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**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Bylaws

Last Updated July 2012

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81 **GENERAL BYLAWS**

82 **PART I - DEFINITIONS**

83

84 **Definition of Terms**

85

86 **1** In these bylaws:

87

88 (a) "Act" means The Act of Incorporation of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada as
89 amended by An Act to amend the Act of incorporation of the Conference of Mennonites in
90 Canada.

91 (b) "Area Church" means a body of congregations that have been accepted to membership in
92 the area church, visibly grouped in a region of Canada not necessarily bounded by provincial
93 borders;

94 (c) "Congregation" means a body of persons who have responded to the call of Christ in
95 repentance and in faith, who symbolize their unity through the practice of baptism and
96 communion, and who are visibly
97 grouped for the express purpose of implementing their obedience to Christ as head of the
98 church;

99 (d) "Congregational member" means a person who is a member of a constituent
100 congregation;

101 (e) "Constituent congregation" means a congregation which is a member of an Area Church
102 and of Mennonite Church Canada;

103 (f) "MC Canada" means Mennonite Church Canada; and

104 (g) "MC USA" means Mennonite Church USA.

105

106 **PART II - MEMBERSHIP**

107

108 **Eligibility for Membership**

109

110 **2** (1) An Area Church in Canada which accepts the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite
111 Perspective, supports the Vision Statement and Identity and Purpose Statement of MC
112 Canada and accepts these bylaws is eligible to
113 become a member of MC Canada.
114

115 (2) Any Area Church that wishes to become a member of MC Canada is invited to submit a
116 request in writing to the Executive Director, who will submit it to the General Board which
117 will, in turn, present the request and a recommendation to a delegate assembly.
118

119 (3) A constituent congregation is a member of MC Canada as long as the Area Church to
120 which it belongs is a member of MC Canada.

121

122 **Rights and Privileges of Members**

123

124 **3** (1) Membership in MC Canada entitles Area Churches to:

125

126 (a) send delegates to a delegate assembly, as specified elsewhere in these bylaws, with the
127 right to vote;

128 (b) representation on the General Board, as specified elsewhere in these bylaws; and

129 (c) participate in programs and receive services from MC Canada.

130

131 (2) Membership in MC Canada entitles constituent congregations

132 to:

133 (a) send delegates to a delegate assembly, as specified elsewhere in these bylaws, with the
134 right to vote;

135 (b) have their congregational members serve on the General Board or stand for election to
136 any elected positions except as otherwise provided in these bylaws; and

137 (c) participate in programs and receive services from MC Canada.

138

139 **Expectations of Members**

140

141 **4** Area Churches and constituent congregations are expected to:

142

143 (a) give faithful attention to the Scriptures;

144 (b) accept the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective;

145 (c) uphold statements of Christian faith and life made by MC Canada from time to time;

146 (d) respond to the invitation to become engaged in mission and service;

147 (e) participate in the church's life and mission through generous contributions of time and
148 personal resources all in commitment to Jesus Christ in response to the grace of God and in

149 loving service to the church in which the Holy Spirit lives and works; and

150 (f) assume all duties as defined in these bylaws.

151

152 **Provisional Membership**

153

154 **5** (1) Provisional membership is open to any Area Church which:

155

156 (a) meets the eligibility requirement in bylaw 2(1);

157 (b) is not ready for full membership; but which

158 (c) wishes to evaluate the meaning of full membership for itself.

