



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

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

February 9, 2023

St. Louis Mennonite Fellowship
3752 Giles Ave,
Saint Louis, MO 63116
Via email to Pastor Jennifer Harris Dault, doveintheattic@gmail.com

Dear friends of St. Louis Mennonite Fellowship,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Through email correspondence and Zoom calls with Pastor Jennifer over the past months, we have been aware of your interest to transfer your affiliation from Illinois Mennonite Conference to Central District Conference. We understand this was a deliberative discernment process which ended in affirmation by the congregation. We are also aware that Illinois Mennonite Conference has been informed of your decision through conference moderator Darrel Miller. We affirm your careful discernment.

We received your formal request to join Central District Conference in a letter dated January 30, 2023. At a CDC board of directors meeting on February 6, the board unanimously and enthusiastically affirmed moving forward with your membership request. This is a two-step process in that you would be introduced to CDC delegates at our June 2023 Annual Meeting and then affirmed by delegates at our June 2024 Annual Meeting.

As one of the 16 conferences of Mennonite Church USA, and as a conference of 45 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. We recognize that some within your congregation will already be familiar with Central District Conference since you were part of CDC some years ago. Welcome back!

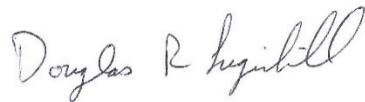
Below are steps that we believe will help foster good process and relationships as we discern together the Spirit's leading.

1. All congregations seeking membership with CDC are expected to be familiar with and support the "[Membership Criteria](#)" of the conference. We would request a letter stating your support of these criteria, preferably by April 1, 2023.

2. We invite you to participate in our Mid-Year gathering at First Mennonite Church, Champaign-Urbana on March 4, 2023. You can find information about that [HERE](#). You are also invited to our Annual Meeting at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN on June 22-24. (The details of this meeting are forthcoming.) At the meeting you will be introduced to the delegates. Either James Rissler, CDC President, or I will contact Pastor Jennifer 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, and interact with our members and leadership as we continue to discern together God's leading toward possible membership.
4. I have already met with your Pastor Search Committee and enjoyed getting to know some of your members.
5. Sometime prior to our June Annual Meeting, I and another board member would like to worship with you, get to know you, and respond to any questions you might have.
6. Assuming continued interest by both St. Louis Mennonite Fellowship and Central District Conference, the delegates at our June 2024 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

James Rissler, President of the CDC Board of Directors