

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND LAMENT

Mennonite Church Canada Assembly

July, 2006

Leader: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9).

People: God, have we been the kind of people who make others want to know you?

Leader: Now you – **(Voice 1)** whether you speak Chinese, English, Vietnamese, French, German, Spanish, or Cree; **(Voice 2)** whether you are firm or flexible; **(Voice 3)** whether you are inclined to emphasize holiness or hospitality; **(Voice 2)** whether you prefer to protect your past or open up your future – you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it” (I Cor. 12:27). I beg you therefore to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

People: with all humility and gentleness

Leader: with patience, bearing with one another in love,

People: making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

ALL: *There is one body and one Spirit (Eph. 4:1-4)!*

Leader: But, God, we are human. Like your heroes of the faith; like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Peter, John, and Paul, we are imperfect creatures, who sometimes fail to be what you want us to be.

People: We are impatient with each other. We judge one another harshly. We fail to recognize each other’s pain. We close doors that shut people out. We have trouble seeing the good in those who hold up a value more strongly than we do. Please forgive us.

Leader: Are we sometimes too timid with each other? Do we fail to admonish one another appropriately? Have we become blind to our own shortcomings?

People: Search our hearts, O God. Teach us your ways.

Voice 1: We confess that in our concern for holiness, some of us have sacrificed hospitality.

May 9, 2007

Page 2

Voice 2: I confess that I have been quick to discount the sincere desire to be faithful to you in the lives of those with whom I have disagreed.

Silence

Voice 1: We lament the sense of being torn by seemingly irreconcilable forces.

Voice 2: We grieve that the unity of the body of Christ has been broken by our attitudes and actions.

Voice 3: I lament the fact that some people are hurt when I do what I feel I must in order to be faithful to God.

Silence

Leader: We acknowledge and lament our brokenness. We regret that we have hurt each other. We lament the things that divide us as a Church. Guide us in your truth.

People: **Help us to treat each other with consideration, love and peace; to begin always with the premise that we are brothers and sisters who desire to be faithful to our Holy God. Help us to see each other as you see us.**

Leader: Thank you that your grace is sufficient for us; that you remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west.

People: **Thank you for those within the Body of Christ who challenge us to take our spiritual lives more seriously. Thank you for those whom we see modeling love and compassion for all.**

Leader: Thank you for the voices that call us to faithfulness.

All: *Help us to witness to the world around us by our love for each other and for you; by following your example of self-giving love.*