159

160 (2) Provisional membership:

161 (a) may be requested in writing to the Executive Director, and the process set out in bylaw

162 2(2) shall apply;

- 163 (b) is restricted to a maximum of five years;
164 (c) carries with it the expectations listed in bylaw 4;
165 (d) provides all the rights and privileges of membership listed in bylaw 3 except that:
166 (i) their delegates are not entitled to vote at delegate
167 assemblies;
168 (ii) their congregational members may be elected to a Council, but may not serve on
169 the General Board; and
170 (iii) participation in programs and services from MC Canada, and the costs
171 associated with them, will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
172

173 (3) A constituent congregation is a provisional member of MC Canada as long as the Area
174 Church to which it belongs is a provisional member of MC Canada.
175

176 **Removal of Members**

177
178 **6** An Area Church may be removed from membership in MC Canada only on the
179 recommendation of the General Board, and such recommendation may only be made after
180 the General Board has followed procedures defined in Guidelines for Building Faithful
181 Relationships in the Church (1998) and Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love (1995) to try to
182 resolve matters with the area church in a way that would avert the need for such a
183 recommendation.
184

185 **PART III - DELEGATE ASSEMBLIES**

186

187 **Representation at Delegate Assemblies**

188

189 **7 (1)** Area Churches and constituent congregations may be represented at delegate
190 assemblies as follows:

191

192 (a) delegates appointed by constituent congregations:

193 (i) in the ratio of one delegate for every 50 congregational
194 members or a portion thereof; but

195 (ii) not less than two per constituent congregation; and

196 (b) delegates appointed by the Area Churches:

197 (i) in the ratio of one delegate for every 1,000 congregational
198 members, or portion thereof, of their constituent congregations; but

199 (ii) not less than six and not more than 12 delegates per Area Church.
200

201 (2) Each delegate may represent only one of either an area church, or a constituent
202 congregation, but not both simultaneously.
203

204 (3) Delegates must be congregational members. There are no other restrictions on who may
205 be a delegate.
206

207 **Duties and Powers of Voting Delegates**

208

209 **8** The delegates entitled to vote and present at a delegate assembly
210 shall:

211 (a) have the authority to act on behalf of MC Canada;

212 (b) discern MC Canada's participation in God's work as reflected in its Vision Statement and
213 Identity and Purpose Statement;

214 (c) debate issues facing the church and, from time to time, issue statements, including, but
215 not limited to, statements pertaining to faith and life, position statements, and statements to
216 governments;

217 (d) review the work and ministry of MC Canada;

218 (e) approve the budgets of MC Canada;

219 (f) receive the General Board's recommendation on the appointment of an auditor to hold
220 office until the close of the next regular delegate assembly, and accept or reject such
221 recommendation;

222 (g) consider and accept or reject the financial statements of MC Canada and the auditor's
223 report;

224 (h) receive the General Board's recommendation and accept, reject or remove Area Churches
225 as members or as provisional members;

226 (i) elect MC Canada's officers, members of the Councils and members of the Nominating
227 Committee; and

228 (j) make the bylaws of MC Canada, amend bylaws as deemed appropriate, and monitor
229 adherence to those bylaws.
230

231 **Delegate Assemblies**

232

233 **9** (1) Regular delegate assemblies shall be held:

234 (a) biennially, beginning normally during the first two weeks of July,

235 (b) at a place determined by the General Board.
236

237 (2) Elections shall be held at regular delegate assemblies except where the General Board
238 determines that it is necessary to hold elections at a special delegate assembly. The General
239 Board and all Councils shall

240 provide written reports of their activities, plans and relevant financial statements for
241 consideration by delegates at regular delegate assemblies.
242

243 (3) A special delegate assembly may be called from time to time by the General Board at a
244 time and place it may determine.
245

246 **Notice of Delegate Assemblies**

247

248 **10** (1) The date and place of the next regular delegate assembly
249 shall be announced at the conclusion of each regular delegate assembly.

250

251 (2) Notice of a special delegate assembly shall be given to Area Churches and to constituent
252 congregations not less than 21 days in advance.

253

254 **Voting at Delegate Assemblies**

255

256 **11** (1) The quorum for a delegate assembly shall be one half the total number eligible voting
257 delegates from the area churches plus 150 voting delegates from constituent congregations.

