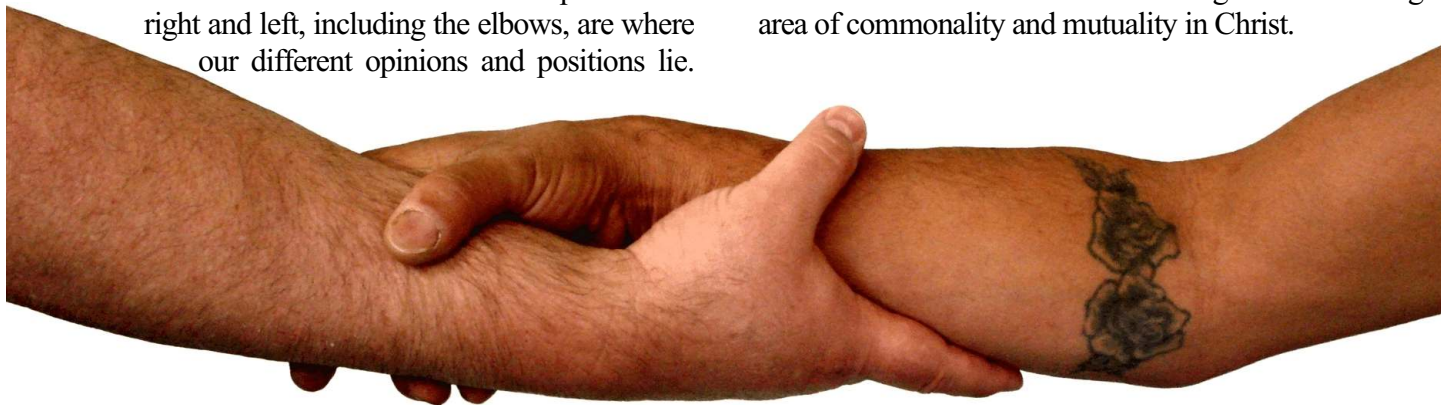


A symbol of Unity in Diversity

www.pswdcob.org/distconf/business.htm#unity

A positive picture of our unity as Brethren in the PSWD was offered by one of our pastors and our district moderator. Picture interlocking arms. The large area of overlap is our commonality and things upon which we can agree and work together. The smaller areas where the arms do not overlap at the right and left, including the elbows, are where our different opinions and positions lie.

The unity statement does not call us to drop our separately held ministries or opinions and embrace the opinions and ministries of others of which we disagree. Instead, it calls upon us all to respect others as brothers and sisters in Christ and to continue to be in conversation. At the same time, we are called to celebrate and minister together in our larger area of commonality and mutuality in Christ.



Unity Statement

On this 300th anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Brethren, we remember the words of Jesus:

“Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the love you have for each other.” (John 13: 34,35; *The Message*)

Recognizing we are a living peace church, and that God is constantly revealing, we commit to humble ourselves, and to engage in the tension of community necessary for new birth.

Not focusing on our differences, but in the spirit of love and acceptance, we choose to focus on Christ.

We purpose to remain open, as we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit, working in love to mutually support and encourage our various ministries.

Background information:

April 12th the Discernment Committee met

Words and phrases from which we worked after an hour and a half discussion about the interest and need for this statement:

- ◆ community, together, support, cherish, love, respect, dignity, value, acceptance, forgiving, listen, bridges
- ◆ tension, struggles, conflict, passion, happily incompatible within a relationship
- ◆ commitment, proactive, Mind of Christ, a God who is constantly revealing, faith, service, hands of Christ to the World, Holy Spirit, scriptures
- ◆ As Jim Lehman said: “...we need to find reasons for staying together and even loving one another...”

Discernment Committee: Bryan Boyer, Everett Deidiker, Erin Mc Court, Mary Kay Ogden, John Price, Jan Thompson, Ataloo Wooden

April 14th the District Board adopted the statement:

Minutes of April 14, 2007, at Principe de Paz CoB, Santa Ana

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VII. C. 2.A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Unity Statement and the wording.

M/S Bill Johnson/Vera Mae Gephart to accept the Unity Statement as presented and to present it to District Conference. Passed.