

To prepare for this conference

Register by **March 2, 2011**

Please read and discuss *Becoming a United Church in a World of Division: A Biblical View of Christian Unity*, a paper written by conference leaders.

Find it at www.centralplainsmc.org.

Click on "Unity Discussion."

Bring along with you

- Bible
- materials for note-taking

We will provide copies of the latest draft of the Unity Paper.

"The glory that you have given me
I have given them, so that they may be one,
as we are one, I in them and you in me,
that they may become completely one,
so that the world may know
that you have sent me and have loved them
even as you have loved me."

John 17:22-23

That the World May Know

A Conference on Christian Unity

Schedule

Saturday, March 12, 2011

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|-------------|---|
| 9:00-9:20 | Worship |
| 9:20-9:50 | Teaching Session I:
Old Testament Considerations |
| 9:50-10:15 | Questions/Affirmations/Responses |
| 10:15-10:45 | Teaching Session II:
New Testament Considerations |
| 10:45-11:00 | Break |
| 11:00-11:30 | Questions/Affirmations/Responses |
| 11:30-12:10 | Teaching Session III:
Unity and the Work of the Church |
| 12:10-12:30 | Questions/Affirmations/Responses |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:30-3:45 | Discerning Our Common Life Commitments |
| 3:45-4:00 | Closing Worship |

Central Plains Mennonite Conference

121 East Third Street
PO Box 101
Freeman, SD 57029-0101

Phone: 605-925-4463
Fax: 605-925-7293
E-mail: office@centralplainsmc.org

That the World May Know



A Conference on Christian Unity



A conference for
congregational leaders in
Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Saturday, March 12, 2011 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration Form

Name of Congregation

Church address

Church phone number (_____) _____ - _____

Contact person if we have questions regarding this form

Name of Registrant

Special needs? (wheelchair access, hearing assist, dietary restrictions, etc.)

Fee Calculation: (includes noon meal on Saturday)

\$ 25/person OR

\$100 for 4+ from one congregation

Please send this form with payment to:

Central Plains Mennonite Conference

PO Box 101

Freeman, SD 57029-0101

Registration Deadline: **March 2, 2011**

About the Conference

We are living in a culture that seems bent on building walls rather than bridges. The Central Plains conference ministers and moderator believe it is time for the church to discern a different and more biblical way of seeking unity in the body when we disagree. Jesus prayed that his followers would be one “that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:21)

To that end, we invite pastors, elders, deacons, conference delegates and other key congregational leaders to attend this conference. Its purpose is to recover a biblical view of unity and to discern commitments we can hold in common as we seek to follow Jesus in many places within Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

At our 2010 Annual Meeting, delegates gave a clear call to clarify what we mean by “unity.” To that end, Executive Conference Minister David Boshart, in collaboration with other conference leaders, has written a paper entitled *Becoming a United Church in a World of Division: A Biblical View of Christian Unity*. We encourage congregational leadership teams to read & discuss this paper together before March 12.

At this conference, conference leaders will teach from the Unity Paper and facilitate group discussion of it. We hope that our meeting will culminate in discernment of a set of foundational commitments about what it means for member congregations to walk together faithfully and united in mission.

Please make plans to attend this important time of discernment and fellowship! It will provide a springboard for the agenda at our Central Plains Annual Meeting this summer.

Conference Location

The meeting will take place at:

First Christian Church

2500 University Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50310

On the corner of 25th and University Ave.
(SE corner of Drake University Campus)

Christ Community Church is our host for this event.

Lodging

Our conference is happening during the Iowa Boys State Basketball Tournament, and hotels in Des Moines may be hard to find. We encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible, and/or to make them at a hotel enroute rather than in Des Moines. The Holiday Inn Express Des Moines at Drake University, across the street from First Christian Church, is already booking rooms for March 11 at a rate of \$120. They offer a non-refundable advanced purchase rate of \$107 until about three weeks prior to March 11. Wherever you make reservations, we suggest you make them right away.

Fees

\$25.00/person OR

\$100 for 4 or more from one congregation.

Lunch on Saturday is included in the registration fee.

Registration Deadline: **March 2, 2011**