



# FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Box 1273,  
4810 Womacks Road,  
Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0  
Phone: (403) 877-9312*

## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

JULY 2007



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE 1 - Name of Organization	Page 5
ARTICLE 2 - The Objectives of the Organization	Page 5
ARTICLE 3 - Articles of Faith and Doctrine	Page 5
ARTICLE 4 - Membership	Page 9
ARTICLE 5 - Business Meetings	Page 10
ARTICLE 6 - Official Board/Administration Team	Page 10
ARTICLE 7 - Structure & Duties of the Official Board	Page 11
ARTICLE 8 - Treasurer	Page 11
ARTICLE 9 - Other Organizations	Page 12
ARTICLE 10 - Committees	Page 12
ARTICLE 11 - Elections	Page 13
ARTICLE 12 - By-Laws	Page 14
ARTICLE 13 - Dissension Dissolution	Page 14



# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

## **ARTICLE 1:**

The name of the organization shall be FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, a member church of the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada.

## **ARTICLE 2: THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION ARE:**

- a) The assembling of the members and adherents of the church together for the public worship of the Godhead; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit,
- b) The fellowship and edification of believers,
- c) The propagation locally and throughout the world, of the gospel as set forth in God's Word,
- d) The support and encouragement of needy individuals and families, both spiritually and financially,
- e) The church shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profit to the church shall be used in promoting its objectives.

## **ARTICLE 3: ARTICLES OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE**

To be interpreted as expressed in and according to the Natural and Literal meaning of the respective passages of the Word of God referred to under each Article.

### **1.) The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**

We believe the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as originally given by God are divinely inspired, without error, entirely trustworthy, and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith, teaching and behaviour.

II Peter 1:21, Mark 12:26-36, II Timothy 3:16-17, Acts 1:16, Hebrews 4:12.

### **2.) The Trinity of the Godhead**

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience.

Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:6-8; John 1:1-4, Isaiah 63:8-10, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 5:3-4, II Corinthians 13:1, Mark 12:29, Revelation 1:4-6, Hebrews 1:1-3.

### **3.) The Deity and the Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe in the essential deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and His total humanity through the virgin birth, and that all the Scriptures from first to last center about Him, His person and work, His sacrificial death upon the cross and His coming again.

Acts 26:22-23, John 5:39, Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:35; 24:44, Acts 17:2-3; 18:28, Isaiah 7:14, Acts 28:23, Acts 1:11.

#### **4.) The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine personality—the eternal third Person of the Trinity—who is now, throughout this Age of Grace, here present in the true Church, having been sent for the express purpose of revealing Christ Jesus to the members of the Church, that they may be comforted, instructed, and built up in their most holy faith, and to the world that sinners may be convicted of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

John 7:38-39; 14:16-17; 15:26, John 16:13-15, Acts 1:8; 2:1-4.

#### **5.) The Fall of Humanity**

We believe that human beings, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from their high and holy estate through disobedience, by eating the forbidden fruit, and in consequence, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that they totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the devil.

Genesis 1:26; 2:17, Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:1-3, I John 3:8, I Timothy 5:6, John 5:40; 6:53.

#### **6.) The Total Depravity of Humans**

We believe that this spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of human beings, the man Christ Jesus alone excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a sinful nature.

Genesis 6:5, Jeremiah 17:9, John 3:6, Psalms 14:1-3; 51:5, Romans 5:12-19.

#### **7.) Salvation by Grace through Faith**

We believe that sinners are saved by grace through faith alone and that not of themselves, it is the gift of God, not of works. We further believe that every saved person is “justified from all things from which he could nor be justified by the law of Moses.”

Acts 13:39, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 5:1; 3:25-26, Titus 2:11-14.

#### **8.) The Atonement of the Blood of Christ**

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, and made a curse for us, dying in our place, a Sacrifice acceptable to God and effectual for every sinner who receives Him.

Leviticus 17:11, Galatians 3:13, Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:7, John 1:12, I Peter 1:18-19; 2:24, II Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:6-9.

