

Sample Query

The Need for Cross Cultural Ministries

Whereas: the Church of the Brethren historically welcomed people of color including freed slaves like Samuel Weir with the right hand of fellowship but did not extend the holy kiss (2 Corinthians 13:12, “Greet one another with the Holy Kiss”); and

Whereas: the 1991 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren passed the Brethren and Black Americans paper which expressed the hope that “we may be able to move toward becoming a denomination that is more representative of the whole family of God and toward a society that is just”; and

Whereas: the words of Jesus have historically called the Church of the Brethren, as they call us now, to “go. . . and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19); and

Whereas: the changing demographics of our nation have brought the nations of the world to our doorsteps; and

Whereas: the opportunities for fulfillment of this great commission of outreach to the nations now reside within our communities, offering opportunity to enjoy the blessings of inclusion and richer fellowship in Christ; and

Whereas: the Cross Cultural Ministries Team has striven to make the denomination aware of the joy of our unity in Christ as people of color and has encouraged the denomination to include, intentionally, people of all colors and ethnic groups and languages, bearing in mind Revelation 7:9b, “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages”;

Therefore, we the Inquisitive Church of the Brethren ask – what can be done to identify and remove the barriers that exist in the Church of the Brethren that are preventing the biblical vision of Revelation 7:9 from happening within our congregations and districts?

Adopted by the Inquisitive Church of the Brethren Church Board on July 23, 2003, and passed on to Inner Central District Conference.

Isaiah Robertson, Board Chair
Mary S. Martin, Church Clerk

The Inner Central District conference, meeting at Camp International, Nevada, on August 9, 2003, unanimously approved the query for consideration by the Annual Conference meeting in 2004 at Charleston, West Virginia.

Upton Patrick, Inner Central District Moderator, 2003
Samuel Winnington, Inner Central District Recording Secretary, 2003