

**Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Unity and Variance Task Group
Summary of Survey results on Unity and Variance, March 2015**

How does affiliating with IMMC affect your church's mission?

69% (463) Support it. **12%** (89) Has no impact. **7%** (56) Hinders it. **21%** (162) Don't know.

Participation in Conference. **93%** (716) send delegates. **91%** (700) send financial support. **87%** (667) pray. **80%** (619) have members work on committees. **80%** (618) support conference organizations. **70%** (539) join with other congregation in worship and service activities.

After an appropriate process, a congregation that does not meet responsibilities outlined in the bylaws should be removed from membership: **47%** (350) Agree, **46%** (356) Disagree, **7%** (64) No answer.

Questions on Variance. (1) My congregation has **members who differ** from the following statements in *A Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (1995)

(2) I think there are **congregations** in our conference **that differ** from the following statements in *A Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (1995)

(3) After an appropriate process, I think congregations that cannot agree with the following statements in *A Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (1995) **should be removed** from conference membership.

	Members who differ	Congrega- tions that differ	Should be removed
Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.	19% (143)	11% (86)	49% (377)
Scripture is the authoritative source and standard for preaching and teaching about faith and life, for distinguishing truth from error, for discerning between good and evil, and for guiding prayer and worship.	28% (213)	38% (291)	44% (336)
Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers salvation from sin and a new way of life to all people.	16% (124)	12% (93)	49% (337)
We receive God's salvation when we repent of sin and accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.	23% (175)	18% (139)	44% (340)
Discipline supports the integrity of the church's witness. Persistent false teaching and sinful conduct undermines the proclamation and credibility of the gospel in the world.	26% (199)	39% (298)	35% (268)
The church calls both men and women to a variety of leadership ministries, including the offices of pastor, deacon, elder, and others.	25% (189)	51% (390)	19% (149)
God intends marriage to be a covenant between one man and one woman for life.	61% (470)	83% (637)	33% (254)
Disciples of Christ do not participate in military service and witness against all forms of violence.	51% (394)	60% (463)	17% (129)
The only Christian nation is the church of Jesus Christ, made up of people from every tribe and nation, called to witness to God's glory.	20% (155)	31% (236)	27% (208)

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The following statement best characterizes my personal convictions regarding decisions being faced by Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference:

59% (439) I want to be a part of a conference that allows space for congregations that dissent from the teaching position on marriage reflected in A Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995), even if that means we will lose members who disagree.

32% (241) I want to be part of a conference that removes from fellowship those congregations that dissent from the teaching position on marriage reflected in A Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995), even if that means we will lose members who disagree.

3% (20) I want to be part of a conference that removes from fellowship those congregations that do not bless same-sex marriages and advocate for a change in the church's teaching position, even if that means we will lose members who disagree.

5% (40) Other

Free form responses

64% How to care for those who disagree (492 responses)

68% What will you do if your view doesn't prevail? (526 responses)

23% Provided contact information (178 people)

44% Provided additional comments (342 responses)

15% Provided a blessing, a prayer, or thanks (116 responses)

6% Found some problem with the survey itself (45 responses)

Who filled it out?

770 responses (667 English, 3 Spanish).

Number: 61 of **73** (84%) churches had at least one respondent. Some churches are better represented: Emma (11% of all responses), Berkey Avenue (7%), Assembly (6%), Locust Grove (6%), Waterford (5%). These comprise about 35% of total number of surveys. At least 6% of respondents told us they had some problem with the survey.

Gender: 50% Female, **49%** Male, **1%** other.

Age: 69% from people 50 and above. 0-20: 1%, 21-29: 7%, 40-49: 12%, 50-59: 25%, 60-69: 23%, 70+: 21%.

Roles: 41% (312) Leaders, **73%** (564) Members, **42%** (326) Attenders, **9%** (71) Other.

Goals: How can we be faithful to Christ as we address our differences? How might we grow in the fruit of the Spirit while we passionately disagree? A way for "all members of conference [to] have the opportunity to add their voice to the discernment."

Survey Process

- Survey created by Unity and Variance Task Group, available in English and Spanish, online and in paper form
- Email sent to pastors and delegates on 1/25/15
- Followup calls and emails to churches who hadn't had any respondents
- Second email sent to pastors and delegates
- Survey closed on 2/21/15

Raw, anonymous data will be available at: <http://bit.ly/in-mi-variance-survey-sildes>

Slides available at: <http://bit.ly/in-mi-variance-survey-slides>