



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

September 2014

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

Dear Family of Faith:

I greet you with the words of the Apostle Paul: "To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 NRSV).

2014 has been a year of praying in MWC. Many churches around the world began this year celebrating World Fellowship Sunday in January. Thanks to the support that we received through prayers and offerings raised on that day, MWC has been able to walk along those who suffer, support the ministry of our four commissions, and encourage the interdependency that we need in our global church so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified. Thank you to all of you that as leaders have been sensitive to the work of the Spirit beyond national, financial, and cultural boundaries.

I ask you to encourage your member congregations to celebrate World Fellowship Sunday on 18 January 2015. Each year, on the Sunday closest to 21 January, 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.

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.

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

During the last two 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 have met with the purpose of worshipping 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 centre 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 so that together we can reach the stature of Christ.

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/article/world-fellowship-sunday>. I ask you to circulate these resources to all of your member congregations, and to encourage them to mark 18 January 2015 as World Fellowship Sunday.

There are also suggestions in these materials for an offering for the global church to be included on 18 January. 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 of MWC as the biggest local congregation... accompanying those who suffer in a pastoral way, facilitating our witness and service to the world, worshipping God, discovering 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 our global community!

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
General Secretary