

**HARRISONBURG MENNONITE CHURCH
CONSTITUTION**

PREAMBLE

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church accepts the *Confession of Faith, in a Mennonite Perspective* of the Mennonite Church USA as our statement of faith.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

This congregation shall be known as Harrisonburg Mennonite Church (HMC or the congregation).

**ARTICLE II
AFFILIATION**

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Harrisonburg District of Virginia Mennonite Conference and, by virtue of that relationship, with the Mennonite Church USA, within the meaning of their respective by-laws and organizational documents.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Congregational membership is granted on the foundation of a confession of faith that Jesus is Lord and Savior, reception of believers' baptism, a life of Christian discipleship, participation in the life of the community of faith, and the commitment to be accountable to the congregation.

**ARTICLE IV
ORGANIZATION**

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church is an Unincorporated Association recognized as a nonprofit entity by tax law.

ARTICLE V GOVERNMENT

Section A. Introduction.

The authority for leadership and decision-making of HMC derives from the congregation, a member of the church of Jesus Christ. The Church Council acts on behalf of the congregation to ensure that the vision and mission of the congregation are achieved. Leadership Team is responsible to administer day-to-day ministry and programs.

Section B. The Congregation.

Major decisions are to be made by the congregation, including but not limited to approving the: appointments to Church Council; annual giving plan; global ends; call of Lead Pastors; major renovations or expansion of the church's facilities; purchase or sale of land or disposal of major assets; amendments to the constitution and by-laws and other actions prescribed by law for congregational action.

Major decisions will be approved by a 67% affirmative vote of persons present at a congregational meeting, providing 10% of the total membership is present at the meeting.

Section C. Church Council.

The Church Council acts for the congregation in all business matters not specifically reserved to the congregation or the trustees in this constitution, by-laws, or by law. Responsibilities include: developing and being accountable for the giving plan; managing legal matters; engaging in policy development and monitoring adherence; supporting pastors and other personnel; overseeing the gifts discernment process for Church Council and its committees, and congregational decision-making; providing leadership to congregational vision, mission, and ends; and appointing committees as necessary for governance.

Section D. Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team operationalizes the mission and vision of the church and is responsible to provide pastoral leadership in accordance with ministries, policies and procedures normally provided in the pastoral role (See By-Laws).

ARTICLE VI
CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Church Council shall provide for congregational meetings in accordance with policies set forth in HMC Bylaws, but not less than once a year.

ARTICLE VII
TRUSTEES, CONVEYANCES, DEBT

The legal trustees of HMC shall have authority to buy, lease, acquire, own, hold, improve, use and deal in any interest in real or personal property; to sell, convey, mortgage, create a security interest in, exchange, or dispose of any interest in real or personal property; and to sign all written contracts and agreements to which HMC is a party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any action involving (a) the sale, transfer or disposition of all or substantially all of the church property and assets, or (b) the construction of, financing of, or addition to the church facilities outside a budgeted expenditure must be approved by the congregation at a congregational meeting.

ARTICLE VIII
FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by 67% affirmative vote of persons present at a congregational meeting, providing 20% of the total membership is present at the meeting.

ARTICLE X
DISSOLUTION

In case of dissolution of HMC, the congregation's property, after payment of debt, shall be transferred to the Virginia Mennonite Conference.