



Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship

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Attn: Executive Board

British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

302-32025 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 2K7

Email: office@bcmb.org | Phone: (604) 746-4436

February 24, 2022

Dear Executive Board:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Our church has been part of the British Columbia Mennonite Brethren (BCMB) family since our founding in 1986. We deeply cherish the spiritual legacy we have inherited and our relationships with other MBs in a wide variety of Christian ministries across Canada. We truly appreciate participating in the faithful witness to Christ's redemptive work in the world, and we have been blessed by seeing and sharing the many fruits of the Spirit with our MB brothers and sisters over the past 36 years.

For several decades we have tried to live out our mission in the Point Grey neighbourhood of Vancouver with diverse leadership teams of laypersons. We also have been able to invite and learn from speakers from our various Mennonite conferences, CBC, Regent College, Vancouver School of Theology, and other denominations. We value the ability to listen and respond to many voices while applying our Anabaptist hermeneutical lens.

Given the proposed requirement that every church be led by a pastor (or designated leader), we acknowledge that we are not aligned with the bylaws and polity of the MB conference. We have therefore decided to request to voluntarily withdraw from the B.C. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches ("the Society") and cease to be a "Recognized Church" under the proposed revised Bylaws. This is permitted in Bylaw 5 of the Society.

While we appreciate that the proposed Bylaws include a provision for sending a designated leader rather than a pastor to be credentialed by the Society, our congregation seeks to operate as "a priesthood of believers" without any one person being our designated leader. As a result, we would be non-compliant with the new Bylaws once they are adopted. At the Town Hall meetings of 2020 and 2021 where these Bylaws were discussed, our delegates did not object to the proposed changes because we needed time as a congregation to understand the implications of these clarified expectations from the BCMB.

This has been a prayerful and deliberative process of discernment over the past several years. We lament the necessity of leaving the denomination that we were founded under, and the decision was not made lightly. All in our congregation with an MB heritage and those who have roots in the Mennonite Church (Conference), along with others from different backgrounds, came to this unanimous decision at our Annual General Meeting on January 29, 2022.

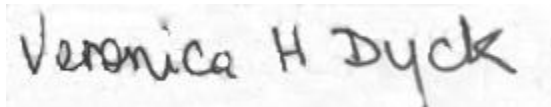
As we have no land or church building, we respectfully request permission to retain our existing personal property (e.g. bank accounts, hymnals, and audio-visual equipment), consistent with Part 7 of the Bylaws.

We ask that our requests be placed on the agenda of the upcoming Annual General Meeting on April 30, 2022, to be ratified by the Society. We propose a date of August 15, 2022, for this change to be effective, as we need time to update our registered charity documents with the Canada Revenue Agency.

We deeply care about our relationships and connections with our Mennonite conferences and institutions. We intend to continue financially supporting MB-related organizations such as the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, and other organizations of mutual interest such as Mennonite Central Committee and Canadian Mennonite University.

We wish you God's blessing as you work to see the people of BC transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Veronica H Dyck" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Veronica Dyck, Moderator
On behalf of the Board and Congregation of PGIMF