

# COVENANT FOR MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

## Who We Are

As Mennonite congregations, we share a common commitment to Jesus Christ, a common Anabaptist faith and a common calling to be God's people in mission. As congregations we come with our various sizes, ethnic backgrounds, perspectives, ways of worship, and locations both rural and urban. 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."

## Together

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a congregation of congregations working *together* rather than a separate body *over* congregations. As local congregations, we take ownership in the larger body through our support, participation and finances, and by sharing our wisdom and concerns. Our conference, MC Sask, gives leadership in focusing our vision and programming. We have come together to form this larger body so that both locally and provincially we may do together what we cannot do as well alone. As Christ's body, we enter into these 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 (1995) as a description of our shared faith,
- 2) to strengthen relationships with other MC Sask 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) joint study of the Scriptures, opening ourselves to the mind of Christ,
  - c) treating each other respectfully so as to build trust, remembering our common desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ,
  - d) seeking to understand and to learn from those with whom we disagree,
  - e) "speaking the truth in love",
  - f) seeking to stay in community with each other even when the discussion is vigorous, and
  - g) respecting the decision of the body.
- 4) to work for change in ways consistent with these guidelines in cases where we disagree and wish to alter a decision.

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

God is at work across the street, throughout our province and around the world. As congregations and as MC Sask, we desire to be God's missional people. As a witnessing community, we join God's mission, partnering 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.

Revised September, 2004 by Envisioning Team. To be submitted for delegate ratification February 2005.