



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Congregations Seeking Membership

- **Why are these congregations seeking membership with Franconia Conference?**
 - Both the congregations in California and the congregation in New York feel a familial relationship with congregations in Franconia Conference. These familial relationships are of more value than geography.
- **How do congregations at a distance participate in Franconia Conference?**
 - Congregations seeking membership have the same expectations as existing members. Credentialed leaders are expected to attend meetings, and the congregations are expected to send delegates to Conference Assembly. Relationships with the congregations in California and New York will function very similarly to existing relationships with member congregations in Vermont.
 - A LEADership Minister will be appointed to give oversight to churches regardless of the distance. Technology enables ease of relationships in addition to onsite visits.
 - This is not the first time Franconia Conference has had congregations at such a distance. Franconia Conference once had a congregation in Long Island (Center Reach), and has worked at Church Planting in Hawaii.
- **How will we cultivate relationships at a distance?**
 - The use of web-based Zoom for delegate scattered meetings, conference board meetings, and credentialed leaders equipping events is already providing more options for those unable to be physically present for these meetings. In addition to live streaming events/ workshops.
 - LEADership Ministers regularly use email, text messages, or conference calls to connect with credentialed or lay leaders, and search committees.
 - Pastor Cluster meetings are already being held utilizing technology such as Zoom and Google Hangout, providing opportunities for pastors from any location to connect with one another.
 - Meeting times will continue to be held at various times to accommodate all pastors. California being three hours behind Eastern Standard Time, we do not anticipate shifting meeting times any earlier or later.
- **What will the cost to Conference be?**
 - Estimated cost is about \$10,000 in annual expenses to begin this partnership with the California congregations, which would include some staffing support and the hiring of an additional stipend LEADership minister to work specifically with these congregations. A review of this partnership will be done after three years.
 - No additional cost is anticipated for oversight of the New York congregation.
 - All member congregations are asked to contribute financially to Conference and these congregations seeking membership have stated if accepted they would contribute.
- **How will Franconia Conference be attentive to the misunderstanding or hurt the former Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference congregations might be carrying?**
 - Franconia Conference leadership has and will continue to be in conversation about ways to encourage and facilitate any unresolved issues with Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference leadership. Both Pacific Southwest and MCUSA have blessed Franconia Conference in exploring this potential relationship with the California congregations.
 - There are currently no other MCUSA Conferences with Indonesian Congregations outside of Pacific Southwest and Franconia Conferences.
- **What will the new congregations offer to Franconia Conference?**
 - Each of these congregations brings vibrant gifts of leadership and service.
 - This is an opportunity to continue to learn and be transformed interculturally.
 - These partnerships will cultivate, strengthen, and multiply our gifts together for the sake of God's Kingdom on earth.