

**Constitution, Guidelines for Operations,  
Job Descriptions and Policies  
of  
SHARON MENNONITE CHURCH**

7675 Amity Pike,  
Plain City, Ohio 43064

Accepted at a Special Members' Meeting on March 26, 1998

Revised and Accepted at the Annual Members' Meeting on September 27, 2001

Revision accepted at Worship Service on April 18, 2004

Revision accepted at September 26, 2007 Members' meeting

Revision accepted at September 23, 2009 Members' meeting

Revision accepted at September 26, 2012 Members' meeting

Revision accepted at September 25, 2013 Members' meeting

Revision accepted at September 28, 2022 Members' meeting

**PREAMBLE**

This document is the result of approximately two years of hard work by an ad hoc committee, known as the Constitution Revision Committee. Members began their work in 1996. Their task was to update the latest Sharon Mennonite Church Constitution (circa 1983) after studying constitutions from eight other Mennonite churches and reviewing the preliminary work done by a 1994 Sharon ad hoc Committee. Much information was gleaned from all of these sources, so that past efforts at Sharon did indeed contribute to this 1998 product.

The revised constitution was submitted for congregational approval on October 2, 1997, and was ratified in principle. The guidelines for operation, job descriptions for staff persons, and policies pertaining to use of the facility by outside groups, cemetery use and the Student Aid Fund were accepted in principle on March 26, 1998. In light of feedback from the March 26 meeting, further editorial work was done by the committee before sending it back to the Church Secretary for further processing. A draft was given to the Constitution Revision Committee for final review before distribution to every church family.

The committee appreciates the insights of all who contributed to this effort. This is a working document which will need to be periodically revised. The committee believes this reasonably reflects the work of Sharon which speaks well to where we are as a congregation.

You are encouraged to keep your copy in a safe, but obvious, place for ready reference. The committee's prayer is that we will use this document as a guide for our life as a congregation, recognizing that at best, it ranks no higher than second to the Bible as our guide for congregational life. The *Guidelines for Operation* is to assist the Gifts Discernment Committee and to inform any potential nominees, affirmees, or appointees as to their official responsibilities as a given officer or servant in the church.

The ad hoc Constitution Revision Committee for this assignment included the following members: John Rohrer, chairperson; Jeff Beachy, Ruth Ann Beachy, Katie Mast, Brenda Montgomery, and Howard Schmitt, pastor.

- A subcommittee, Jeff Beachy, Brenda Montgomery and Howard Schmitt, submitted revisions for congregational approval on September 27, 2001, which were accepted in principle.
- A second subcommittee, Jeff Beachy, Katie Mast, John Rohrer and Pastor Howard, submitted further revisions on April 18, 2004, which were accepted by a congregational vote.
- A third ad hoc committee, Pastor Bob Yoder, David Hull and Grace Sims, submitted revisions which were on September 23, 2009
- Additional changes were made to ushers on September 26, 2012
- Additional changes for the formation of the Memorial Garden committee, and the addition of the youth pastor to the Christian Education committee were approved at a Members' meeting on September 25, 2013
- Additional changes to the Facilities Reservation Form and Policy and Fees for Use of Church Facilities were made on April 24, 2018 upon approval by Church Council.
- Additional changes to the Memorial Garden and Cemetery Policy were approved at Members' meeting on September 26, 2018
- Conference name change Adopted by the Delegates at Annual Conference Assembly March 1-2, 2024, updated June 2024
- Special Member meeting 5/5/24 - disassociation with Mennonite Church USA - updated June 2024
- Additional changes to the church structure were approved at the September 28, 2022 Members' meeting, including a change from a Church Council to a Finance and Facilities Council, and a Team based approach to ministry consisting of 5 teams in addition to the Spiritual Leadership team: Worship Team, Christian Education Team, Missions Team, Care and Hospitality Team, Youth Team.

## **CONSTITUTION**

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Mission Statement: "Our mission is to know, to worship, to serve and to share Jesus Christ."

Vision Statement: "God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world"

# **Sharon Constitution**

## **Introduction**

Desiring that "all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40), and that we may more readily help one another in our Christian walk as members of the Sharon Mennonite Church, we adopt the following constitution to assist us in our work.

