**This is a preliminary draft of how same sex marriage would affect leaders’ credentials in IMC.**

**Credentialing practice**

Persons credentialed by IMC who officiate a same sex wedding or are in a same sex marriage will be designated *at variance with the Confession of Faith* *in a Mennonite Perspective*. This is not a punitive measure but it is a gesture that acknowledges disagreement around the question of same sex marriage, and acknowledges our desire to continue together despite those disagreements.

**Rationale**

There is no virtue pretending there is no disagreement by ignoring the matter in our credentialing practices. We don’t want to bury our disagreement. We want to acknowledge it and accommodate each other in forbearance. IMC is adapting previous “*at variance*” credentialing practices as a gesture that acknowledges our disagreement while continuing together as conference churches. IMC “ascribes” to the Mennonite Confession of Faith in our constitution. An *at variance* designation acknowledges the tension between same sex marriage and the Confession of Faith.

**Canvasing IMC congregations**

MLT will disseminate the proposal to congregations and be available to visit churches to answer questions. Churches are asked to give their congregation’s acceptance, non-acceptance, or other responses to the MLT by July 1. These responses will be the basis for determining IMC’s practice relative to same sex marriage.