



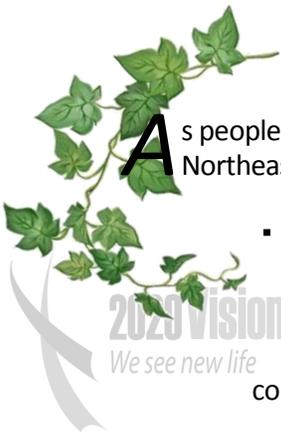
2020 Vision

We see new life



Abide in me as I abide in you. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15: 4a, 5)

"I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15:5



As people of Christ's peace, we see new life in the Northeast Corridor and beyond!

- **2020 VISION** is designed to encourage congregations to ask what the "Spirit is saying to" them.
- **2020 VISION** is designed to offer a common vocabulary to talk about vision.

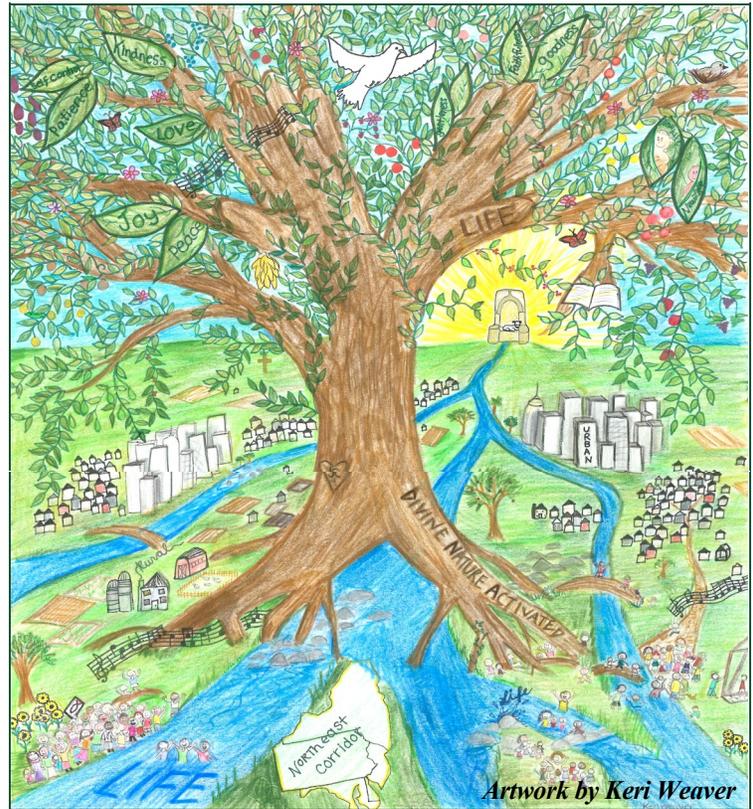
A common vision vocabulary maximizes communication about **what the Holy Spirit is doing among us** and minimizes misunderstanding.

2020 VISION is *not* designed to give congregations more work - nor is it a plan for congregations "to adopt."

The context for **2020 VISION** is consistently following Jesus, the baptizer with the Spirit, and joining in God's mission in the world.

What alignment or connections do you find between your congregational vision and 2020 Vision?

We are people of Christ's peace



*We have given too much attention to methods and to machinery and to resources, and too little to the **Source of Power, the filling of the Holy Spirit.***
J. Hudson Taylor, 19th century missionary to China

2

"... I appointed you to go and bear fruit." John 15:1

VISION

We walk with Jesus our Redeemer into the life-giving flow of the Spirit of God, which flows like a river of life from the throne of the Lamb (Rev. 21, 22). In the next ten years, we will seek to follow God's call and join the movement of the Holy Spirit across the northeast and beyond in the following ways:

- Enjoy God
- Encourage Others
- Equip Disciples
- Engage the World

We do these things so that all may live by the river and step into the waters as people of Christ's peace. We are appointed as God's disciples to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. The fruit brings healing to those around us. (John 15).

