



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

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Rev. Vitaly Vlasenko
Director, Dept. for External Church Affairs
Russian United Evangelical Christians-Baptists RUECB
baptistrelations@yandex.ru
Tel/Fax: 007-495-954-9231

Dear brother Vlasenko:

On behalf of Mennonite World Conference I want to thank you for sending the appeal for prayer and joint action.

We have received the appeal, and are earnestly praying for you and for the delicate situation that you describe.

Right now, the Russian-Ukrainian leaders are meeting together with European leaders. Our news tells us that they met late into the night, attempting to find a way of de-escalating the conflict that you too describe. Apparently they have agreed to a cease-fire. We pray that this may be the beginning of what you too are appealing for.

For the openness to dialogue and to be together we are grateful. However suspicious one might be, it is always better to talk than not to talk; it is better to be together in one room than apart; it is better to put things on the table than under the table; it is better to be face-to-face than in separate nations, buildings, and offices. So for these things we are grateful.

Whether God will move the hearts of these leaders to find a new, effective way of de-escalated and negotiated peace, we hope and pray that it will be possible.

We do encourage you to keep on searching for ways in which the church can have a unified voice, regardless of the political boundaries in which we find ourselves. Just as it is important for the political leaders to find a way of being "in one room," so also for the church. We agree with you that the voice of the church must be one of dialogue, mediation, negotiation, and de-escalation of military options. Beginning with the Baptist churches, we trust that you can be "in one room" with the Baptist brothers and sisters from Russia, Ukraine,

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

Germany, and the United States. Beyond that, we trust that all Baptists everywhere may be in the “same room” with you. Beyond that, we pray that the Christian church everywhere, regardless of nation or denomination, may learn to be in the “same room” with each other, advocating for the peace of the world via strategies of peace and not war.

We have sent your appeal to all our 102 national churches around the globe, and made it available on our website. We are asking them to pray for the situation, and, where possible, to connect with the political decision-makers to add their voice to peaceful, negotiated dialogue in the search for peace.

May God richly bless you as you find the paths of faithfulness to God in a very sensitive and difficult context.

Be assured of our prayers and solidarity with you,



Robert J. Suderman
Secretary
Peace Commission
Mennonite World Conference



César García
General Secretary
Mennonite World Conference