



Evangelical Free Church of Canada
PRAIRIE DISTRICT
Rev. Trevor Brawdy
District Superintendent
28 Westland Rd, Okotoks AB T1S 1T2
Office 403-938-1320 Cell 250-877-8591
trevor.brawdy@pdefcc.ca

ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF CANADA – PRAIRIE DISTRICT

The **Evangelical Free Church of Canada** (EFCC) is an association of over 150 churches joined together by common purposes, principles and practices. It is a partner with nearly 1500 other Free Churches in the USA. The EFCC is also an active participant among 36 members of the International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches worldwide.

“Evangelical” refers to our commitment to the authority of Scripture as being inerrant in the original autographs and the only safe and sufficient guide to faith and practice. It also calls us to the “evangel,” God’s good news as our sufficient message.

“Free” refers to our form of church government as being congregational. Free Churches depend upon the active participation of lay people in the decisions, directions and actual ministry in the local church.

In many communities there are good independent churches that have been started by Christian workers and/or missionary organizations that are serving well and to the glory of God. There are times in the lives of these churches when they realize affiliation with a denomination or fellowship of churches could be of benefit and encouragement. Where do they turn when they need help in finding a pastor or other counsel and advice? Is it possible to have such an affiliation without losing their independence or sense of congregationalism? Would affiliation prove to be helpful and to the glory of God?

The Evangelical Free Church offers an “Associate Member” status to make it possible for an independent church to move slowly into a relational experience with Evangelical Free Churches in their region and thus feel comfortable themselves in discovering the strength of binding together with congregations of “like precious faith.”

This would be a two-year introduction period, during which the “Associate Church” would become familiar with the theology, purpose, lifestyle, distinctives, and goals of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada, before making a decision requesting full membership status. This request could come sooner if the congregation so decided, but the Associate status would not exceed the two years.

I. INITIATION

A church would contact the Office of the Prairie District requesting full information about the EFCC. The church would then request a presentation of the EFCC to the church board by the Superintendent or District Board Representative. If its doctrines, policies and ministry objectives are in accord with the EFCC, it would be encouraged to apply in a formal letter to the Prairie District for Associate status.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRAIRIE DISTRICT OF THE EFCC

- 2.1 Share the EFCC vision of discipling, evangelism, church health, and church planting with the church.
- 2.2 Make the Superintendent or District Board Representative available during the first six months to visit the church with an EFCC Orientation Seminar, detailing our EFCC history, theology, vision, missions, auxiliaries, and educational institutions.
- 2.3 Communicate clearly to the church dates of all District events, inviting their participation. Distribute all Free Church communications from the District or Home Office, such as *the Prairie Profile* and *Seasons*.
- 2.4 Be a resource to the church pastor and its ministry. Inform the church of ministry tools and other resourcing which may be available.

III. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSOCIATE CHURCH

- 3.1 Cooperate, participate and fellowship with the Prairie District churches in the various cooperative events, such as conferences, retreats and seminars.
- 3.2 Seek to become familiar with the EFCC and its ministries by hosting an Orientation Seminar during the first six months.
- 3.3 Become familiar with the Prairie District constitution, by-laws and ethos.
- 3.4 Give consideration to District/Superintendent or District Representative with respect to travel expenses for ministry.

If, after a period of two years, the Associate Church desires to join the EFCC/Prairie District, the following affirmations should be made:

1. Agreement with the vision and goals of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada.
2. Willingness to align itself with the 10-article EFCC doctrinal statement as their own church doctrinal statement.
3. Commitment to full participation as a member of the EFCC.
4. Willingness to have pastoral staff seek ministerial credentialing with the EFCC.

The Associate Church would then submit a letter of application to the Prairie District Board who would in turn consider recommending to the Prairie District Conference their acceptance into full membership.

(February 2022)