



MOSAIC
mennonite
conference

1000 Forty Foot Road, Ste 100
Lansdale, PA 19446
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MosaicMennonites.org

October 14, 2021

Dear sisters and brothers at Towamencin:

We're writing to respond to both the recent letters you've sent with questions regarding our Conference and the upcoming vote on Mennonite Church USA Membership Guidelines.

As you likely know, Franconia Conference passed several Church Together Statements including "Going to the Margins" and "Grace and Truth" in 2015 following the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City that year. Those documents remain in place for our Mosaic Conference as well and were included in the reconciliation process that delegates affirmed in 2019. These remain our statements now as we are Mosaic Mennonite Conference. Even with potential changes at the denominational level, those documents will stand. We are attaching a copy of the reconciled Eastern District/Franconia Conference bylaws, as well as our Giving and Receiving Counsel process document that all of our credentialed leaders sign in dealing with areas of variance including the Grace and Truth statement and *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.

At the same time, we have not yet processed a public statement from the board on the membership guidelines. We do believe that retiring the membership guidelines will have damaging effects in the relationships of congregations and conferences that currently comprise Mennonite Church USA. Of course, it's up to the delegates of MC-USA to approve, or not approve, the resolution to retire the Membership Guidelines. We encourage your congregation, and all Mosaic Conference congregations to send delegates, sharing your voice, by participating in the special assembly in May 2022. At the formation of Mosaic, we determined that because both Eastern District Conference and Franconia Conference were members of Mennonite Church USA that our relationship with the national conference should remain intact. If the delegates of MC-USA do approve the resolution to retire the Membership Guidelines, this may mean a review of our Conference's ongoing connection.

With the vote set for May 2022 in Kansas City, we intend to provide opportunities for input from Conference delegates next spring in preparation for the 2022 meeting. The board wants to hear from the delegate community and while also providing clear information in preparation for the Kansas City meeting. We are aware that the upcoming vote is creating concern within our Conference community.

We continue to provide feedback in Mennonite Church USA Conference Minister and Moderator gatherings. We have been in conversation with Mennonite Church USA moderators and staff. We are fully engaged in the Constituent Leaders Council (the elder body) for Mennonite Church USA. We continue to advocate for what we feel is the best for our Conference and our ongoing witness of Christian faith together.



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We appreciate your prayers as we continue to navigate this difficult time. Our conference comprises approximately 10% of Mennonite Church USA membership. While we are diverse as a Mosaic community, we are clear on our own Conference positions and statements at this time.

We remain open to your conversation and counsel. Thanks for your patience in our formal response.

Grace and peace,

Ken Burkholder
Moderator

Stephen Kriss
Executive Minister