**Resolution in Favor of Current Understanding and Polity on Marriage and Church Discipline**

**to Faith and Life Commission**

We affirm our church's vision to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world. As agents of God’s healing and hope, we believe that we should extend pastoral care to all people regardless of their sexual orientation or identity. We also believe this care should be consistent with our communally discerned biblical convictions, currently summarized in the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (1995). Specifically, we teach that "God intends marriage to be a covenant between one man and one woman for life" (*Confession*, Art.19). We also teach that discipline in the church "is intended to liberate erring brothers and sisters from sin,” which demonstrates God’s “transforming grace” and “gives integrity to the church's witness” in word and deed (*Confession*, Art.14).

**Therefore, we as Virginia Mennonite Conference resolve to act in a way that is consistent with our teachings on marriage and church discipline.**This means we will not support a polity that allows credentialed ministers to conduct same-sex marriages. In addition, we support the practice of holding credentialed ministers accountable for conducting such ceremonies, as outlined in the VMC Faith and Life Commission document, “Procedural Guidelines for Suspension of VMC Ministerial Credentials in the Event of Conducting a Same-Sex Marriage Ceremony” (April 15, 2016).

Seth Hankee, Pastor Greenmonte Fellowship Church
Howard Miller, Pastor Waynesboro Mennonite Church
Harold Miller, Pastor Trissels Mennonite Church
Peter Eberly, Pastor Eastside Church
Lowell Haarer, Pastor Zion Hill Mennonite Church
Matt Schwartz, Pastor Eastside Church
Robert Wenger, District Minister, Central District
Beryl Jantzi, District Minister, Southern District

Dan Horning, Pastor Gospel Hill Mennonite Church

Luke Schrock-Hurst, District Minister, Potomac District

Marvin Lorenzana, Hispanic Coach, Virginia Mennonite Missions worker