***Laying a Solid Foundation of Church Government for a Stable Structure at Maranatha***



**Earthly Temporal Realm 🡨-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------Heavenly Eternal Realm**

 **Temporal Authority is Civil government Supreme and Eternal Authority is Jesus as King of kings**

 **Maranatha Board of Directors🡨------------------------------------------------------------------🡪Maranatha Leadership Team**

inmutual interaction and engagement with each other,

connecting the heavenly and the earthly, the spiritual and the natural realms.

**The Gospel of the Kingdom Leads to a Kingdom path bringing heaven to earth.**

It infiltrates, influences and transforms the earthly atmosphere and environment

through heavenly weapons of love, forgiveness, honor, respect and submission to authority.

Earth Disconnected from Heaven🡨--------------Extremes on both sides-------------🡪Heaven disconnected from Earth

Human naturalistic reasoning Over-spiritualizes

Independent human strength Withdraws from world

Mind over matter Spirit divorced from mind

Mind only earthly things Theology of escapism from earth

**The Kingdom Path Connects Heaven and Earth**

Heaven invades, penetrates, infiltrates, influences earth with the power of the heavenly Father’s love.

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”* (Mark 16:15).

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations (ethnos)”* (Matthew 28:19).

*“Occupy (do business) until I come”* (Luke 19:13).

*“I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”* (Matthew 16:18).

*“As the Father has sent me (from heaven to earth), even so send I you”* (John 20:21).

*“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one”* (John 17:15).

*“In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33).

*“For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world—our faith.*

*Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”* (I John 5:4, 5).

*“Now thanks be to God who* ***always leads us in triumph in Christ****, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge* ***in every place”*** (II Corinthians 2:14).

*“We speak…not* ***the wisdom of this age****, nor of* ***the rulers of the age, which is coming to nothing****.*

*But we speak the wisdom of God…****the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew, for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory****”* (I Cor. 2:6-8).

“***The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing****.* ***He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect****.*

*The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations”* (Psalm 33:10, 11).

*“Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old.*

*Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth, do you not perceive it?*

*I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert…*

*This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise”* (Isaiah 43:18, 19, 21).

As we seek to walk out the Kingdom in our unique sphere at ***Maranatha Niverville*** in the year of 2016, we have entered a stage of bringing greater corporate clarity and definition to who we are and what our mission is moving forward.

We have been through a time of ***renovation***, and we are shifting from a season of primarily ***deconstruction*** to a time of ***construction***. The construction stage must be built on ***a solid foundation*** which will support the ***structures*** to come.

  

Gaining understanding and entering into Kingdom ways will require us to go ***deeper*** in our relationships through participation and interaction, questions and answers, honest discussion and corporate seeking and surrender to the Headship of Christ.

Two paths have been before us:

1. ***The Cultural Path***

This is based upon manmade security, wanting to be able to figure everything out in our heads, and coming up with a human plan that does not require faith in the supernatural power, ability

and grace of God to bring it to pass.

On this path, we collect information, we process information with naturalistic reasoning. This leads to manmade programs, and we remain in control. This is not the way of the Kingdom where we are in total reliance upon our true Father in heaven for everything.

2. ***The Kingdom Path***

On the Kingdom path, we ***begin with surrender*** to the Headship of Jesus Christ, and to hearing and obeying the heavenly Father’s voice. This leads to a security that is not based on a human plan, but in doing the Father’s will. This is what both gives us direction, and gives us the courage to act in faith, and move forward in a realm where Christ, not man, is King!

On the Kingdom path, we are *rooted spiritually* rather than in *naturalistic thinking*, and we will only grow taller as our roots go deeper into the invisible areas of our heart below the surface before we will bear much more visible fruit above the surface of our individual and corporate lives.

As a leadership at ***Maranatha,*** we are choosing to take the Kingdom path. We are choosing *the path less travelled* in order that we might have maximum *influence* and *impact* in expanding the Kingdom of God. This choice of paths was well expressed in the words of Robert Frost in one of his famous poems:

*“Two roads diversed in a wood, and I—*

 *I took the one less traveled by,*

 *And that has made all the difference.”*

So we have seen the need for all of us in leadership to go *deeper*, and to come to a corporate understanding about who we are and how we function at Maranatha in order to go *higher.* The diagram on page 1 of this document is an attempt to illustrate the Kingdom path that we are choosing to follow in walking in tune with what heaven is doing on the earth today, and still function in a way whereby we respect the civil government of the earth as long as they do not forbid us to preach the gospel and to make disciples of all nations.

Our commitment to the eternal Kingdom while we seek to work it out in our relationship with temporal governments is what causes tension and friction at times. This tension and friction will not be resolved by withdrawing, but rather by engaging, by infiltrating, by displaying the wisdom of God before the rulers of this age, whose wisdom outside of Christ is coming to nothing.

