**Correspondence for consideration at**

**CONFERENCE COUNCIL**

**Virginia Mennonite Conference**

**(Reported at Delegate Session on February 4, 2017)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A Communication to Virginia Mennonite Conference Regarding Reinstating Isaac Villegas' Credentials and Embracing MCUSA's Forbearance Resolution** | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ***On May 25, 2016, Virginia Mennonite Conference suspended the credentials of Isaac Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, for performing a same-sex wedding ceremony. The action of VMC came despite an extensive Chapel Hill congregational discernment process that unanimously affirmed Villegas.*** | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| We, the undersigned, as people who believe in Christ’s call to embrace all those who are made in the image of God, implore Virginia Mennonite Conference (through the Faith & Life Commission) to: | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Reinstate Isaac Villegas' ministerial credentials. We are deeply distressed that VMC chose to remove pastoral credentials from Isaac for marrying a same sex couple, despite the careful discernment and support of his congregation at Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship. | | | | |
| 2. Adhere to the forbearance resolution passed by a strong majority of delegates at Kansas City. It calls us to allow space for different viewpoints and interpretation of the Spirit's leading regarding acceptance and inclusion of sexual minorities, without the threat of punishment and loss of relationship with the Conference at large. | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| We call Virginia Mennonite Conference to embrace this entreaty. As Mennonites, we are reminded again and again that Jesus reached out to and included the marginalized and that we have a mandate to do the same. | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Isaac Villegas has lived among us with the spiritual integrity to which we aspire as disciples. His words and his life have blessed the congregation at Chapel Hill and enriched this conference and the wider church. His reinstatement will be a step of renewal and hope. | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Congregation** |  |  |
| Randa | Hendricks | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Charles | Hendricks | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Barbara P | Fast | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| John W | Fast | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ruby | Lehman | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Steve | Shenk | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Gretchen | Maust | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Margaret | Foth | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Don | Foth | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Karen | Moshier-Shenk | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mary | Glick | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Louise | Kreider | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Emil | Kreider | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| John | Fairfield | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Patricia | Santiago | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Donna | Heatwole | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ervie | Glick | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Glenn M | Kauffman | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mary S | Kauffman | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Susan | Swartz | Community Mennonite |  |  |
| Bethany | Versluis Fairfield | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Joy | Anderson | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Norman | Kraus | Shalom Mennonite Congregation |  |  |
| Steve | Yoder | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Dan | Shenk | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Naomi | Shenk | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ray | Horst | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Greg | Sachs | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Violet | Horst | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mary | Sprunger | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Keri | Kauffman | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mark | Metzler Sawin | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Susan | Landes Beck | Park View Menonite Church |  |  |
| Deborah | Smith | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Eric | Landes Beck | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jerry | Holsopple | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Rowland | Shank, Jr. | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Donna | Shank | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Asha | Landes Beck | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Sandy | Wenger | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Les | Horning | Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Sophia | Hendricks | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Hannah | Hendricks | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Christine | Fairfield | Springdale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Joshua | Fairfield | Springdale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mamie | Mellinger | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Nancy V | Lee | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Warren | Bock | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Helen | Nafziger | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Paul A | Yoder | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Peggy | Landis | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jay | Landis | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Linda | Bland | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Lourene | Bender | Broad Street Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Elena | Histand Stuckey | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Valerie | Weaver | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jennifer | Ulrich | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Heidi | Byler | Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Marlene | Showalter | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Keri | Nafziger | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Michael | Courtney | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jeremy | Nafziger | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Aaron | Kishbaugh | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Marsha | Thomas | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mark | Howard | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jodi | Beachy | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Renee | Leap | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kim | Schmucker | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Hannah | Landes Beck | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jackie | Hieber | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jodi | Nisly Hertzler | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Shelby | Hertzler | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Matthew | Hunsberger | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Brendon | Derstine | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jennifer | Murch | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| John | Murch | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Simone | Horst | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Rachel | Roth Sawatzky | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| David | Roth Sawatzky | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Hannah | Leaman | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Carolyn | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jessica | Hostetler | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Amy | Eanes | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Christi | Hoover Seidel | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Peter | Dula | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kevin | Leaman | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Matthew | Carlson | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Steven | Witmer | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Tiffany | Showalter | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Justin | King | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Greg | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kristina | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Deanna | Durham | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Heidi | King | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Heidi | Derstine | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Alyshia | Kauffman | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kenneth L. | Nafziger | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Nathan | Hershberger | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Elisabeth | Wilder | Whitestone Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Lars | Åkerson | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Clay | Cordell | Marion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Blair | Wilner | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Aspen | Yordy | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Steve | Jolley | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Angie | Clemens | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Rick | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Michael | Horst | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Barb | Miller | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Xaris | Martínez | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Michael | Lee | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Jason | Kauffman | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Karen | Mast | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Meribeth | Kraybill | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Louise | Hostetter | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Tamara | Kratz |  |  |  |
| Erin | Beeker | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ben | Wyse | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Olivia | Burkholder | Eastside Church |  |  |
