



ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA FORMED IN 1978 WITH 38 CONGREGATIONS AROUND AN ORIGINAL VISION

“UNITY AND DIVERSITY”

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THAT SAME VISION IN 2012 AND BEYOND

OUR COMMITMENT: We will stand unified in the midst of our diversity. We will not degrade ourselves, others or God by even entertaining the idea that we are unable to find the way through; for we have the Spirit’s help.

OUR SITUATION: We see our diversity as an opportunity and not an obstacle. We see it as a blessing not a curse. We expect to get through this time together. We are sure that we are able to find our way through with the Spirit’s help. We witness that we already have everything we need in our midst to get through this time together and that we will arrive soon in a more abundant place. We desire to head home together.

FOUR OPPORTUNITIES WE WILL PURSUE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Opportunity #1: We will **BETTER DEFINE AND ARTICULATE WHAT “UNITY IN CHRIST” MEANS**, with and for Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA congregations.

Opportunity #2: We will **ADEQUATELY RESOURCE OUR PASTORS** so that they can function effectively.

Opportunity #3: We will **PURSUE, WELCOME, INCLUDE, AND UTILIZE NEW GROUPS** in manageable and responsible ways as God brings them into our conference kingdom work.

Opportunity #4: We will **BECOME MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORKING AND WORKINGS OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA** in the world.

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WE WILL TAKE THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO AVOID FOUR RISKS

Avoiding Risk #1: We will pursue the opportunity to define and articulate what “unity in Christ” means for us to avoid the risk of **DISUNITY** and division.

Avoiding Risk #2: We will pursue the opportunity of resourcing our pastors in order to avoid the risk of Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA **PASTORS FUNCTIONING IN UNHEALTHY WAYS**; at home, at work or at play.

Avoiding Risk #3: We will pursue and welcome new groups that desire to join Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA in order to avoid the risk of **BECOMING SEDENTARY, NAVEL GAZING, AND OVERLY HOMOGENOUS**

Avoiding Risk #4: We will pursue becoming more involved in the work and workings of Mennonite Church USA to avoid the risk of us and **MENNONITE CHURCH USA NOT BECOMING ALL GOD WANTS US TO BECOME TOGETHER.**