

## **Raleigh Mennonite Church Bylaws**

### **Article 1 – Name, Vision & Mission, Location**

1.1 The name of this corporation shall be the **Raleigh Mennonite Church** (hereafter referred to as the Congregation). The Congregation is synonymous with this membership.

1.2 Our vision: The Congregation seeks to keep Jesus at the center of our lives as we nurture intergenerational community, discipleship, and mission.

1.3 The registered office of the Congregation is **1116 N Blount St, Raleigh NC 27611**. The Congregation may alter this location as needed and approved.

### **Article 2 – Affiliation**

2.1 MEMBERS of the Congregation do the following:

A. Affirm the church covenant

B. Participate in the life of the church.

C. Commit to being guided by the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.

2.2 MEMBERSHIP is renewed annually.

### **Article 3 – Relationships**

3.1 The congregation is affiliated with Central District Conference (CDC) as of June 2018, and through affiliation with CDC is a member of Mennonite Church USA (MCUSA).

### **Article 4 – Polity and Governance**

4.1 SERVANT LEADERS - The Congregation is governed by modified consensus decision-making, under the leadership of four Servant Leaders and the pastor who serves ex officio as a Servant Leader. During times of transition or special need, the Congregation may approve the appointment for an additional Servant Leader for a specified period of time not to exceed three years.

TERMS: Servant Leaders serve three-year staggered terms beginning each September, nominated in May of the same year. Upon completion of a full term, a Servant Leader must step away from the role for a minimum of one year. Unfinished terms will be completed by a new Servant Leader who is able to serve an additional consecutive

term. Decision-making is made by consensus among Servant Leaders. Only members are eligible to serve as Servant Leaders.

EARLY DISSOLUTION OF TERM: Should a Servant Leader resign prior to when their term is ended, the Moderator will convene a Church Life Meeting (CLM) for a new nomination.

#### 4.3: OFFICERS

THE MODERATOR of the Congregation ensures the preparation of an agenda for CLMs, moderates these meetings, delegates such duties as are needed and appropriate to the administrative workings of the CLM, and discerns when the Congregation has reached consensus on a decision. The Moderator also assists in the discernment of officer and Servant Leader roles.

THE SECRETARY of the Congregation will keep an accurate record of group proceedings (CLMs and other special meetings of the group), to include resolutions adopted and actions taken, and will publish the minutes of these meetings in a timely fashion.

THE TREASURER shall have custody of all offerings, funds, and accounts of the organization. The treasurer receives, deposits, invests and disburses all group monies, in accordance with the direction of the Congregation. The treasurer will be a member of the Stewardship Commission. In conjunction with the commission, the treasurer will shape an annual budget to present at a CLM prior to the September start of the fiscal year and will furnish periodic accounting of funds to the congregation.

TERMS: Officers are appointed for two year terms that can be served consecutively. At certain times the congregation may choose to retain an officer in a paid role.

4.4 COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES Servant Leaders will be responsible for serving as liaisons to other specialized leadership groups (committees, mission groups, task forces, commissions, etc.). These groups will be accountable to the Congregation via the Servant Leaders.

4.4 CHURCH LIFE MEETINGS are held every other month and are coordinated by the Moderator.

4.5 MODIFIED CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING – The congregation makes decisions by a process of consensus minus two.

4.6 The Congregation will maintain a “Guiding Principles and Policies” document articulating its normative practices. This document will be reviewed—and edited, as necessary— at least once every three years.

## **Article 5 – Property, Indemnification and Dissolution**

5.1 The Congregation in its corporate name may sue or be sued, hold, and purchase and receive title by gift, grant or other conveyance of title to any property, real or personal; with power to mortgage, sell or convey the same according to the laws of the State of North Carolina.

5.2 The Congregation shall indemnify any agent of the organization, including its Pastoral Staff, Church Council members and any other approved representative, who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding, administrative or investigative, as such a person was or is an authorized representative of the Congregation. This indemnification against expenses, judgments, fines, and amount paid in settlements actually or reasonably incurred by such a representative of the organization is contingent upon the determination that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he/she believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the organization. With respect to any criminal proceeding, indemnified persons shall have had no cause to believe that their conduct was unlawful.

## **Article 6 – Amendments**

6.1 These By-laws may be amended when deemed necessary through Congregational approval.

6.2 Proposed amendments must be distributed to all members of the Congregation at least one month in advance of a regular or called CLM.

## **Article 7 – Dissolution**

Should the Congregation cease to function as such, all its assets and all property and interests of which shall be then possessed, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be donated to a non-profit institution as stipulated by vote of the Congregation. Should no such vote be taken, all assets shall automatically revert to the Mennonite Church USA.