Many of these areas of friction surround the questions of becoming an apostolic people seeking to expand the Kingdom of God into every place, into every sphere of influence, into every authority structure—in the home, in the church, in government, in education, in business, the arts and entertainment, and in the media. A tension arises between the *eternal* and the *temporal* authority structures as we walk this out. This comes to a head even within the church when we talk about areas such as elections to vote in our Board of Directors on the one hand, and spiritual recognition of spiritual leaders who have a gift that originates in heaven for the equipping of the saints into the work of the ministry on the other.

While the temporal and the eternal may be in tension during this present age as we prepare for the age which is to come, we know beyond the shadow of a doubt that it is the church and not the civil government that will prevail. Only the Church has the spiritual authority (which is much greater than political authority) and the wisdom to bring transformation to planet earth by the authority that we have to bring peace where there is conflict, forgiveness where there is accusation and strife, joy where there is sorrow and love where there is hate.

It is the Church that will display the wisdom of God before the principalities and powers of this present age as we prepare for the age which is to come. So it is important to recognize that this tension is a healthy tension that must be worked out in order to see heaven come to earth, and be established.

The ***eternal*** spheres of *Marriage, Family* and the *Church*; as well as the ***temporal*** sphere of *Civil Government* are all ordained by God. So in order to see God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, we must have a heart that is willing to submit ourselves to God’s established authority in every sphere. Understanding and walking out the Kingdom way is the foundation for a stable church government that will not only stand but advance the tearing down of the strongholds of the enemy and bring about permanent transformation.

In our church government, the BOD is responsible before God to our civil authorities in the earthly/temporal realm, and the Leadership Team is responsible before God in the heavenly/eternal realm as we seek to work this out collaboratively in the earthly realm. The BOD are representatives of a legal entity under civil government, and are put into office by a vote of church members. The leadership are recognized within their sphere of godly influence for what they carry from heaven (something which cannot be established through a membership vote). You can see why it is vital for us to come together as BOD and Leadership Team in order to govern with a Kingdom understanding where Jesus is Lord in all things.

The following three pages 5 to 7 will spell out more specifically what are the roles and responsibilities of both the ***Maranatha Leadership Team*** and the ***Maranatha Board of Directors*** as defined in our ***Policy Statement*** passed by the Congregation on November 3, 2013, and the ***General Operating By-Law*** passed by the Congregation on March 29, 2015.

You will see how that, on the one hand, the roles and responsibilities of the ***Board of Directors*** are to make sure that we are in compliance with the ***Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA)*** and the government of Canada. On the other hand, the roles and responsibilities of the ***Maranatha*** ***Leadership Team*** are to insure that we are continually equipping more saints into the work of the ministry in the midst of that tension, and are actually expanding the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth!

This tension can only be walked out within a context where there is *collaboration* and *unity of heart* between the ***BOD*** and the ***Leadership Team***, each seeking to understand the heart of the other in making godly decisions moving forward.

***Specific Roles and Responsibilities of both the Maranatha Leadership Team and the Board of Directors***

The roles and responsibilities of the ***Maranatha Leadership Team*** and the ***BOD*** have already been outlined and defined in the Constitution of ***Maranatha Niverville Inc.,*** both in our ***General Operating By-Law*** and in our ***Policy Statement***. Both of these have already been processed with the congregation, and these responsibilities have been passed as an integral part of our constitutional framework.

***I. Roles and responsibilities for the Maranatha Leadership Team***

*Maranatha General Operating By-Law* Article III Spiritual Covering page 4

* The primary concern of this team is spiritual oversight and undergirding of other ministries.
* They are responsible for the spiritual direction of the overall ministry of the Church.
* They are responsible to facilitate the structuring of a flexible wineskin of the Church’s life to encourage the involvement of the congregation in ministry.
* They have a demonstrated ability to teach the word of God in a way that equips other saints into the work of the ministry rather than using the saints to build their own independent ministries. Ephesians 4:8-13.

*Maranatha Policy Statement* Article VII Section 2 The Leadership Team page 8

* An essential mark of true leaders in the Body of Christ, in whatever capacity, is that they lead by ***example*** ( I Peter 5:1-4). A leader is a ***role model*** that can be *seen*, not just *heard* in word only. Godly leadership involves ***caring*** (I Corinthians 14:25, 26; II Corinthians 11:28), ***serving*** (Matthew 20:25-28; Galatians 5:13), and showing ***hospitality*** (Romans 12:13; Titus 1:8; I Peter 4:8-10).
* The goal is to recognize more emerging leaders within the congregation who prove to be faithful who can *“teach others to teach others”* (II Timothy 2:1), and to *role model* the gospel in a way that more people will see the light of God’s truth and have their mind renewed to the word of God. This is not something that can be established by a congregational vote. Only as saints step out in willing obedience will it be *recognized,* at least by some within a sphere of godly influence, what it is that they carry from heaven.