258 (2) The business of a delegate assembly may be conducted:

259 (a) by consensus without a formal vote;

260 (b) by a show of hands at the discretion of the chair or on the request of a voting delegate; or

261 (c) by ballot vote when directed by the chair, or when a motion to require a ballot vote is
262 passed by a majority of votes cast on such motion.

263 (3) Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, or if a motion to require a larger number is
264 passed by a majority of votes cast on such motion, a simple majority of the votes cast is
265 sufficient to carry a resolution.

266

267 (4) In the event of a ballot vote, the votes shall be counted by
268 tellers who have been appointed in advance.

269

270

271 **PART IV – NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE &**
272 **VACANCIES**

273

274 **Qualifications for Elected Positions**

275

276 **12** (1) Each person nominated for an elected position must be a
277 congregational member. However, congregational members of provisional constituent
278 congregations are not eligible for election to the General Board.

279

280 (2) In the event that an elected person ceases to be a congregational member, that person's
281 term shall be deemed to have expired at that point.

282

283 (3) No person may hold more than one elected position at the same time. Where a person
284 who holds an elected position is elected to another elected position, that person is deemed
285 to have resigned from the previously held elected position.

286

- 287 (4) Staff of MC Canada are not eligible for election to an elected position in MC Canada.
288
289 (5) Any question of eligibility for election shall be resolved by the General Board.
290

291 **Nominating Committee**

292
293 **13** (1) Each Area Church shall nominate one person to the Nominating Committee for
294 election at a delegate assembly.

- 295
296 (2) The Nominating Committee shall:
297 (a) in advance of a delegate assembly where elections are to be held, use its best efforts to
298 prepare a slate of nominees consisting of one nominee for each elected position that needs
299 to be filled;
300 (b) recommend, upon the request of a Council, persons to serve on its committees; and
301 (c) on request, suggest to the Executive Director names of candidates for vacant staff
302 positions.
303

304 **Election Procedures**

- 305
306 **14** (1) The Nominating Committee will receive further nominations
307 at a delegate assembly if:
308 (a) it is endorsed by five voting delegates;
309 (b) the nominee has agreed to stand for the elected position; and
310 (c) it is presented to the Nominating Committee at least 24 hours before the scheduled
311 election.
312
313 (2) Twenty-four hours before the scheduled election, the Nominating Committee shall
314 present its slate of nominees, including those nominated in accordance with 14(1) above, to
315 the delegate assembly.
316
317 (3) Where only one person has been nominated for a given elected position, that nominee
318 shall be declared elected by acclamation.
319
320 (4) Where multiple nominations have been received for any elected position, there shall be a
321 ballot vote.
322

323 **Terms of Office**

- 324
325 **15** (1) The terms of office:
326 (a) for the officers and the General Board members at large:
327 (i) shall be two years; and

328 (ii) they shall be eligible to serve for up to three consecutive terms;

329

330 (b) for all other members of the Councils:

331 (i) shall be three years; and

332 (ii) they shall be eligible to serve for up to three
333 consecutive terms.

334

335 (2) A person's term shall begin at the end of the delegate assembly at which the person was
336 elected.

337

338 **Vacancies**

339

340 **16** (1) Where a vacancy occurs in any elected position between regular delegate assemblies,
341 such vacancy may be filled by the General Board, at its discretion, until the next regular
342 delegate assembly.

343

344 (2) Where a person has been appointed to fill a vacancy, the time spent completing that
345 vacant term of office shall not be considered as a portion of any succeeding term.

346

347 **PART V - GENERAL BOARD**

348

349 **Composition of the General Board**

350

351 **17** The General Board shall consist of:

352 (a) the officers;

353 (b) the moderator or a designate of each Area Church;

354 (c) the chair of the Faith and Life Committee

355 (d) the following from the Councils:

356 (i) the chair of the Christian Witness Council and one other named by the Council;

357 (ii) the chair of the Christian Formation Council and one other named by the Council;

358 and

359 (iii) the chair of the Church Engagement Council and one other named by the Council;

360 and

361 (e) one member at large appointed by the General Board and confirmed by the delegate
362 assembly.

