

## *Charlotte District E-Pistle*

February 25, 2008

Colleagues:

I am writing this to remind you that you have two more days to get into my office the registration of your church for the Spring Seminar, March 9-10. We have planned for this event for over a year now because we are excited about our seminar leader and the relevance of the topic. Dr. Richard Blackburn is the Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. He will address healthy churches and all that are vulnerable to dissention and rancor. On Sunday he will primarily speak to our laity on the theme, "Healthy Congregations: An Introduction to Emotional Process in the Church." Pastors will want to accompany their laity team for this afternoon and evening of focused challenge. On Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Dr. Blackburn will structure the morning and afternoon for addressing clergy and program staff on the related subjects of "The Church and Change in an Age of Anxiety", "The Importance of Not Being Earnest: Playfulness and Nonanxious Presence," and "Leadership in the Midst of Anxiety."

**We need your registration in order to plan for the seating and meals. If a pastor cannot attend due to unavoidable circumstances, that pastor is still responsible for sending a team of representative leadership.**

This will be a creative time of learning for all of us. Moreover, our presence will be a supportive statement to those colleagues among us who are struggling with divisions within their congregation. These colleagues need our empathetic ear.

Grace and peace,

*George*