INTRODUCTION OF LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL
Business Session #3

Reporting on Pastors' Meetings

11 & 18 February held meetings in east and west portions of conference for active pastors in a ½ day workshop designed to give us language to talk about our personal positions with respect to homosexuality. We identified hopes and fears, important scriptures for us on this issue, and shared within small groups personal experiences we have had with homosexual individuals.

What's on your table

One copy of the Executive Committee's statement made in 2000 affirming our conference's agreement with the denomination's position, a copy of the continuum that pastors have used in identifying language to talk about the various positions one can take on the issue of homosexuality, as well as the "hopes & fears" expressed by the pastors at the ½ day workshop.

Summary of Cluster Discussions

Appreciation for awareness of the three documents (LT statement/action, concerned pastors letter/resolution, EB "Moving Forward")

General concern for action of MS – both specific action and process

Divided on how to respond, some favored LT approach, others the resolution

Recognition that EB action will move forward, not asking our permission

Things to consider

- How are we connected to one another? How do we address one another when there are concerns?
- It feels like MS has "slapped us in the face". How should we respond? What is a reactive response, what is a proactive response? What does it mean to "turn the other cheek" in this situation?
- Is this a conference concern or a denominational concern?
- How does this issue affect our witness to the wider world (both in terms of who we align ourselves with as well as how we address one another in the fellowship)?
- If we follow the LT initiative, what are the next steps?
- Does the resolution have to be so urgent? We have not discussed this issue in our congregation to date.
- Do we want to consider another special delegate session to focus on this specific issue?