

Raleigh Mennonite Church Bylaws

Updated and approved February 2025

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 **121 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603**. The Congregation may alter this location as needed and approved.

Article 2 – Affiliation

- 2.1 COVENANT 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 COVENANT MEMBERSHIP is renewed annually.

Article 3 – Relationships

- 3.1 The Congregation is affiliated with the 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 DEACONS - Three to four Deacons provide spiritual and communal direction and vision for the church through planning for the future, assessing the needs of the Congregation, and attending to community formation, including accountability in matters related to Covenant Members.
 - a) TERMS - Deacons are Covenant Members who serve staggered two-year terms beginning each September, nominated in May of the same year, with the

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option to renew for one additional term. Upon completion of two consecutive full terms (four years), a Deacon must step away from the role for a minimum of one year. An unfinished term will be completed by a new Deacon who is able to serve for the remainder of that term, then serve a full term with the option of continuing to serve for another consecutive term. Decision-making is made by consensus among Deacons. Deacons are affirmed by the Congregation at a Church Life Meeting (CLM).

- b) **EARLY DISSOLUTION OF TERM** - Should a Deacon resign prior to when their term is ended, the Moderator will convene a CLM for a new nomination.

4.2 **STAFF CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE** - Two Covenant Members serve as the Staff Church Relations Committee (SCRC) to oversee staff members, set policies related to staffing, monitor compliance with these policies, and offer support and care for staff members and their families.

- a) **TERMS** - Members of the SCRC are Covenant Members who serve staggered, two-year terms beginning each September, nominated in May of the same year, with the option to renew for one additional term. An unfinished term will be completed by a new SCRC member who is able to serve for the remainder of that term, then serve a full term with the option of continuing to serve for another consecutive term. Members of the SCRC are affirmed by the Congregation at a CLM.

4.3 **OFFICERS**

- a) **THE MODERATOR** of the Congregation ensures the preparation of agendas for Church Life Meetings (CLMs), moderates these meetings, delegates such duties as are needed and appropriate for 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 Officers, Deacons, Staff Church Relations, and Moderator roles. In addition, the Moderator convenes a quarterly meeting of the Committee of Committees, provides the agenda with the input of the committees, and leads the gathering.
- b) **THE SECRETARY** of the Congregation will keep an accurate record of the proceedings of CLMs (and other special meetings as needed), to include resolutions adopted and actions taken, and will publish the minutes of these meetings within one month. The Secretary role may be shared by two Covenant Members.
- c) **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 via the Stewardship Committee. The Treasurer will be a member of the Stewardship Committee. In conjunction with the committee, the Treasurer will shape an

annual budget to present at a CLM in early September (the start of the fiscal year) and will furnish periodic accounting of funds to the Congregation.

- d) TERMS - Officers are Covenant Members appointed for two-year terms beginning each September, nominated in May of the same year, with the option to renew for one additional term. An unfinished term will be completed by a new Officer who is able to serve for the remainder of that term, then serve a full term with the option of continuing to serve for another consecutive term. Officers are affirmed by the Congregation at a CLM.

- 4.4 COMMITTEES - The Congregation's ministry is facilitated through the work of specialized ministry groups called committees. Standing committees meet regularly throughout the year. Other committees and task forces assemble for a period of time or for the season assigned to their work.
- 4.5 COMMITTEE OF COMMITTEES - A Committee of Committees meets quarterly and is made up of members of standing committees in order to coordinate ministry and discipleship across the Congregation. These committees will be accountable to the Congregation via the CLM.
- 4.6 CHURCH LIFE MEETINGS - Meetings of the Congregation are held every other month and are coordinated by the Moderator.
- 4.7 MODIFIED CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING - The Congregation makes decisions by a process of consensus minus two.
- 4.8 GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES - The Congregation will maintain a "Policies and Procedures" 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 Bylaws 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

- 7.1 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.