## **Article I. Name**

This fellowship was established in 1933 and was incorporated in 1963 as the Sharon Mennonite Church, hereafter in this constitution referred to as "congregation" or "Sharon," located at 7675 Amity Pike, Plain City, Ohio 43064-9156.

## **Article II. Purpose**

The purpose of this congregation is to be a community of God's people who:

- a. Glorify God the Father, exalt Jesus Christ His Son as Savior and Lord and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit;
- b. Present the Gospel to the unsaved of the community to lead them to faith in Christ and membership in His church;
- c. Nurture the lives of believers and establish them in the faith through study, fellowship and service;
- d. Discern gifts, equip persons and develop spiritual leadership for the body of Christ;
- e. Demonstrate to the local community, by life and activity, the meaning of Christian discipleship and stewardship;
- f. Provide opportunities for public worship.
- g. Receive all gifts and donations and dispense, loan, or invest any and all to the designated institutions and programs;
- h. Commit ourselves to Christ and each other in keeping with the Word of God and our latest doctrinal statement: *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*;
- i. Respond to the spiritual, physical and social needs of people through prayer, assistance, missions, peacemaking, service and education.

## **Article III. Affiliation**

This congregation is affiliated with the Evana Network and accepts its Congregational Covenant (Appendix A) and Personal Covenant (Appendix B) for pastoral staff. We further express our willingness to receive and give counsel and to cooperate and support the Network activities for building the Church of Jesus Christ.

Sharon Mennonite Church desires to affiliate with Evana, an Evangelical Anabaptist Network. Evana is a ministry community of followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to see lives transformed by the Gospel. Its vision is to connect and resource leaders to start and strengthen churches from an evangelical Anabaptist perspective. Affiliation with Evana requires Sharon Mennonite Church to commit to Evana's Congregational Covenant and for Sharon Mennonite Church's leadership to commit to Evana's Personal Covenant, each of which are attached to this Constitution as Attachments A and B, respectively. Accordingly, Sharon Mennonite Church affirms the Congregational Covenant and also requires all pastoral leaders and members of Sharon Mennonite Church Board of Elders to commit to the Personal Covenant.



## **Article IV. Membership**

### **Section 1. Reception of Members**

Membership in this congregation consists of persons who have been received by church letter or confession of faith, and have been baptized as believers in Jesus Christ after reaching the age of accountability. They are committed to the teachings of the New Testament and have declared their loyalty to the faith and practices of the Mennonite Church.

- a. A class shall be offered periodically to non-members and new attendees to receive a better understanding of what it means to be a member of this congregation.
- b. Since membership in a believer's church includes those who turn from sin, believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord and enter into covenant with fellow believers, infants and young children are not considered members. They are, however, a special part of the congregation and should be loved and nurtured in the teachings of Christ. We believe that they are secure in a loving relationship with God the Heavenly Father

c.

### **Section 2. Privileges of Members**

- a. Members of Sharon are entitled to participate in the congregation's activities.
- b. Active members of Sharon, duly elected, affirmed or appointed, may be office-holders in the congregation.
- c. Active members are eligible to vote on all questions brought before the congregation.
- d. Burial privileges in the Sharon cemetery will be granted to active members and their infant and adolescent children at no cost to the family.

### **Section 3. Duties of Members:**

- a. To live by the principles of God's Word;
- b. To live a holy life, separated and consecrated to God;
- c. To seek to glorify God by their conduct to preserve Sharon's good name;
- d. To regularly attend church services and Members' Meetings;
- e. To support the congregation's work with their time, talent and means;
- f. To witness for Christ through word and deed;
- g. To willingly serve in any capacity, according to their ability and availability, when called by the congregation;
- h. To care for one another in Christ-like love;
- i. To pray for one another;
- j. To cultivate Christian empathy at all times.

### **Section 4. Members Temporarily Absent**

Members temporarily absent because of mission and service assignments, study or work are expected to participate in a church near their temporary residence to strengthen their spiritual life through Christian fellowship, Bible study and prayer. They will continue to be considered active members until their situation becomes more permanent.

## **Section 5. Inactive Membership**

Members who move to another community are encouraged to transfer membership, if feasible, to the congregation where they worship. They shall be considered inactive members at Sharon when they no longer support our program. Able-bodied resident members shall be considered inactive when:

- a. They no longer attend services or support Sharon's program or,
- b. Their lives indicate they are out of fellowship with Christ and this congregation or,
- c. They no longer uphold their baptismal and church membership vows or,
- d. They do not give and receive counsel in this congregation.

