

Dear Chuck,

Thank you for joining us on June 11, 2023, and sharing in our journey as we discern where the Lord wants us to be within MC-USA. This discussion, as well as the one we shared with you on November 20, 2022, was very helpful. In response to those meetings, please regard this email as the official request from Knoxville Mennonite Church to move our conference membership from Virginia Mennonite Conference to the Central District Conference.

As we have shared, KMC has deliberated this decision to move from Virginia Conference for many years. We are aware that our understanding of the role of women in Christian ministry differs from that of many other congregations in VMC. We also believe that God is calling our congregation to be more accepting of members of the LGBTQ+ community than is the case for many congregations in the Conference. Though we treasure our history and continuing relationships with members of TCKD and VMC, we believe the conference does not accurately represent our understanding of the inclusion of women in church ministries and of our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ+ community in the full life of the church.

Therefore we ask that you please submit our request to the TCKD and VMC and keep us informed as this process moves forward.

Very sincerely,

Melissa Mink
Lead elder at Knoxville Mennonite Church