

## **Pleasant View Mennonite Church Transfer**

Pleasant View Mennonite Church began in 1936 through the efforts of Prairie Street Mennonite Church in nearby Elkhart. They were not charged to take over an abandoned United Brethren church building in Jefferson Township, except the \$100 to renovate the building. By 1942 they became independent, and they have planted two other congregations: Rainy River in International Falls, MN, was planted in 1950 and Tri-Lakes near Mottville, MI, was planted in 1960.

In recent years, leaders of the congregation created a careful process that allowed the congregation to talk together and make solid decisions about their growing dissatisfaction with Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. In December 2014, the congregation asked leadership to check out alternative affiliation options. As they did so, leaders contacted IN-MI to make sure proper steps were taken if the congregation decided to transfer affiliation to a different conference with Mennonite Church USA.

IN-MI leadership and PVMC leadership representatives met on two occasions to formally review PVMC's request and implications for transferring conference affiliation and credentials. The 2015 joint leadership sessions (February and March) were a culmination of a series of previous separate meetings and discussions beginning in May 2014 that included PVMC members, the IN-MI Conference Pastor, and South Central Conference leadership representatives. The nature of the February and March meetings was to give each group a chance to speak, listen, and clarify the reasons for this request. All parties have agreed to proceed with a transfer process as outlined in MCUSA guidelines: "Seeking to move to another conference within Mennonite Church USA."

### **Reason for Conference Transfer**

PVMC leadership identified long term significant variances and diminished support from IN-MI leadership for PVMC adherence to the *Confession for Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, in matters pertaining to but not limited to Article 19: "Family, Singleness, and Marriage." PVMC has found SCC to be supportive and consistent in their observance of the *Confession for Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* and historical Anabaptist biblical teachings.

### **Effects of Conference Transfer**

IN-MI leadership acknowledges the loss of PVMC's voice for traditional biblical views on current cultural trends and leadership contribution for conference roles. For many years, PVMC has been an anchor congregation north of Goshen and it is with regret at the loss of these long term relationships the IN-MI leadership releases them.

PVMC acknowledges the mutual pain of the separation and sense of loss due to historical relationships in a common mission.

IN-MI and PVMC agree to seek future opportunities for common expressions of faithfulness, discipleship, ministry, and mission.

### **Transfer**

At its April 16, 2015 meeting the Ministry Credentialing Team recommended the transfer of conference affiliation and related credentials of Pleasant View Mennonite Church (PVMC) from Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IN-MI) to South Central Mennonite Conference (SCC).

Submitted by Dan Miller, conference pastor, and Doug Kaufman, conference pastor for leadership transitions