



**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 19 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
Lancaster Mennonite Conference (until Dec. 2017)
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

Cabinet: The senior leadership team for the Executive Board staff, which helps to carry out the vision set by the Executive Board and gives leadership to the work of the national staff. The team includes the executive director, churchwide operations officer, director of communications, director of leadership development, director of transformative peacemaking and executive assistant. You can view the list of current cabinet members [online](#).

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, and some groups have representatives on the Executive Board. 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:

African American Mennonite Association
African, Belizean, Caribbean Mennonite Mission Association
Asian Mennonite Ministries
Iglesia Menonita Hispana
Mennonite Men
Indonesian Mennonite Association
Mennonite Women USA
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 national office 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 17-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 Executive Board 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.

Executive Board staff: Sometimes referred to as the national staff, Executive Board 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 Executive Board staff [online](#).

Executive Director: Job title for the staff leader of Mennonite Church USA Executive Board and many of its churchwide agencies. Ervin Stutzman 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 reference council that represents the African-American Mennonite Association; the African, Belizean, Caribbean Mennonite Mission Association; Asian Mennonite Ministries; *Iglesia Menonita Hispana*; the Indonesian Mennonite Association; and Native Mennonite Ministries. At the February 2016 meeting of the Executive Board (EB), the EB approved a request for the name change and for the Racial/Ethnic groups to no longer be described as "constituency groups." The EB is working to make this change to the bylaws, which will need delegate approval. With this change, Mennonite Women USA and Mennonite Men will be the only two constituency groups in Mennonite Church USA. Racial/Ethnic groups and constituency groups are able to appoint representatives to the CLC; Racial/Ethnic groups can appoint delegates to the Delegate Assembly.

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.**

The Mennonite: The magazine/e-zine of Mennonite Church USA

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