



## 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

www.mwc-cmm.org  
info@mwc-cmm.org

General Secretariat:  
Calle 28A No.16-41 Piso 2  
Bogotá, Colombia  
T: (57) 1 287 5738  
F: (57) 1 287 5738

50 Kent Avenue, Suite 206  
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 3R1  
Canada  
T: (1) 519 571 0060  
F: (1) 226 647 4224

February 2015

**To: Mennonite World Conference Churches and Members**  
**Re: Appeal from Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptist**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

We greet you again in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust that you are in the care of God's good hands.

In the recent past we have written to you about serious concerns of churches in the Middle East, in Nigeria, and in Ukraine. We have asked for showers of prayer for the very difficult circumstances that our brothers and sisters in Christ are experiencing.

We thank you for your responses. We know that your prayers, solidarity, and support is appreciated very much. You have been good prayer partners.

Today we bring to your attention this appeal from Russia. The Evangelical Union of Baptists has released this letter, appealing for support. But more than that, they ask about what we can do together – as a Body of Christ – to begin a process of de-escalating the violent relations between Russia and Ukraine.

They are asking our churches and our governments to be creative in searching for alternatives to military solutions. And they are asking Christians everywhere to stop supporting the continued escalation of military responses.

The appeal states that “**the costs of a military ‘solution’ are much too high for any side to pay.**” It also indicates that we must “**win the hearts and minds**” of people and this can be done only through “**peaceful means.**”

We put this appeal into your hands. We know that each of you has the capacity to pray and to ask God to open hearts and minds to find alternatives to war and to the escalation of military diplomacy.

We also know that some of you may have opportunities to speak with decision-makers, and can keep asking them to consider other than military options.

And the appeal says that they “**want to hear from you.**” They ask: “**How can we better and more effectively cooperate for the cause of peace.**”

### Regional Representatives

#### Africa

Central Africa  
Francisca Ibanda  
franciscaibanda@mwc-cmm.org  
Eastern Africa  
Rebecca Osiro  
rebeccaosiro@mwc-cmm.org

#### Asia

Southeast Asia  
Adhi Dharma  
adhidharma@mwc-cmm.org  
Northeast Asia  
Kyong-Jung Kim  
kyongjungkim@mwc-cmm.org  
South Asia  
Cynthia Peacock  
cynthiapeacock@mwc-cmm.org

#### Europe

Henk Stenvers  
henkstenvers@mwc-cmm.org

#### Latin America

to be appointed

#### North America

Lynn Roth  
lynnroth@mwc-cmm.org



Contact:  
Mennonite World Conference  
PO Box 5364  
Lancaster, PA 17606-5364 USA  
pennsylvania2015@mwc-cmm.org

They acknowledge that the Russian society too “*is far from perfect.*” They end by saying “*pray for us.*”

Please pray for these our brothers and sisters. Pray also for the churches who are – politically – on the other side of the Russian churches. They too need our support and prayer. Let them know that you are hearing their plea; that you are praying for the situation to change, and that you pray to God that hearts and minds can be transformed.

Please do assure them that geographic borders, political systems, and military strategies do not define the global communion we have with each other in the Body of Christ. Embrace them as parts of “our” body, thus demonstrating our connectedness in Christ and in the heart of God.

Please keep us, at MWC, informed of the actions and communications you are undertaking. It inspires us all if you do that.

Peace and blessings to each one,



Robert J. Suderman  
Secretary  
Peace Commission  
Mennonite World Conference



César García  
General Secretary  
Mennonite World Conference