Before members will be placed on an inactive roll (because of a-d), effort will be made by the Pastor and Board of Elders to counsel them in the spirit of Matthew 5:23,24 and 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1 and Romans 12:18. Failure to accept counsel will require that their status be changed to inactive for a probationary period. Continued failure to change their behavior will require termination of membership.

## **Section 6. Termination of Membership**

Members who are absent indefinitely without a valid reason and who no longer support this congregation will forfeit their membership.

- a. Persons who withdraw their membership or whose membership is terminated immediately forfeit their place on any committee or office in the congregation. They will no longer be reported in the membership of the church.
- b. Members who persist in sin, thus defaming the name of Christ, shall confess their sin with genuine repentance. Impenitent transgressors, who have been approached by the Pastor and the Board of Elders but refuse to change, will have their membership terminated.
- c. A penitent transgressor may be reinstated to full membership by recommendation of the Board of Elders and the affirmation of the congregation. Throughout this process, it is the intention and purpose of Sharon to be a redemptive fellowship.

## **Section 7. Associate Members**

Christians from other Mennonite congregations and denominations who regularly worship with Sharon for a temporary period are encouraged to become associate members. The same expectations and privileges for members in Article IV, Sections 1 and 2, apply.

- a. Prospective associate members will be asked to present a statement showing good standing in their home congregation.
- b. They may be received upon recommendation of the Board of Elders and with the affirmation of the congregation.
- c. Associate membership may be granted for a period of two years and then reviewed for possible extension.
- d. If an associate member becomes a permanent resident in the community, membership is encouraged and expected.
- e. Associate membership will terminate with change of residence to another community.

**Section 8. Active Non-members:**

- a. May participate in Sharon's worship, study, fellowship and service activities.
- b. May serve in any office which would not potentially place them on the Finance and Facilities Council.
- c. Are encouraged to become members of the congregation because non-members do not have voting rights and may not have burial privileges in the church cemetery.

**Section 9. Real Estate Rights**

Any person whose membership has been terminated forfeits all official and legal rights and privileges to any and all property belonging to the congregation. The legal ownership of the property shall reside with the members who are recognized by the Sharon congregation.

## **Article V. Officers**

### **Section 1. Regional Pastor**

- a. Shall be a conduit for information between the Conference and the congregation.
- b. Shall be available to the congregation in arranging for pastoral leadership in the event of an opening.
- c. Shall be available for consultation on problems or needs of the congregation.
- d. Shall be available to the Pastor for counsel in pastoral and personal matters.
- e. Shall maintain regular contact with pastors, either as a group or individually.
- f. Shall be available to Sharon's Board of Elders for consultation.

### **Section 2. Pastor & Associate Pastor**

- a. Shall be chosen by the congregation, in consultation with the Evana regional pastors and coaches.
- b. Shall be the spiritual leader of Sharon and convener of the Board of Elders, Finance and Facilities Council or other regular-standing teams, but shall not serve as chairperson.
- c. Shall preach the Word, conduct pastoral visitation, assist in community outreach, administer the ordinances and give general oversight to the workings of the congregation.
- d. Shall encourage the congregation, by word and example, to reach out to their neighbors and friends who do not attend church.
- e. Shall help the congregation become more biblically literate and grounded through preaching, teaching and encouraging the development and use of spiritual gifts in worship, nurture and service.
- f. Shall help the congregation become more mature in Christ.
- g. Shall endeavor to preserve and strengthen the unity of the congregation in ways consistent with the standards of God's Word.

### **Section 3. Board of Elders**

The Board of Elders is comprised of four elders and the Pastor ex-officio. Four members --men, women, married or single--shall serve as elders. The Pastor's and elders' spouses may join the Board of Elders' meetings, if requested by the elders. Two elders will be selected by the Discernment Committee each year from nominees given by the congregation, and following congregational affirmation will serve a two-year term. Persons considered for elder positions shall be faithful in their Christian walk and able to cope with conflict situations while maintaining necessary confidentiality.

The elder team will select a Chairperson for the Board of Elders and a representative for the Finance and Facilities Council.

