



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

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

April 14, 2021

Keller Park Church  
1003 W. Bryan St.  
South Bend, IN 46616

Dear friends of Keller Park Church,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Over the past couple of years, Anna Yoder Schlabach (CDC president) and I (CDC conference minister) have enjoyed learning about Keller Park Church and your discernment regarding denominational affiliation, mostly through conversations with Pastors Carrie and David. More recently, we appreciated meeting with your denominational exploration committee (Feb. 18), board of trustees (Mar. 3), and members of the congregation (Mar. 17) through various Zoom meetings. We affirm your careful, transparent, and faithful discernment and keeping us informed along the way.

We received your formal request to join Central District Conference in a letter dated April 1, 2021. At a CDC board of directors meeting on April 9, the board unanimously and enthusiastically affirmed moving forward with your membership request.

As one of the 16 conferences of Mennonite Church USA, and as a conference of 46 congregations, we recognize the importance of being connected with other conferences and congregations for support and accountability. We understand the purpose of being a conference is to provide encouragement, share resources, and build mutually beneficial relationships between congregations.

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

1. All congregations seeking membership with CDC are expected to be familiar with and support the ["Membership Criteria"](#) of the conference. In your letter dated April 1, 2021, you stated, "We have read and support the CDC constitution, polity statement, and membership criteria." Thank you for your support.
2. We invite you to participate in our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 26 via video conference. (The details of this meeting are forthcoming.) At the meeting you will be introduced to the delegates. Either Anna Yoder

Schlabach, CDC President, or I will contact Pastors David and Carrie in the coming weeks to talk more about this. Perhaps a prerecorded video of no more than 4 minutes could be used as a way of introducing the congregation to delegates and guests.

3. 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.
4. Our CDC ministerial committee will be in conversation with Pastors Carrie and David regarding credentialing in CDC and Mennonite Church USA.
5. Assuming continued interest by both Keller Park Church and Central District Conference, the delegates at our June 2022 Annual Meeting would vote on membership.

Please don't hesitate to contact us 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



Anna Yoder Schlabach, CDC President