

January 29, 2024

Dear Central District Conference Board of Directors:

On behalf of our fellowship, we are requesting to join Central District Conference. From the beginning, we have desired to belong to a Mennonite Conference and ultimately Mennonite Church USA. Our process of arriving at this decision included inviting Doug Luginbill to speak at PEACE Mennonite Fellowship, with a question and answer time following. We had similar discussions with Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. After this, we polled the fellowship and found the majority preferred to join CDC, which was then confirmed by an affirmation poll.

PEACE Mennonite is a conglomeration of people from many different congregations in the area who wanted to be a part of an affirming church. The group began meeting in June of 2023 and quickly grew to approximately 75 people associating themselves with PEACE Mennonite Fellowship, with an average worship service attendance of 80 people. Because of the size of the group, a Steering Committee was formed and tasked with beginning the process of leading the fellowship. In the fall, the Steering Committee recommended that Dave Elkins be brought on as the fellowship's ministry leader, a role which allows him to organize worship each Sunday, provide pastoral care as needed, and give shape to the first hour discussion groups, among other things.

While a worship planning team has been in place from the beginning, we also have recently formed a Finance Team, which is handling the fellowship's budget, and a Discovery Team, which will be discovering what leadership should look like in the future of PEACE.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our fellowship, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

PEACE Mennonite Fellowship's Steering Committee

Gabe Beck, Kerry Beck, Dee Custar, David Elkins, Ken Gruenhagen, Stacy Lehman, Marla Miller, Kent Nafziger, Jen Nichols , Denton Yoder