



military christian fellowship

fraternité chrétienne militaire
CANADA

CONSTITUTION

Adopted:	21 October 1989
Revised:	24 October 2008
Revised:	16 February 2019

NAME

1. The name of the organization is "The Military Christian Fellowship of Canada" in English; or "La fraternité chrétienne militaire du Canada" in French, hereinafter referred to as the MCF.

OFFICE

2. The Office of the MCF shall be located in the City of Ottawa in the Province of Ontario.

MISSION

3. The MCF is an organized grouping of Christians who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ and join in His mission of making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20) within the military community. The mission of the MCF is to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the military community in Canada and abroad. As Christians, no matter what our rank or position, we are uniquely placed to reach the military community and help them discover Jesus Christ. It is a great challenge, a special ministry, and a high calling that we will accept by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VISION

4. To see an integrated, biblically-grounded, Spirit-directed network of Christ-followers that spans the Canadian military community who in unity passionately pursue Jesus and His mission of making disciples who make disciples.

VALUES

5. Without a doubt, the primordial values statement is recorded in Matthew 22:35-40 where the conversation between Jesus and the lawyer is recorded. In response to the lawyer's question concerning what must be done to receive eternal life, Jesus responds with a paraphrase of passages found in the Torah: "*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these.”* Living one's life according to these two commandments will lead a person to fulfilling the gospel; from confession, to repentance, to rebirth and to a life of service in the name of Jesus. Rooted in these commandments are seven specific values that drive the behaviour and decisions that the MCF as an organization of Christ-followers seek to live out both corporately and individually. These values are reflected by those subscribed to by the Canadian Armed Forces, but the MCF's understanding of their importance stems from Christ Himself and His revelation as depicted in the whole of scripture.

- a. Loyalty unto the Lord – Above all else, a believer’s loyalty is to God, which he expresses through his absolute obedience to all of God’s commands and precepts.
- (1) Deuteronomy 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
- (2) Matthew 22:37 “And He said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.””
- b. Respect for everyone – Every person has been made in the image of God and as such are imbued with divine value.
- (1) Genesis 1:27 “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
- (2) Matthew 22:39 “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”
- c. Obedience to established authority – Since the governing authority has been established by God, we are obedient to all lawful direction.
- (1) Romans 13:1 “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”
- (2) 1 Peter 2:13-15 “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.”
- d. Integrity in conduct and intent – Always conduct yourself with integrity so that you may glorify your Father in heaven
- (1) Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”
- (2) 1 Peter 2:12 “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
- e. Courage when confronted with risk or threat – As Christians, we are called to be strong and courageous knowing that it is the Lord who works in and through us and it is for His mission that we serve.

- (1) Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.”
 - (2) Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”
- f. Stewardship of all resources: material, personal and spiritual abilities – God has provided resources for each of us, which we are to use for His work.
- (1) Genesis 2:15 “Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”
 - (2) Matthew 25:23 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”
- g. Excellence in all that you do – In everything that a Christian does, excellence is the focus of effort.
- (1) 1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
 - (2) Colossians 3:17 “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

STRATEGIC EFFECTS

- 6. Through the pursuit of the MCF mission towards the realization of its vision the efforts of the MCF will result in four strategic effects or outcomes. By the grace of God and the power of His Spirit through the ministry of the Son, these effects are the value that the MCF’s efforts will bring to the Church and her greater mission to make disciples who make disciples.
 - a. Prayer pervades the MCF – MCF members pray for the spiritual needs and welfare of military community members at home and abroad. We pray for the gentle and respectful communication of the hope of the gospel. We pray for the elimination of spiritual opposing-force strongholds. We pray for the Christ-centered spiritual growth of all believers.
 - b. There is a profound experience of Christian fellowship-discipleship – Biblical fellowship is not casual; it is intentional; purposeful; and Christ centered, Holy Spirit infused and Father governed. MCF operations work to foster this type and level of fellowship-discipleship.

- c. The gospel is communicated – this involves both one-on-one and group evangelism. The MCF enables and encourages individuals to evangelize in the one-on-one environment and churches to reach out to the military community with the gospel in ways that respect: the calling of military community members to serve Christ within this unique segment of Canadian society; and the spiritual jurisdiction of the Canadian Armed Forces chaplaincy.
- d. The military community is served in the name of Jesus and for His sake.
 - (1) Support Chaplains – MCF members individually and corporately pray for, and encourage chaplains and help them do their job and fulfill their calling. The chaplaincy is the one organization within the military community that is officially authorized to give spiritual care.
 - (2) Other – MCF members bring the love of Christ into the military community in the form of acts of service. These will manifest in different ways at different times according to the gifts and skills of members of the MCF who wish to serve the military community, and according to the unique calling God provides them in this context.

