

Welcome to MCC Membership Covenant Relationship

A Manual for ...



Edited February 2020

By

This copy belongs to:

Dated: ____/____/____

Psalm 133

- 1. How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!***
- 3. ...For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.***

MCC Covenant Relationship



1983 - 2018

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

What is a covenant?

The concept of “covenant” is ancient and had its roots in the bible and the various cultures of the Ancient Near East. **A covenant is a chosen relationship or partnership in which two parties make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal.** They’re often accompanied by oaths, signs, and ceremonies. Covenants contain defined obligations and commitments but differ from a contract in that **they are relational and personal.** Like a marriage, in devotion to King Jesus Christ, we choose to enter a binding relationship to one another in faithfulness and devotion. We work together as servants in obedience to Jesus Christ as our Lord. That’s a covenant.

Why “covenant” with a local church?

Many believe that this model is the **best way for Christians to commit themselves to being disciples of Jesus Christ.** Being in a **meaningful relationship with God, and the Born-Again Family of God,** is what it means to be the church. When a Christian enters into a covenant relationship with a local church, they are agreeing to a **meaningful association with that local church,** and are expected to exchange ideas and opinions in an environment of grace, love, and mutual respect with other covenant members, in service to Jesus Christ guided by the Bible.

What is expected of those who enter into a covenant relationship?

Those who enter into a covenant relationship with MCC are expected to sincerely pursue the “Core Values of the Covenant Relationship” outlined below. Those in covenant seek to understand God’s

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ongoing story and apply it in a meaningful way to our current context. Those in covenant also seek to live out their ongoing unique spiritual journey, welcoming God's healing and wholeness into their lives, being in community with their neighbor, serving their neighbor locally and around the world, and celebrating with others in the life of the church, especially in worship.

Core Values of the Covenant Relationship

While vision, mission and goals state the intended outcome, values determine the way we move toward our goals. **Values capture the distinction and essence of who we are and how we minister.** We will continually endeavor to maintain biblical foundations to our values and their alignment to the areas of ministry we believe the Lord is calling us to.



1. Relationships

MCC values relationships as they reflect the true nature of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in perfect love and unity. Of primary importance is our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. We value the Body of Christ, His church, made up of fellow believers from a diverse background of traditions and express this through fellowship and communion together around meals. We value the relationships within the communities we live, work and are called to minister.

2. Intentionality

MCC values intentionality by employing strategic activities to develop those within the Body to maturity in Christ. Exhorting and edifying believers through teaching, equipping and practical discipleship so that they identify and employ their gifts and ministries alongside others in the service of God. We value intentional networks of relationships and activities that will enable accomplishment of our vision.

3. Substance over Form

MCC value substance over form and will continually seek to discover and express God's truths in relevant and practical ways while holding to our statement of faith. We desire that the substance of our faith will continue to answer life's questions in a society of accelerating change and that we will be innovative change agents to the world around us.

4. Word of God

We value the Word of God as scripture inspired by God. That it is fully capable of training and equipping believers for life and ministry. We value teaching and the study of the Word of God. Living it out through service and devotion, modeling to those around us.

5. Prayer

We value prayer as a means of communication from and to God, developing our personal relationship with Christ. As a Body we value intercessory prayer as a means to lift one another up before God, to seek His will and intervening hand in the national and international affairs.

6. Mission

We value God's mission into our local community, into Alberta and Canada and the nations. We believe that the heart of mission is the Gospel of Jesus Christ expressed through both Word and deed in love and that it has the intrinsic power to bring freedom and change to all issues in this world.

7. Ownership

We value personal ownership that creates integrated members within the Body who express the heartbeat of the church. Ownership is expressed in the “Priesthood of all Believers” by those who participate regularly, giving valuable input and receiving from the body. They represent the Holy Spirit’s direction and ministry in and through the church.

8. Children and Youth

We value our children and youth members of the Body of Christ. They are our legacy in this world as witnesses for Christ and future leaders in society. Their growth in Christ is important and we encourage them through biblical teaching toward personal study and practical experience in their faith.

9. Servanthood

We value service to our fellow men as service to God. As we mature in our faith in Christ our desire to serve our fellow man grows. We are compelled to serve others through love, the love of our neighbor, a love we have because Christ loved us first and He demonstrated selfless love and service to us.

10. Worship & Arts

We value Worship and Arts. Millarville Church places value on gathering to celebrate the blessings of God in our personal and corporate lives for the encouragement of the body of Christ. We encourage artistic, musical, dramatic or any other expression of thanksgiving and praise that is edifying to the Church and the Lord.

11. Leadership Development

We value using our gifts and talents to train and equip others. This can be both practical and spiritual gifts. We believe that God has given us all gifts and talents to use, to teach and train others. Leadership is something that is both a natural gift and a process of learned behavior. This is something that is done intentionally, through relationships guided by prayer and the Word of God.

