### VMC DELEGATE SESSION: Membership, privileges & responsibilities

(Excerpted from the 2014 Constitution & Bylaws of

Virginia Mennonite Conference

### ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Applications for membership in Conference may be received from congregations or groups who are:

1.1 A covenanted group of believers, typically composed of at least ten households, gathering regularly for worship, fellowship and Christian ministry.

1.2 Ready to function within the Constitution and bylaws of the Virginia Mennonite Conference and the bylaws of Mennonite Church USA.

1.3 Directed by clearly designated leadership, recognized by both the congregation and Conference.

##### Section 2. Privileges of Conference Membership

2.1 Recognition as a covenanted group of believers functioning within the fellowship and bylaws of Virginia Mennonite Conference.

2.2 Credentialing and mutual support for ordained leadership.

2.3 Access to fellowship and resources provided through conference assembly, conference council, districts, commissions, and agencies.

2.4 Representation in the conference assembly by the congregation’s ordained/licensed leaders and other commissioned delegates as provided in Bylaw III, Section 2.

2.5 Access to denominational fellowship and resources provided through assemblies and agencies of Mennonite Church USA.

2.6 Representation in the Mennonite Church USA delegate assembly by the conference’s and congregation’s commissioned delegates as provided in the bylaws of Mennonite Church USA.

##### Section 3. Responsibilities of Conference Membership

3.1 Gathering regularly for worship, fellowship, and Christian ministry as a covenanted group of believers.

3.2 Promoting mutual nurture and discipline in harmony with the stated purposes of the Conference.

3.3 Giving and receiving counsel through congregational, district, conference, and denominational structures.

3.4 Designating and supporting ongoing congregational leadership, recognized by both the congregation and conference.

3.5 Functioning within the constitution and bylaws of the Virginia Mennonite Conference and the bylaws of Mennonite Church USA.

3.6 Providing generous prayer, emotional, and financial support for conference and denominational ministries, including prayer and financial backing for congregational representatives to delegate assemblies.