



**Central  
District  
Conference**  
A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

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***Knowing  
Christ's love...  
Answering  
God's Call***

February 21, 2018

Dear brothers and sisters of Emmanuel Mennonite Church,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Lord of the church. Over the past ten months I have been in conversation with Pastor Eve McMaster via phone calls and emails regarding possibly affiliating with Central District Conference (CDC).

In August I received a letter from Lee Miller, Southeast Mennonite Conference Administrator stating their openness to having you explore joining CDC. In September I received a letter from Kay Martin, Chair of EMC Council, officially requesting to begin the discernment process for joining CDC. On September 29, 2017, the CDC Board of Directors affirmed moving forward with the membership process. On November 12, 2017 I had the privilege of meeting with a dozen or so folks from your congregation and heard more about your desire to join Central District Conference. I appreciated your hospitality and questions as we learned to know one another.

We recognize the importance of being connected with other congregations for support and accountability. We understand the purpose of joining together as congregations, the purpose of being a conference, is to provide encouragement and mutuality between congregations. We also recognize the importance of clear communication and the tending of relationships between both the sending and receiving conferences of MC USA and the congregation discerning reaffiliation.

Below are steps that we believe will help foster good process and relationships as we discern together the Spirit's leading.

1. Please refer to and follow the membership guidelines from MC USA regarding changing conferences. A copy is enclosed.
2. We invite you to consider the CDC membership criteria affirmed by delegates in June 2010. These criteria, which are enclosed, include the requirements established in our constitution. Please provide a written response indicating your understanding and support of the membership criteria prior to our Annual Meeting, June 22-24, 2017.

3. We invite you to attend our CDC Annual Meeting at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN on June 21-23, 2018. At the meeting you will be introduced to the delegates. Arman Habegger, CDC President, will contact Pastor Eve in the coming weeks to talk more about this.
4. Throughout the year, you are invited to participate fully in CDC activities and events, receive our publications, interact with our members and leadership as we continue to discern together God's leading toward possible membership.
5. Assuming continued interest by both Emmanuel Mennonite Church and Central District Conference, the delegates to our June 2019 Annual Meeting would vote on membership.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or other CDC leadership when questions arise. May God's grace, wisdom and peace be with you during this season of discernment.

In Christ's love,



Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister



Arman Habegger, CDC President Elect