



Southeast Mennonite Conference

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January 19, 2017

John Wierwille
Berea Mennonite Church
1088 Bouldercrest Drive S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30316

Dear John,

Greetings in Jesus name.

This letter is a follow up to the conversation regarding the Berea congregation's desire to explore leaving Southeast Mennonite Conference (SMC) in order to join Central District Conference (CDC).

The SMC Leadership Board along with Marco Guete, Conference Minister and I, newly appointed Conference Administrator, met on Saturday, January 14, 2017.

We processed your original letter of March 24, 2016, along with the more recent email conversations. We also discussed phone conversations that have taken place between leadership from Berea and SMC leadership which addressed each group's questions and concerns, particularly Berea's desire to be sure that they remain a part of Mennonite Church USA in the future. As a result, we grant Berea Mennonite Church permission to have conversations with CDC to discuss the possibility of affiliating with them. Should you decide to ask for a release from SMC, our bylaws require that we receive verification of this process being made by the congregation. This verification could come in either a letter signed by the majority of the members of the congregation, or a copy of the minutes of a congregational meeting where this decision is made. In either case, we would also ask for a letter signed by your elders asking for a release as well.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation with this process.

My prayer is that God may continue to bless the ministry of Berea Mennonite Church.

Sincerely,

Lee Miller
Conference Administrator and District Minister