

## **Western District Conference Annual Delegate Assembly 2022**

### **Recommendation to receive Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto, Wichita, KS, as a member congregation of Western District Conference**

From the WDC Constitution: ...*"Congregations may apply for membership by submitting, in writing to the Executive Board, not less than 30 days before the Delegate Assembly, a brief history of the congregation and description of present activities, a membership covenant or statement of faith and constitution adopted by the group, and other helpful documents such as an annual report and a list of charter members. Congregations are encouraged to have at least ten members before seeking membership. The Executive Board will make a recommendation to the Delegate Assembly. The vote for acceptance into the Western District Conference shall be by a two-thirds majority of all delegate votes cast."*

*"...a church plant/emerging congregation becomes a member congregation by following the process outlined...above."*

In 2011 a new church plant was launched in Wichita, KS, growing out of a Bible study led by Pastor Jaime Cazares, and supported by Mennonite Church of the Servant, Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, and Hope Mennonite Church. From 2011-2013 the church plant was named Iglesia Menonita Manos de Cristo (Hands of Christ Mennonite Church) with church planter Jerry Acosta. In 2013 the name was changed to Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto (Upper Room Mennonite Church), and Byron Pellecer served as church planter from 2013-2016. In 2017, Jaime Cazares began serving as church planter/pastor for Aposento Alto, and Hope Mennonite Church and Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church ended their involvement as partners. The WDC Church Planting Commission has provided financial support for Aposento Alto in recent years.

Aposento Alto meets for worship and fellowship in the facility of Mennonite Church of the Servant and currently has 21 members, offering its services primarily to Hispanics living in the Wichita area. Their vision states, "We are a Christian community that sustains the Anabaptist tradition, called to follow Jesus Christ, sent to serve those who seek healing and hope, living the peace of God as a city on top of a hill, and walking with God in His mission in the world." The central purpose of the church is to fulfill the commission of Jesus Christ according to Matthew 28:19-20, and they affirm that "Christ calls us to a life of faithful discipleship, modeled by his example of loving service and giving to others, helping people with their physical and spiritual needs. We seek to be instruments of love and reconciliation in our neighborhood." In their membership covenant, members of Aposento Alto commit to faithfully attend church activities, share talents and gifts for the service of the church and God's mission, contribute financially, live as a disciple of Christ, study the scriptures, testify to Jesus Christ and proclaim the good news, handle conflicts and differences in the spirit of *Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love*, and honor the ministries and members of the church locally, regionally and nationally.

On June 11, 2022, the WDC Executive Board reviewed membership application materials from Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto, and approved bringing a recommendation to WDC delegates to receive Aposento Alto as a member congregation of WDC.