May 21, 2019

Dear PDC Pastors, church and conference leaders,

Greetings in the strong name of Jesus!

It is with many mixed emotions, but with a clear sense of God's leading and call that I am announcing my decision to conclude my ministry as District Minister with the Pacific District Conference on December 31, 2019.

These past several years, the Pacific District leadership has been gracious in allowing me to participate in several international trips with both MCC, ICOMB, and MB Mission/Multiply. Two particularly formative experiences were the MB Mission sponsored Thailand DNA exchange and the ICOMB Global Mission and Prayer Consultation in Thailand. During my recent sabbatical, which included travel among our MB's in Germany and Lithuania, the Lord began stirring something in me that I could not ignore. In my heart and mind I was sensing both God's call and my desire to serve in a more global mission capacity. Following conversations with ICOMB leaders and prayerful processing, I have been invited into a new staff leadership role with the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB). The decision to respond affirmatively to the invitation to join the ICOMB team is a work of God's Spirit, as I have wrestled with the implications of what has become a clear call to leave my ministry in the PDC. Tami and I are humbly and enthusiastically affirming this new ministry opportunity. Lord willing, we will begin this new ministry with ICOMB in 2020.

My role will be more specifically defined in consultation with Executive Director Rudi Plett and the ICOMB Executive Committee. What is now clear is that I will serve as ICOMB-US National Director, promoting the mission and ministry of ICOMB among the more than 200 Mennonite Brethren churches in the US. I will serve as part of the ICOMB Executive team and will assist in resourcing, training and equipping pastors and leaders in the 21 Country Conferences of our global MB family. Since there is no budget for additional staff in the existing ICOMB budget, I will be responsible for fundraising 100% of my salary, benefits and ministry expenses. The hope is that my fundraising efforts will prove fruitful enough to fund additional ministry initiatives in the future.

Information regarding the search for my successor will be coming to you from PDC Moderator Pat Coyle in the coming days. If the search proceeds as hoped, I can imagine a "passing of the baton" at our PDC Convention in November.

I am excited about what God has prepared for us as an International MB family and for the PDC. Transitions such as this present an opportunity for fresh leadership vision, which is my hope and prayer for the PDC and for ICOMB! It has been my joy and honor to serve among you to advance the mission of Jesus in the western United States these past 17 years.

Blessings in Christ,

Gary Wall