THE MCF STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- 7. The MCF affirms the following articles of faith:
 - a. The Holy Scriptures, as originally given by God, are divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy, and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct;
 - b. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
 - c. Our Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh; we affirm his virgin birth, sinless humanity, divine miracles, vicarious and atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension, ongoing mediatorial work, and personal return in power and glory;
 - d. The salvation of lost and sinful humanity is possible only through the merits of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, received by faith apart from works, and is characterized by regeneration by the Holy Spirit;
 - e. The Holy Spirit enables believers to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ;
 - f. The Church, the body of Christ, consists of all true believers; and
 - g. Ultimately God will judge the living and the dead, those who are saved unto the

resurrection of life, those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

MEMBERSHIP

8. Membership in the MCF shall comprise regular and associate members who subscribe to the MCF Statement of Belief and support the MCF's mission, vision, values and strategic effects.
 - a. **Regular members** of the MCF shall be from all branches of the Canadian Armed Forces or other nations' military forces who establish residence in Canada whether:¹
 - (1) Regular Force;
 - (2) Reserve Force, including the Cadet Instructors Cadre and the Supplementary Reserve;
 - (3) former serving members;
 - (4) civilians working for the Department of National Defence;
 - (5) former civilians of the Department of National Defence;
 - (6) members of other nation's military fellowship organizations who establish residence in Canada; and
 - (7) spouses of any of the above.
 - b. **Associate members** of the MCF are all others who desire to join us on our mission. Associate members will be accorded every privilege of regular membership in the MCF.
 - c. Anyone desiring to become a regular or associate member of the MCF shall submit to the MCF office an application for membership on which the applicant has signed, indicating that they:
 - (1) trust in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and Lord;
 - (2) are in active fellowship with an organized group of believers;
 - (3) agree with the MCF mission, vision, statement of belief, and constitution,
 - (4) and that they will:
 - (a) actively seek to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ; and
 - (b) participate actively in the MCF.

THE MCF COUNCIL

9. The Council.
 - a. The Council shall provide governing oversight concerning the policies and direction of the MCF.
 - b. The Council shall be composed of the following persons with responsibilities as per Governance Terms of Reference:
 - (1) the Chair of the MCF (elected position);

¹ The various groupings of individuals identified as meeting the requirements for regular membership plus their children constitute what the MCF defines as the military community.

- (2) the President of the Executive Team of the MCF (Council-appointed position);
 - (3) An additional Executive team member (Council-appointed position);
 - (4) A representative from the Canadian Armed Forces Chaplaincy (elected position);
and
 - (5) An associate member (elected position).
- c. The Council may also include;
- (1) MCF regional representation; and
 - (2) Select advisors as required.
10. Election of Council members shall take place at the annual general meeting (AGM) of the MCF. The Council shall prepare nominations and present them at the AGM. Members may also nominate candidates for all council positions. Nominations must be made in writing two weeks prior to the AGM. Council positions shall be chosen by secret ballot whenever more than one nominee is presented for the position(s) being considered. Unless already held by the MCF, nominees for all positions on the Council, shall provide to the Secretary the following documents no later than two weeks prior to the AGM:
- a. confirmation that they are willing to accept nomination; and
 - b. a personal testimony endorsed by two references with personal knowledge of the nominee. The references may be MCF members, Canadian Armed Forces Chaplains, or other suitable persons agreed by the Executive or Nominating Committees.
11. All serving and prospective Council members shall be MCF members.
12. Vacancies in the Council occurring between AGM shall be filled by the Council through an interim appointment until the next AGM.
13. The Chair of the Council shall be a currently serving or former member of the Regular or Reserve component of the Canadian Armed Forces, which includes the Cadet Instructors Cadre.
14. The Council shall convene at least once to hold the AGM in each calendar year. The Chair in consultation with the Executive Team shall establish the time, place and agenda of each meeting.
15. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council. In his absence the President shall preside. A quorum shall be at least half of the members of Council.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

16. The Executive Team is responsible to govern and conduct MCF operations in accordance with the MCF's values in support of the ongoing mission, towards the achievement of the vision.

