

# Light of Life Mennonite Church

780 Boyle Street, Farmington, New Mexico 87401

May 21, 2017

Dear Mountain States Mennonite Conference

It is with sadness and disappointment that we write to inform you that we have decided to withdraw from the Mountain States Mennonite Conference (MSMC) effective June 30, 2017

The reason for withdrawing is the differing view of scripture that has been embraced by the conference which has led to theological differences exemplified by the conference's decision to grant pastoral credentials to a practicing homosexual. We cannot embrace this action or many of the other things the conference is promoting. As a result it has become uncomfortable being associated with MSMC.

Our decision has not been made lightly:

- We began preliminary and informal discussions early in 2014. (See January 2014 letter attached)
- We notified the MSMC Leadership Board of our discussions in October 2015. (See October 23, 2015 letter attached).
- We held formal and informal conversations with MSMC leaders and representatives. (acting and Transitional Conference Ministers Herm Weaver, Annie Lengacher Browning, and Linford and Mary Etta King have visited with us, and our Pastor has had numerous conversations in his role as MSMC Leadership Board member)
- We continued to register our concerns whenever an opportunity arose. (See April 2016 letter attached)
- On May 1, 2017 the Light of Life Leadership Board voted to recommend leaving MSMC to the congregation for congregational approval.
- On May 21, 2017 a special congregational meeting was held and the recommendation from the board was approved by the members.

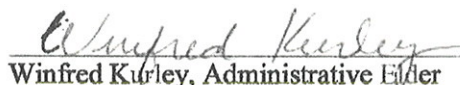
We want to thank the MSMC for their support. We recognize the benefits we have enjoyed by being part of MSMC since its inception. We have many good friends in the conference, but sadly, we now believe it is time to move on. We ask MSMC, in accordance with MCUSA policy, to maintain our pastoral credentials until our transition to a new affiliation is finalized.

Sincerely

Leadership Board, Light of Life Mennonite Church



Phil Rosenberger, Pastor



Winfred Kurley, Administrative Elder

cc: MSMS Leadership Board:

Ken Gingerich (Moderator), Linford and Mary Etta King (Transitional Conference Ministers), Karen Martin (Conf. Administrator), Katie Cunningham, Brian Hanneken, Wilmer Villacorta, Nelda Thelin, Michael Martin, Tatdao Yang,  
Nancy Kauffman, Denominational Minister;  
Ervin Stutzman, MCUSA Executive Director