



Deanna R. Reed, Mayor  
Harrisonburg City Council  
City Hall  
409 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Mayor Reed,

I am writing to you on behalf of Manantial de Vida, a vibrant Hispanic congregation, with membership in Virginia Mennonite Conference. Juan Carlos and Wendy Malvaez founded this congregation in 2004. The congregation rents space from Ridgeway Mennonite Church, 546 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, VA.

Juan Carlos and Wendy began to provide pastoral care to friends and neighbors. As their relationships deepened and broadened in the community the congregation grew. While the beginning of their ministry was their own biological family, the congregation of 250 worshippers is their family of God today. Virginia Mennonite Conference, located at 601 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, VA, is the conference that they chose to belong in 2007. Our leaders have provided leadership support to this dynamic and growing congregation.

I am supportive of their desire to buy property and construct a worship center on the property to meet their needs. Their congregation needs a space that they can identify as their own and demonstrate the authentic way in which their compassion for God can be expressed in our community has a Hispanic congregation reaching people who have felt needs. Please seek ways to assist these brothers and sisters in Christ in seek a place of worship and a space to nurture their children's faith and moral development.

Blessings to you as you represent the needs of our community with an eye to making provisions for the new comers among us.

Sincerely,



Clyde G. Kratz  
Executive Conference Minister

*A conference of Mennonite Church USA*

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