

Pilgrims Mennonite Church  
Committee on LMC Issues

June 12, 2008

Present: Barry K., Jan L., Ed Martin, Tina M.B., Rebecca P

Next meeting: Will be scheduled late in August.

Report on Governance/Structure Task Force (Barry):

Attended by 25 – 30 credentialed and ethnically diverse lay men and women.

There was a very small representation of the conservative voice.

There was a strong voice for lay people to become involved in the governing structure of the conference. Barry and others insisted that ALL positions of leadership be open to both men and women.

The attendees met in table groups and shared their hopes for LMC which included things like: strong ministry to youth, diverse yet centered in Christ, take a posture of learning, be a light in the community, and a conference where there is diverse leadership.

Our next steps:

1. Barry will ask the Governance/Structure Task Force for a written copy of their report about the June 7 meeting.
2. Send a letter from our committee and the leadership team to the Bishop Board (BB) in response to the May 16 letter to credentialed clergy. In it we will affirm their step to allow women to be ordained but express our disappointment with their continued stance that limits LMC leadership to men only. We want to see women use their gifts in all positions of leadership. (Barry will draft.)
3. Initiate a continued dialogue with the East Chestnut Street Soup Supper ad hoc committee that drafted a letter to the BB. Ask them if there is anything we can be doing to keep the process moving forward of engaging in dialogue with the BB. (Rebecca will contact Harley Kooker.)
4. Send a letter of support and understanding to Blossom Hill Mennonite Church who has chosen to leave LMC and look for another conference. (Tina will draft.)
5. Will recommend that the Pilgrims Covenant Statement be reworded to specify our support for women in all positions of church leadership. (Jan will take to LT.)
6. After this Covenant has been revised we will ask to meet with the Governance/Structure focus group of the BB and share our story. Give them a letter to take to the BB.