



November 2013

To: Presiding officers of MWC member and associate member churches
MWC General Council Members

Dear Family of Faith,

Every time I address you I feel privileged to serve a global community like ours. Day after day I witness how God is fulfilling His Word among us when He says that out of us He has made a people with no racial and economic barriers (Galatians 3:28). In many parts of the world churches overcome their prejudices against other Anabaptist communities in order to work well interdependently to glorify God by creating a greater impact on our service.

The work of Mennonite World Conference continues to touch millions of lives through the ministries of our commissions (Faith and Life, Mission, Deacons, Peace) and our regional representatives. It is amazing to see how God continues to do so many things through us in spite of a reduced staff and budget. In recent years MWC has grown in an organic way, avoiding the expansion of bureaucratic structures to facilitate more service opportunities and investment on those we serve.

An essential part of the financial support MWC receives comes through the contributions of each national church through what we call fair share. This expresses our belief on the interdependence of our members and the fact that we all have something to give and share with others in our global community. However, MWC is aware of the difficulties that many national churches have to meet their contributions of their fair share.

For this reason we want to encourage our national churches to promote in each local congregation the collection of a special offering for the global church once a year, during the celebration of the World Fellowship Sunday. We especially invite those congregations who have not experienced the blessing of giving for the global community to do so during the WFS. This celebration is a unique opportunity to focus on what happens in our global community and to demonstrate this with our finances.

The offering that is received during the WFS is one of the many ways your national church can raise the necessary funds to cover the fair share your community sends to MWC. To facilitate this initiative the materials designed by Asia for the WFS 2014 celebration will focus on our invitation to make an offering for the global church. We invite your national church to take advantage of this opportunity distributing and promoting those materials among leaders, pastors and local congregations that belong to your national church.

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The offering received that day will be counted as part of the fair share of the national church to which each local congregation belongs to. We are certain that this will be a tool that will facilitate compliance of the fair share of your conference.

There is no doubt that this offering for the global church will bless our local congregations. It is a practical way to lift our eyes and focus in other contexts rather than keeping our focus on ourselves. It is the possibility of establishing contacts and the vision that will create new church planting ministries, service, work for peace and development, among others. It is a chance to overcome, in the name of Jesus Christ, those walls that may still be separating us.

As the apostle Paul said when he invited some churches to do something similar:

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result on thanksgiving to God”. (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments regarding this letter. We depend on you for promoting this event among your congregations. We depend on each national church to accomplish the task that has been assigned to us: “to be a communion (Koinonia) of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service and witness.” We depend on God’s Spirit so hearts are touched and the work of our global community goes forward through the generosity of our members.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CÉSAR GARCÍA". The letters are stylized and connected, with a prominent "C" at the beginning.

César García
MWC General Secretary