



**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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TO: Presiding Officers of MWC Member and Associate Member Churches
MWC General Council Members

Dear Family of Faith:

Our theme at this year's Assembly was that of Walking with God – together. It is when we walk together that we can support each other and strengthen our witness to Jesus Christ. Walking with God finds its total meaning in fellowship – in the breaking of bread, in serving, and in meeting the needs of others. It does not mean any absence of challenges, but recognizing we are assured of victory with and through Him.

We gathered in Pennsylvania in July 2015, to walk together in person – all 8454 of us, from 77 different countries! We trust that the inspiration and fellowship we experienced together continues to provide nurture and strength to your church. Videos, including highlights, sermons and singing, can all be found on our website at: <http://pa2015.mwc-cmm.org/>

Our next opportunity to gather together is one that does not happen in person for most of us, but is a time when we gather together in spirit, in different time zones all over the world. That will be on World Fellowship Sunday on January 24, 2016. I ask you to encourage your member congregations to celebrate World Fellowship Sunday this coming January and to notify them of the resource materials that are available to them on our MWC website. Our theme this year will be the same theme as the Assembly: Walking with God.

Each year, on the Sunday closest to January 21, we remember the first Anabaptist baptism in 1525, an act of obedience and courage, which continues to shape our understanding of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ today. Each year, on this one Sunday of the year, we celebrate our global Anabaptist community that continues to shape our understanding of what it means to be disciples of Jesus today. Each year, on this one Sunday of the year, we take time to worship together, in spirit and in body, and to pray for each other.

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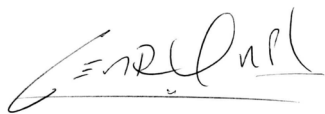
World Fellowship Sunday is our opportunity to remind our people that we belong to each other as sisters and brothers in God's household. Each local congregation belongs to a global community of faith that transcends language, nationality, and culture. We are here to support each other, to uphold those who are suffering and being persecuted, and to learn from each other. Those things happen throughout the year, but too often they are not very visible. On this one Sunday a year we encourage each congregational member to become aware of our global Anabaptist family of faith, where we come together around Shared Convictions, a shared history, and shared ways of following Jesus.

During the last years in my own country (Colombia) we have been able to celebrate World Fellowship Sunday in a joint service that brings together local congregations in Bogotá. Several local congregations from different Anabaptist conferences meet with the purpose of worshiping God and sharing gifts. It has been a blessing to see how differences are overcome when we look for the presence of the Lamb as the center of our gatherings! At the end of each one of these meetings I have heard the same sentence from several people: Such a great experience! We need to repeat it! And I agree, we *need* to worship God with other members of our family of faith. Once again, we really need it! It is a way in which we recognize the work of God in our brothers and sisters and our need of them to reach together maturity in our faith.

Attached are documents that provide resources for your congregations to mark World Fellowship Sunday. They can also be found on our website at <http://www.mwc-cmm.org/worldfellowshipsunday>. I ask you to circulate these resources to all of your member congregations, and to encourage them to mark January 24, 2016, as World Fellowship Sunday.

There are also suggestions in these materials for an offering for the global church to be included on January 24. All contributions that are given to MWC from these congregational offerings will be counted towards your church's Fair Share contributions to MWC, and could make a big difference in your Fair Share contribution.

I think about MWC as the biggest local congregation... accompanying those that suffer in a pastoral way, facilitating our witness and service to the world, worshiping God, discovering what is the meaning of following Christ, sharing our gifts in interdependency, overcoming cultural boundaries, and transforming our world through living out the values of God's Kingdom. Thank you for your active participation in the leadership of this our global



César García
General Secretary