#### **9.) Regeneration by the Holy Spirit**

We believe that, owing to the universal depravity and death in sin, no one can see or enter the kingdom of God unless born of the Spirit whereby he becomes a new creation, sealed unto the day of Redemption.

John 3:5-8, James 1:18, Galatians 6:15, I Peter 1:23, Ephesians 1:13, I John 5:1, Titus 3:5.

#### **10.) The Believer's Eternal Salvation**

We believe in the eternal salvation of all who are actually born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, and that it is the privilege of all such to be assured of their present salvation and eternal life.

John 5:24, Hebrews 10:24, John 10:28-29, Romans 8:28-39, I John 5:11-13, Philippians 1:6

## **11.) Sanctification**

We believe that all the members of the body of Christ are “sanctified ones” (saints), are perfected as to their standing forever by the one offering of the blood of Christ, and are one with Christ in sanctification. As to their state, they may be sanctified by the Word, by the blood of Christ, and by the inworking presence and power of the Holy Spirit which should issue in behaviour indicating the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25, Ephesians 5:25-27, John 17:17-19, I John 1:7-9, Romans 15:16, Jude 1, I Corinthians 6:11, Ephesians 4:22-24, Hebrews 2:11; 10:10; 13:12.

## **12.) The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole company of believers on the Day of Pentecost as promised by Christ, they were collectively baptized into one body, which was the birth of the Church, the Body of Christ. Since that time this baptism occurs individually at the moment of salvation, at which time the believer is also indwelt by the Spirit.

We believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and being filled with the Spirit, which is the believer’s privilege and duty, producing power in Christian witness. There is one baptism with the Spirit, and it is into the Body of Christ, but there are many fillings.

John 14:15-18, I Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9, Matthew 3:11, I Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 5:18, Acts 2:4: 4:8-31, Ephesians 1:13-14.

## **13.) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church to glorify Christ in the building of His body.

We believe that God, the Holy Spirit, is sovereign in the bestowing of His gifts for the perfecting of the saints for the work of their ministry, and that it is not God’s will that any one gift should be given to all believers, although all believers have at least one gift.

We believe that whenever spiritual gifts are exercised, they should always be within the limits expressly given in the Scriptures (e.g. I Corinthians 14:23-40). We believe that in the early church speaking in tongues (a human language unknown to the speaker), and the working of miracles were sign gifts demonstrated primarily to authenticate God’s revelation through the apostles and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that today such signs are not necessary to give evidence of the baptism or of the filling of the Spirit, nor are they a mark of spiritual maturity. We believe that special divine revelation for authoritative Scripture ceased with the Apostolic Age.

Acts 2:1-13 Hebrews 2:3-4 I Corinthians 12-14 Ephesians 2:20 Romans 12:3-8 John 14:26  
I Peter 4:7-11 Galatians 1:8-9 Ephesians 4:11-13 Revelation 22:18-29 II Corinthians 12:12

#### **14.) The Unity of the True Church in the mystical Body of Christ**

We believe that the Church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that “by the same Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles”, thus being members one of another and knit together in love.

Romans 12:5, Ephesians 4:3-10, I Corinthians 12:12-27, Colossians 2:19.

#### **15.) The Pre-Millennial Coming of Our Lord**

We believe that this present age will end with the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, first to receive His Church unto Himself, and then to establish the throne of David upon the earth and to reign in righteousness over it for a thousand years.

II Samuel 7:16, John 14:1-3, Psalms 72:7-8, Acts 1:10-11, Titus 2:13, Isaiah 9:6-7, Hebrews 9:28, Micah 5:2, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 1:32-33.

#### **16.) The Resurrection of the Body**

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, in bodily form, and thus became the Firstfruits of them that sleep; that upon His return He will raise out from among the dead those that have died in Christ, this being the first resurrection; and that, after the thousand years, He will raise them that have died in unbelief from their graves to receive their sentence.

