

**BEAUMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH
BY-LAWS**

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THE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 Denomination -- The Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
- 1.2 Constitution -- The official constitution of The Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
- 1.3 District -- The Evangelical Missionary Church Canada West District
- 1.4 Church -- Beaumont Community Church
- 1.5 Local Conference -- the membership of the Church
- 1.6 Local Conference Meeting -- a meeting of the Local Conference to conduct the business of the Church

2. NAME

The name of this organization is BEAUMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH, referred to as BCC. The office and meeting place of BCC is located in Beaumont, Alberta.

3. BCC

3.1 *Purpose of BCC*

BCC is an organized fellowship of Christian believers who have joined together for the purposes of public worship, fellowship among God's people, the deepening of spiritual life in believers, and the cooperation with sister Churches in the spreading of the Gospel at home and abroad. Its aim is to spread the Word of God as interpreted in the Articles of Faith and Practice in the Constitution. It invites both Members and Adherents to share in the life of BCC.

3.2 *Denominational Affiliation*

BCC has adopted the Constitution of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada.

As a member church of that Denomination, BCC seeks to do the following:

- administer its local affairs in accordance with the Constitution and the District By-Laws
- earnestly contend for the faith as held by the Denomination
- recognize and co-operate with the Officers of the Denomination

- support the benevolences and enterprises which are assumed jointly by the Churches of the Denomination
- send delegates to the General and District Conferences of the Denomination when reasonably possible

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 *Membership of BCC*

Members are persons who:

- give clear testimony to saving faith in Christ
- give evidence of that faith in discipleship and obedience (e.g. baptism).
- have completed the application process, been examined and publicly received into the fellowship of BCC
- have agreed to the Covenant of Membership (see Appendix 1).

4.2 *Acquisition of Membership*

Membership may be conferred at age sixteen or older. Individuals desiring membership will be provided with instruction in the beliefs and practices of BCC. Their written application for membership will be reviewed by the Elder Board and approved if acceptable. They will then be publicly received into the membership.

4.3 *Transfer and Withdrawal of Membership*

Members in good standing who transfer to another church in the Denomination shall, at their request, be given Letters of Transfer.

Members may withdraw their membership from BCC upon written request to the Elder Board.

Transfers being made from another church in the Denomination are subject to approval by the Elder Board.

4.4 *Membership Roster*

The membership roster of BCC will be annually reviewed for accuracy and then approved by the Elder Board.

4.5 *Discipline of Members*

Members are subject to the discipline stated in the Constitution. Disciplinary counselling shall be initiated by the Elder Board. If a satisfactory settlement is not achieved, appropriate action will be the responsibility first of the Elder Board, and secondly, of Local Conference.

4.6 *Duties of Members*

Members are expected to do the following:

- support the beliefs and practices of BCC

- comply with the standards of the Christian life described in the Scriptures and the Constitution
- uphold the responsibilities described in the Covenant of Membership

5. GOVERNANCE OF THE CHURCH

5.1 Local Conference

The Local Conference is the governing body of BCC. It adopts its own By-Laws, policies and procedures compatible with the Constitution. It elects or appoints its own Officers.

5.2 The Elder Board

The Elder Board will be made up of designated pastors and Lay Leaders as elected by an 80% vote (or higher) by the Local Conference to a term of 3 years. There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms a person can serve as an Elder. All members of the Elder Board must be members of BCC. Each of the above members has voting privileges.

The duties of the Elder Board include:

- providing spiritual oversight and direction.
- developing the direction and vision for the Church and assigning responsibility for expanding, developing and implementing any actions necessary to achieve those goals.
- ensuring that all administrative affairs and decisions of Local Conference are implemented appropriately between meetings of Local Conference.
- designating the signing authorities for BCC.

5.3 Voting Privileges in Local Conference Meetings

Only members of BCC have voting privileges.

5.4 Local Conference Meetings

5.4.1 Frequency and Timing

Regular meetings will be held annually. The Elder Board Chairman presides at these meetings and Minutes are kept by a designated member of the Local Conference.

5.4.2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Elder Board or by the District Superintendent.

5.4.3. Procedural Rules

Meetings are conducted according to basic parliamentary procedure.

A minimum of two weeks published public notice of meetings shall be given.

This public notice shall include all relevant information requiring Local Conference action.

5.4.4. Openness

All meetings, unless specifically announced otherwise, are public meetings to which Denominational and District officers, Members and Adherents of the Church are invited.

