



Central District Conference

OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA
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Commitments of the Board of Directors and Staff of the Central District Conference, August 1999

In response to the intense conversation in the church during the past year and the recent pain and confusion of the St. Louis vote on reaffirming the church's statements on sexuality, we wish to enter a process of rebuilding trust among our conferences and congregations. In that spirit, we have assembled the following list of commitments rooted in the Saskatoon 86 Resolution on Human Sexuality as adopted in the triennial session of the General Conference Mennonite Church, July 1986.

- We commit ourselves to faithful obedience to the Way of Jesus.
- We commit ourselves to the total mission of the church, not allowing any one issue to consume all of our energies and focus.
- We commit ourselves to speak truthfully about our bodies and our sexual nature.
- We commit ourselves to teach and promote chastity in all premarital and marital relationships.
- We commit ourselves to teach the church's position that sexual intercourse is reserved for a man and a woman in marriage.
- We commit ourselves to promote healthy and growing marriages.
- We commit ourselves to confront child and spouse abuse, and to confront the misuse of pastoral authority when ethical boundaries are crossed.
- We commit ourselves to confront sexism which hinders women's full contribution to personal relationships and to the church.
- We commit ourselves to relate to and offer hospitality to those of homosexual orientation as they find their place in society and the church.
- We commit ourselves to seek reconciliation and offer forgiveness for uncompassionate acts toward others.
- We commit ourselves to remain in relationship with those whose views or interpretations of the current statements of the church are different from our own.
- We commit ourselves to on-going Bible study and discernment, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal and teach the Way of Jesus.
- We commit ourselves to cooperate with our denomination in on-going study of perplexing and difficult discipleship issues of our day.
- We commit ourselves to being agents of grace and channels of God's healing and hope to our world.

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