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## 2. Query: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper

**Whereas:** a code of *Ethics for Congregations in the Church of the Brethren* was adopted by Annual Conference in 1996;

**Whereas:** the *Ethics for Congregations* paper originated from a recommendation in the *Ethics in Ministry* paper, originally adopted by Annual Conference in 1992 and renamed and revised by Annual Conference action 1996 and 2008, currently titled *Ethics in Ministry Relations*;

**Whereas:** the *Ethics in Ministry Relations 2008* paper includes a "Process for Dealing with Complaints of Ministerial Misconduct" which gives clear and specific guidelines to be followed if a violation of trust occurs related to ministerial behavior;

**Whereas:** the *Ethics for Congregations* paper only suggests, the district "should be prepared to respond at any time it receives an allegation that a congregation has engaged in questionable ethical activity;" (Page 2, Last sentence of first paragraph).

**Whereas:** the suggestion that each district "be prepared to respond" allows for a wide diversity of actions being taken across the denomination;

**Therefore:** we the members of the Western PA District Leadership Team, meeting on August 7, 2009, asks Annual Conference through the Western PA District Conference the following question: "Would it not be helpful and contribute toward the unity of the Body if Annual Conference developed a uniform denominational process by which districts might deal with a congregation that engages in questionable ethical activity?"

The Western PA District Leadership Team, meeting in regular session on Friday, August 7, 2009, received the query, and voted to pass the query on to District Conference, which will meet October 24, 2009, in the Fred M. Rogers Center, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA.

Royden E. Airesman, Leadership Team Chair  
Ronald D. Beachley, Recording Secretary

The Western Pennsylvania District Conference, meeting in regular session at the Fred M. Rogers Center, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, on October 24, 2009, received the Western PA District Leadership Team query, and voted to pass the query on to Annual Conference.

William A. Waugh, Western PA District Moderator  
Cynthia M. Mason, Western PA District, Clerk