

## **Query: Same Sex Weddings**

**Whereas** the 1983 Annual Conference position paper on Human Sexuality states “*Covenantal relationships between homosexual persons is an additional lifestyle option but, in the church’s search for a Christian understanding of human sexuality, this alternative is not acceptable,*”

**Whereas** in 2011, the Annual Conference re-affirmed the 1983 Statement in its entirety, thereby clarifying that the understanding of the Church of the Brethren in regards to, covenantal relationships between homosexual persons, is unchanged,

**Whereas** the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that same sex marriage is a constitutional right in all fifty states,

**Whereas** there is uncertainty regarding the proper role of credentialed ministers and congregations in the Church of the Brethren where same sex weddings are concerned, it was felt that there was a need for guidance and clarity at the denominational level of the Church of the Brethren.

Therefore, the Mission and Ministry Board of the West Marva District petition Annual Conference through the West Marva District Conference, meeting at the Moorefield West Virginia Church of the Brethren, September 18-19, 2015, to consider “**How shall districts respond when credentialed ministers and/or congregations conduct or participate in same sex weddings?**”