

Editorial

Gordon Zerbe
Canadian Mennonite Bible College
Canadian Mennonite University

What kind of event is it: sign, corporate symbol, sacrament, ordinance, ceremony, ritual? What really happens in the event? Who should preside and serve? What occasions or contexts are appropriate for enacting the event: formal church gatherings only, or also other informal gatherings of Christians? Who is welcome to participate? What preparatory activities are proper: self-examination, corporate sharing or reconciliation, table fellowship? How should the physical dynamics be orchestrated: rows, queue toward a table, circles around tables, common cup, individual cups? When and how often is it best celebrated? How has Mennonite practice of it evolved? How experimental might the celebration be? What varied biblical texts or themes might be used to enhance the practice? Finally, what should we call it: Communion (from the KJV's translation of *koinonia*, "partnership," in 1 Cor. 10:16), the Eucharist ("thanksgiving," from 1 Cor. 11:24, as historically in the Roman Catholic tradition and increasingly in Protestant circles), the Lord's Supper (or "banquet," from 1 Cor. 11:20), the Agapé ("love feast," in Jude 12)?

This issue of *Vision* addresses a number, although not all, of these persistent questions. In fact, some of the articles don't so much provide final answers as seek to provoke discussion and dialogue.

Thank you to those among our readers who have offered response of various kinds. As this new journal project gets underway, we welcome your reactions and suggestions on topics and types of contributions.

The next issue, to be released in fall 2001, will focus on the theme of personal transformation, and will be edited by Daniel Schipani of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.