363

364 **Duties and Powers of the General Board**

365

366 **18** The General Board shall:

367 (a) act on behalf of MC Canada between delegate assemblies;

- 368 (b) act as the legal representative of MC Canada, authorize such of its officers to sign
369 contracts, cheques and other documents on behalf of MC
370 Canada as the General Board may consider advisable, and prescribe the limits, if any, of such
371 authority;
372 (c) report to, and be accountable to, its members at delegate assemblies;
373 (d) between delegate assemblies, continue the process of discerning MC Canada's
374 participation in God's work as reflected in the Vision Statement and Identity and Purpose
375 Statement;
376 (e) lead MC Canada in developing its identity and vision;
377 (f) create forums for interaction among the leaders of the Area Churches;
378 (g) direct and coordinate the work of the Councils;
379 (h) review financial statements and direct the preparation of budgets;
380 (i) make recommendations at regular delegate assemblies on the appointment of auditors for
381 MC Canada;
382 (j) appoint the Executive Director;
383 (k) at its discretion, fill vacancies in elected positions that occur between regular delegate
384 assemblies;
385 (l) process issues of membership in MC Canada and make recommendations thereon at
386 regular or special delegate assemblies;
387 (m) foster relationships with other church bodies, including appointments as appropriate to:
388 (i) MC USA;
389 (ii) Mennonite World Conference;
390 (iii) other Mennonite church bodies;
391 (iv) Canadian Council of Churches; and
392 (v) Evangelical Fellowship of Canada;
393 (n) do any other thing which is likely to support and promote the mission of MC Canada.
394

395 **General Board Governance**

396
397 **19** The General Board shall formulate and adopt rules of procedure and governance under
398 which it shall operate.
399

400

401 **PART VI - OFFICERS**

402 **Officers**

403
404 **20** (1) The officers of MC Canada shall be the:

- 405 (a) Moderator;
406 (b) Assistant Moderator;
407 (c) Secretary; and
408 (d) Treasurer.
409

410 (2) The officers shall be elected at a regular delegate assembly.
411

412 **Duties of the Officers**

413

414 **21** (1) The Moderator shall:

415 (a) preside at all delegate assemblies;

416 (b) chair all meetings of the General Board and the Executive Committee; and

417 (c) act as the official representative of and spokesperson for MC Canada.

418

419 (2) The Assistant Moderator shall:

420 (a) assume the duties of the Moderator:

421 (i) in the absence or incapacity of the Moderator; or

422 (ii) at the request of the Moderator or of the Executive Committee.

423

424 (3) The Secretary shall be responsible for recording all minutes of delegate assemblies and
425 meetings of the General Board and the Executive Committee.

426

427 (4) The Treasurer shall oversee the Financial Policy and Audit Committee established by the
428 General Board.

429

430 **PART VII – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

431

432 **Appointment**

433

434 **22** The -Executive Director shall be appointed by the General Board.

435

436 **Duties of the Executive Director**

437

438 **23** The -Executive Director shall:

439 (a) lead and oversee the total program of MC Canada;

440 (b) hire and supervise the MC Canada staff;

441 (c) participate, without a vote, in meetings of the Executive Committee and the General
442 Board;

443 (d) receive and record the credentials of all voting delegates prior to each delegate assembly;
444 and

445 (e) publish proceedings of each delegate assembly.

446

447 **PART VIII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

448

449 **Composition of the Executive Committee**

450

451 **24** The Executive Committee shall consist of:

452 (a) the officers; and

453 (b) one member at large of the General Board appointed by the General Board from among
454 its members.

455

456 **Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee**

457

458 **25** The Executive Committee shall:

459 (a) act on behalf of the General Board between its meetings;

460 (b) report its activities to the General Board; and

461 (c) between meetings of the General Board, continue the process of discerning MC Canada's
462 participation in God's work as contained in the Vision Statement and Identity and Purpose
463 Statement.

