

## **Statement of Commitment**

### **Lancaster Mennonite Conference Bishops**

As bishops in Lancaster Mennonite Conference, we join together to honor Christ and to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. As people of Christ's peace, we enter into right relationship with God through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus. We desire to live in right relationship with one another and to invite others into God's kingdom. For these reasons, we enter into this agreement.

#### **We accept Christ as our head.**

We honor Jesus Christ as the head of the church. We will live, teach and minister according to the Word of God, recognizing that the Mennonite confession of faith\* and the LMC Core Values represent our shared understanding of the meaning of Scripture.

#### **We will honor each other.**

We will honor each other in the area of our strengths and will stand in the gap for each other in the area of our weaknesses. We will show respect in what we say to each other and about each other. On the bishop board, we will maintain a safe environment that encourages both honesty and gentleness. We will avoid a harsh or critical spirit. We will maintain confidentiality when requested, or when it is the most loving thing to do. We will be quick to listen to each other and quick to forgive and seek forgiveness as offenses occur. We will pray for and care for each other.

#### **We will partner in Christ's mission.**

We will work together to build God's Kingdom and to reach out to those who do not know Jesus. We will faithfully serve the district leaders and congregations so that they can be vibrant expressions of God's kingdom in this world. We will regularly participate in bishop board meetings and leadership assemblies. We will exercise our gifts for the well-being and growth of the church, especially the congregations in Lancaster Mennonite Conference. We will challenge each other to be open to new structures as we remain faithful to our commitments.

#### **We will act with integrity**

We will work together and will appreciate our differences. If I choose a view or belief that is different from the Mennonite confession of faith\*, I will talk openly with the bishop board. If I cannot reconcile my views with the Confession of Faith, or if I cannot in good conscience continue to serve in Lancaster Mennonite Conference, I will resign. In any such transition, or if I resign for any reason, or if my credential is suspended or removed in due process, I promise that I will not hinder the well-being of any congregation nor will I intentionally influence any member in a Lancaster Mennonite Conference congregation to follow me into another affiliation or into a congregation of my own making.

**We will seek God's best for Lancaster Mennonite Conference.**

We will seek to lead in such a way that God's mission will be accomplished through our fellowship of congregations. We will prayerfully participate in making decisions with a desire to seek a corporate understanding of God's heart . When the bishop board makes a decision different from my own preference or those in my district, I will respect the decision and encourage others to do the same.

**We will be accountable.**

We will be accountable to Christ and to each other in fulfilling this agreement.

*In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple to the Lord (Ephesians 2:21).*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*We appreciate the spiritual heritage represented by the Mennonite confessions of faith. In particular, we affirm the requirement that each congregation/district in Lancaster Mennonite Conference adopt either the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995) or the Mennonite Confession of Faith (1963)

Approved by Board of Bishops on July 23, 2010