5.5. Officers and Committees

5.5.1. The Nominating Committee

It will be composed of at least two members of BCC elected at the Local Conference, and (one of) the Pastors. The purpose of the Committee is to make nominations for Church Offices.

5.5.2. Nominations for Church Offices by Members

Members may make nominations for Church Offices by placing the name of the nominee on a piece of paper and submitting it to the nominating committee. No nominations will be taken from the floor of a Local Conference meeting for these positions. Nominations will cease 2 weeks prior to the Local Conference meeting

5.5.3. Term of Office

The term of office for Officers and Committees will be from **February 1 to January 31**. All elected Offices are for two-year terms, with the exception of Elder. The Elder Office has a term of 3 years.

All non-elected positions have one-year terms, effective **February 1 to January 31**.

No elected officer shall serve more than 3 consecutive terms in the same office, except for an Elder (See 5.2).

5.5.4. Election/Appointment of Officers

The Nominating Committee presents nominations for Offices at Local Conference, having already given public notice.

The Local Conference elects persons to all Church Offices. Vacancies which occur between Local Conference meetings or unfilled positions will be filled by appointment at the discretion of the Elder Board. All appointments have terms that expire upon the next election. Only members of BCC can fill elected positions.

Additional Boards and Committees may be established with the approval of the Elder Board for whatever time period is required for the operation and ministries of the Church.

5.5.5. Accountability

All Officers, Boards, Committees and Departments are accountable to Local Conference for actions taken on behalf of the Church.

5.5.6. Election of Delegates to District Conference and General Assembly

The Local Conference will elect the appropriate number of delegates and alternate delegates to represent the Church at District Conference and General Assembly, according to the District By-Laws and the Constitution respectively. These elections will take place at the Local Conference meeting.

6. PROPERTY

Local Conference, subject to the approval of the District, who holds Title Deeds to all Church properties, shall acquire or dispose of such properties as is appropriate for the realization of the purposes and goals of the Church.

7. PASTORAL STAFF

7.1 Selection of Pastoral Staff

The Elder Board is responsible for the recommendation of suitable candidates for the Pastoral Staff. Selection procedures shall conform to the District By-Laws.

7.2 Duties

The duties, as outlined in job profiles, shall be established and approved by the Elder Board. The Pastor(s) are under the authority of the Elder Board. Lines of authority among additional staff will be negotiated and covered by contract.

7.3 Remuneration

The remuneration package shall be initially negotiated between the Elder Board and the candidate (or the committee appointed to conduct the Pastoral search), and approved by Local Conference. An annual review of the package shall be done by the Budget Committee and submitted to the Elder Board for review. The Elder Board then recommends it to Local Conference as part of the annual budget.

7.4 Pastoral Staff Evaluation

An annual evaluation of each person's ministries shall be carried out by the Elder Board before November 1st of each year. The results will be shared with that person. The evaluations will also be shared with the District Superintendent and, in general terms, with Local Conference.

7.5 Pastoral Votes

A pastoral vote is a vote of the Local Conference on whether to retain a staff member's services. The procedure shall follow the guidelines found in the District By-Laws.

8. CHURCH FINANCES

8.1 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the purposes of annual reports and financial records shall be from January 1st through December 31st.

8.2 Budget Approval

The Church shall operate its financial affairs in accordance with an annual unified budget approved at Local Conference. The budget shall encompass all areas and auxiliary organizations of the Church.

8.3 Annual Budget Development

The Elder Board is responsible for the final draft of the budget in consultation with all relevant bodies in the church, and for its recommendation to the Local Conference meeting.

8.4 Amendments to the Budget

Amendments made between meetings of Local Conference shall require approval by the Elder Board.

9. BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws must be adopted at a meeting of Local Conference by a two-thirds majority vote of the Members in attendance. Proposed amendments must be publicly published at least one month in advance of this vote.

This concludes the By-Laws of Beaumont Community Church. - Attached Appendix 1

Appendix 1

BEAUMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH **COMMITMENT OF MEMBERSHIP**

Having been led to repentance toward God and Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, we now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this commitment with one another as one body in Christ:

1. We commit, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to join in mutual labours for the kingdom of Christ; to strive loyally for the advancement of this church in holiness, knowledge, and love; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines.
2. We commit to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God prospers us, to the support of this church and to worldwide ministries.
3. We commit to maintain private devotions and family devotions where possible; to endeavour to bring early to a saving knowledge of Christ all over whom we have the care and influence; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements.
4. We commit further to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense and always ready for reconciliation.
5. We commit to witness faithfully to the saving and keeping power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ so that in every way we may bring lost men and women to a saving knowledge of Him.