



Spring Mount Mennonite Church

25 Church Road

Schwenksville, PA 19473-2342

December 21, 2025

Executive Committee
Atlantic Coast Conference
100 Quarry Road
Leola, PA 17540

Dear Executive Committee members, greetings in the name of Christ!

A brief explanation about what brings us to this time:

Spring Mount Mennonite Church is a small but vibrant congregation which began as a mission outreach in 1934 by several congregations from Franconia Mennonite Conference. Though few in number, we have deeply valued our affiliation with our conference and denomination. Over the years, members have actively participated in various conference committees, faithfully attended conference gatherings, and sent representatives to churchwide conventions as often as we were able. One of our members was formerly a long-term Franconia Conference staff member and member of the Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council.

We rejoiced in the coming together of Eastern District and Franconia Conferences to become Mosaic Mennonite Conference. As with the coming together of the Mennonite Church and the General Conference Mennonite Church, it seemed a hopeful sign of healing after years of separation and a culmination of careful conversation, increasing fellowship, worshipping and working together.

We have been deeply saddened by Mosaic Conference's decision to leave Mennonite Church USA. This felt like a decision driven by leadership with little effort given to pursue recommendations from consultants or truly hear concerns raised by our own delegates. It is with deep sorrow, but unanimous affirmation, that our congregation voted on November 23 to leave Mosaic Conference and seek affiliation with Atlantic Coast Conference and to stay in relationship with Mennonite Church USA.

Things that make Atlantic Coast Conference appealing to our congregation include:

1. Geographic proximity
2. Atlantic Coast Conference's congregational polity and stated purpose to support congregations in their mission. More regular contact with conference staff and pastor clusters would be welcome after feeling somewhat abandoned in our current relationships.

3. Atlantic Coast Conference's openness to LGBTQ+ people is important to us, as we have several members of this group who are an integral part of our congregation.
4. Our pastor feels comfortable having his credentials held by the Atlantic Coast Conference.
5. Maintaining connection to Mennonite Church USA.
6. Some of us already have relationships with members and congregations of Atlantic Coast Conference congregations and would be glad to renew, deepen, and expand these relationships. One person commented that joining Atlantic Coast Conference would feel like "coming home."

What strengths would Spring Mount Mennonite Church bring to Atlantic Coast Conference?

1. While we are small and our resources are limited, we have faithfully contributed a tithe to MC USA and our conference. We would certainly contribute what we are able.
2. We have three members with seminary degrees (including our pastor). There may be ways they would be willing and able to contribute theologically.
3. We would commit to sending delegates to Atlantic Coast Conference's annual assembly and participate in other activities as we are able.
4. We also have some musical talent that may be useful, with a cellist, three flutists, two guitarists, and a ukulele player.

How would affiliation with Atlantic Coast Conference strengthen our vision?

1. We are at a transition point in our congregation. Our aging building needs significant updating, and funds are quickly being depleted. We have voted to sell our church property and look for a place to rent. This decision opens us to doing church in a different way. Affiliating with Atlantic Coast Conference could be valuable as we envision what God is calling us to be in this new season.
2. We believe there is a lot of life in some of the Atlantic Coast congregations where we already have connections. There is much we can learn from these congregations and connections, as well as others we have yet to meet.
3. We deeply value the resources afforded through Mennonite Church USA, and affiliation with Atlantic Coast Conference would keep that connection vibrant.
4. Spring Mount Mennonite Church has embodied adaptive leadership over the past 20 years, with an openness to change as the Spirit leads. The congregation has used the phrase "experiment in the Spirit" when pursuing missional opportunities for ministry.

Spring Mount Mennonite Church's organization:

1. Our current active participation is about 20 people. While small, we are committed to one another. We have several people who note how much they value our church community but feel they would not likely have energy to engage in another church if we were to disband.
2. We have several members who are unable to worship with us currently due to lack of accessibility to bathrooms. They would very much like to reengage with us when we find a place to worship that has accessibility.
3. Our leadership team is made up of our pastor, four elders and our treasurer (listed below).
4. While we recognize that the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* is now somewhat dated, most of it still resonates with us.
5. We would gladly give and receive counsel from the conference and/or its constituent congregations.
6. We commit to sharing responsibility and in the program of Atlantic Coast Conference with interest, prayers, personnel and funds as we are able.

Thank you for considering our request to join Atlantic Coast Conference. Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions. We would also welcome an in-person meeting with some of your leadership, if that would be helpful in your discernment process.

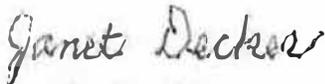
Sincerely,



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