**77. March 3, 1709.** *Copy of a letter from the Palatine Mennonite churches about the dispatch of their delegates, Peter Kolb and Hans Bechtel. They will speak with Dutch Mennonite leaders about the inexactness in the accounts of the deceased Christian Pliem concerning the money received from Holland and the difficulties raised by it among certain people. The delegates will visit various churches there. This letter provides a valuable list of twenty-six ordained Mennonites from the Palatinate with German names, unfortunately, not always accurately spelled in this copy by a Dutch secretary. The ministers gathered to sign this letter at two places, Immelhäuserhof on March 3 and at Ibersheimerhof on March 13.*

[page 1]

Copy. Immelhäuserhof[[1]](#footnote-1) in Kunfgey near Sinsheim, March 3, 1709.

We ministers and elders of the Mennonite congregation wish all the ministers and elders of the Baptism-minded congregations in the Netherlands much grace, peace, and blessing from God, the Father of mercy, by the comfort and blessing of the Holy Ghost in Christ Jesus. Amen.

After God, the Lord, by His mighty hand summoned our brother Christian Pliem from this world and his temporal life ended, his charity funds were examined and there was some inaccuracy present. This news spread somewhat broadly among the people, and there was much restless talk. Also some were agitated and declared that they would accuse us to you and could indeed cause you sorrow. However, to avoid this and to have you properly informed in everything, we as reported above in general consider it good and advisable to send some ministers and elders to you. Peter Kolb[[2]](#footnote-2) from Kriegsheim has been named for this purpose and Hans Bechtel from here, a confirmed deacon, ministers ready for the journey, whom we send to you out of love. They will visit you in many locations and wish to indicate our thanks for the manifest love and great benevolence, which you have demonstrated from brotherly love toward us and all in need. We hope that the Lord will accompany them with His holy angels there and back again. To confirm this the more, we the abovementioned have signed this with our own hands.

Jacob Landes

Sammel Meyer

Christian Beth

Jacob Gut

Hans Henrich Baer

Peter Bledtli

Michel Meir

Samuel Meyer

Ulrich Neukommet

Hans Cheurts[[3]](#footnote-3)

[page 2]

We, the ministers and elders from the Palatinate in our meeting acknowledge the above as appropriate, good, and advisable. In witness whereof we have signed with our own hands. Ibersheimerhoff,[[4]](#footnote-4) March 13, 1709.

Hans Muller Henrich Friedt

Hans Mayer Valentine Hütwohl

Casper Gut Christian Nvustur [?][[5]](#footnote-5)

Tielmann Kolb Hans Jacob Schutblÿ

Peter Lemen Hans Brubacher

Heinrich Hiestant Christian Kruns

Hans Busshaler Hans Schinner.

Jacob Müller

Christian Seikommet

[page 3]

Copy of

a letter from the Immelheiser Hof

dated March 1709

1. **77** 1 Since the 1650s Mennonites had lived at the Immelhäuserhof 2.1 miles south-southwest of Sinsheim in the Kraichgau region of present-day Baden-Württemberg. *ME* III, 13-14. A. D. Friedrich Müller, *Müllers Grosses Deutsches Ortsbuch* (Wuppertal-Barmen, 1956), p. 452. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. On March 27, 1709, the visit of “Pieter Kolb, Hans Sweÿtzer” and “Ulrich Meÿer” from the Palatinate to the meeting of the church council of the Zonist church in Amsterdam is recorded in their book of minutes. The three brothers delivered a letter to them. The book of minutes is B 873 IV in the De Hoop Scheffer *Inventaris* and in Peschar’s numbers 877, No. 3, pp. 126-127. See Document 76, p. 654 n. 2. Although the three brothers were present in the meeting, the Dutch secretary appears to have noted only Peter Kolb’s name correctly. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Is this a spelling of Kurtz? Compare the names in this translation with the original German. For various names in this letter, see the index of Guth, *Palatine Mennonite Census Lists*. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Other spellings are Übersheimer and Ybersheimer. Ibersheim, a village eight miles north of Worms in Rheinhessen, is the location of an old Mennonite congregation established soon after the Thirty Years’ War. *ME* III, 1-2. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. One copyist (Rijnders) reads this as *Swustur*, which is also unlikely. More likely readings of other names here are Hans Jacob Schnebly, and Christian Neikommet. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)