



EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

An Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada Affiliate

“We strive to follow, love & share Jesus”

April 17, 2021

To the Members of the Congregation of Evangelical Fellowship Church:

RE: Proposed Revisions to the Constitution & Bylaws

At our fall 2020 congregational meeting, EFC voted to join the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada as full members. Part of the application process involves updating our Constitution to note that we are members of the ECCC, outlining the roles & responsibilities that both EFC & ECCC have in this new relationship.

The Council felt this was a good time to not only bring our Constitution more in line with the ECCC Model Constitution (which they use to help new churches develop well-functioning governance), but also to take time to review our Constitution, updating & fine-tuning it since we adopted the new Council Model. Since November 2020, the Constitution Committee has worked tirelessly proposing revisions to create a better foundation for EFC now & into the future. This has included a lot of discussion with Council around various topics, particularly membership & pastoral contracts.

Some of our proposed revisions include:

- Adjustments noting our affiliation with the ECCC, roles & responsibilities
- Minor revisions bringing our Constitution into alignment with the ECCC Model Constitution
- Adjustments around pastor's contracts, probationary periods & performance reviews, bringing them into alignment with ECCC recommendations, which Council believes will address what has been a key area of disharmony in EFC
- Adjustment to voting majority required for major decisions at a Congregational meeting
- Clarification on church membership, including the introduction of non-voting Associate Members for those who regularly attend who wish to become more involved in our church
- Adjustments to fine-tune essential Committees required
- Addition of voting guidelines first introduced in the Fall 2020 AGM & inclusion of guidelines for virtual congregational meetings

Please find attached a copy of our current Constitution & the proposed Constitution Revisions (dated 2021-04-17), for your information & review. In the Constitution Revision you will find notes in the margin to help you identify the revisions & provide some insight into why a change is being proposed.

Unfortunately, we are under a strict timeline for you the Congregation to approve the Constitution Revisions before EFC is able to be accepted by the ECCC as a full member this year; **June 2021**. We are asking that each church member review our proposal as quickly as possible so that you are well informed & are able to vote to approve the new Constitution at our Spring Annual General Meeting on **May 30, 2021** (tentative).

To help our Congregation understand the proposed revisions (while working within current Covid restrictions) we are setting up Constitution Info Sessions where you will be able to meet in-person with Constitution Committee & Council Members to help answer any questions & comments you may have:

Constitution Info Sessions

- **Sunday May 2nd** - 12:15pm (after the 11:00 service)
- **Wednesday May 12th** - 7:00pm
- **Sunday May 16th** - 12:15pm (after the 11:00 service)

Sign-in sheets will be created for each meeting, listen to Sunday announcements for more info. There will be limited spaces to attend each info session, so please be sure to sign up as soon as possible.

We would greatly appreciate your urgent consideration on the proposed revisions. Please also feel free to contact a Pastor or Council Member directly with any questions, comments or concerns; we look forward to discussing this with you & will do our best to answer your questions!

Finally, I would like to personally thank our Constitution Committee (Mike Ettrich, Sieghard Wanke & Pastor Jesse Kane) for their late nights, persistence & insight these last few months. If not for their hard work & the Lord's perfect timing, we would not be ready to take the next steps to join in fellowship with the ECCC.

In faith & thanksgiving,

Simon Winkelmann
Council Chair