| Wendy | Gerlach | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ben | Bailey | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Shannon | Roth | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Robert | Maust | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Stuart | Showalter | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Shirley | Showalter | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Wayne | Teel | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kirsten | Beachy | Shalom Mennonite Congregation |  |  |
| Carrie | Bert | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Daryl | Bert | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Travis | Nyce | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Reta | Finger | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Elaine Zook | Barge | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Dirk | Tysmans | First Bap. Church Wickford (ex Chapel Hill Menn. Fellowship) |  |  |
| Judy | Tysmans | First Bap. Church Wickford (ex Chapel Hill Menn. Fellowship) |  |  |
| Katie | Derstine | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Joyce | Lind | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| David | Rohrer | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Rosene | Rohrer | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Pat | Martin | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Dwayne | Martin | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Sandra | Vander Linde | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Justin | Beeker |  |  |  |
| Braydon | Hoover | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Karin | Shank | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Peggy | Brubaker |  |  |  |
| Eric | Brubaker |  |  |  |
| Micaela | Weaver |  |  |  |
| Judy | Nafziger | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Lawrence | Yoder | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Bradley | Yoder | Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Beth | Yoder | Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| J. Daryl | Byler | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Alta | Brubaker | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kaitlin | Heatwole | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jonathan | Kreider | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Laura | Rosenberger | Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship |  |  |
| Dayna | Olson-Getty | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Irene | Good | Lindale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Harley | Good | Lindale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| James | Souder | Lindale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| John D | Miller |  |  |  |
| Elaine | Stoltzfus | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ethan | Gingerich | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Beth | Eriksen | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jewel | Hertzler | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Aliese | Gingerich | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Giles | Eanes | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Erika | Metzler Sawin | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Rosemary | King | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Edie | Bontrager | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Tilli | Yoder | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Dorothy | Logan | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Melissa | Howard | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Monique | Randolph | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Wendell | Shank | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Chris | Carpenter | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kristin | Kauffman | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Carrie | Mitchell | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Donald | Mitchell | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ann | Yoder | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| June | Schrock | Parkview Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Teresa Boshart | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Lonnie | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Scott | Barge | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Amy | Mumbauer | Springdale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Steve | Mumbauer | Springdale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Greta | Bucher | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Phil J. | Yoder | Zion Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ruthanne Janzen | Heatwole | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Joyce | Lind | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Katherine | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Laura | Sider Jost | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Audrey | Metz | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ken | Seitz | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Janice | Jenner | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Hadley | Jenner | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Maria | Holsopple | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Dirk | Holsopple | Immanuel Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Virginia | Bethune | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Dick | Bethune | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ross | Erb | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Cathy | Smeltzer Erb | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kathy | Fisher | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Richard | Stoltzfus | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Tara | Kishbaugh | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Shirley Yoder | Brubaker | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kenton | Brubaker | Shalom Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Aaron | Erb | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Janette | Brunk | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Dawn | Cousins | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Miriam | Martin | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Evie | Leichty | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Roger | Leichty | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Heidi | Jablonski | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Annmarie | Early | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Christian | Early | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Audrey | Myers | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jeff | Myers | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Stephen | Lowe | Harrisonburg Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Claire | Unruh | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Joy | Wahnefried | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Curt | Weaver | Portland Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ruth | Reberg | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Derek | Yoder | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Claude | Kremer | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Marva | Kremer | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Bonnie | Miller | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Lowell | Miller | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Todd | Fields | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Joseph | Johnston | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mary | Johnston | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Peter | Wise |  |  |  |
| Brenda | Herb |  |  |  |
| Virginia | Shelton | Raleigh Mennonite Chuch |  |  |
| Kari | Martin Hollinger | Raleigh Mennonite Chuch |  |  |
| Chris | Hollinger | Raleigh Mennonite Chuch |  |  |
| June | Adamio | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Michael | Adamio | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Debora | Weaver | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Stan | North Martin | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kathryn | Fenton | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Mark | Fenton | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Zinith | Barbee | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Alan | Reberg | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jonathan | Mark | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| David | Bartow | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Trina Trotter | Nussbaum | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Brian | Nussbaum | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Chris | Yoder | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Tina | Eshleman | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Olivia | Harrison | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Don | Harrison | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Stan | Nickel | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Sandra | Elliott | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Murray | Ellison | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Pamela | Bruns | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Chrys | Browne | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kristen | McGee | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Noah | Yoder | Weaver's Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Jean | Oswald | First Mennonite Church, Richmond |  |  |
| Edward | Stoltzfus | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ana | Arias | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Phillip | Nisly | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Lee | Good | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Rosemary | Good | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Nelson | Waybill | Lindale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Marjorie | Waybill | Lindale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Brenda | North Martin | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Luz | Frye | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| John | Frye | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Alisha | Huber | Community Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Ruby | Hostetler | Lindale Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Bethany | Keener | Washington Community Fellowship |  |  |
| Betty | Brunk | Park View Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Kathie | Kurtz | Northern Virginia Mennonite |  |  |
| Kathleen Brunk | Isaacs | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Carl Dean | Isaacs | Raleigh Mennonite Church |  |  |
| Patricia | Barrier | Big Spring Mennonite |  |  |
| Ray | Barrier | Big Spring Mennonite |  |  |