



Spiritual Pilgrimages 2011

Introduction

Each year during Lent, we engage in a time of personal reflection and self-examination. The reflection and examination is for the purpose of experiencing God's renewing power in our individual and community life. This also helps us all practice mutual accountability; that is, it helps us guide each other on the path of being disciples of Jesus. As is our tradition, we encourage each member, and any person who desires to covenant with us, to share their spiritual pilgrimage in their servant group or other small group.

Sharing your spiritual pilgrimage involves participation in a servant group or *Spiritual Pilgrimage* group created especially for this purpose. The *Spiritual Pilgrimage* involves responding to self-reflection questions (see pages 3-4). This year most of the questions are related to our congregation's three identity statements:

- ❖ Committing ourselves to radical and biblical spirituality
- ❖ Living in relational and accountable community
- ❖ Seeking Christ's peace within and in the world

The spiritual pilgrimage process is not for the purpose of giving or receiving advice, but for discerning God's presence, voice, and direction in your life in the context of brothers and sisters who want to hear, understand, and appreciate you.

The final step involves **Signing the Covenant** at our *agape* meal and covenanting service—which will be Wednesday evening, **April 20**, prior to Easter Sunday, April 24—and becoming involved in the life of the church. Even if you do not choose to sign the covenant, you are encouraged to give your spiritual pilgrimage. Many people have found this a helpful practice.

In giving your spiritual pilgrimage, do not spend most of the time on question #1, especially if others in your group have heard this before. The focus should be on a review of one's spiritual life and relationships during the past 12 months.

Please use the following pages as a worksheet, to guide your preparation for giving your spiritual pilgrimage and to help keep you focused when you present your spiritual pilgrimage.

Spiritual Pilgrimage Questions

1. What have been the major events that have shaped you spiritually?
2. How have you tried to take Jesus as the model for your behavior, values, habits, and attitudes?
3. How have you lived a life that is different from the behavior, values, habits, and attitudes of the society around you? How have you been a witness to that society (people outside the church) and sought to work for the common good?
4. What Christian spiritual disciplines have you practiced (for example, Bible study, prayer, journaling, meditation)? How have they helped you?
5. How have you related to others in the church, including helping each other, forgiving each other, carrying each other's burdens, encouraging each other, etc.?
6. How have you practiced the Rule of Christ (see Matthew 18:15-20)? How have you held others in the church accountable and let yourself be held accountable?
7. How have you been a steward of time, money, and possessions?

8. How have you grown in seeking inner peace, a sense of calm and trust in God no matter what the circumstances? What is the state of your physical, spiritual, and psychological wellness?

9. How have you worked to develop and maintain a just and peaceful world?

10. How have you kept learning this past year? What books and articles have you read? What classes have you taken? What experiences have taught you?

11. What are two or three goals you have for the next year?

12. Can you affirm the covenant of the Mennonite Church of the Servant as the direction for your life (see below)? Do you want to covenant on **April 20**?

Our Covenant

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ, through whom God has made friends with the world and in whom we continue the work of reconciliation.

We commit ourselves to each other, the church, to love our brothers and sisters in God's family, sharing our decisions, our talents, our time, and our possessions.

We commit ourselves to caring for the world, to bringing good news to the poor and setting free the oppressed, to proclaiming Jesus the Servant as Liberator and Lord.

We commit ourselves to the way of the cross, to a life of simplicity and prayer, in this is our joy, peace, and new life.