

Bearing Witness Statement

I am here to bear witness to what we have heard. To Evie Shellenberger; thank you for your courage to speak to this assembly. Yours was not an easy task, revisiting a time of deep pain.

To Sara Wenger Shenk: I am profoundly grateful for the strength of spirit you have demonstrated since you accepted the Presidency of AMBS. With admirable courage and grace you undertook an investigation into the troubling legacy you inherited. Your leadership brought us together today. Thank you.

To the current Board members who have joined us today to lament with us, commit to policies and practices designed to prevent abuse and to proceed with greater transparency if it does. Thank you.

To the employees of AMBS: thank you for your lament, your diligence in assessing Yoder writings, and your commitment to abide by the AMBS sexual misconduct policy, thereby creating a safe space where honor and integrity toward all will be maintained.

In bearing witness, I am stating publicly we have heard you, acknowledge your confessions and apologies and in return extend deep gratitude to each of you. We respond with appreciation, your commitment to work toward creating a safe space for all who walk these halls; students, teachers, administrators, staff and guests.

May this day lighten the burdens you carry. May forgiveness and healing, seasoned with grace, bring new hope and courage to you and to all who now lead, and will lead AMBS.

Martha Smith Good

March 22, 2015

Service of Lament, Confession and Commitment