

**PROCEDURE FOR AN EXISTING CHURCH
TO
BECOME A MEMBER OF AN
EFCC DISTRICT**

Local churches become members of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada by affiliating with a district of the EFCC. The procedure for an existing church to become a member of the _____ District is as follows:

I. Request for a Meeting with a District Superintendent or District Representative

The leaders of the interested church shall be invited to make request by phone, e-mail, or letter to set up a meeting with a District Superintendent or District Representative(s), at which time the doctrine, organization and ethos of the District and EFCC will be explained and discussed.

II. Church Leadership Decision

After the above meeting, the official church leaders shall decide if they still wish to pursue a further relationship with the District and her churches leading to the affiliation of the local church with the District. They will notify the District in writing of their decision.

III. Congregational Meeting

If the relationship is to be pursued, a representative of the District will meet with the entire congregation of the interested church to explain the information indicated in Article I. above.

IV. Congregational Vote

The congregation shall then vote whether they wish to proceed with a working relationship toward a possible membership in the District. At least a 75% affirmative vote by the membership of the church according to the quorum rules of the church. If they choose to proceed, a letter stating their decision indicating the date of the meeting, percentage of church members present and the count of the votes on the matter shall be sent to the District.

V. Working Relationship Approved by the District

Following the receipt of a written request, the District Board will review the request. If the request is accepted, a minimum six-month working relationship between the local church and the District will begin.

A. During this period of time the District will do the following:

1. The District will keep the church informed of all District activities

and provide materials normally sent to all churches in the District.

2. The church will be invited to attend all District functions including all meetings of the District if that falls within the six-month period. It is expected that the local church will send the pastor and delegates to the annual District Conference. (NOTE: Non attendance at such scheduled meetings shall normally indicate a lack of interest in continuing the process of affiliation.)
3. Neighboring EFCC District churches will be encouraged to develop a friendly relationship with the church by sharing in activities, ministries and fellowship.

B. During this period of time it is expected that the pastor and his pastoral staff, and/or official church leadership will do the following:

1. The pastor of the local church shall fully participate in area pastor meetings that are held. (NOTE: Non-attendance at such scheduled meetings shall normally indicate a lack of interest in continuing the process of affiliation.)
2. The local church shall send copies of bulletins, reports, and minutes of congregational business meetings to the District.
3. The pastor or church leadership shall inform the District office of any congregational business meetings so that a representative may attend should he or she choose to do so.
4. The church leadership shall submit its constitution and by-laws to the District for review. (NOTE: After affiliation is approved, statements covering the following provisions will be required to be included in the church's by-laws:
 - a. Membership in the District and the EFCC as long as these bodies remain true to God's Word.
 - b. The Statement of Faith of the EFCC. (NOTE: The Statement of Faith of the EFCC shall become the official statement of faith of the church.))

C. At anytime during this working relationship period, the church shall have the right to notify the District office if it wishes to terminate this

relationship. The District may exercise the same right.

- D. The working agreement will be for a period lasting no longer than one year from the date of the District approval of the agreement. If a longer period is needed, the church will be asked to submit a written request for an extension of no longer than six months, which will need to be approved by the District Board.

VI. Congregational Vote

At the end of the working relationship period, the congregation shall then vote whether they wish to proceed with membership in the District. If they choose to proceed, a letter of formal application for membership as a local church in the District and EFCC indicating the date of the meeting, the attendance and the count of the votes on the matter shall be sent to the office of the District.

VII. District Board Vote

At the next meeting following receipt of the letter for acceptance as an EFCC church in the District, the District Board will vote on recommending the church for membership to the District Conference and notify the church of its decision.

VIII. District Vote

Based on the recommendation of the District Board, a final vote will be taken at a District Conference to receive the “adopted” church into membership in the District as an Evangelical Free Church. This vote will be in accordance with the District Constitution and By-laws. If accepted as a full member church, the church will then be granted all the rights, privileges and responsibilities as an EFCC church in the District and the Evangelical Free Church of Canada. Receiving the church into membership in the District shall be celebrated at the District Conference with members of the church present. During the Conference, delegates from the church shall be seated as honorary voting delegates. If an affirmative vote is achieved, these delegated will become official District Conference delegates according to the District By-laws.

IX. Expectations

Upon acceptance as a member church of the District and the Evangelical Free Church of Canada, it is expected that an Evangelical Free Church will be and do the following:

1. Uphold and be committed to the essentials of evangelical doctrine as summarized in the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada

2. Maintain an evangelical witness for Jesus Christ in its corporate life and ministry
3. Pray for and actively support the mission and vision of the District in which it serves and of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada
4. Pray for and actively support the missionaries and ministries of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission, as well as the national Evangelical Free Church of Canada ministries and missionaries
5. Participate in the Fair Share financial ministry of the EFCC
6. Actively fellowship with other Evangelical Free Churches and participate in area, District and national EFCC events and ministries
7. Seek appropriate EFCC Ministerial Credentials for its pastors