-10; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27.

14. We believe that the ordinance of Holy Communion was instituted by Jesus Christ and that Christians who are in right relationship with God and with each other, should participate in Holy Communion regularly. "Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-29; John 6:35; John 13:5; John 13:12-15; Luke 7:44; 1 Tim. 5:9-10.

15. We believe that Christians are enjoined to belong only to organizations, societies and groups whose aims and activities are compatible with the Christian faith and not to secret societies that require blind obedience, allegiance and support of their members. 2 Cor. 6:14; Heb. 10:25.

16. We believe that the Christian life is to be manifest both within the believing church and within the world. We believe that Christians shall abstain from swearing in the taking of oaths (Matt. 5:33-37), demonstrate forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-22), and abstain from any act which would harm a fellow Christian or compromise the Christian witness (Rom 14:1-13).

17. We believe that Christians are enjoined to resolve conflicts with other Christians in a spirit of openness, understanding, confession and forgiveness. If Christians cannot

resolve their conflict, the matter should be presented to the church leadership for assistance in resolution. Lawsuits should be avoided. 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Matt. 18:15-17.

## ARTICLE I: NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of this church is TRINITY MENNONITE CHURCH. This church is located in Foothills County, Alberta, and is a member of MENNONITE CHURCH ALBERTA and MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA.

## ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Trinity Mennonite Church is established as a Christian Church and shall be composed of a body of believers who have been "called-out" from the world, who have subjected themselves to the dominion and authority of Jesus Christ and who have joined together for the following purposes:

a) To Glorify God. "Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever." (Larger Catechism). This is repeatedly confirmed in Scripture as the primary purpose of the Church (Rom 15:6,9; Eph. 1:5,6,12,14,18; John 15:8; Eph. 3:21; 2 Thess. 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Pet. 4:11; Matt. 22:37). It is accomplished through worship, righteousness, faithfulness, obedience, and justice for the oppressed (Micah 6:8; Matt. 22:39; Matt. 25:40).

b) To Build Up the Body of Christ. God has equipped the church with various spiritual gifts for the "discipling" of the believers and for the "perfecting of the saints" (Eph. 4:11- 16; Col. 2:7; 1 Cor. 14:26; 1 Cor. 12). This includes nurture of the church and discipling of believers through sound biblical teaching (Eph. 4:11,12; Matt. 28:19).

c) To Evangelize the World. The church is directed to go into all the world and make disciples (Matt. 28:17-20: Acts 1:8). This finds expression in local evangelism and foreign missions.

d) To Uphold all that Is Good and to Minister to the Needs of a Hurting World. The example and teachings of Jesus Christ, and later those of His apostles, make it abundantly clear that Christians are to work for all that is good and just. All these good works are to testify to Christ. This purpose is fulfilled as the followers of Christ act justly and exercise love in all that they do, and as they minister to hurts and injustices existing everywhere in the world (Micah 6:8; Matt. 25:31-46; James 2:14-19: James 2:26; 1 Peter 3:1-17).

## ARTICLE III: CHURCH GOVERNANCE

Control of this church is vested in the members of TMC.

Decisions regarding acquisition, disposal and financing of church property, approval of budgets, elections, hiring and termination of paid personnel, approval of major policies

and any other matter requiring approval of the membership of TMC shall be made at duly constituted Congregation Meetings.

Duly constituted Congregation Meetings must have and maintain a quorum and notices of such meetings must be given on two Sundays prior to the date of any Congregation Meeting.

A quorum shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the Active Membership of TMC.

Active Members of TMC are those members who regularly attend Sunday morning worship services of TMC.

A quorum must be represented in any decision made by the membership of TMC at a duly constituted Congregation Meeting. The total of the votes for and against any motion must be at least as many as the number of members required for a quorum.

In the case where a Congregation Meeting is disqualified from taking any action on behalf of TMC because a quorum is not present, another Congregation Meeting may be called and each Active Member shall be notified in writing of the time, place and agenda of the second meeting. Those present at the second meetings shall be deemed to be a quorum.

Responsibility for the ministries, nurture, leadership and administration of this church shall be vested in the Church Council of TMC which shall consist of the Congregation Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, leading Pastor(s) and such other members as may be named by the membership of TMC. All members of Church Council must be members of TMC in good standing.

Any formal legal documents needing to be executed by TMC shall be signed by the Congregation Chairperson and either the Vice-Chairperson or the Secretary.

The Church Council shall be accountable to the membership of TMC.

## ARTICLE IV: CHURCH PROPERTY

TMC is incorporated and has the right to acquire, own, sell and otherwise deal with real property.

All property held by this church and any assets it may acquire in the future shall remain the sole property of TMC.

Church Council shall be empowered to act for TMC in all respects of purchasing, registering and financing real property consistent with the specific direction given by the membership of TMC at a duly constituted Congregation Meeting.

Upon wind-up or dissolution of TMC (after all costs, charges and expenses and all debts of this church are paid) all remaining assets shall be distributed equally between Mennonite Central Committee (Canada), Mennonite Church Alberta and Mennonite Church Canada, or as the membership of TMC sees fit.

## ARTICLE V: NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

TMC shall carry on all business without purpose of gain for any of its members. Any and all profits or other accretions to this church shall be used solely in promoting the programs and objectives of TMC. This provision shall be unalterable.

## ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution, whether by change of wording, additions or deletions, shall be made only in the following manner at a duly constituted Congregation Meeting:

a) Written notice of the proposed amendments must be distributed to every Active Member. Notice must be given in accordance with the provisions of the Province of Alberta's Religious Societies' Land Act.

b) Amendments must be approved by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of all ballots cast.

**ENACTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF TMC ON May 24th, 2026.**

This document is certified to be correct.

Signed,

Keith Hunsberger
Congregation Chairperson

Lois Epp
Congregational Secretary