

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLARENCE CENTER – AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH, INC.

Revised October 18, 2012

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this fellowship of Christian believers is the Clarence Center-Akron Mennonite Church, Inc., which meets at 11500 Clarence Center Road, Akron, New York 14001.

ARTICLE II

CORE VALUES

We value the centrality of Christ, the Bible as the authoritative text for His church, and love as the ultimate expression of God on earth. Therefore, the community at Clarence Center-Akron Mennonite Church strives to be:

Christ Centered

We recognize Christ's authority over the church and to that end, our time of worship, educational activities and fellowship is aimed to be pleasing to Christ, with Him central in our minds and hearts.

Bible Based

We accept God's word as our authority, striving to teach His word with clarity, encouraging, counseling and challenging each one to grow in faith and obedience through His revelation and power.

Compelled by Love

We are commanded to love the Lord with all our hearts, souls, and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We achieve this in part by our willingness to be accountable to one another, accepting praise and discipline equally in order to maintain unity in the church. With Jesus as our example, we strive to be servants to all, believers and non-believers alike.

Core Values Statement (short – for use on bulletin and other church publications)

We value the centrality of Christ, the Bible as the authoritative text for His church, and love as the ultimate expression of God on earth. Therefore, the community at Clarence Center-Akron Mennonite Church strives to be Christ centered, Bible based and compelled by love.

ARTICLE III

AFFILIATION

We are affiliated with Mennonite Church USA through the New York Mennonite Conference. Representation to the Conference is by way of congregational delegates and pastors. Our intent is to work with, give and receive counsel, and support the activities of the New York Mennonite Conference. We accept the "Confession of Faith" as adopted by Mennonite Church USA

ARTICLE IV
GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

This document (Constitution) exists as directed in the By-laws of CCAM INC, and is consistent with such By-laws. Upon recommendation by Church Council, it may be amended by the members of CCAM with a 2/3 supermajority of those present and voting at the annual meeting or a duly called business meeting but such amendments must be consistent with the By-laws.

This document authorizes two additional sets of governing documents:

- 1. Operating Rules** which may be amended by a 2/3 Supermajority of the Church Council alone.
- 2. Relational Commitments** which, upon recommendation from the Church Council, may be amended by the members of CCAM INC by a majority vote at the annual meeting or a duly called business meeting. Proposed amendments to these Relational Commitments must be announced to the members in writing at least two weeks prior to any such meeting.

ARTICLE V
PASTOR

1. Duties of the Pastor

Please refer to the Job Description Document, under the section for the Pastor.

2. Pastoral Appointment

- a. The Pastor shall be chosen by the congregation in consultation with the Ministerial Committee of the New York Mennonite Conference.
- b. The first term of office shall be three years.
- c. Each successive term shall be for five years.
- d. An evaluation shall take place approximately one year prior to the expiration of each term. Church Council or its designated representatives is responsible to see that Pastoral Evaluations take place as required.
- e. The approval, after evaluation, shall require 2/3 Supermajority (as recommended by Mennonite Church USA) of members present and active members not present who have submitted a ballot.
- f. A “Covenant of Understanding between a Congregation and its Pastor” shall be created by Church Council or its designated representatives and maintained separately from this document, but shall be consistent with this document. The Covenant of Understanding shall dictate terms of employment and termination of service etc.

ARTICLE VI
ELDERS

1. Duties of Elders

Please refer to the Job Description Document, under the section for the Elders.

2. Selection of Elders

Church membership is required to serve as an elder. Church council shall direct the selection process. The process must include nomination and affirmation by the congregation. Elders should be installed in a Sunday morning worship service with prayer and the laying on of hands. (I Timothy 5:22; II Timothy 1:6)

ARTICLE VII CHURCH COUNCIL

1. Church Council Members

a. There shall be nine (9) statutory members as follows:

- Trustee/council chair
- Trustee/council vice chair
- Trustee/Council Rep #1
- Trustee/Council Rep #2
- Trustee/Council Rep #3
- Trustee/Council Rep #4
- Senior pastor
- Elder representative (chosen by the elders, consistently the same person)
- Property Steward (chosen by property steward committee, consistently the same person)

b. Notes:

- An additional Pastor or Elder may serve on Council in one of the six at-large positions, however, no more than three members of the Elder Team (consisting of Pastors and Elders) may serve on Council at any given time.
- No person can be in two council positions at the same time.
- Election of council chair, council vice chair, council rep numbers 1 through 4, will also be an election to the Board of Trustees
- Membership is intentionally not required to qualify to be the Property Steward who serves on church council. This is intentional to provide an opportunity for regularly attending non-members to serve on church council.

2. Church Council Voting Requirements

A quorum shall consist of 50% of the nine (9) statutory council members. Council shall require a simple majority of members present when voting on issues.

3. Role and Responsibilities

Church council shall manage the routine affairs of the organization as directed by the Board of Trustees. A separate job description for Church Council is unnecessary.

ARTICLE VIII VOTING

Congregation (by majority vote) shall have the right to refuse to vote on an issue if they find the voting format unfair or otherwise objectionable.

If a vote is taken by ballot the vote shall remain anonymous – no names will be required on the ballots.