

June 7, 2010

Franciscan Renewal Center  
5802 East Lincoln Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85253-4124

Dear St. Francis Retreat Center,

Our Executive Committee has concluded that we must change our plans to use the St. Francis Retreat Center as the site for our winter meetings, February 7-9, 2011.

We find the state of Arizona's recent actions on the issue of immigration to be troubling to say the least. The recently enacted law seems to open the door for the abuse of all persons who appear as though they might be immigrants or could be in the country without proper documentation. We hope and pray that it doesn't work out that way. We are also convinced that the issue requires comprehensive federal action and that Arizona's action could impede that necessary effort.

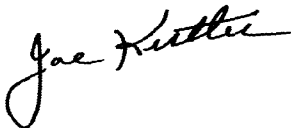
We have no reason to believe that St. Francis Retreat Center is in any way culpable in the state's decisions and we find the statements of the Arizona bishops to be encouraging.

Even so, as a matter of conscience, we believe it wise and necessary for us to move this meeting to another location.

We have submitted a deposit in the amount of \$550.00. We would of course welcome the return of that deposit but understand the agreement to which we signed and are willing to live by it.

We have used your center in other years and have found your hospitality to be outstanding and we hope that in another season we will be able to return.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Kutter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Kutter  
Acting Executive Director  
Ministers Council American Baptist Churches USA.