

# Minister appeals conference decision after two-year probation

**Kitchener, Ont.**—The Leadership Commission of the Mennonite Conference of Eastern Canada is satisfied that Dalton Jantzi of Toronto has met the conditions of his probation period which began March 7, 1995.

But the lifting of probation will be accompanied by a change in ministerial status and ongoing limitations.

At a March 7 meeting the commission took the following action:

“Effective on April 6, 1997, Dalton Jantzi will be recognized as a “minister in specialized ministry,” with ongoing limitations which restrict him to ministry settings in which women and children are not part of the ministry context and that he not lead or assist in leading public events except as related to the specific ministry setting in which he is employed.”

Jantzi has appealed the action. As a result, the date for the end of probation and the change of ministerial status has been revised to June 12.

Following persistent rumours about violation of sexual boundaries by

Jantzi at Warden Woods Mennonite Church in Toronto, the conference investigated Jantzi and placed him on probation two years ago.

Sanctions relating to his work at Black Creek Faith Community, also in Toronto, prohibited him from being alone with women or children during that time. He was required to pay the victims/survivors and the conference an agreed upon sum and to seek therapy during this time.

The Leadership Commission has received regular reports from his therapist and an accountability group during the past two years. According to the commission, to the best of its knowledge there have been no incidents of sexual boundary crossing by Jantzi at the Black Creek church.

In determining Jantzi's future ministerial credentials, the commission consulted churchwide resources, spoke with his therapist, and met with victims/survivors and their advocate, the Warden Woods church, the Mission and Service Commission, and the accountability group.

The commission followed the *Guidelines for Discipline Regarding Ministerial Credentials* (Mennonite Church, 1993), read the statements of survivors, prayed and sought legal counsel.

The decision changes Jantzi's status from “Pastor in a congregation” to “Minister in specialized ministry.”

“We recognize that Dalton is a person with significant gifts for ministry and that there is a loss to the church resulting from the above decision,” stated a March 7 release from MCEC.

“However, the Leadership Commission has considered ‘the broader picture,’ including the scope and implications of Dalton's multiple sexual boundary violations, the impact upon the victims and their families, concern for Dalton and his family, the congregations affected, and the Biblical injunction that persons ordained for leadership roles represent the highest standard of moral behaviour.”

Those wishing further information can call Leadership Commission member Anna Andres through the conference office at (519) 650-3806.—From conference release

“We target issues; we don't target people,” said a representative. The Jesuit Order says it will withdraw funding from the Jesuit centre's projects, but that this is related to its financial deficit, not to the poster.—Ecumenical News International

## Churches call for action on climate change

**Toronto, Ont.**—The Canadian Council of Churches is urging Christians to sign a petition calling for stronger measures to stop the pollution that causes climate changes. In a letter to the government, the church council states that Canada is one of the world's largest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases, that these “threaten the ecological balance of God's creation,” and that the most serious consequences will fall on poorer countries and future generations. The petition is part of an initiative by the World Council of Churches in many countries.—From MCC Ottawa Office