



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

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

February 5, 2024

Knoxville Mennonite Church  
c/o Melissa Mink; mmink3@gmail.com

Dear friends of Knoxville Mennonite Church,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. In June of 2023 I had conversations with Melissa Mink and Chuck Hostetter (Virginia Mennonite Conference District Minister) regarding your exploration of transferring your membership from Virginia Mennonite Conference to Central District Conference (CDC). On January 11, 2024 I received word from Melissa that your congregation was officially seeking membership with CDC. I had email communication with Chuck Hostetter and also with Michael Danner and Glen Guyton of Mennonite Church USA regarding your desire to transfer membership. On January 22, Jan Luginbill, our CDC board president and I met with your Elders via Zoom to learn more about your discernment and your reasons for making this transition.

We received your formal request to join Central District Conference in a letter dated January 20, 2024. At a CDC board of directors meeting on February 2, the board unanimously affirmed moving forward with your membership request.

As one of the 15 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 support, 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. A letter affirming your support of the Membership Criteria must be received prior to full membership in CDC.
2. We invite you to participate in our Annual Meeting at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN, June 20-22, 2024. At the meeting you will be introduced to the delegates. Either Jan Luginbill or I will contact Melissa in the coming weeks to talk more about this. You will have ten minutes to tell us about your

congregation, briefly describe your discernment process and reasons for wanting to join CDC.

3. Our CDC board of directors recently approved creating a Provisional Membership category for congregations seeking to join CDC. This needs to be approved by our delegates at this year's Annual Meeting. We are quite confident that delegates will affirm this recommendation. Thus, when you are released from Virginia Mennonite Conference in July, 2024, you will be recognized as a Provisional Member of CDC which allows you to continue membership in MC USA and allows us to receive the credentials of your pastor.
4. Prior to April 1, 2025 you may request full membership in CDC. Should you choose to do so, the delegates at our June 2025 Annual Meeting would be informed of your desire to join as full members. Then, at our June 2026 Annual Meeting, delegates would be asked to affirm welcoming you as full members.
5. As Provisional Members, you are invited to participate fully in CDC activities and events, utilize our resources and support, receive our publications, interact with our members and leadership as we continue to discern together God's leading toward possible membership. The only restriction is that only full members are able to vote on decisions brought to the delegates.
6. Our CDC ministerial committee will be in conversation with Pastor Pat McFarren regarding the transfer of his credential and expectations of CDC pastors. Please let us know if there are other credentialed persons in your congregation.

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

*Jan Luginbill*, DL

Jan Luginbill, CDC President