464

465 **PART IX - JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

466

467 **Composition of the Joint Executive Committee**

468

469 **26** The Joint Executive Committee shall consist of:

470 (a) the Executive Committee of MC Canada; and

471 (b) the Executive Committee of MC USA.

472

473 **Duties of the Joint Executive Committee**

474

475 **27** The Joint Executive Committee shall meet at least annually
476 to:

477 (a) foster relationships between MC Canada and MC USA; and

478 (b) foster effective cooperation regarding binational partnership activities.

479

480 **PART X – FINANCIAL POLICY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

481

482 **Composition of the Financial Policy and Audit Committee**

483

484 **28** The Financial Policy and Audit Committee shall consist of

485 3 people, namely:

486 (a) the Treasurer, as chairperson; and

487 (b) two other persons appointed by the General Board whose term shall be three years; and
488 who shall be eligible to serve for up to three consecutive terms.
489
490

491 **Duties of the Financial Policy and Audit Committee**

492
493 **29** The Financial Policy and Audit Committee shall meet in person at least once annually and
494 otherwise by teleconferencing as required to:

495 (a) Review the financial statements (YTD) prepared by the Director of Finance and report to
496 the General Board.

497 (b) Recommend financial policies and procedures as needed.

498 (c) Recommend investment policies and procedures as needed.

499 (d) Ensure that MC Canada has implemented appropriate systems to identify, monitor and
500 mitigate significant business risks.

501 (e) Monitor the review of senior management's expense claims.

502 (f) Provide initial recommendations regarding the budgeting process for the upcoming year
503 and review proposed budgets before submission to the General Board.

504 (g) Act as an audit committee with the following responsibilities:

505 (i) Review and recommend the appointment of the external auditor.

506 (ii) Review annually the audit plan and fees presented by the external auditor.

507 (iii) Review the annual audited financial statements prior to submission to the
508 General Board for their approval.

509 (iv) In camera meeting with the auditor.

510 (v) Review and report to the General Board the results of the external auditor's
511 annual audit including the management letter and significant issues encountered during the
512 audit and how they were resolved.

513 (vi) Review with management and the external auditors MC Canada's systems of
514 internal control to ensure compliance with legal, ethical, regulatory and financial reporting
515 requirements and report to the General Board as required.

516 (h) Administer the MC Canada Pension Plan as part of Pension Advisory Committee
517

518 **PART XI FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE**

519

520 **Composition of the Faith and Life Committee**

521

522 **30** The Faith and Life Committee shall consist of 5 people, namely:

523 (a) a chairperson, who will be a member of the General Board, elected at a regular delegate
524 assembly;

525 (b) two additional persons elected at a regular delegate assembly;

526 (c) ~~one~~ two additional person appointed by the General Board;

527 (d) ensure one staff member is appointed to each council and committee.
528

529 **Duties of the Faith and Life Committee**

530

531 **31** The Faith and Life Committee shall meet at least three times annually, and one of the
532 meetings will be together with a Reference Council which shall include the Moderators,
533 Secretaries and Area Church Ministers, to:

534 (a) Attend to the interface among Scripture, the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite
535 Perspective and our identity as MC Canada.

536 (b) Give leadership to Mennonite Church Canada in discerning God's will on issues of
537 theology, ethics, polity and practice.

538 (c) Work cooperatively with educational institutions and other church agencies to facilitate,
539 create and distribute resources for study by and guidance for the church.

540

541 **PART XII - MINISTRIES OF MC CANADA**

542

543 **Christian Witness Council**

544

545 **32** (1) The core activities of the Christian Witness Council shall
546 focus on ministry together with Area Churches and their constituent congregations including,
547 but not limited to:

548 (a) evangelism and church planting;

549 (b) international ministries;

550 (c) multicultural ministries;

551 (d) Indigenous ministries;

552 (e) peace and justice advocacy; and

553 (f) service ministries.

