

## Editorial

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**W**ith delight we introduce this inaugural issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology*. Coming to fruition is an idea that has been ripening for years on both sides of the border. A shared dream has now taken shape as a cooperative publishing venture. In prosaic terms, the vision for *Vision* is to engender theological reflection on the identity, mission, and practices of the church from an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective. The journal will take a clear look at the knotty theological and ethical issues pastors and other church leaders face in the hurly-burly of congregational life. To that end, *Vision* seeks a niche somewhere between academic journals and church magazines.

We hope *Vision* will become a vital component of churchly dialogue. We hope it will be present wherever people are thinking hard about the church in the world. We hope it will be a part of whatever people are saying about the life and mission of the church. We anticipate that ideas will flow out of and into its pages to and from those who lead the church.

The theme of this first issue is spirituality. When the editorial council met, this topic emerged as one that unites and divides, is at home in the church and also crosses the boundaries of church and society in ways that are sometimes healing and sometimes disconcerting. How to assess current spirituality movements, how to affirm Christian spirituality, how to nurture a faltering spirituality are all questions that have an impact on our congregations. We intend the articles in this issue not to answer all these questions but to stimulate thinking and invite responses.

We invite you to become a subscriber. The theme of the second issue, to be published in the spring of 2001, is the Eucharist. Is it the Eucharist or communion? What does the observance mean? How should we celebrate it? Do we include children? If so, how? The third issue, in the fall of 2001, will address the topic of transformation—no, not the denominational

merger, but personal transformation. How do people change? How do we become more like Christ? What is the educational mission of the church?

We want the journal to be interactive. We encourage responses—to the authors of the articles, to the editors, to the editorial council. We welcome suggestions for future issues and writers as well. While this publication is a joint project of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, through the Institute of

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Mennonite Studies, and Canadian Mennonite Bible College (now partner in Canadian Mennonite University), our intent is to involve a broad spectrum of people and ideas. Whatever your interest or role in the church we invite your participation in the discussion of the work and thought of the kingdom of God.

Credit must go to administrators Gerald Gerbrandt and Harry Huebner of CMBC, and Willard Swartley and Nelson Kraybill of AMBS, for their roles in envisioning, shepherding, and supporting the emergence of the journal. We also express gratitude to the authors who contributed to this issue, who have gone out of their way to complete thought-provoking articles on time. We are also grateful to designer Gwen Miller for giving *Vision* its look. Finally, our thanks to staff—especially Barbara Nelson Gingerich and Mary Klassen of AMBS—who worked energetically to bring this inaugural issue to completion.