How is your congregation following God's call through the four ways listed on this page?



3

We are people of Christ's peace



Enjoy God
in transforming worship and find joy
in taking God's love to the world.

- To live in obedience, participate in God's activity, and joyfully tell others about this transformation.
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Encourage others
with God's healing and hope in the
places we live, work, and play

- To embrace diversity of culture, race, language, and worship, remove barriers between these differences and minister the *shalom* of Christ
- To create safe and trusting places for relationships to develop and healing to emerge.
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What spiritual disciplines will we use for discerning what God is saying?



In what ways will we use John 15 for individual and corporate life together?



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4

a movement of God's Spirit



Equip disciples
to fulfill their Spirit-given call for
God's mission in the world

- To train disciples and leaders for the work of ministry and mission.
- To raise up youth as a culture-shaping generation and influence in the world and church.
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Engage the world
with the Good News of Jesus as a
mission-shaped church

- To seek out what God is doing and participate with the Spirit in God's work. Multiply and plant churches.
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How will we help all persons to understand God's call in their life and ministry?



As we grow in understanding God's missional purpose for us, what changes are we encountering?



5

VALUES

Our values provide us with a Jesus-center to do shared mission. With these values embraced as a fellowship of congregations, we wade into the river of God in a united witness to the world and to each other.

Because Jesus Christ is the center of our faith and life . . .

... we value a way of seeing the world through God's reign.

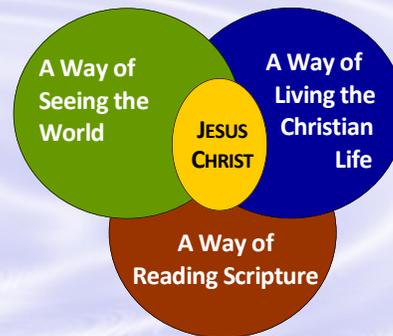
- allegiance to the reign of God
- believers baptism
- varied expressions of culture, race, language and worship

... we value a way of reading Scripture through Jesus.

- that leads to authentic obedience to Jesus Christ.
- Anabaptist expressions such as *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.

... we value a way of living the Christian life as disciples.

- God's mission of reconciliation
- peace rooted deeply in Scripture
- disciples who live intentionally as a culturally-relevant contrast to the world
- the Christian home
- simplicity, integrity, justice, and person/global stewardship



Resources on LMC Core Values are available at the Conference Office or on line at www.lancasterconference.org

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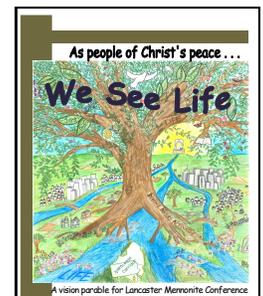
RESOURCES

Lancaster Mennonite Conference leaders and congregations began a process in 2010 to discern where God is already at work in our midst and how we might partner as a fellowship of 170 congregations across seven states. The *We See Life* booklet (at upper right) was used as a tool to foster this year-long discussion across the conference.

In 2011, the discussion shifted from vision to sketching out a plan. Congregations and leaders began asking how to engage God's mission of reconciliation to the world over the next ten years? Where are the places God is appointing congregations to join in what God is already doing?

Now in 2012, we continue the discernment and conversation to specific and practical directions. With the power of the Holy Spirit, congregations are encouraged to shape measurable, intentional goals that will find specific applications in their context. This booklet gives you brief descriptions of values, plans, and intentional goals for our fellowship of congregations.

During 2012, congregations are encouraged to use John 15:1-17 as the **Dwelling in the Word Text** in a variety of ways in congregational life (preaching, Bible study, committee meetings, Sunday school, etc.)



Introduction Booklet



March 2011



March 2012

Missional: all of God's people living and proclaiming all of God's gospel in all parts of God's world.

We are people of Christ's peace