

Query: On Earth Peace Reportability/Accountability to Annual Conference

Whereas the 1998 Annual Conference delegate body adopted the *On Earth Peace Assembly Request for Reportability/Accountability to Annual Conference*. Included in their request was a statement to: “commit itself to providing ministry that is within the scope of Annual Conference directives and congruent with articulated values of the Church of the Brethren.” On Earth Peace further stated, “If Annual Conference agency status is granted, the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is now advised of On Earth Peace Assembly’s intent and commitment to work honorably, as a full program partner, to further build the institution of the Church of the Brethren and the peaceful kingdom of God here on earth as in heaven.”

Whereas during its 2011 fall meeting, the On Earth Peace board of directors issued the following statement of inclusion: *We are troubled by attitudes and actions in the church, which exclude persons on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or any other aspect of human identity. We believe God calls the church to welcome all persons into full participation in the life of the faith community.*

Whereas the 2015 On Earth Peace flyer that accompanied the On Earth Peace report in the Annual Conference packet referenced the scripture, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, She has anointed me to...*” referring to God as “*She.*” This same flyer includes a picture of a rainbow-scarved pastor and the concept of “*Inclusion.*”

Whereas the On Earth Peace website Ministers of Reconciliation page states “Ministers of Reconciliation are a diverse group of trained volunteers who serve the church by being present and attentive, ready to respond where confusion, conflict or negative emotions are causing a problem with the gathered body.” Yet, *while the declared intent is to work through conflict and resolve disputes, On Earth Peace, since 2011, through report, statements, and actions, has brought more tension than peace.*

Therefore *we the Bear Creek Church of the Brethren of Accident, MD convened in congregational business meeting on August 9, 2015 petition the Annual Conference through the West Marva District Conference meeting at Moorefield, WV, September 18-19, 2015 to consider if it is the will of Annual Conference for On Earth Peace to remain an agency of the Church of the Brethren with reportability and accountability to Annual Conference.*

Joyce Lander, Church Board Chair
Linda Sanders, Church Clerk