554

555 (2) The Christian Witness Council shall consist of not more than 10 people, namely:

556 (a) a chairperson elected at a regular delegate assembly;

557 (b) **the** other persons elected at a regular delegate assembly.

558

559 (3) The Christian Witness Council shall have authority to:

560 (a) select any other officers from among its members that it deems desirable;

561 (b) modify its programs to adapt to the needs of MC Canada and the availability of resources;

562 (c) oversee its programs, staff and budgets;

563 (d) delegate parts of its authority to various committees, and

564 (e) appoint representatives to related organizations.

565

566 (4) The Christian Witness Council shall assume responsibility for and recommend financial
567 budgets for its own programs and reports for presentation at regular delegate assemblies,
568 covering it's activities since the last regular delegate assembly, and shall prepare and provide
569 to the General Board such other statements or reports as the General Board may request.

570

571 (5) The Christian Witness Council shall, on behalf of MC Canada, relate to:

- 572 (a) Mennonite Central Committee;
- 573 (b) Mennonite Women Canada;
- 574 (c) Christian Peacemaker Teams;
- 575 (d) Mennonite Disaster Service
- 576 (e) Mennonite Men
- 577 (f) Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure, and
- 578 (g) any other organization or group assigned to it by the General Board.
- 579
- 580
- 581

582 **Christian Formation Council**

583

584 **33** (1) The core activities of the Christian Formation Council shall focus on providing
585 leadership and resources to enable Area Churches and their constituent congregations to
586 promote the Christian formation of their members, including, but not limited to:

- 587 (a) congregational and ministerial leadership;
- 588 (b) youth and young adult ministry;
- 589 (c) Christian education and nurture; and
- 590 (d) resources and publishing.

591

592 (2) The Christian Formation Council shall consist of not more than 10 persons, namely:

- 593 (a) a chairperson elected at a regular delegate assembly;
- 594 (b) the other persons elected at a regular delegate assembly.

595

596 (3) The Christian Formation Council shall have authority to:

- 597 (a) select any other officers from among its members that it deems desirable;
- 598 (b) modify its programs to adapt to the needs of MC Canada and the availability of resources;
- 599 (c) oversee its programs, staff and budgets;
- 600 (d) delegate parts of its authority to various committees, and
- 601 (e) appoint representatives to related organizations.

602

603 (4) The Christian Formation Council shall assume responsibility for and recommend financial
604 budgets for its own program, and reports for presentation at regular delegate assemblies,
605 covering it's activities since the last regular delegate assembly, and shall prepare and provide
606 to the General Board such other statements or reports as the General Board may request.

607

608 (5) The Christian Formation Council shall, on behalf of MC Canada, relate to:

- 609 (a) MennoMedia;
- 610 (b) Mennonite Camping Association;
- 611 (c) Elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools related to MC Canada; and
- 612 (d) any other organization or group assigned to it by the General Board.

613

614 **Church Engagement Council**

615

616 34

617 (1) The core activities of the Church Engagement Council shall be to represent MC Canada to
618 Canadian congregations and individuals, develop and strengthen ministry and financial
619 support, and strengthen their missional vision including but not limited to:

620 (a) develop and foster a missional vision with Area Churches and their constituent
621 congregations;

622 (b) coordinate missional formation processes for congregations;

623 (c) develop transformative congregational partnerships for ministry;

624 (d) oversee resource development and communications activities; and

625 (e) form relationships with congregations and individuals, encourage partnership and
626 financial support in the ministry of MC Canada

627

628 (2) The Church Engagement Council shall consist of not more than 10 persons, namely:

629 (a) a chairperson elected at a regular delegate assembly;

630 (b) and the other persons elected at a regular delegate assembly.

631

632 (3) The Church Engagement Council shall have authority to:

633 (a) select any other officers from among its members that it deems desirable;

634 (b) modify its programs to adapt to the needs of MC Canada and the availability of resources;

635 (c) oversee its programs, staff and budgets;

636 (d) delegate parts of its authority to various committees; and

637 (e) appoint representatives to related organizations.

