**Order of Worship for Delegate Session March 2016**

Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship

Will Fitzgerald

**Morning worship**

[Brief introduction to the structure of worship]

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, let us join in singing the hymn “Brethren, we have met to worship,” standing as you are able. (Key of A, Start on E. Maybe sing a little lower).

You may be seated.

Thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, “I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a humble and contrite spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the spirit of the contrite.” (Isa 57:15)

As part of our worship today, we will partake of communion. In preparation for that, and for our time together, let us confess our sins before God and our neighbor.

Before I take the body of the Lord, before I share his life in bread and

wine, I recognize the sorry things within: these I lay down.

*Silent prayer*

The words of hope I often failed to give, the prayers of kindness buried in

my pride, the signs of care I argued out of sight: these I lay down.

*Silent prayer*

The narrowness of vision and of mind, the need for other folk to serve my

will, and every word and silence meant to hurt: these I lay down.

*Silent prayer*

Of those around in whom I meet my Lord, I ask their pardon and I grant

them mine, that every contradiction to Christ’s peace might be laid down.

*Silent prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast, I empty now my heart and

stretch my hands, and ask to meet you here in bread and wine which you

lay down. Amen

Hymn: Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Key of A, Start on So)

Read Psalm 87 **Barb**

Ride on, King Jesus! (Key of D, Start on D)

Jesus rides on a milk white horse

*No one can hinder thee*

The river Jordan he did cross

*No one can hinder thee*

If you want to find your way to God

*No one can hinder thee*

The gospel highway must be trod

*No one can hinder thee*

I was young when I begun

*No one can hinder thee*

But now my race is almost run

*No one can hinder thee*

Let us stand for the reading of the gospel.

Gospel Lesson **Reader 2**

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

The word of the Lord:

*Thanks be to God*

We come together today to do what we hope will be the Lord’s business. And the Lord requires of us that our business is to love one another and to love God. Our service and our worship are woven together; worship doesn’t happen *here* and service doesn’t happen *there*. All our service is an act of worship; all our worship is an act of service.

To encircle this day as an act of worship, we turn now to begin the celebration of the Lord’s supper. This morning, we will take the first element: the bread. This afternoon, before we leave, will will take the second element: the cup. Paul reminds us that at the Last Supper, the original Lord’s supper, Jesus and the disciples took the cup *after the meal*.

In a minute, I’ll invite our Dan Miller, our conference minister, Gene Hartman, our conference moderator, and Paula Killough, the vice-moderator, to come forward. I will serve them, and they will stand in front and serve us. All are invited to the Lord's table who have been baptized into the community of faith, are living at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in the faith, and are willing to be accountable in their congregation.

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed, as he was were eating with his disciples, took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take; eat; this is my body which is for you. I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Bless, O Christ, the bread that we break,

Make it the bread of our holy communion with you.

Open our eyes that we might see you by faith,

On the cross, our reconciliation with God

May your immeasurable act of generosity

Draw us to love you and serve you always, *Amen*

Eat, beloved, eat the Lord’s bread!

*Dan, Gene, Paula to come forward. Serve, they eat. Invite others.*

Hymn during communion: Eat this bread (start on D)

You may be seated.

If we are to do the work of the church, to do the Lord’s work, we will need wisdom. James tells us if we lack wisdom, we are to ask our God, who gives generously to all who ask, and God will provide us with wisdom.

So, let us pray.

First, I would like us to have a time of open prayer, inviting all who feel lead to do so to pray for our work together today.

*Open prayer*

Second, I invite you to look to your left, or look to your right, and find one other person. Let’s spend a short time for one person praying – out loud is fine – for the other person. And then I will ask you to switch, and have the second person pray for the first. If you don’t know each other, introduce yourselves! And maybe even if you do know each other, say your name.

I would ask that you continue to pray for this person through the day.

Third, let us sing a hymn asking for God’s Spirit to “fall afresh on us.”

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God. (Start on A)

The blessing:

God be in our head, and in our understanding;

God be in our eyes, and in our looking;

God be in our mouth, and in our speaking;

God be in our heart, and in our thinking;

God be at our end, and at our departing.

**Afternoon worship** (move chairs back to worship space if possible)

I invite you to sing with me one verse of *Thou true vine*. (Go over tune: AABA) (Sing on A)

We will now return to our celebration of the Lord’s supper. As before, I will invite Dan, Gene, and Paula to serve. As before, all are invited to the Lord's table who have been baptized into the community of faith, are living at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in the faith, and are willing to be accountable in their congregation. If you were not present this morning, Gene will be serving the bread.

The words of institution:

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed, after supper, took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Bless the cup, O Lord,

Make it the communion of your blood,

So that we may find rest for our souls and joy for our journey. *Amen*

Drink, beloved, drink the Lord’s cup!

*Invite Dan, Gene, Paula forward; serve them. They serve others.*

As a final hymn together, let us sing Heart with Loving Hearts United (sing on G)