Psalms 90:3-4, John 5:28,29, Isaiah 26:19, I Corinthians 15, Daniel 12:2, Romans 1:4; 8:23, Revelation 20:5-6.

#### **17.) The Eternal Blessedness of the Saved, and the Eternal Punishment of the Lost**

We believe that the attitude either of reconciliation or enmity toward God is fixed eternally at death, and that the saints of all the ages will be forever with the Lord and will become joint heirs with Him as their Redeemer in His inheritance. We further believe that there is an appointed day for the judgment of the wicked when they will be cast into the Lake of Fire, there to remain forever and ever, in varying degrees of torment according to their works.

I Thessalonians 4:17, II Peter 2:9, Romans 8:17, Daniel 12:3: 7:22-27, Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8; 22:11.

#### **18.) The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning and the great deceiver of all nations; that he will be overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Seed of the woman, and cast into the Bottomless Pit for a thousand years, and finally committed to the Lake of Fire with all his angels to be tormented forever and ever.

II Corinthians 11:13-15, Job 1:6-12, Genesis 3:15, John 8:44, Ephesians 6:12-16, Revelation 20:1-3,7-10

#### **19.) Divine Healing of the Body**

We believe that divine healing of the body is not in the Atonement in the sense that salvation and forgiveness of sins are in the Atonement. The suffering and death of Christ according to the New Testament was substitutionary, penal and vicarious. It is nowhere taught in Scripture that Christ died for the effects of sin but for sin, and sickness is directly or indirectly the effect of sin.

Romans 4:25, I Corinthians 15:3, II Corinthians 5:21, I Peter 2:24; 3:18.



## **20.) Baptism**

We believe that the New Testament clearly prescribes baptism for believing disciples as a symbol and proclamation of the believer's death to sin and resurrection to newness of life. Further we believe and practice immersion as the mode of baptism prescribed by the New Testament in accordance with its word meanings, examples, and symbolism.

Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38; 8:12, Romans 6:3.

## **21.) The Lord's Supper**

We believe that our Lord and Saviour clearly prescribed for His believing disciples the solemn rite of the Lord's Supper as a memorial of the Lord's death to be kept by His disciples until He comes again, according to His promise and the Father's revealed plan.

I Corinthians 11:23-27, Luke 22:19-20.

## **ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP**

### **A) HOW TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Membership Committee shall consist of the Pastor and the Elders.
2. Persons desiring to unite with this Congregation shall complete and submit a membership application form to the pastor. Upon such a profession of their faith they shall be examined by the Membership Committee as to their Christian experience and the basis of their salvation; likewise those with letters of recommendation from other Churches shall also meet with the Committee. Applicants whose examination is satisfactory will be received into membership at such time as may be determined by the Membership Committee.
3. Revision of the Roll - The name of any member who shall be absent from the services of the Congregation for a period of three months without giving a satisfactory reason for such absence, may be removed from the roll of membership. Members leaving the community for a time, desiring their membership retained, should keep the Pastor informed of their whereabouts.

### **B) DISCIPLINE**

The Church shall be governed by Scriptural principles in the exercise of the discipline of its members. The Elders shall have the sole responsibility for the discipline of Church Members and shall have the authority, in accordance with proper legal proceedings in its meetings, to discipline, suspend or remove from membership any offending persons, providing that any such persons shall have had opportunity to present in writing to the Board, a statement of their position.

SUSPENSION shall mean the withdrawal of the privilege of partaking of the Lord's Supper and of voting at any church meeting. It shall be such a period of time and condition as determined by the Board.

### **C) APPLICANTS**

Applicants must be the full age of 16 years and members must be the full age of 18

## **ARTICLE 5: BUSINESS MEETINGS**

- A)** The Annual Meeting of the church for the receiving of annual reports, the election of officers and the transaction of general business shall be held at such date as may be fixed by the Administration Team. The Chairman of the Administration Team shall be elected by the members of the Team and shall preside over Team meetings and Congregational meetings.
- B)** Special meetings of the church may be called by the Chairman upon direction from the board and shall be duly constituted, provided notice of the meeting and of the business to be dealt with has been given from the pulpit on each of two Sundays prior.
- C)** Thirty-five percent (35%) attendance of resident members at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum unless otherwise specified.
- D)** Voting will be restricted to membership with non-members being encouraged to participate in discussion.
- E)** Voting by ballot may be determined by the chairman, or any one member.

