

**2025.04.24**

**Dear Members and Friends of Peace Mennonite Church,**

Next month, Peace Mennonite Church will host a special **Service of Repentance and Restitution** as the Western District Conference (WDC) formally apologizes and restores ministerial credentials to John Linscheid, the first pastor of what was then known as Lawrence Mennonite Fellowship.

In 1984, John courageously came out as gay and shared with the congregation about his relationship with Ken White, who would become his partner for over 40 years. In response, the WDC revoked John's ministerial credentials and ended financial support for our young congregation. As a result, Lawrence Mennonite Fellowship had to say goodbye to John.

Over the last months, the Western District Conference has walked a path of reconciliation with John, a journey that will culminate in this meaningful service. John has chosen to hold the service here in Lawrence. While we deeply mourn the absence of Ken White and his passing earlier this year, we want to celebrate this moment with John and honor his journey.

We are honored to host this significant occasion, and **you are warmly invited to attend.**

**Details of the Service:**

- **Sunday, May 11**
- **4:00 PM** (during our usual Gracious Space time)
- **Peace Mennonite Church**

For those who wish to join virtually, please contact the WDC office at [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) to request the Zoom link. *(Please note, this service will not use the usual PMC Zoom link.)*

After the service, we invite everyone to stay for a **fellowship meal**. We anticipate a number of guests and plan to serve local barbecue. If you're local to Lawrence, consider bringing a side dish or dessert as we continue the celebration together.

With gratitude and hope,  
*Peace Mennonite Church*