

## **PROPOSED COVENANT FOR MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN**

### **Who We Are**

As Mennonite congregations, we share a common commitment to Jesus Christ, a common Anabaptist faith heritage and a common calling to be God's people in mission. As congregations we come with our various sizes, locations both rural and urban, ethnic backgrounds, perspectives and ways of worship. We welcome diversity for the growth it makes possible, recognize the challenges it poses, and affirm our common centre in Christ who calls to us, "Follow me." We have come together to form a larger body, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask), in order to do together what we cannot do as well alone.

### **Together**

MC Sask is congregations working *together* rather than a separate body *over* congregations. In order for us to worship and work well together as Christ's body, the conference will give leadership in developing shared vision and programming, and will offer resources and support to congregations. Congregations, in turn, will take ownership in the larger body through their support, participation and finances, and by sharing their wisdom and concerns. In these ways, we join together in relationships of loving, caring and mutual accountability.

### **Our Commitments**

In order to serve together effectively, we as congregations commit ourselves:

- 1) to use the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective as a description of our shared faith,
- 2) to strengthen relationships with other MCSask congregations in order to understand and give support to one another, and
- 3) to listen carefully, with respect and openness, even when difficult conversations arise; such a process includes:
  - a) prayer that seeks God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly and to remain open to the vision God calls us toward,
  - b) treating each other respectfully so as to build trust, remembering our common desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ,
  - c) seeking to understand and to learn from those with whom we disagree,
  - d) "speaking the truth in love",
  - e) seeking to stay in community with each other even when the discussion is vigorous, and
  - f) respecting the decision of the body. Where we disagree and wish to change the decision, we will work for that change in ways consistent with these guidelines.

Embracing these same goals and approaches, we as conference leaders further commit ourselves:

- 1) to lead MC Sask in seeking shared vision, in setting priorities for our ministry together, and in carrying out those shared ministries,
- 2) to keep our focus on those core values and practices that hold us together, and
- 3) to strengthen our relationships with Mennonite Church Canada and the larger church.

### **As a missional people**

As congregations and as MC Sask, we desire to be God's missional people. God is at work across the street, throughout our province and around the world. We join God's mission as partners with one another and with the larger church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship and work together to share God's good news in word and deed.