Virginia Mennonite Conference

**Statements of our Conference (Drafts)**

**December 18, 2015**

Vision Statement

Led by the Holy Spirit, Virginia Mennonite Conference joyfully establishes and nurtures communities of faith that seek to follow the Way of Jesus Christ in the world.

Mission Statement

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Virginia Mennonite Conference equips pastors and congregational leaders to bring the Good News to our communities, gives and receives counsel, and supports congregational worship, mission, and service efforts to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Organizational Assumptions

There are several underlying assumptions that drive what we think and do. They include the following.

Our membership criterion reflects the biblical discernment expressed theologically in the *Confession of Faith in the Mennonite Perspective (1995)*.

* Member congregations engage in missional activity and are best served by collaborating with their district and regional partners.
* Credentialed Pastors are accountable to their congregations (constituency ministry groups) and the conference through their district minister.
* We call, equip, and empower leaders for various ministries that include pastoral leadership, chaplaincy ministry, administrative ministries, and teaching ministries.
* God’s Holy Spirit may lead us into areas of discomfort.
* We function best when leaders and delegates participate in discerning God’s will together in key issues impacting our faith communities and/or society.

Values Statements of Our Christian Ethics & Qualities

* Our Anabaptist history is precious to our existence today.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values following God in the way of Jesus as understood through the Anabaptist perspective.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values Scriptural faithfulness, Christ-centered transformative discipleship, servant-focused community, and missional engagement.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values Christ-like living, redemptive worship, transformative engagement, and transparent community.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values fostering community by working toward common goals and facilitating healthy structures for ministry.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values addressing societal structures that inhibit dignity and wholeness of persons.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values missional engagement with our local and global communities that include personal transformation, evangelism, peace-making, and service.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values unity as we honor theological diversity.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values relating with diverse cultures and peoples.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values missional engagement by teaching, preaching and personal transformation.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values participating in God’s mission in our broken world to make disciples of Christ that respond to contemporary challenges.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values serving people with compassionate care, healing wounds, and making peace.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values commitment to God that is faithful, authentic, and trusting in God’s providence.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values worship that celebrates the transformative power of God in our lives.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values Biblical, theological discourse that helps us respond to the human condition, communal needs, and global issues.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values leadership that exhibits the fruit of the Spirit, encourages group discernment, and works collaboratively with Christian partners and Mennonite Church USA.
* Virginia Mennonite Conference values the priesthood of all believers who practice ethical conduct in all their works.

Questions for VMC Delegates:

1a- Should other values statements and organizational assumptions be added?

1b- Should specific statements and organizational assumptions be deleted or changed?

2- Can your discussion group create a memorable logo (drawing) or brief motto/slogan to further boil down the vision statement?