



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

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

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PEACE Mennonite Fellowship
c/o Stacy Lehman, raymlynn.2011@gmail.com

Dear friends of PEACE Mennonite Fellowship,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. In June of 2023 I had conversations with Sheila Gruenhagen regarding your emerging community of faith and the possibility of joining Central District Conference as a new congregation. Over the next several months I had conversations with others from the congregation. On November 19, 2023 I worshipped with your congregation. I shared a message, talked about Central District Conference, and responded to questions. On January 22, 2024 I received word from Stacy Lehman that your congregation was officially seeking membership with CDC.

We received your formal request to join Central District Conference in a letter dated January 29, 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, on June 22 you will be recognized as a Provisional Member of CDC which allows you to be recognized as a congregation of MC USA and allows us to receive the credentials of anyone in your congregation who is ordained in MC USA.
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 your credentialed persons regarding the transfer of credentials and expectations of CDC pastors. Please let us know who these credentialed persons are 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