

Date: May 15, 2008

Email to: Lancaster Mennonite Conference Moderator

From: Barry Kreider, Pilgrims Mennonite Church Pastor

Keith,

I will be praying for your meeting tomorrow— that you will all be able to make decisions that will be life-giving for our conference.

As I read the material in preparation for the June 7 "Governance-Structure Constituency Focus Group" meeting, I note under "Things to eliminate" in "Outlines of a Proposal for LMC Governance and Structure" that "male-dominated authority structure" is listed. Also under "Missional Needs" is listed "ability to embrace an ethnic and gender diversity in authority structures." I applaud this direction.

As I reflect on the March 7 letter and the proposal which you may be considering tomorrow, especially the sub-point of limiting the role of bishop to men, I urge the Bishop Board not to make any statements which would impede the work of the Governance-Structure Focus Group in bringing gender diversity to the LMC authority structure.

My prayers are with you,

Barry Kreider