### **Section 4. Moderator**

The Moderator of the congregation shall be chosen by the Finance and Facilities Council. The Moderator will work with the Finance and Facilities Council Chairperson and the Pastor to develop the agenda for Members' Meetings and shall preside at the meetings.

**Section 5. Church Treasurer & Assistant**

The Church Treasurer(s) shall be affirmed by the congregation for a two-year term and shall have charge of all funds received for and distributed by the church, except for those of organized groups within the church who have their own treasurer.

Checks are written by the Administrative Assistant and the Treasurer reconciles the checkbook with the bank statement and supporting documentation. This person regularly reports to, and serves as a member of, the Finance and Facilities Council.

**Section 6. Everence (formerly MMA) Advocate**

The Everence Advocate is appointed by the Board of Elders to serve for two to three years as liaison between the congregation and Everence, for consultation and administration of the Sharing Fund, and to strengthen the church by linking local needs with Everence programs and services.

**Section 7. Church Historian and Assistant**

These persons shall be affirmed by the congregation for a three-year term. They shall collect materials and keep a record of the life of the congregation.

**Section 8. Facilities Coordinator**

The Facilities Coordinator is appointed by the Finance & Facilities Council for a three-year term with the possibility of extension.

**Section 9. Audio-Video Technician**

The Audio-Video Technician is appointed by the Finance and Facilities Council for a three-year term with the possibility of extension. This person, in cooperation with other members with similar expertise shall be the only ones to run the audio-video systems and do general maintenance on them.

**Section 10. Sexton**

The Sexton is appointed for a three-year term by the Trustees, with the possibility of extension.

This person is responsible for the cemetery.

## **Article VI. Council & Teams**

### **Section 1. Finance and Facilities Council**

The Finance and Facilities Council is comprised of nine persons, four of whom serve by virtue of office: Elder, Church Treasurers, and Head Trustee. Three are affirmed by the congregation, serving staggered two-year terms. The Pastor and Associate Pastor are ex-officio as the eighth and ninth persons. Collectively these nine shall serve as the general administrative body of Sharon. As a general rule, they shall meet once a month, and at special meetings called by the Pastor or a majority of Finance and Facilities Council members. Five or more shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 2. Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is comprised of three persons affirmed by the congregation for three-year staggered terms. Their primary concern is the maintenance of Sharon's building and grounds, as well as overseeing the upkeep of the cemetery, in cooperation with the Sexton. All three trustees are invited to attend Finance and Facilities Council. If more than one Trustee attends, the most senior trustee will be the voting member.

### **Section 3. Christian Education Team**

The Christian Education Team is comprised of the Team Lead and assistant. The team takes the lead on obtaining Sunday School Teachers, Sunday School Curriculum, Christmas Program, Vacation Bible School, Children's Church, and Library Services

### **Section 4. Worship Team**

The Worship Planning Committee is comprised of Team Lead and assistant. The team is responsible to plan creative worship and advise on special days or series of meetings.

### **Section 5. Missions Team**

The Missions Team is comprised of the team lead and assistant. The team's task is to plan for and promote missions and service projects or outings, and include, if deemed necessary the Mennonite Disaster Service Representative can be a part of their meetings.

### **Section 6. Care & Hospitality Team**

The Care & Hospitality Team is comprised of the team lead and assistant. The team's task is to take care of the general care of the congregation as well as coordinate the hospitality related needs inside and outside the building.

### **Section 7. Youth Team**

The Youth Team is comprised of the team lead and assistant. The team's task is to plan for and meet the needs of our youth while promoting Christian discipleship across the generations of the church.

### **Section 8. Board of Ushers**

The Board of Ushers is comprised of a chairperson and as many as eight additional persons. They are responsible for the general comfort of worshippers.

**Section 9. Gifts Discernment Committee**

The Gifts Discernment Committee (GDC) is comprised of five persons, three elected, by the congregation, plus one pastor, and one elder who serves as chair. These individuals are elected for two-year terms. One year, two will be elected, and the next year one, etc.; the staggered terms allow for continuity from one year to the next. Their primary duty is to seek persons with the gifts for the proper assignment at the right time. They may solicit help from the congregation through a nomination ballot.

