



Pastoral letter to KC2015 delegates

April 8, 2015

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We write to you at the conclusion of our April Executive Board meeting. God has been present during our time together, and we are leaving with a renewed sense of encouragement, commitment, vision and hope for what we believe God wants to do among us. A highlight of our meeting was the commitment to make evangelism and church revitalization an urgent priority.

We write in a spirit of confession:

- We acknowledge we may have reached the limits of our human wisdom and entered a time when we are being called to walk by faith and not by sight.
- We acknowledge we have failed to equip our church to discern Christian faithfulness in regard to same-sex relationships, which has resulted in a breakdown of trust and love.
- We ask your forgiveness for when our leadership has been insufficient and for when we have not communicated clearly enough as area conferences and congregations were making difficult decisions.
- We confess the sin of placing too much trust in organizational structures and polity to reconcile our disagreements.

We write in a spirit of faith:

- We believe we are being called to learn how to be a church that engages in biblical discernment and mutual forbearance as we work towards Spirit-led understandings when we disagree, rather than solving our disagreements by separation.
- We invite you to join us in a renewed commitment to prayer and discernment as we prepare to listen deeply to one another for what the Spirit is saying to Mennonite Church USA in our time.
- We believe that [Our Purposeful Plan](#) imagines a future for us to be a thriving evangelistic and missional church that births new congregations and ministries across the country and around the world.

We write in a spirit of commitment, love and vision:

- We have been given a holy calling: to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- We are committed to bear witness to the abundant life God offers to all who confess faith in Jesus Christ.
- We are committed to biblical faithfulness and biblical unity as a church.
- We are committed to helping each congregation become all that God intends for their life and witness.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for our Kansas City convention this summer in anticipation of how the Holy Spirit will work among us, we ask you to join in our Lord's prayer: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." May our love for one another and our fellowship in the Holy Spirit inspire us to embody the prayer of Jesus in John's Gospel, "that all may be one ... that the world may know."

In Christ Jesus,

[Members of the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA](#)