

### 3. Query: The Person and Redemptive Work of Jesus Christ

**Whereas** We Brethren have sought to define ourselves as those who are “continuing the work of Jesus...;” and,

**Whereas** a faith commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior has served as a prerequisite for believers’ baptism as well as for ordination within our denomination; and,

**Whereas** the 1991 Annual Conference passed the query, *Religious Pluralism and the Headship of Christ*, stating that “the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren affirms that Jesus Christ is the son of God, Savior of the World, and Head of the Church according to the Scriptures;” and,

**Whereas** this statement was affirmed at the 1995 Annual Conference in the query, *Ordination/Lordship of Christ*, and was strengthened stating “that not only all members, but especially those called to a set apart ministry, should affirm the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only divine Lord and Savior;”, and,

**Whereas** the 1998 Annual Conference, in its adoption of The New Testament as Our Rule of Faith and Practice Study Committee’s report, stated that our allegiance to the New Testament “requires us to give attention to and hold in equal importance faith and practice—what we believe and how we live it—and continues to hold scripture as the authoritative basis for both;” and,

**Whereas** the Annual Conference has made theological statements on other issues, especially as they relate to the practice of our faith, but has yet to give a clear theological statement regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ; and,

**Whereas** material produced in recent years by agencies of the Church of the Brethren have brought confusion and hurt within the denomination because of the lack of clarity on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Therefore we, the Eaton Church of the Brethren of Eaton, Ohio gathered in church council on August 18, 2002 approved asking the Annual Conference, through the Southern Ohio District, to develop a statement that articulates the church’s position on the person and redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Gregory D. Sunvold, Chairman of Church Board of Trustees  
Martin L. Peacock, Senior Pastor

**Action of the Southern Ohio District Board:** The District Board of Southern Ohio, meeting in regular session on August 24, 2002, passed the query on to District conference, which will meet October 11-12, in Eaton, OH.

David Shetler, Board Chair

Joyce Heisey, Recording Secretary

**Action of the Southern Ohio District Conference:** Passed the query to Annual Conference, Church of the Brethren, by the Southern Ohio District conference, meeting on October 11-12 at the Eaton Church of the Brethren.

Robert Bitner, Moderator

Linda Fisher, Clerk

**Action of the 2003 Annual Conference:** *The delegate body adopted the recommendation of Standing Committee that the query be returned to the Southern Ohio District with a reaffirmation of the Annual Conference statements referred to in the query and with the understanding that the teachings of the New Testament are God's standard by which the person and redemptive work of Jesus Christ is best understood.* We are concerned that any attempt to form additional statements could diminish, detract from, or confuse more than promote correct understandings. Therefore, we urge the diligent use of the Scriptures, as guided by the Holy Spirit, as we continue to search for the full meaning of the person and redemptive work of Jesus Christ.