

## Letter from Prussian Congregations to Russian Mennonites – 1794.

From the diary of Gerhard Wiebe, page [270](#).

Translated by Helen Ens (no dates). Edited by Glenn Penner 5 Mar 2020 and 13 Jul 2025.

In 1794 on March 14 the two deputies of our 4 churches, namely Danzig, Elbing, Gross Werder, and Heuboden left from Marienburg, to go to the Brethern in Russia in the Gouvernment of Ekatrinoslav to follow their request for a visit to help the newly organized church with good advice and support and to help them establish order and peace. The deputies were the honourable Elder Cornelius **Regier** from the Heuboden congregation and the honourable teacher (minister) Cornelius **Warkentin** from the Rosenort congregation. As fellow passenger they had the hon. Joh. **Wiebe** from Russia who wanted to travel to his family, and the young person by the name of David **Huebert** [#266749]. They arrived safely in Warschau on the 20th of the month, received a pass from His Excell. the Russian Empire minister v. Ighelstroem and travel information and continued their travels on the 21st. The report follows.

I have to include the following for the month of March which I had accidentally overlooked.

We have mentioned before that we had a brotherhood meeting concerning the Church in Russia and their requests were presented (see page 263 of this book) We have met ....three times from all of our churches since no one was ready to make a trip to Russia until finally Elder Regier from Heuboden and hon. Cornelius Warkentin , teacher/minister from Rosenort, consented to take on the task and with all churches to pay the expenses and to go with God. A wagon with four horses was rented from Schulze, the driver, from Danzig. They left from Marienburg on the 14th of March in company of the Russian Mennonite Joh. **Wiebe** and the young person by name of David **Huebert**. They arrived in Warschau on the 20th and left there the next day, the 21st. May the Lord accompany them with his holy angels! I have written a letter giving them authority for their mission after being persuaded by many colleagues to do this and the wording is approximately as follows:

We, the Elders, teachers/ministers, servants of the Christian Churches in Prussia, which are known as the "flaemische Mennoniten" wish the Elder, teachers and servants as well as the entire congregation in and near Chortitz in Russia, our dear brethren in Christ, much grace and peace from God, the Father through Jesus Christ is own son and the power of the Holy Spirit, and that the love in and to one another will always multiply. Amen

After this simple heartfelt greeting we add that you should know that we received a writing from your area dated September 3, 1793, which was undersigned by 19 brethren, from which we gathered, to our dismay, that the spirit of quarrel and division is threatening to destroy the precious peace among you and has created much division among you, that is why you are begging that an experienced Elder from our midst would come to help you. Shortly thereafter two men from you, namely the hon. Joh. **Wiebe** and

Jacob von **Bergen** came in person to see us, and they also came with the intense petition that some person would come and that through their mediation the divisions that have been created could be laid to rest, that peace could be restored and order could again come to the congregation.

This petition, very much in order, we have considered after much discussion and consideration and have finally been able to persuade two well-experienced men from our midst, namely the hon. Elder Cornelius Regier and the hon. teacher/minister Corn. Warkentin to go to Costi [your location] and there, with God's help, and the cooperation of the congregation solve or straighten out the problems that are so divisive and re-establish peace and good order.

We authorize and send therefore the above-named men, C.R. and C.W. , both men rich in experience and of good reputation, to the afore mentioned, our brethren in faith in Russia, in order to thoroughly investigate the present quarrels, lack of order and listen to complaints, make decisions, admonish all to keep the peace and to love one another; encourage those who seek to do the right thing; encourage those of little faith and to direct the lost to the right path. But those who continue to be quarrelsome, do not obey the truth, but continue to live according to their own ideas and blaspheme the righteous acts, those ban from the Lord's Church ; also strive to straighten out wrongdoing wisely according to circumstances, etc.

Hence, we ask that the members of our foreign congregations would treat the men authorized to mediate with respect and show them cooperation, support them and act in such a manner that they would be able to do what they were sent to do and return with and be able to report with joy what God has done through them.

To certify all this the ones named at the end have signed personally.

written March 12, 1794