



**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: All Mennonite, Brethren in Christ, and Anabaptist related churches in the world
Members and associate members of the Mennonite World Conference General
Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from Colombia!

It is with great joy that we share the materials for **World Fellowship Sunday** (WFS) with all of you. Each year, we encourage Anabaptist-related churches across the globe to use a common theme in their service on the Sunday closest to 21 January (usually the fourth Sunday of the month). On this date in 1525, the first baptism took place in Zurich, Switzerland.

WFS is an opportunity to remind our communities of faith that we are all part of one body made up of many tribes, languages and nations (Revelation 7:9). It is an invitation to visibly proclaim that now there is no discrimination among us on the basis of race, social status or gender (Galatians 3:28). It is a special day on which to show that we are living a new life in a new society where we mutually support one another, carry those who suffer, serve the world and interdependently learn from one another what it means to follow Jesus. On this day, we celebrate that, in Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the cultural and national boundaries that separate us have been overcome by the cross.

Each year, different churches that are part of our global community prepare guiding material that can be used for WFS. Taking into account that the Anabaptist renewal movement of the 1500s was deeply shaped by the Spirit, the churches in Africa have prepared materials with the theme "Holy Spirit Transforming Us" for 2018 (for 21 January or any Sunday that is convenient for your congregation). It is because of the work of the Holy Spirit that we as Christians – in Africa and all over the world – persevere with hope in the face of overwhelming challenges.

The materials contain biblical texts, prayers, song suggestions, sermon ideas, stories and other resources. We hope that these materials enable the preparations for WFS in each local congregation.

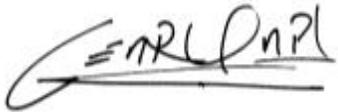
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We encourage each national church to choose and adapt these materials in a way that will be useful to your context, translate them where necessary, share and distribute them to all your local congregations. Additional resources for celebrating WFS are available at www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs.

We request that you appoint a reporter in your congregation to share with us how you celebrate this day. At MWC we also thank you for your comments, photos and reflections about WFS so that we can share these with other members of our global faith family. Photos and stories can be shared via the e-mail address photos@mw-cmm.org. Offerings received on this day and shared with MWC contribute toward each church's Fair Share contributions, and help our global community to continue as a foreshadowing of the Kingdom of God in the midst of our society.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "César García", with a horizontal line underneath.

César García
General Secretary