

LANCASTER MENNONITE CONFERENCE

## RELATIONSHIP TO MENNONITE CHURCH USA

September 2004

### **Bishop Board Recommendation To Leadership Assembly**

We recommend an invitational model where all Lancaster Mennonite Conference congregations are considered first and foremost members of LMC. The spiritual authority for congregations will continue to reside in Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Participation in the life of Mennonite Church USA will be secondary to our commitments to each other within LMC. In this invitational model, all LMC congregations will be respected equally, regardless of the following levels of participation in Mennonite Church USA:

- (a) those congregations that wish to participate fully in Mennonite Church USA may do so and will need to declare such in writing to the Conference Office;
- (b) some congregations may be uncertain about their level of participation in Mennonite Church USA and may participate to the extent that they desire;
- (c) other congregations prefer no participation in Mennonite Church USA. The Conference Office will use the current list of these congregations as an indication of that preference until notified otherwise.

Since congregations can participate in the denomination only through an area conference, Lancaster Mennonite Conference will be a member (participating) conference in Mennonite Church USA.