

**Pocomoke River Church, Inc.**

**1514 Market Street**

**Pocomoke, MD 21851**

Executive Committee of

Atlantic Coast Conference of MCUSA

2257 Old Philadelphia Pike

Lancaster, PA 17602

March 9, 2018

Dear Merv and Executive Committee Members,

I have greatly appreciated the support and encouragement I received personally and we received as a congregation as we discerned God's leading in starting Pocomoke River Church. We would not exist today without the support and encouragement we received from you.

Merv, you and I have talked about how I have found myself as a pastor and our congregation as a whole feeling farther and farther apart from ACC for the last several years.

There are numerous reasons for this. Geography has been a contributor, but more importantly, I have found ACC and MCUSA moving away from where I am theologically and liturgically. The move toward a more liturgical order of worship has predated my involvement in ACC, but it has become more prevalent, and I don't find myself able to connect with the formality of it.

ACC has moved away from personal evangelism and has done away with the evangelism committee. I find evangelism to be at the heart of the Gospel and believe we make a grave error by minimizing this aspect of the Christian life in any way.

Lately there has been a stronger emphasis on congregational autonomy to the point where it appears to me everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes. Accountability has been a hallmark of being Mennonite and Anabaptist.

For these reasons, we the congregation of Pocomoke River Church honor our decision to terminate our affiliation with Atlantic Coast Conference of MCUSA.

Sincerely in Christ,



Earl Sheats, Pastor