



November 28, 2017

Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister  
Central District Conference  
1015 Division St.  
Goshen, IN 46528

sent by e-mail to [confmin@mcusacdc.org](mailto:confmin@mcusacdc.org)

Dear Doug,

This is Jubilee Mennonite Church's request to join Central District Conference. We met as a congregation in November, 2016 and April, 2016 and then voted in September, 2017 by 96 % to begin the discernment process with CDC. That ballot read:

"Jubilee will begin the two-year process of affiliation with Central District Conference, remain in Ohio Conference during that interim, and consider the question of single or dual affiliation at the end of the affiliation process with CDC."

We did not reach a decision as to whether to leave Ohio Conference but agreed to revisit this discussion depending on the results of discernment and entry into CDC.

Jubilee is a small fellowship of approximately 25 families. It began in 1996 and grew by merger with Bellefontaine Community Fellowship in 2000. We have had two pastors, Tim Lehman and Tony Doehrmann. Tony is retiring at the end of this year. Jubilee has decided to delay hiring another pastor for the first half of 2018, and reassess our need at that time.

Our discussion to request affiliation with CDC grew out of the LGBTQ discussion and many of our member's concerns with the strained relationship between Ohio Conference and MCUSA. In September, 2017, the group also adopted a new welcoming statement that reads:

"Jubilee welcomes all people who wish to be in covenant with Christ to full participation in the activities and life of our church."

This statement evolved from a multi-year discussion in congregational meetings, small-groups and adult Sunday school.

While this discussion is not the sole reason for our desire to affiliate with CDC, it has been the crucible in which the decision was made. Many in the congregation feel out-of-step with Ohio Conference's statements and policies around this discussion. But more so, many expressed an admiration for CDC's focus on congregational autonomy and vision of being a gathering of

sibling congregations, as expressed in CDC's Conference polity statement. We sent six people to CDC's Bluffton Conference this past summer and all came away impressed with the feeling of unity there. As shown by our vote on this issue, we had near consensus on this decision.

We have been open about this discussion with Ohio Conference regional pastor, Cliff Brubaker. Cliff attended our April, 2017 congregational meeting and has had several discussions with either Pastor Tony and or with me as church chair.

We are excited to begin this new partnership. Our Leadership Team looks forward to working with you in the discernment process.

Peace and blessings,

*/Jeffrey C Snapp/*  
Jeff Snapp, Chair

*/Tony Doehrmann/*  
Tony Doehrmann, Pastor

*/Russ Miller/*  
Russ Miller

*/Karla Kauffman/*  
Karla Kauffman

*/Jeri Rumsey/*  
Jeri Rumsey