

February 11, 2010

Dear Brethren

As most of you are aware, at the Sarasota Minister's Meeting the Bishop Committee gave some suggestions for you to consider regarding the direction of our Beachy Constituency. It seems that we have not been immune to the pressures of the society around us and so find ourselves in need of refreshing our definition of what it means to be part of the Beachy constituency. In an earlier time in our history there were some clearly defined parameters and a process of approval that helped us understand who was considered Beachy and who was not. We have benefited greatly from our openness to a wider range of fellowship than many groups are comfortable with; but with the acceleration of changes among us and the widening gaps between us, it seems good to this Committee that there be some clarification of the boundaries of our constituency.

We want to guard against a spirit of exclusion to our fellowship but do believe that the direction of our constituency and its ministries should be given by those who continue to share similar commitments. The less we are agreed the more difficult it becomes to walk together. We think it should be evident that no church is obligated to be "Beachy", but also evident that to be "Beachy" also means upholding practices that are generally compatible with the constituency's historical view of biblical application. It seems that the wide variation among those of us who fellowship together will only continue to grow unless some parameters are accepted.

This questionnaire is our attempt to get your input on how to proceed with this issue. Is it something that concerns you? If so, how could we proceed in such a way that preserves both congregational autonomy and maintains an appropriate consistency within our group. Here is your opportunity to give your personal perspective on this issue. Please feel free to call any member of the committee if you would like to discuss this further.

Please give us your input on the questionnaire and return it to us by February 20. Feel free to add additional comments on any aspect of this not mentioned in the questionnaire. If you do not respond, we will assume that you are supportive of our efforts to move in the direction recommended in Sarasota. Thank you for your prompt participation.

The Bishop Committee

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Mail questionnaires to:

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Or: Request electronic questionnaire by emailing  
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## Bishop Committee Questionnaire 2010

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Would you be supportive of the Committee's thought that the non-use of the radio has been a defining issue for the Beachy Constituency?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, please explain.

Would there be other items you would consider to be defining?

2. Would you be supportive of the Committee's suggestion that we consider establishing criteria for those who would serve on constituency committees and vote on constituency issues?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, please explain.

3. Do you see value in a clearer definition of what is Beachy?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

4. If so, what should define us as a constituency?

What we are against/trying to avoid \_\_\_\_\_

What we are for/where we are going \_\_\_\_\_

Both \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain your answer:

5. What do you see as the strengths our constituency has?

6. What are our weaknesses?