Illinois Conference Credentialing Proposal April 2024

**To acknowledge both our disagreement around the question of same sex marriage, and our desire to continue together despite these disagreements, IMC credentials of persons who officiate a same sex wedding or are in a same sex marriage will be designated “*at variance”* withthe *Confession of Faith* *in a Mennonite Perspective*.**

Explanations

Any measures to accommodate our conflicting views will be imperfect.

We want to acknowledge our disagreement and respectfully accommodate each other.

Each viewpoint should be able to identify some accommodation of their views in this practice.

This proposal adapts various earlier “*at variance*” credentialing practices from across the church as a demonstration of mutual accommodation between different viewpoints.

There are other matters of faith and practice where persons may be “*at variance*” with the Confession of Faith. However, in this instance, “*at variance*” applies only to same sex marriage because this is the current issue that is dramatically splitting the church.

Leaders with IMC credentials will be expected to communicate their involvement with same sex marriage to the Conference Minister.

Accept \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Don’t accept \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to attach whatever comments you would like:

By agreeing to this credentialing practice, we do not relinquish our congregation's right to conscience in these matters, nor does agreeing endorse or condemn the policies of other IMC churches regarding their policies regarding same sex marriage. Rather, we value all churches in our conference and commit to respect, pray for, and love one another as fellow servants, following Jesus in the work of reconciliation of all things to God.