

From the Old Order Amish Churches of the USA

To the Reformed Church of Zurich:

Heartfelt friendly greetings in Jesus Christ, the Savior's name with best wishes in both time and eternity.

We, the Old Order Churches of the USA have received at hand an invitation by Peter Dettwiler, from the Reformed Church of Zurich to participate in a conference planned for the weekend of June 26 this year. We acknowledge the motive of such a conference. However, anyone well acquainted with the Old Order Amish will be aware that world travel is not in accordance with our culture. It would take a drastic occurrence to induce delegates of the more conservative Amish to travel to Switzerland. We cannot speak for the more progressive or New Order groups.

How do we feel toward the Reformed Church? We feel the same about the Reformed Church as we do about all other Protestant and Christian churches. We hold a considerable value on any church that teaches its followers to fear God and live in peace with their fellowmen. This earth is a better place to live because of the various Christian churches and their principles.

We believe the descendants of the Reformed Church are not accountable for any actions their forefathers took against the Anabaptists. Far be it from us to request reconciliation. History teaches us that a church is made stronger by persecution. The blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church. We wonder if there would be any Amish, Mennonite, or Hutterite churches today if there had not been any persecution. Christ forbids us to hold ill feelings toward the descendants of any oppressors, whether they are Reformed, Catholic, Jew or heathen. We hold this to be the general feeling of the Amish in the USA, consisting of over 1,000 churches, and averaging 25 to 30 families each.

Whenever mention is made of our fatherland, the first to come to mind for most of us, is Switzerland, together with Germany, Holland and France.

Please accept this humble writing in good faith. We hold no ill feelings and plead forbearance for any grievance we may have caused.

God bless you and yours.

Fare thee well,

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