638

639 (4) The Church Engagement Council shall assume responsibility for and recommend financial
640 budgets for its own programs, and reports for presentation at regular delegate assemblies,
641 covering it's activities since the last regular delegate assembly, and shall prepare and provide
642 to the General Board such other statements or reports as the General Board may request.

643

644 (5) The Church Engagement Council shall, on behalf of MC Canada, relate to:

645 (a) Mennonite Foundation of Canada;

646 (b) Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service; and

647 (c) any other organization or group assigned to it by the General Board.

648

649

650 **Council Governance**

651

652 **35** Each Council shall formulate and adopt rules of procedure and governance under which
653 the Council shall operate.

654

655 **PART XIII – MODERATORS, SECRETARIES AND AREA CHURCH**
656 **MINISTERS MEETING**

657

658 **Membership**

659

660 **36** The members of the Moderators, Secretaries and **Area Church** Ministers meeting shall
661 consist of the moderator or a designate, leading staff member and denominational ministers
662 of Mennonite Church Canada and each of its member Area Churches.

663

664 **Functions**

665

666 **37** The Moderators, Secretaries and **Area Church** Ministers will meet annually to:

667

668 (a) Report to each other the ministries and state of health of the national church body and its
669 Area Churches.

670 (b) Serve, together with others, as a reference council for the Faith and Life Committee.

671 (c) Discuss issues of common concern in order to provide mutual counsel and support and to
672 seek common approaches where appropriate.

673 (d) Develop relationships of trust, respect and mutual subordination.

674 (e) Other functions that may be helpful to building up the unity and faithfulness of the
675 church.

676

677 **PART XIV – OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

678

679 **Fiscal Year**

680

681 **38** In 2012-13, MC Canada's fiscal year shall end on the 31st day of January, 2013. Effective
682 February 1, 2013, MC Canada's fiscal year shall end on the 30th day of September.

683

684 **Corporate Seal**

685

686 **39** The Corporate seal shall:

687

688 (a) have inscribed thereon Mennonite Church Canada; and

689 (b) be affixed to such signed documents as the General Board considers necessary or
690 advisable.

691

692 **Indemnities**

693

694 **40** Every officer, member of the General Board and member of a Council of MC Canada, and
695 their heirs, executors and administrators shall at all times be indemnified and saved
696 harmless, out of the funds of MC Canada, from and against

697

698 (a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which such officer or member sustains or
699 incurs as a result of any claim, demand or proceedings made or brought against him or her
700 for anything done, or omitted or permitted to be done, in the course of carrying out his or
701 her responsibilities as an officer or member, except for any costs,
702 charges and expenses sustained or incurred by the officer or member because of the wilful
703 neglect of such officer or member; and

704

705 (b) all reasonable costs, charges and expenses incurred by such officer or member in the
706 course of carrying out his or her responsibilities as an officer or member.

707

708 **PART XV –AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS**

709

710 **Amendments to the bylaws**

711

712 **41** (1) These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special delegate assembly; provided
713 that the proposed amendments have been sent to the member Area Churches and their
714 constituent congregations at least two months in advance.

715

716 (2) In order to pass, bylaw amendments require a two-thirds
717 majority of the votes cast.

718 **Coming into force**

719

720 **42** (1) These bylaws come into force at the conclusion of the
721 delegate assembly at which they are adopted.

722

723 (2) Any subsequent amendments to these bylaws come into force at the conclusion of the
724 delegate assembly at which they are adopted.

725 Approved: July 14, 2001

726 Amended: July 6, 2002

727 Amended: July 9, 2005

728 Amended: July 6, 2007

729 Amended: July 2, 2010

730 Amended: July 9, 2011

731 Amended: April 14, 2012

732 Amended: July 12, 2012

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