

November 5, 2007

Dear brothers and sisters:

One of the privileges of the Franconia Conference delegate assembly is to affirm congregations that seek to join our membership. This year there are two congregations who have expressed a desire to join with the Conference in an effort to extend witness, broaden accountability, share in fellowship and move together toward the reign of God with sisters and brothers in the Northeast region of the United States embodying the rich Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition of our community.

These two congregations—Nations Worship Center located in Philadelphia and Peace Mennonite Church of East Greenville, Pa—are already served by pastors credentialed within Franconia Conference, Beny Krisbianto and David Benner. They are small congregations with global visions that connect the best of what it means to be Anabaptist/Mennonite in a global age of witness and struggle. I commend them to you as congregations seeking to follow in the way of Christ, who affirm and embody our tradition of nonviolent faith and open-handed mutuality.

With both congregations, there is evident hopefulness in that the relationships within Franconia Conference will extend a local vision for ministry. There is hope that a relationship will offer both accountability and possibility. There is an open door for new relationships that will extend the reign of God both near and far, within and beyond. There is recognition of the significance of our shared task as a community set to equip leaders to empower others to embrace God's mission.

As both of these congregations manifest their desire to join with us in our historic and contemporary discipleship, stewardship and evangelism, may we be encouraged and renewed. May we open our doors in hospitality and hope, knowing these new relationships represent both possibility and responsibility. May we have the courage to maintain and extend the right fellowship within and beyond these communities. May we find ways to work and hope together exemplifying Christ, living in the Spirit and extending the reign of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kriss
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