

The Leadership Team is submitting to Ohio Conference the attached draft resolution to be presented, when refined, to Ohio Conference delegates for action at the 2016 Annual Conference Assembly.

The formation of this resolution has been guided by:

- listening to expressions of perspective and concern from the pastors of Ohio Conference at the All-Ohio Conference Pastors' Meeting held on Sept. 2
- consideration of observations and recommendations from the review performed by the Five-Year Plan Task Force
- interactions with pastor peer groups by Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford and Transitional Conference Leader George O'Reilly, as well as discussion by the Leadership Team members at our Sept. 23 meeting.

The resolution emphasizes steps to aid in alleviating recent tensions around issues with Mennonite Church USA for Ohio Conference congregations. Also, the resolution emphasizes some clarification of our commitments to and expectations from each other as members, pastors, leaders, and churches of Ohio Conference. Such clarification would hopefully strengthen our relationships and enable us all to move forward together with hope and confidence. The proposed timeline for considering and refining this resolution includes the following:

- the above steps previously mentioned and taken
- submission of the draft resolution to Ohio Conference churches, pastors and members
- cluster group consideration and discussion of the draft resolution in October and early November
- discernment and recommendations from task force's work on aspects of the resolution
- possibly another All Pastors Meeting in the winter of 2016
- final refinement of the resolution at winter cluster meetings
- presentation and a vote on the resolution at ACA 2016

The Leadership Team has included considerable prayer in this process, and encourages us all to continual prayer as we move forward together. May the Holy Spirit guide and empower in this significant process of discernment and decision.

The Leadership Team of Ohio Conference