



## Goals for Our Purposeful Plan in the 2015–17 biennium

*For consideration by the Delegate Assembly at KC2015*

### Christian Formation

- To design The Gathering Place, an interactive website for Anabaptist youth leaders for the purpose of connecting, resourcing, networking, mentoring and spiritual formation. It will facilitate cohort groups that gather through a variety of touch points, including video conferencing. (2016)
- To partner with the Anabaptist Faith Formation Network — a digital resource center — to expand and strengthen faith formation initiatives across the church. (2016)
- To provide new resources to revitalize the spiritual life of our congregations and help them reach new people with the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Christian Community

- To discern the nature and scope of the biennial denominational convention in response to the many changes happening in our church. (2016)
- To convene four small regional leadership retreats (10–12 people) with a diversity of participants to deepen our capacity to practice grace, love and forbearance towards each other in the church.
- To explore the theological nature of Christian unity in the face of the political and social differences that are dividing our church.
- To strengthen Christian unity by drawing on the resources of Renovaré or similar spiritual formation programs to build on the best aspects of differing streams of spirituality within our church.
- To provide specific resources to cultivate the development of spiritual practices that enable biblical/communal discernment across our church.

### Holistic Christian Witness

- To partner with area conferences, church planters and Mennonite Mission Network to plan for a church planting summit to energize and equip each other to help birth new kingdom communities. (2015–16)
- To develop a plan to raise awareness of and deepen experience with three spiritual practices that sustain peacemaking. (2015–17)
- To form a reference council of Mennonite veterans and church leaders to advise and advocate for the Peace and Justice Support Network's work with veterans of war. (2015–17)
- To assist Mennonite pastors and other leaders to participate in Israel-Palestine "Come and See" learning tours. (2013–18)

- To maximize the usage of *Fully Engaged: Missional Church in an Anabaptist Voice* — edited by Mennonite Mission Network staff — and other new resources to equip church leaders to live into God's missional purposes. (2015–17)

### Stewardship

- To apply for a Lilly Foundation grant to establish a program to aid pastors facing personal financial difficulties that might result in them leaving pastoral ministry. (2015–17)
- To develop two financial coaching programs: one to better prepare seminarians for personal financial management, and one to train lay leaders to assist individuals in their congregations who may be struggling with personal financial issues. (2015–17)
- To provide contextualized stewardship training and education for immigrant congregations. (2015–17)
- To assist young adults and young families to successfully meet their financial challenges. (2015–17)
- To identify or develop resources to assist congregations and area conferences in creating and managing healthy financial plans. (2015–17)

### Leadership Development

- To review all of our Sexual Misconduct Policies and Procedures along with the supporting documents. (2016)
- To develop a vital and sustainable program — accessible through the internet — so that first-time pastors can transition into ministry accompanied by seasoned coaches. (2016)
- To review and perhaps change the Ministry Inquiry Program to assure its effectiveness as an ongoing program. (2016)
- To complete revisions to the working ministerial polity document, *A Shared Understanding of Church Leadership*. (2016)

### Undoing Racism and Advancing Intercultural Transformation

- To increase to 15 the number of trained Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Qualified Administrators who can resource area conferences and congregations. (2016)
- To plan and coordinate a Women in Leadership Conference in 2016.
- To convene a Youth of Color Summit in 2016.
- To plan for the Hope for the Future V gathering in January 2016.
- To start work on the Doctrine of Discovery in partnership with Mennonite Central Committee U.S., Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, Pacific

Southwest Mennonite Conference, and the  
Mennonite Creation Care Network.

### **Church-to-Church Relationships**

- To help re-launch the Believers Church Conferences as an arena for exploring and articulating “free church” understandings with other denominations that practice adult baptism and share a believers church ecclesiology, such as Baptists, Pentecostals and Disciples. (2015–17)
- To commission ambassadors to help cultivate closer relationships and collaboration with denominational peace fellowships and ecumenical mission associations. (2015–17)
- To explore various avenues (such as consultations, connecting senior leaders, and faculty exchanges) to cultivate relationship and dialogue with the Church of God (Cleveland), an historic Pentecostal denomination. (2015–17)
- To develop relationships/partnerships with historic African-American and immigrant denominations, churches and faith organizations to call for reform in the prison industrial complex and the system of mass incarceration/immigrant detention in our country. (2013–18)