## **ARTICLE 6: ADMINISTRATION TEAM**

- A)** The Administration Team of the church shall be made up of a minimum number of the following persons who are members in good standing:
- The Pastor
  - Two Elders
  - Four Deacons
- B)** The Administration Team shall exercise executive authority and supervision over the entire work of the church, of both its spiritual and business areas.
- C)** Meetings of the Administration Team shall be held every month and special meetings at the call of the Chairman. Additional meetings of the Elders or Deacons will also be called.

**ARTICLE 7:                    STRUCTURE AND DUTIES OF  
THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM**

**A) THE PASTOR:**

He shall meet the Biblical requirements for an Elder as found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1: 6-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3. He shall be chosen by an eighty percent (80%) vote of the members present at the meeting duly called for the purpose. No person shall be eligible for election as Pastor until he shall signify in writing over his signature his acceptance of the doctrinal statement, the terms and conditions of his employment, and of these rules and regulations as to the form of government contained herein. The candidate for the pastoral office must adhere to the regulations set down by the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada concerning the call of a Pastor. The Pastor and his wife automatically become members of the church when the Pastor enters upon his duties. The Pastor shall be required to give three months notice of resignation. Likewise three months notice shall be given by the church if the Pastor is to be dismissed. Both of these terms may be overridden by mutual consent of the Pastor and the congregation. The salary of the Pastor will be reviewed periodically by the Board.

**B) THE ELDERS:**

These men shall also need to meet the requirements prescribed in the Scriptures as listed for the Pastor. They, with the Pastor, shall have the work of the spiritual oversight of the church and shall constitute the Membership Committee as described in Article 4A.

They, with others the Pastor may choose, shall assist in the dispensing of the Lord's Supper and perform such other spiritual offices as the Word assigns. They, with the Pastor will be responsible for the planning of visiting speakers, the number and frequency of which shall be determined by the Board.

**C) THE DEACONS:**

These persons may be either men or women who would meet the appropriate requirements in the Scripture regarding the office of Deacon, namely 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 2:1,2, 6-10, Titus 2:3,4; 1 Timothy 3:11. They, with the Pastor, shall constitute the Finance Committee being charged with the financial, structural maintenance and business oversight of the work as well as the oversight of the care of needy persons.

**D) THE SECRETARY:**

Shall keep a proper record of all meetings of the church and of the Administration Team meetings, conduct necessary correspondence, and know the whereabouts of all papers and documents of the church. The Secretary shall be chosen from the members of the A. Team by the Team.

**ARTICLE 8:    THE TREASURER**

Shall receive, bank and disburse the regular funds of the church and shall keep the custody of all financial accounts, books and vouchers of the church, issue tax receipting as applicable and submit a properly audited statement thereof to the church at its Annual Meeting. This person should be member of the church and be able meet the biblical criteria of a Deacon.

## **ARTICLE 9: OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

- A)** Children's and Adult Christian Education Ministries shall have their superintendents and where applicable, assistant superintendents chosen at the Annual Business Meeting of the church. They will also operate as is deemed necessary by the Board and the Director of Christian Education or in their absence to the Pastor. They will also manage their annual budgets.
- B)** The Men's and Women's Ministries leadership will be chosen at the Annual Meeting.
- C)** The Youth Group Fellowship shall be accountable to the sponsor(s) who will be chosen at the Annual Meeting and need not be members, but shall be active in the church.
- D)** Cell groups shall function as numbers of people permit and shall be generally accountable to the Elders.
- E)** All the above organizations are accountable to the Administration Team and shall report back to the Team through a representative which the Team shall appoint.

