

To: Ohio Conference Credentialed Ministers, Delegates & Congregational Members
From: Ohio Conference Leadership Team
Date: Feb. 3, 2023
Subject: Current Identity and Commitments of Ohio Conference

Now that we are in the middle of our two-year review process and in preparation for our 2023 Annual Conference Assembly where there will be continued discernment with the goal of making a decision together regarding future affiliation, the Leadership Team would like to clarify our identity and commitments as a conference of Anabaptist and Mennonite Churches in Ohio, northwest Pennsylvania and southeast Michigan. **Our current identity and commitments will stay the same whichever affiliation option we may choose:**

- We are committed to living into our new mission statement of *Gathering, Equipping and Sending our congregations by the power of the Holy Spirit to live out God's Greatest Commandments* (loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and loving others as ourselves *and Jesus' Great Commission* (going out and making disciples of Jesus Christ).
- We fully support the 1995 *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (Ohio Conference Constitution and 2015 Resolution).
- While we recognize that Ohio Conference's credentialed ministers, delegates, and congregational members are in different places on the interpretation of Scripture regarding LGBTQIA+ persons, we continue to hold our credentialed ministers accountable to the resolution passed by our delegate body in 2015 that our credentialed ministers will not perform a same-gender ceremony/marriage or be in a same-sex relationship themselves.
- We are committed to continuing our two-year process of discerning God's will for us as a Conference which includes affiliation, as well as vision and structural change reflective of our new mission statement.
- We are committed to continuing our current initiatives of anti-racism training and intercultural development, immigration, empowering women in leadership, and educating and equipping our pastors and congregational leaders in missional theology and action.
- We are committed to doing life together as sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ for the glory and honor of his name.

Ken Sims (Moderator)
Paula Snyder Belousek (Assistant Moderator)
Dick Barrett (Conference Minister)
Myron Weaver (Credentialing Ministry Chair)
Jared Chase (Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair)
Andrew Blount (Stewardship Ministry Chair)
Alysa Short (Coordinator of Volunteers)
Judy King (Administrative Secretary)

