Church Planting Commission Proposal

With a recommendation from Leadership Commission, the Executive Board took action on January 11 and May 3 to propose the creation of a Church Planting Commission for the Western District Conference to the delegate body meeting in Waxahachie, Texas, July 4-6, 2014. The essential text of the proposal as a change in the constitution is below.

*Section C. – Church Planting Commission*

The Church Planting Commission provides leadership and resources for church planting initiatives and fosters relationships with emerging Anabaptist/Mennonite groups.  The Church Planting Commission helps emerging groups and their leaders connect with the congregations, resources, staff, and structure of Western District Conference.

1.      Duties

a.   Seek out and encourage Anabaptist/Mennonite emerging groups such as church plants, fellowships, and churches seeking affiliation with the Mennonite church.

b.    Encourage existing Western District Conference congregations to be alert to God’s activity in their locations that may signal an emerging group. Invite congregations to understand that creating new congregations is an essential and natural activity of every healthy church.

c.   Offer practical resources to emerging groups.

d.     Discover and assess potential church planting leaders.

e.   Provide ongoing support, training, coaching and accountability for church planters.

f.     Develop effective patterns and appropriate policies for the fruitful development of new churches.

g.   Generate and allocate funding for church planting activities.

h.   Establish networks of support among emerging groups and connect them with established congregations.

i. Network with Western District church planting staff and the resources of Mennonite Church USA.