



**Mennonite  
Church  
USA**

# QUICK GUIDE

Below you will find definitions and descriptions of many of the organizational entities and groups within Mennonite Church USA. You can also view the full Mennonite Church USA bylaws, which offer additional information, online.

**Area conference:** Mennonite Church USA is composed of 18 area conferences. Through participating in area conferences, local congregations can connect with each other and pool their resources so that they are able to do more than they would be able to do alone. All Mennonite Church USA congregations belong to an area conference, each of which has its own distinct culture. Some conferences are organized as regional districts, while others are organized based on historical ties or theological similarities. Conferences help congregations share resources for Christian nurture and worship, pastoral and lay leadership, witness and evangelism, justice-making, peace-building and church planting.

**The area conferences are:**

Allegheny Mennonite Conference  
Atlantic Coast Conference  
Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA  
Central Plains Mennonite Conference  
Eastern District Conference  
Franconia Mennonite Conference  
Gulf States Mennonite Conference  
Illinois Mennonite Conference  
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference  
Mountain States Mennonite Conference  
New York Mennonite Conference  
Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA  
Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference  
South Central Mennonite Conference

Southeast Mennonite Conference  
Virginia Mennonite Conference  
Western District Conference

**Constituency groups:** Constituency groups work to serve the needs of their members across Mennonite Church USA and connect them to the larger vision and mission of the church. Constituency groups are able to send representatives to Constituency Leaders Council meetings. The Executive Board may, in its discretion, identify new constituency groups and determine the number of representatives to the Constituency Leaders Council. See Racial Ethnic Council on next page.

**The current constituency groups are:**

Mennonite Men  
Mennonite Women USA

**Racial/ethnic Groups:** At the February 2016 meeting of the Executive Board (EB), the EB approved a request for MC USA's racial/ethnic groups to no longer be described as "constituency groups." With this change, Mennonite Women USA and Mennonite Men are the only two constituency groups in MC USA. Racial/ethnic groups and constituency groups are able to appoint representatives to CLC; racial/ethnic groups can appoint delegates to the Delegate Assembly.

**The current racial/ethnic groups are:**

African American Mennonite Association  
African, Belizean, Caribbean Mennonite Mission Association  
Asian Mennonite Ministries  
*Iglesia Menonita Hispana*  
Indonesian Mennonite Association  
Native Mennonite Ministries

**Constituency Leaders Council (CLC):** The Constituency Leaders Council, a group consisting of Executive Board representatives, area conference leaders, constituency group representatives and agency and EB staff, meets semiannually to listen, discern and advise the denomination on issues facing the church. It is the primary forum for conversation among area conferences in Mennonite Church USA. Each conference is invited to send up to three representatives.

**Delegate Assembly:** Delegates are representatives from Mennonite congregations, area conferences and racial/ethnic groups who attend the national Delegate Assembly, which takes place at the biennial Mennonite convention. Their role includes processing statements and resolutions related to Mennonite belief and practice, reviewing and offering feedback on the programs and priorities of the Executive Board, and giving guidance to general organizational policies and programs. You can read more about the role of the delegate [online](#).

**Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA:** A 14-member volunteer Executive Board guides the denomination and is accountable to congregational and area conference delegates, who meet every two years at a national assembly. The Executive Board supervises the executive director and the MC USA staff. You can see a full listing of board members [online](#). The Executive Board is chaired by the moderator and an executive committee, comprising the moderator, moderator-elect, executive director and three at-large board members, who work to set board meeting agendas. The Executive Board meets in person two to three times per year.

**MC USA staff:** Sometimes referred to as the EB staff, MC USA staff members work at carrying out the priorities identified by the delegates and board. They also support interconference connections and collaboration, coordinate the denomination's biennial conventions, provide communication services for the denomination, and oversee the denominational archives. You can see a full listing of MC USA staff [online](#).

Mennonite Church USA Executive Board and many of its churchwide agencies. Glen Guyton is the current executive director of Mennonite Church USA. The executive director is appointed to three-year terms by the Executive Board. There is no limit to the number of terms an executive director can fill. The executive director is the channel through which communications flows between the Executive Board and the national staff.

**Racial Ethnic Council:** Formerly the Intercultural Relations Reference Committee, the Racial Ethnic Council is a leadership body formed by representatives from each of the racial/ethnic groups across MC USA. The council works together to voice common concerns and ideas that advance equitable access to church programs and resources.

**Leadership Discernment Committee (LDC):** The Leadership Discernment Committee prepares slates of [nominees](#) for the boards of churchwide program agencies, the Executive Board, and any other standing committees. The committee has eight members, four of whom are appointed by the Executive Board and four of whom are nominated by the Constituency Leaders Council and elected/affirmed by the Delegate Assembly. Members may serve one four-year term, with possible reappointment or re-election for one additional four-year term.

**Mennonite Church USA agencies:** This term refers to each of the five program units of Mennonite Church USA — **Everence, MennoMedia, Mennonite Education Agency, MHS, and Mennonite Mission Network.**

2018 jbk

**Executive Director:** Job title for the staff leader of



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