

Pilgrims Mennonite Church
Statement of Mission and Commitment

We commit ourselves to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and see our responsibility to God and the Body of Christ as our first priority. Our mission is to become more fully a community of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world Relying on the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to each other and to the following goals for our lives together:

1. The fellowship is a discipling community. We commit ourselves to:

- Develop supportive and forgiving relationships that affect the daily lives of each other
- Emphasize the spiritual nurture of members, helping each other grow in our understanding of and love of God
- Provide a safe place to acknowledge weakness, accept God's forgiveness and openly bring faith questions
- Emphasize the importance of God's gift of children--- their care and nurture. Therefore we
- Incorporate children's activities into our worship, recreation and education
- Discern and respond to physical, spiritual and social needs of those within and outside the fellowship
- Grow as a welcoming community, reaching out to those around us
- Encourage and support each other in sacrificial stewardship and simplified lifestyle
- Emphasize the essential nature of the inward journey by such means as prayer, readings, meditations, bible study, silence and retreats
- Emphasize the importance of peacemaking and non-violence in our lives
- Work for gender equality in the congregation and conference
- Grow in our understanding of the earth/environment and in our commitment to respect and care for God's creation
- Continue to encourage our corporate gifts of joy, play and celebration

2. The fellowship is committed to discern and provide the opportunity for the use of talents and gifts of all members, not reserving any position for persons of a certain race or gender, and calls on the its conference to do the same.

3. The fellowship meets regularly for corporate worship to celebrate the resurrected Christ and God's work among us, and to receive spiritual challenge. We value a variety of worship styles and gifts.

4. As a group within the Mennonite/Anabaptist tradition, we recognize the authority of the Scriptures, which we strive to interpret faithfully with the help of the Holy Spirit and the wider Body of Christ. As a congregation, we affirm the "1995 Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective."

5. The fellowship seeks to identify with and relate to the universal Body of Christ.

6. The fellowship emphasizes the importance of small groups and encourages all Pilgrims' members to be in a small group, which is called out of and responsible to the congregation. The small group carries the primary responsibility for encouraging accountability and for providing support to its members.

7. The fellowship members will annually reevaluate their commitment to the fellowship.

As we seek to realize these goals, we ask God's presence and strength and forgiveness.

Revised Jan. 25, 2009