



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

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

April 7, 2020

Dear friends of Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Lord of the church. Over the past several months I (Doug) have enjoyed learning about your vision for Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship as we've exchanged emails and talked on the phone. On March 1, 2020, Karla Minter and I worshipped with you and shared a meal together. In a letter dated March 13, 2020, our Central District Conference (CDC) board of directors received your formal request to begin the process of joining CDC. And on April 3, 2020 the CDC board of directors unanimously affirmed your request to begin this process.

As a conference of 46 congregations, we recognize the importance of being connected with other congregations for support and accountability. We understand the purpose of being a conference is to provide encouragement and mutuality between congregations.

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

1. 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 by April 30 so we can print this in our report book for delegates. (Please include a statement of purpose/faith for GRMF in your response.) If this is not possible by April 30, we must receive it prior to our Annual Meeting on June 27, 2020.
2. We invite you to participate in our abbreviated Annual Meeting on Saturday morning, June 27 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 Alaina in the coming weeks to talk more about this.
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. Assuming continued interest by both Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship and Central District Conference, the delegates at our June 2021 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