## **ARTICLE 10: COMMITTEES**

### **A) THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE:**

Shall be elected by the church at its Annual Business Meeting. It is responsible for musicians, sound and PowerPoint persons and such other equipment or activities that relates to the worship of the church. They shall also manage an annual budget.

### **B) THE BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

Shall be elected by the church at its Annual Business Meeting and shall be members. It is charged with the responsibility of submitting necessary proposals to the church as need arises for building or renovations of church properties, and to oversee the implementation of such building and renovations.

### **C) THE USHERS COMMITTEE:**

Shall be chosen by the church at its Annual Business Meeting. It shall be charged with the responsibility of outdoor and indoor care and comfort of the people. The number of Ushers shall be determined by the Ushers Committee.

## **ARTICLE 11:**

## **APPOINTMENT AND CONGREGATIONAL RATIFICATION**

- A)**
1. The Elders Team, and new additions to it, shall be appointed by the Elders Team itself, such appointments needing to be ratified by a congregational approval of two thirds majority vote of resident members present at a duly called meeting.
  2. The Administration Team, and new additions to it, shall be appointed by the Administration Team itself, such appointment needing to be ratified by a two thirds majority vote of resident members present at a duly called meeting.
  3. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Administration Team and such appointment will need to be ratified by a two thirds majority vote of resident members present at a duly called meeting. The term of service for the Treasurer will be a two year renewable term.
  4. A list of the appointments made by these committees shall be posted in three conspicuous places in and about the place of Worship for at least ten days previous to the Annual Meeting.
  5. After the list is posted, further nominations may be made in writing, provided consent is obtained from the nominee and each such nomination has been signed by three members in good standing and left with the Secretary not later than seven days prior to the Annual Meeting. If the persons so nominated are found to be eligible, their names shall be added to the appointments already posted.
  6. When a vote is necessary, it shall be taken by ballot.
  7. Administration Team members, Chairpersons and Superintendents are to be members of the church unless otherwise stated.
- B)** The Elders and Deacons of the church may be appointed in such a manner that the term of one on each Team shall expire each year. No Elder or Deacon shall hold office more than three consecutive years unless his presence is obviously needed.
- C)** In unforeseen circumstances or failing the appointment of an officer by the proper procedure the Administration Team may appoint someone to fill an office vacancy.

## **ARTICLE 12: BY-LAWS**

**A)** The church may borrow, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money, in such manner and upon such terms and conditions, in all respects as they think fit, but only by a two-thirds vote of the Resident Members present at a duly called meeting. No purchase or sale of property shall be transacted except by a two-third majority vote of the Resident Members present at a duly called meeting.

1) Provision shall be made for those unable to be present to vote by Proxy.

**B)** The Administration Team shall appoint auditors who shall annually audit the books and accounts of the church and present a report to the Annual Business Meeting.

**C)** The primary source of revenue of this Congregation is the voluntary offerings of its members and those led to contribute as God has prospered them. In this connection the tithing system is recommended as a basis of proportionate giving on the part of each member of the congregation.

The current expenses, such as salaries, caretaking, interest, light, fuel, repairs, etc., are met by weekly offerings of the members. Envelopes will be provided for those who wish to use them for this purpose.

**D)** Extreme care shall be taken that persons in areas of leadership shall be of approved Christian character.

**E)** Amendments to this constitution may be introduced by a motion presented at a duly called meeting of the church. The motion will then be tabled for one month at which time a vote will be taken, unless a condition deemed an emergency by the membership requires otherwise. A two-thirds majority vote at a duly called meeting of the church is necessary to pass an amendment or add to this constitution.

**F)** The books of the church may be inspected by members at the regular Annual Meeting or seven days after written request is received by the Secretary.

## **ARTICLE 13: DISSENSION DISSOLUTION**

In the case of dissension the title to all church property, real and personal, shall remain with the group abiding by this constitution ; and upon dissolution, the property and all assets of the church shall become the property of the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada.