17. The Executive Team shall consist of the following:
 - a. President;
 - b. Prayer Coordinator;
 - c. Secretary;
 - d. Treasurer; and
 - e. Such other Regular or Associate Members as deemed necessary by the Executive Team for the purpose of fulfilling its responsibilities.
18. The President of the Executive Team shall be a currently serving or former member of the Regular or Reserve component of the Canadian Armed Forces, which includes the Cadet Instructors Cadre.
19. The Council shall appoint all Executive Team members. The Executive Team may nominate for Council consideration suitable Regular or Associate Members for any position on the Executive Team (except as noted in para 17). Nominees for all positions shall provide to the Secretary:
 - a. confirmation that they are willing to accept nomination; and
 - b. a personal testimony endorsed by two references with personal knowledge of the nominee. The references may be MCF members, Canadian Forces Chaplains, or other suitable persons agreed by the Executive Team.
20. The Executive Team shall place nominations to fill all vacancies on the Team before the Council for ratification. This ratification will occur at a timing determined by the Council, but no later than 90 days after the nominations have been submitted.
21. The President shall call Executive Team meetings at intervals of no less than quarterly. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Team. In his or her absence, another member of the Team shall provide leadership.

MCF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

22. Local/Regional Representatives can play an important role in the conduct of MCF operations across the country. Such representatives will be appointed based upon the observed effect of their ministry to the military community.
23. Any Regular or Associate member can become a Local/Regional Representative:
 - a. confirmation that they are willing to accept nomination; and
 - b. a personal testimony endorsed by two references with personal knowledge of the nominee. The references may be MCF members, Canadian Forces Chaplains, or other suitable persons agreed by the Executive Team.

24. The Executive Team appoints MCF Local/Regional Representatives.

EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF

25. Notwithstanding the provisions for an Executive Team and Council, this Constitution shall be understood to permit the employment of such staff on either a full-time or part-time basis as is necessary to further the mission, vision and strategic outcomes of the MCF.
26. The Executive Team will determine terms of reference and make appointments of employed staff and will establish the relationship of employed staff with the Executive Team. Employed staff will not have a voting position on the Council or the Executive Team. The Council may authorize a paid employee to be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Executive Team.

FINANCES

27. The operation of the MCF shall be carried on without purpose of gain for MCF members, and any profits or other accretions to the MCF shall be used in promoting MCF strategic effects.
28. Monies for the operation of the MCF shall come from voluntary contributions of members, interested individuals and organizations, and from such subscriptions as may be levied with the approval of the membership.
29. No voting member of the Executive Team shall draw any salary for his or her work with the MCF.
30. The Treasurer, aided by one other member of the Executive Team, shall prepare an annual budget. The budget shall be approved by the Executive Team and placed before the Council for ratification. The budget shall be subject to review and approval at the AGM.
31. The Executive Team may authorize any disbursements up to the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) in furtherance of the objectives of the MCF for any budget item. Disbursements by the Executive Team in excess of this amount require the prior consent of the Council.
32. The Treasurer shall maintain such records as are required by the various governmental agencies for organizations such as the MCF.
33. The financial year of the MCF is for the period 1 January to 31 December.
34. The Treasurer shall prepare financial statements for all Executive Team meetings.
35. The Treasurer shall prepare annual financial statements for the MCF and submit them, as per CRA policy.

36. The Treasurer shall present the financial statements to the membership at the AGM for acceptance.
37. In the event of the dissolution or winding-down of the MCF, all its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to one or more registered charities in Canada with similar missions, at the discretion of the Council.

GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

38. An AGM shall be held each year at a place designated by the Executive Team to consider the following items of business:
- a. reports concerning programs and activities since the last AGM;
 - b. the approval of the financial statements of the MCF for the year ending the 31st December prior to the meeting;
 - c. the reception of the report of the Auditor of the MCF for the previous year (if one was utilized);
 - d. the appointment of the Auditor of the MCF for the current year (if one is needed);
 - e. proposed programs and activities for the following year;
 - f. the proposed budget for the following year;
 - g. the election of new Council members; and
 - h. such other business as is proper to bring before an AGM.
39. The Secretary shall provide notice of the AGM to all members at least 30 days prior to the AGM. The agenda of the AGM shall be provided upon request.
40. Approval of motions on constitutional and money matters at a general membership meeting requires a two-thirds majority vote of those members in attendance. Approval of all other motions requires a simple majority vote of those members in attendance (either in person or via telecommunications technology).
41. Extraordinary General Meetings may be called at any time by the Council or by the Executive Team acting on a request in writing from at least fifteen members of the MCF.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

42. Proposals to amend the constitution of the MCF shall be made in writing, be supported by

at least two Regular Members, and be submitted to the Secretary at least 60 days prior to the AGM.

43. Approval of a constitutional amendment at the AGM requires a two-thirds majority vote of those members in attendance (either in person or via telecommunications technology).

EFFECTIVE DATE

44. This Constitutional amendment is effective on ratification this 16 day of February 2019.