

## **“Can We Talk?”**

*(Series Originally Developed by Myron Weaver at Berlin Mennonite Church;  
Adapted and Expanded by Jacob Dodson at Wooster Mennonite Church)*

### **1. Week One: “Can We Talk About the Bible?”**

#### **Sunday School:**

- Discuss six principles of Biblical interpretation from Ohio Mennonite Conference resource for special delegate session.
- Discuss Certainty-Mystery Continuum presented at ACA

#### **Sermon Text:**

**Hebrew 1:1-4, NIV:** 1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

#### **Song Suggestions:**

- STJ: 27 - God of the Bible
- STJ: 62 - Christ’s is the world
- STJ: 79 - As I went down to the river

### **2. Week Two: “Can We Talk About Healing Divisions?”**

#### **Sunday School:**

- Discuss guidelines for conversation from Ohio Mennonite Conference resource for special delegate session.
- Discuss content from videos on Mennonite polity from Ohio Mennonite Conference resource for special delegate session.

#### **Sermon Text:**

**Ephesians 2:13-16, NIV:** 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

#### **Song Suggestions:**

- STJ: 13 - My soul is filled with joy
- STJ: 14 - Lord Jesus, you shall be my song

STS 115 - Beauty for brokenness  
HWB 372 - O healing river

### 3. Week Three: “Can We Talk About Human Sexuality?”

#### Sunday School:

- Discuss main principles about human sexuality from MennoMedia’s *Body and Soul Adult Study Leader’s Guide: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God*, ISBN: 9780836195460.

- Discuss the ethical continuum chart from the Ohio Mennonite Conference website under: “Study Guides for the Special Delegate Session.”

#### Sermon Text:

**Genesis 2:4-24, NIV:** 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” 18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

#### Song Suggestions:

HWB 6 - Here is this place

HWB 13 - Blessed Jesus, at your word

HWB 299 - New earth, heavens new

### 4. Week Three: Discussion

In the evening, gather for a brief hymn sing followed by a discussion of how the congregation feels Ohio Mennonite Conference should respond to Mountain States Mennonite Conference’s decision. Each person’s input is needed in this discernment process. It is important to create a safe place for each person in the church to voice opinions and suggestions. Each person’s perspective is valuable. Childcare should be provided so that children do not need to be present during the discussion. Information and extra resources related to this discussion will be made available in print and on the church website. The goal of this discussion is to help the congregation’s OMC delegates as they prepare for the special delegate session in August.