



## Mennonite World Conference

A Community of Anabaptist  
related Churches

## Congreso Mundial Menonita

Una Comunidad de  
Iglesias Anabautistas

## Conférence Mennonite Mondiale

Une Communauté  
d'Eglises Anabaptistes

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Most Rev. Brian Farrell  
Secretary  
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Dear Bishop Farrell,

On behalf of Mennonite World Conference I congratulate you for the election and beginning of the Pontificate of His Holiness Pope Francis. Without a doubt the ministry of Francis as the first Latin American – and the first Jesuit – Pope will bring new impetus to our relationships.

We believe that the International Dialogue of the Catholic Church and the Mennonite World Conference, with its joint recognition that we are “Called Together to be Peacemakers,” and the ongoing Trilateral Dialogue that our two Traditions have in company of the LWF “Baptism and Incorporation into the Body of Christ, the Church,” will create important spaces for our Churches under the pontificate of Pope Francis.

Please be assured of our love and prayers for your church in these days of momentous transition. On Wednesday, from my office in Bogotá I followed with interest the first words that Pope Francis spoke to the multitude: “Let us always pray for one another,” he said. “Let us pray for the whole world, that there may be a great spirit of fraternity.” Sharing in the same Latin American background I especially was touched by Francis’ attitude when he bowed to the crowd after asking prayer from the many people that had come to receive him. “I ask you to pray to the Lord that he will bless me: the prayer of the people asking the blessing for their bishop. Let us make, in silence, this prayer: your prayer over me.” These words, and his attitude of humility has been a special blessing for me as a Latin American and as leader of Mennonite World Conference.

May God grant us a closer relationship during the years ahead. May we confess Christ together. May we do it in a world that needs to see and experience the love and reconciliation that our Lord makes possible.

Yours sincerely,

César García  
General Secretary