

Constitution of the Pleasant View Mennonite Church

Adopted by the membership July 2, 2023

Article I. GENERAL

The name of the organization is Pleasant View Mennonite Church, hereinafter referred to as "PVMC", and meets regularly at 94948 N. 2450 Rd., Hydro, Oklahoma 73048. PVMC is governed by its membership and is an affiliate member of the South Central Mennonite Conference (SCMC). The fiscal year of PVMC begins the first day of January and ends the last day of December.

Article II: PURPOSE

PVMC is a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. PVMC is empowered by the Holy Spirit and focused on advancing God's kingdom. PVMC loves one another and is devoted to God's Word and prayer. PVMC joyfully shares life together by celebrating in worship, communion, and baptism. (Matthew 22:37; 28:19-20, Acts 2:42)

Article III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

PVMC seeks to conform to God's Word, looking to the Bible as the standard of truth for faith and practice. PVMC holds the Confession of Faith (as discerned by the membership) as the church's teaching position. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Article IV: MEMBERSHIP

The membership consists of people called by God to PVMC. Members profess faith in Jesus Christ, participate in the Good News of Jesus, and covenant together to be present and active in the body of Christ at PVMC.

1. Acceptance of New Members:
 - A. Those seeking to join the membership should contact the church office, pastor(s), or an elder.
 - B. Member candidates must be presented to the congregation, complete the new member exploration class, be recommended by the elders for membership, and affirmed by the members of the congregation.
2. Duties of Members: Members covenant together to advance God's kingdom by seeking to live a life worthy of our calling as discerned within the membership of PVMC. Each member's covenant with the church must be renewed annually. The elders are responsible for maintaining the membership list.
3. Benefits of Membership: Participation in congregational discernment, access to the church's facilities, opportunities to exercise leadership gifts in the church's various ministries, use of the

pastoral staff for personal faith development and services such as child dedications, baptisms, weddings, and funerals in accordance with PVMC's Confession of Faith. Membership includes a church mailbox for communication, scholarships for secondary education at Christian institutions, service opportunities both locally and globally, and a burial plot in the graveyard.

4. Withdrawal of Membership: Member's may request the removal and/or transfer of their membership at any time.
5. Suspension of Membership: Should a member not repent of sin and reject church discipline as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17; the elders may recommend suspension of the individual's membership.

Article V: LEADERSHIP

1. Elders: PVMC is an elder led church. The elders are accountable to God and the congregation through the oversight of South Central Mennonite Conference.
 - A. Qualifications: The elder must be a baptized believer and member of PVMC. They are called by the congregation in recognition of their servant's heart and a life of faithfulness that bears witness to being guided by the Holy Spirit. (I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9) The Board of Elders shall consist of five persons plus the pastor or pastoral team, none of whom may belong to the same immediate family.
 - B. Selection: PVMC will seek to fill the position of elder through prayer and discernment. For two consecutive years, two elders will be selected annually by the congregation. The third year, one elder will be selected. Nominations for the elder positions shall be made by the congregation on a nomination form supplied to the members at least thirty (30) days before the annual selection. The current Board of Elders shall present a slate to vote or affirm consisting of at least the same number of candidates as positions to be filled, two weeks before the election.
 - C. Duties: The Board of Elders is responsible for advancing the Kingdom of God through PVMC. All duties of the church are the responsibility of the elders, unless otherwise delegated by the constitution or by the Board of Elders. The elders are responsible for preaching and teaching, Sunday morning worship services, visitation, counseling, training members to minister, administration of church discipline, communion, baptisms, funerals, and weddings. They also maintain the membership list, which is updated annually, and oversee compliance with church documents. The elders appoint and oversee the caregiver committee, the church treasurer, and conference delegates. They also provide support and oversight to the pastoral staff.
 - D. Term of Service: Elders are called for a three-year term beginning on the first day of the year and ending on the last day of the third year. A sabbatical leave of at least one year is required after an elder serves two consecutive terms on the Board of Elders.

2. Pastors: Pastor(s) are called by God to PVMC to advance God's kingdom. The pastor(s) is accountable to God and the congregation through the elders and the oversight of SCMC.
 - A. For qualifications, duties, and terms of service see the Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor job descriptions in the PVMC Manual. The pastor(s) are members of the board of elders and may serve as a non-voting member of any committee at their discretion.
 - B. The elders are responsible for recommending a pastor(s) to the membership for their discernment. The members are responsible for calling a pastor(s) to join PVMC's leadership for the advancement of God's kingdom.
3. Committees: Committees are under the oversight of the elders and carry out the tasks delegated to them for the benefit of the congregation and God's kingdom.
 - A. Qualifications: Committee members must profess faith in Jesus Christ, participate in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and be in covenant with the membership at PVMC.
 - B. Duties: Each committee's duties are outlined in the committees' section of the PVMC Manual. Changes to committee duties must be approved by the elders.
 - C. Terms of Service: Terms of Service will be from annual business meeting to annual business meeting for three years. A sabbatical leave of at least one year is required after a committee member has served two three-year terms.
 - D. Selection: Committee nominees will be selected at the annual business meeting. Nominations will be received until a vote is called.
4. Grievances: Any grievance against a committee or a paid staff member should be brought before an elder(s). Any grievance against the elders should be brought to South Central Mennonite Conference (sccmenno.org).

Article VI: PVMC Procedures

PVMC uses member meetings to conduct church business. Non-members are encouraged to attend and observe members meetings.

1. Regular meetings. PVMC shall hold regular meetings at the discretion of the elders or by written petition of 25% of the members. Agendas for said meetings must be submitted to the elders and published one week prior to the meeting.
2. Annual business meeting: The annual business meeting of PVMC will be held near the beginning of the fiscal year. This meeting shall serve the purpose of receiving reports from the elders and committees, electing committee members, approving a budget for the fiscal year

and any other business that may arise. The annual business meeting agenda must be submitted to the elders and published one week prior to the meeting.

3. Procedures for members meetings:

- A. All PVMC meetings will be led by the church moderator, an elder, or their designee.
- B. Meetings will follow the published agenda. Motions not on the agenda can be discussed but not acted on. For further action the new motion must follow Article VI.1.
- C. Treatment of each agenda item will follow a predictable pattern starting with a report or discussion. If action is required; a motion, restatement of the motion, a second to the motion, a call for further discussion, a final restating of the motion and a call to vote.

4. Procedures for motions:

- A. Motions will require a two-week discernment period before a vote. At the time of the scheduled vote, a final call for discussion will be heard.
- B. Absentee ballots will be made available one week prior and are due at the time of the vote.
- C. Results of a vote will be shared immediately after the vote or at the next regular gathering of the church and published.

5. Quorum requirement for decision making:

- A. A quorum is 50% of the members of voting age (16 years of age or older). Church members must be sixteen (16) years of age or older to vote.
- B. Church decisions are determined by a 2/3 majority unless otherwise indicated. Decisions requiring more than a 2/3 majority must be identified prior to a vote.
- C. If a quorum is not present at the time of a scheduled meeting, a motion can be voted on at the next gathering of membership where a quorum is present.

Article VII: AMENDMENTS

The constitution shall be reviewed by the elders or their designees during years ending with a 2 or 7 (at least once every five years).

Changes to the constitution must be presented to the congregation at a members' meeting and follow the procedures governing the discernment of a motion.