

# Discovery 20.21

## The reset

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- Our common basis

- We believe that to be a disciple of Jesus is to know life in the Spirit. As the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes shape in us, we grow in the image of Christ and in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is active in individual and in communal worship, leading us deeper into the experience of God.

Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective – Summary Statement – Point 18

- Our methodology

- Lean on the Holy Spirit for advice and wisdom
- Humility regarding our own thoughts
  - Recognition of our own fallibility
  - Prayers of Indifference
  - Always preferring the way of the Holy Spirit

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Philippians 3:3-8 (Message)

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The real believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ's praise as we do it. We couldn't carry this off by our own efforts, and we know it—even though we can list what many might think are impressive credentials. You know my pedigree: a legitimate birth, circumcised on the eighth day; an Israelite from the elite tribe of Benjamin; a strict and devout adherent to God's law; a fiery defender of the purity of my religion, even to the point of persecuting the church; a meticulous observer of everything set down in God's law Book.

The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant.

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## What we want to avoid

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- Further Divisiveness
- “Convincing” each other
- Making decisions because of “History”
- Making decisions because of outside pressures
- Making decisions because of our own wisdom
- Making decisions because of our own preference
- Making decisions because of fear
  - Our God is not a God of fear
  - God always provides when we follow his will
  - God doesn't give us easy tasks

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## What we want to encourage

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- Biblical Discernment
  - Through the “Priesthood of Believers”
- Seeking and finding the Will of God for your congregation

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Matthew 7:7



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### A time of “Searching for the Will of God”

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- What kinds of ministries/missions does God want for your congregation?
- How does he want your congregation to be involved in your community?
- How does he want to reach those who don't know Him?
- Does your association with SCMC help or hinder those ministries/missions?
- Does your association with MCUSA help or hinder those ministries/missions?

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, [we] press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus “

Phil 3:13-14



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## To be Crystal Clear

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- The process we are in is a discovery process
  - It is designed to inform the conference regarding the things that are important to your congregation based upon God's Call
- It is not a decision-making process
  - Decisions may eventually be made, depending upon the outcome of this process
  - But that is not the focus of this process
- SCMC Leadership will not put your congregation in a category based upon your answers. When and if decision time comes, you will have full autonomy to choose whatever option(s) are offered. These responses will be used to help determine what, if any, options are offered.
- SCMC Leadership Team holds this process loosely. Just as we ask each pastor and leadership team to be led by the Priesthood of Believers, SCMC is also led by the Priesthood of Believers through your congregations. We do not want the process to be manipulated. This is serious business.
- The Discovery process is not about what we are for
- The Discovery process is not about what we are against
- This is about where The God of the Universe is leading your congregation