**Section 10. Memorial Garden and Cemetery Committee**

The Memorial Garden and Cemetery Committee is comprised of the Sexton, a representative of the Trustees, and three persons affirmed by the congregation serving staggered terms. The committee's task is to propose policy for the placement of cremated remains and organize the maintenance and development of the Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden is an addition to the Cemetery, and so in cooperation with the Sexton the committee may assist in the management of the Cemetery as a whole.

**Section 11. Ad hoc Committees**

Finance and Facilities Council may appoint committees to study and make recommendations to the Finance and Facilities Council.

## **Article VII. Organizations**

### **Section 1. Mennonite Youth Fellowship (FUEL)**

The MYF is comprised of youth from grade six through high school: Jr. MYF, from grade six to eight; Sr. MYF, from grade nine or age 14. They shall affect their own organization for purposes of spiritual enrichment, development of leadership, and a service ethic. A Team Lead and an Assistant Team Lead, appointed by the GDC, and affirmed by the Congregation, shall serve two-year terms - 1st year as Assistant Team Lead, and 2nd year as Team Lead.

### **Section 2. Mennonite Women (MW)**

MW is comprised of women of the church, who meet for Bible study, sharing, quilting and service projects. They shall affect their own organization. MW of Sharon may correspond and meet with state and church-wide MW.

### **Section 3. Life Groups**

These are comprised of persons and families who wish to meet for more personal sharing and study and are to include meaningful activities for children.

## **Article VIII. Sunday School**

### **Section 1. Sunday School Record Keeper**

The Sunday School Record Keeper shall keep records and post attendance in the foyer.

### **Section 2. Sunday School Teachers**

Sunday School teachers, shall teach the Bible as the primary curriculum. Other appropriate and supportive topics may be utilized to lead our students into a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a lifetime of growing in their Christian faith.

## **Article IX. Members' Meetings**

### **Section 1. Annual Members' Meeting**

There shall be an annual Members' Meeting for all members of the congregation for the purpose of hearing reports and planning the work of the congregation. It shall be held on the last Wednesday in September, unless otherwise arranged by the Finance and Facilities Council. Announcement of the meeting and agenda shall be made at least two Sundays before the appointed date. Sharon's fiscal year runs from September 1-August 31.

### **Section 2. Special Members' Meetings**

Special Members' Meetings may be called, if requested by the Pastor or a quorum of Finance and Facilities Council members. They must be announced two Sundays prior to the meeting.

### **Section 3. Quorum**

A quorum for annual and special Members' Meetings shall be members present.

**Section 4. Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present at a Members' Meeting, provided that the said amendment had been previously approved by the Finance and Facilities Council and public announcement of the same had been made at least two Sundays prior to the time of meeting. Voting on all amendments shall be by ballot.

**Section 5. Suspension of the Constitution**

The Constitution may be temporarily suspended by a four-fifths vote of the members present at any duly called Members' Meeting.

## Appendix A

# Congregational Covenant



**Shared Beliefs and Values:** God is the creator of all that exists. The Bible is our fully inspired and trustworthy guide for who God is, what God is doing in the world, and how we can live as God's people. Scripture also exposes the sin that holds us and our world captive to the forces of evil. We can find salvation through Christ alone. Through the atoning and victorious work of Christ's life, death, and resurrection we may be reconciled to God. All who open themselves to the Holy Spirit's transforming power can experience forgiveness, healing, new life, and a new community of peace and joy. As baptized believers, we proclaim and live out Jesus Christ's good news in a broken world. We gather regularly to worship and celebrate, discern God's will, give and receive counsel, bear one another's burdens, and be sent into God's mission in the world. We seek to be peacemakers and wise stewards of the resources God has given us. Though we often fall short of God's plan, the church is the foretaste and instrument of God's reconciling activity in the world. We look forward to the day when Jesus Christ will return to make all things new.<sup>1</sup>

**Mission:** Evana Network invites people to faithful living in Jesus Christ by forming and enabling congregations to be healing and sending communities.

**Vision:** Evana Network seeks God's direction in calling out and sending forth a growing, ethnically diverse community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to transform the world and to be transformed through Jesus Christ's reconciling work.