12. Team Ministry

We value Team in ministry and leadership. Team provides a context of journeying with one another in the accomplishment of task, while appreciating the diverse gift mix of the individuals. Team offers church overseers an environment for discussion, prayer and consensual agreement. Through the plurality of leadership, team ministry provides a base of collective knowledge, wisdom and accountability. Team provides a safe place of ministry entry and exit for an individual while the team continues moving forward.

13. Hospitality

We value hospitality as the act or practice of being hospitable; the reception, care and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers and those in need, with liberality and goodwill. The practice of hospitality contains the small seeds of transformation to change lives. We can extend God’s grace by demonstrating hospitality enabling people feel accepted and included as part of an extended family.

14. Teaching

We value teaching to produce life-change by focusing on the needs of the learners and bringing them into a fuller relationship with God. The foundation of our teaching is in the truth of the Word of God. We value teachers being raised up by God within our own local body, by recognizing their spiritual gifting. We seek to develop and equip those individuals to teach in

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various ministries of our church. We value teaching others how to study the Word for themselves so that they are interacting with God's Word and the Holy Spirit directly.

15. Priesthood of All Believers

At MCC we agree with the Bible and the work of Jesus Christ that every believer is a priest, regardless of his or her full-time occupation. We believe that the "priesthood of all believers" is vital for the health and effectiveness of the Church. Because of Christ's high priesthood, and because we are now in him, Christians have all become priests. Because of Christ, believers are now all prophets, priests, and kings. His followers are now part of a "royal priesthood" that prophetically proclaims his message. We are a "chosen race," a "holy nation," a "royal priesthood," and an "ambassador of Christ." As members of Millarville Community Church "priesthood of all believers" we will pray more boldly, offer up spiritual sacrifices regularly, and realize our unique privilege in Christ. We are full-time followers of Christ, regardless of where we work, willing to prophetically confront the problems in the Church and in the world. We live our faith both through our direct participation in the Church, through our professions, and through our engagement in work and society. We are agents of reconciliation, ambassadors, and mediators; in other words, we are "priests" in our society.

MCC Covenant Membership Agreement

From the Constitution regarding Membership at MCC

1) STATEMENT OF FAITH

A) GOD

- I) God reveals himself in the Scriptures as the living and true God, Creator of all things. Perfect in love and righteous in all his ways this one God exists eternally as a Trinity of persons: The Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1: 1, John 10; John 4:24

B) SCRIPTURE

- I) The Scripture of both the Old and New Testaments being given by divine inspiration, are the infallible Word of God, the final and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2 Tim. 3:1, 17; 2 Pet. 1: 19-21

C) JESUS CHRIST

- I) The only Mediator between God and Man is Jesus Christ our Lord, the Second person of the Trinity, God's Eternal Son, conceived through the Virgin Mary, who as man fully shared and fulfilled our humanity in a life of perfect obedience. By his death on the cross, in our place, Jesus revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having risen bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, he rules as Lord overall and intercedes for us as our great High Priest until he returns to fulfill His Kingdom.

1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Cor. 15:42-57 Rev. 21:1-8

D) HOLY SPIRIT

- I) The Holy Spirit the Third person of the Trinity, through the proclamation of the Gospel persuades us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord and renews our hearts.

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- II) The promised Holy Spirit is given to believers as a deposit, guaranteeing our inheritance. His Spirit, the Counselor abides in us.
- III) Life in the Spirit is what God intends for Christians. We are to walk by the Spirit, we are to exhibit fruit of the Spirit.
- IV) We believe the Spirit gives, as He chooses, Spiritual Gifts to seeking believers today. The gifts are given for the edification of His body and bring glory to the Father. Gifts of the Spirit are manifested in an orderly way.
- V) As a church, we seek to be led by His Spirit, His Word and God given wisdom. These three will be in agreement.

Eph 1: 14, John 14, Gal 5:25, Heb. 2:4, Heb 13:8,

1 Cor : 12-14, 12:1, 14:3 & 4, 26, 33

E) MAN

- I) God made Man in His image that He might have fellowship with Him. Being estranged by disobedience from God, sinful man is incapable of a right relationship with God apart from divine grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. *Ro. 3:9-23; Eph. 2:1-3*

F) CHURCH

- I) We are called into relationship with Jesus, and active fellowship within His body, the church. The church is a joining of individuals under the headship of Christ, who are called to encourage and care for one another, to be light, to share the Gospel, and to serve as Jesus served.