*Maranatha Policy Statement* Article VIII Changes in Leadership pages 9 and 10

* If any believer in leadership, directors, officers or members fall into an error that diminishes rather than expands the Kingdom, and they start justifying a sin which clearly misrepresents Christ, there is a *spiritual* rather than a *political* process to deal with that, and that is to ***go first directly to the offending brother or sister***. If they will not hear you, then ***take it to two, three or four trusted elders on the Leadership Team***, and if the offending party does not listen to them, ***it is then to be taken to the next level, and that is to the congregation***.
* It is recognized that before it gets to the congregational level, the offending party will already, more than likely, have withdrawn from the process, because where there is hardness of heart, people are generally not willing to subject their case to any kind of an objective public hearing, but if our allegiance is first and foremost to Jesus Christ, we must be open to such a process, and we must honor Christ in one another. This goes well beyond one or two individual’s *likes* and *dislikes* about somebody that they simply cannot get along with. It is more concerned about the honor of Christ and of His Kingdom that with any individual’s *personal feelings.*
* In any case, either they will have withdrawn before it gets to the congregational level, or they can be removed from office or from membership by the congregation. Matthew 18:15-17. However, the *motive* in dealing with these things must always be *redemptive*, and the *intention* is always to be one of *restoration*, not *removal*. Galatians 6:1, 2. Any one who does not pursue this process with that *intent* and *motive* is out of godly order.

***II. Roles and responsibilities for the Maranatha Board of Directors***

*Maranatha General Operating By-Law* Article IV Section 9:03 and 9:04 pages 7 and 8

* The Directors must be a member of the Corporation of ***Maranatha Niverville Inc.***, and they are put into office by a *vote* of the congregational members.
* The responsibilities of the ***Board of Directors*** are *not onerous*, but a Director has a responsibility *to act in good faith* in what he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Corporation.
* The Corporation is a distinct legal entity with a separate legal personality from its Directors and Members as individuals. Directors have a duty to disclose a conflict of interest, and not to vote on a matter where the Director is in conflict.
* All cheques will be signed by any two members of the ***Board of Directors*** who have been authorized by the Board. Ideally, all Board members will have signing powers.
* Documents requiring execution by the Corporation may be signed by any two of the Board of Directors after having received appropriate board authorization.
* Each director of the Corporation becomes a ***Member of the Corporation***, and no member of the ***Board of Directors*** will receive a financial benefit from the Corporation other than recovering expenses paid out-of-pocket on behalf of the Congregation.
* After they are elected at the ***Annual General Meeting*** of the Corporation every year, the ***Board of Directors*** will annually appoint a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, a bookkeeper and an accountant.
1. The chairman presides over all meetings of the ***Board of Directors***.
2. The vice chairman will function in the role of the chair if he or she is unable to fulfill their role for a particular meeting, or for a designated period of time.
3. An appointed secretary will record the minutes of the board meeting and draft correspondence arising from these minutes.
4. The bookkeeper will tabulate records of all of the financial transactions of the Corporation, and will preserve those transactions, and will be responsible for the receipt and the disbursement of all church monies in accordance with the direction of the ***Board of Directors***.
5. An accountant (either a CA, a CMA or a CGS) will also be hired every year to prepare the ***Annual Financial Statement*** based upon the transactions recorded by the bookkeeper.
* There may be decision-making *Standing and Ad Hoc Committees* for such purposes as the Directors may determine from time to time. All such committees shall be accountable to the ***Board of Directors***.

The purpose of listing these roles and responsibilities of both the ***Maranatha Leadership Team***, and the ***Maranatha Board of Directors*** is to create greater understanding and communication between these two spheres of the congregation, and to see them operate and function in *unity* and with *one heart*. The goal is that we can walk in greater light ***together*** before the congregation and the community, and in a way that will truly expand the Kingdom of Heaven and yet be in compliance with the law of the land.

Both the ***Maranatha Leadership Team*** and the ***Maranatha Board of Directors*** need to understand both sides of the tension in walking this out with respect for both *eternal* and *temporal* authorities in the *present* age as *together* we move from glory to glory towards the end of this present age. We want to learn to live with ever greater manifestation of the Kingdom of God in preparation for *the age which is to come* in which all authority and all rule will be visibly subject to Christ in the same way that He is subject to the Father.

He will fill every sphere of authority and rule by *the power of love* rather than by the *love of power*. He will rule *relationally,* and not by *rules*. He will rule *eternally* and not *temporally*. May this happen soon and in our days! May *“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* (Matthew 6:10).