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2. Query: Language on Same Sex Covenantal Relationships

Whereas the Church of the Brethren has a history and practice of seeking reconciliation; and

Whereas the Church of the Brethren has experienced deep division and brokenness related to the language from the 1983 Human Sexuality Paper that same sex covenantal relationships are not acceptable; and

Whereas members of the Church of the Brethren are not of one mind on what it means to practice and promote justice in human relationships, especially same sex covenantal relationships;

Therefore, we, the Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, gathered in Council on May 18, 2008, petition Annual Conference through the Northern Indiana District to consider whether it is the will of the church that this language on same sex covenantal relationships will continue to guide our journey together.

Matthew J. Sprunger	MaryJane Coursen
Moderator	Church Clerk

The Northern Indiana District Board, meeting on May 20, 2008, approved the query for consideration by District Conference.

Dan Snider, District Board Chair
Byron Smith, District Board Secretary

The Northern Indiana District Conference, meeting on December 20, 2008, approved the query for consideration by Annual Conference.

David Wysong, Moderator
Roger L. Hauport, District Conference Clerk

Action of the 2009 Annual Conference: Annual Conference approved a motion that the concern of the query be accepted, and that the intent be combined with the Statement of Confession and Commitment in the strongly controversial issues process. (See Annual Conference action to item 4.) The query will be carried on successive Conference agendas as unfinished until the special issues response is completed.