

## “THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM: THE PASTOR MUST GO!!”

Far too often the Bishop’s Reconciliation Team is called in to confirm and enforce a conclusion which is one-sided, full of emotion, and far from any possibility of working at reconciliation.

Even in the face of such difficult situations, the reconciliation team enters into ministry with conflicted congregations. The results, however, are very mixed. In those cases where we are confronted with “my mind is made up” the results are generally poor. The team works hard to try to move folks to a position of reconciliation.

The Report to Upper Susquehanna Synod

### The Bishops Reconciliation Team

June 2017

#### What’s the solution to this predicament? Here are some thoughts.

Ask for help as soon as you sense difficulties. That’s not easy for a couple of reasons. First, we don’t like to think that we can’t handle things. Secondly, most of us don’t recognize the signs of conflict. One of the members of the Reconciliation Team compiled a list of symptoms. We share just a few of those with you.

- feelings of being unheard or disregarded
- stony silence in meetings
- gossip and other indirect communication
- anonymous notes, phone calls
- personal character attacks rather than dealing with issues
- people cannot even talk about the conflict
- impasses
- inability to stay focused on a single issue

There are lots more. Here’s the bottom line--if anybody even wonders that maybe the congregation needs assistance, then it’s time to seek help. Call the Reconciliation Team.

A third resistance is perceiving disagreements and conflicts as being destructive.

Actually, conflict is an opportunity for strengthening ministry. A sign of a healthy congregation is that it seeks and encourages the adverse opinion. That congregation experiences the richness of diversity and grows in ministry.

Well, enough. The Bishop’s Reconciliation Team looks to minister with congregations in conflict. We work best when we can enter the congregation before the conflict becomes intense. Before emotions are so inflamed that there seems to be but one solution.

Contacting the Reconciliation Team is easy. The congregation council or the pastor contacts Bishop Collins or the chair of the team, Pastor Jim Bricker. ([gymbri@embarqmail.com](mailto:gymbri@embarqmail.com); 717 512-1026) That’s all there is to it.

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Questions or comments? Talk to any member of the Bishop’s Reconciliation Team: Cinda Crissinger, Cindy Bilger, The Rev. David Byerly, George Jansson, The Rev. Karl Runser, Kenneth Roush, The Rev. MarthaSue Moll, Megan Weaver, The Rev. Rich Fangman, The Rev. Kerry Aucker, The Rev. Jim Bricker, chair and Bishop Collins.