Titus 3:5; 1 Cor. 15:20-23

1 Cor 12:12, Heb 10: 25, 1 Pet 4: 1 0

G) ORDINANCES

- I) We believe that there are two principal Ordinances to be observed by the Church as found in the New Testament:

(a) BAPTISM

- (1) The immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whereby one obeys Christ's command and sets forth his identity with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, symbolizing Death to Sin and rising with Christ to newness of Life.

Ro. 6:3-5; Math. 28:19

(b) THE LORD'S SUPPER

- (1) An invitation is extended to believing Christians to partake in the Lord's Supper, using bread and wine, which symbolizes the New Covenant in the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

1 Cor. 11:23-24

Membership According to the Constitution of Millarville Community Church (2008)

A) MEMBERSHIP:

- I) Members are those who:
 - (a) Have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior and have been baptized.
 - (b) Are involved regularly in the life and ministry of Millarville Community Church for a period of at least six months.
 - (c) Have met with the Pastor and are in agreement with the Statement of Faith and values of Millarville Community Church.

B) VOTING PRIVILEGES:

- I) Anyone who meets the Membership requirements and is at least 16 years old is entitled to vote at all congregational business meetings.

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C) WITHDRAWAL OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

- I) By written request
- II) By moving away
- III) By demonstrating a prolonged disinterest in being a part of the Church.
- IV) By displaying persistent violation of Biblical standards of conduct and ethics provided that under this clause they have been advised by the Elders of their intention and have been given opportunity to reconcile their lifestyle or doctrinal error.

COVENANT AGREEMENT:

I agree and accept the above Statement of Faith; I declare that I am saved by repentance of my sins to Jesus Christ and receiving Him as my Lord and Savior. I agree to uphold the Biblical Core Values of MCC in my service to Jesus Christ.

Signed _____ *Date:* _____

Signed _____ *Date:* _____



History

With the growth of the Millarville community, local Christians saw opportunity for a second local church and one which represented the variety of Christian backgrounds present. Beginning in September 1983 under the umbrella of the Western Baptist Union, Millarville Community Church (MCC) was established. Within a year the church had moved away from the Baptist oversight and became a non-denominational community church and has continued in that practice.

Local community facilities such as the library, Ranchers Hall, and the Elementary school gymnasium have provided a home base for the church in 2000 and in 2004 a temporary facility, the former Elbow Valley Community Hall, was moved on to the land. That fall MCC relocated to its own 70-person capacity building which we quickly filled. In February 2005, a 10-year plan to save and plan for a new building was presented to the congregation. That same summer we were given the opportunity to receive as a gift the then South Calgary Full Gospel Church on Macleod Trail in Shawnessy Calgary and have it moved to our land. January 2006 the 48' wide and 120' long building arrived on site and at the cost of \$100,000. July 2006 services began in our current building and continue on.

We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness to meet our needs for a visible presence in the community.

Structure:

As a non-denominational community church, we are responsible for our own governance within the church body and to the government, as a registered church and charity. The Statement of Faith and Constitution describe our responsibilities of governance and on a day to day basis we operate in "team ministry" with a set of "ministry values" to align our ministry practice to.

We have a team of Elders to bring spiritual and pastoral oversight, dealing with the issues of vision, direction, development, instruction, and general wellbeing of the body.

A Leadership Team of Deacons and Elders functions to ensure provision of ministry, its growth and stewardship of resources. Each team member carries a portfolio of ministry responsibility.

It is our desire to maintain a leadership structure that is as flat as possible, spreading out to enable others to join the team as the Lord grows His church and the resulting ministries.

Ministry

Local churches are God's gift to communities and "Change Agents" for the surrounding society. The church Body are all called to be ministers of the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ and therefore it is our goal to see people enfolded, equipped, encouraged, and experienced in ministry. We recognize that the type of ministry MCC undertakes will be largely determined by the gifting of those the Lord brings into the Body.

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Ministry takes place within the church as we serve the congregation and outwardly to the local community in forms of outreach and service. Several regular outreach events have begun to engage the community with gospel.

With our commitment to Missions we also minister a broader manner nationally and internationally through supporting those called long-term missionaries/missions and through short term teams.

We believe in the intrinsic power of God's Word through the ministry of the Holy Spirit to bring transformation in the believer's life. Therefore, we have a high emphasis on biblical preaching and teaching, offering weekly Bible studies and periodic training time to continually equip for ministry.

As a "community" church we believe we need to provide a relevant expression of faith fitting with our local community so that transition into a faith community is as accessible as possible to all who are called.

Therefore, it is our desire that the church be a place that is:

- A welcoming, friendly environment where people feel honored, respected, cared for, and ministered to.
- Where people are taught, encouraged, and challenged in their faith.
- A point from which they can go out from as witnesses and disciples of Christ.
- Easily accessible to non-Christians where they can find genuine faith and fellowship.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