**Congregational Qualities:** Evana Network believes that certain shared commitments are essential for participation in God's mission. Evana seeks congregations that:

- Promote daily living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture.
- Participate in Evana Network as a place of equipping for pastors and church leaders.
- Express faith in ways that help others to know God through Jesus Christ.
- Examine our own cultural & social practices in order to remove barriers to knowing Jesus as Lord & Savior.
- Nurture the emotional, social, spiritual, and physical well-being of our local community.
- Adopt congregational values consistent with the biblical teachings of respect for all life including peacemaking, nonviolence, compassion, and stewardship of creation.
- Adopt an approved evangelical Anabaptist confession of faith or theological statement as the congregational confession.
- Be committed to respecting and serving the local community.
- Embrace sexual wholeness and reserve sexual activity for holy matrimony, a covenant between one male and one female for life, and refrain from supporting other sexual activity or practice.
- Encourage self-control by refraining from destructive and addictive behaviors and help others to find healing and freedom from the same.
- Implement church policies to protect against abuse and also develop processes on how to care for those who have experienced harm.
- Recognize God's presence in the global church as well as in individual caring communities.
- Adopt Evana Network's values and by-law changes within the congregation. These by-law changes include only calling pastors & leadership board members who have themselves made Evana's Personal Covenant.

We recognize that as a member or partner congregation of Evana Network, we are ambassadors. We represent Christ, the Christian church, Evana Network, and ourselves to everyone. By signing below, we acknowledge that we adopt this rule of life within our congregation as we are joined with Evana Network.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
(Elder or Congregational chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
(Lead Pastor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<sup>1</sup> Evana Network embraces the teachings of the *Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective*, 1995.

## Appendix B

# Personal Covenant



**Shared Beliefs and Values:** God is the creator of all that exists. The Bible is our fully inspired and trustworthy guide for who God is, what God is doing in the world, and how we can live as God's people. Scripture also exposes the sin that holds us and our world captive to the forces of evil. We can find salvation through Christ alone. Through the atoning and victorious work of Christ's life, death, and resurrection we may be reconciled to God. All who open themselves to the Holy Spirit's transforming power can experience forgiveness, healing, new life, and a new community of peace and joy. As baptized believers, we proclaim and live out Jesus Christ's good news in a broken world. We gather regularly to worship and celebrate, discern God's will, give and receive counsel, bear one another's burdens, and be sent into God's mission in the world. We seek to be peacemakers and wise stewards of the resources God has given us. Though we often fall short of God's plan, the church is the foretaste and instrument of God's reconciling activity in the world. We look forward to the day when Jesus Christ will return to make all things new.<sup>2</sup>

**Mission:** Evana Network invites people to faithful living in Jesus Christ by forming and enabling congregations to be healing and sending communities.

**Vision:** Evana Network seeks God's direction in calling out and sending forth a growing, ethnically diverse community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to transform the world and to be transformed through Jesus Christ's reconciling work.

**Personal Qualities:** Evana Network believes that certain shared commitments are essential for participation in God's mission. Evana seeks leaders who:

- Live daily under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture.
- Participate in a local fellowship as a place of service and in Evana Network as a place of equipping.
- Express faith in ways that help others to know God through Jesus Christ.
- Examine their own cultural and social practices in order to remove barriers to knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Nurture their own emotional, social, spiritual, and physical well-being.
- Adopt a lifestyle consistent with the biblical teachings of respect for all life including peacemaking, nonviolence, compassion, and stewardship of creation.
- Embrace an approved evangelical Anabaptist confession of faith or theological statement as a description of God's shalom in both private and public life.
- Demonstrate willingness to respect and serve the local community.
- Embrace sexual wholeness and reserve sexual activity for holy matrimony, a covenant between one male and one female for life, and refrain from supporting other sexual activity or practice.
- Support the implementation of church policies to protect against abuse and also the development of processes on how to care for those who have experienced harm.
- Practice self-control by refraining from destructive and addictive behaviors and help others to find healing and freedom from the same.
- Recognize God's presence in the global church as well as in individual caring communities.
- Are accountable to appropriate and designated supervision.

I recognize that as a representative of Evana Network, I am an ambassador. I represent Christ, the Christian church, Evana Network, and my local congregation to everyone I meet. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, affirm, and commit to this rule of life while joined with Evana Network.

Signature

Date

<sup>2</sup> Evana Network embraces the teachings of the *Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective*, 1995.

rev 11/23 & format 10/25

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