Assembly Welcome statement

As a reconciling faith community, Assembly Mennonite Church seeks to follow Jesus' example by welcoming all who come our way, regardless of age, economic or social circumstances, ethnic background, gender, marital status, physical ability, race, or sexual orientation.

- adopted December 1999

Why look at this now?

- We often speak about how being a welcoming congregation is important to us. As such, it is good practice to periodically review our statements that communicate this.
- Our current statement is over twenty years old. In 1999, our culture was different; Assembly was different. And the language we used for categorizing people's experiences has changed.
- During a recent 2nd Hour, we watched a video about trans people and the church, and the speaker in the video encouraged congregations to review and update their Welcome statements.

Some initial questions:

1. Do we need a Welcome Statement, and if so, why? How do we think about its purpose?

2. How does the 1999 statement read to you today? What do you like, not like, or what is missing?

3. What is important to include in a new statement (if we write one)? What initial thoughts do you have about what it should say and/or how it is drafted?

It is important to note that a well-crafted Welcome Statement, by itself, does not make us welcoming. We will talk at future meetings about what else is needed in terms of actions and commitments to be a more welcoming congregation.