



### Area Conferences

- 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
- Virginia Mennonite Conference
- Western District Conference

### Churchwide Agencies

- Everence**  
The stewardship agency of Mennonite Church USA  
[www.everence.com](http://www.everence.com)
- MHSAlliance**  
Supporting health and human service ministries for Mennonite Church USA  
[www.mhsonline.org](http://www.mhsonline.org)
- MennoMedia**  
The publishing and media agency of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada  
[www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org)
- Mennonite Education Agency**  
The education agency of Mennonite Church USA  
[www.mennoniteeducation.org](http://www.mennoniteeducation.org)
- Mennonite Mission Network**  
The mission agency of Mennonite Church USA  
[www.mennonitemission.net](http://www.mennonitemission.net)



### Congregations

*joining in God's work in the world*

### Executive Board and Delegate Assembly Constituency Leaders Council (CLC)

#### Racial/Ethnic Groups

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

#### Constituency Groups

Mennonite Men; Mennonite Women USA  
[mennoniteusa.org](http://mennoniteusa.org)

[www.mennoniteusa.org](http://www.mennoniteusa.org)  
Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872



# Mennonite Church USA



# AN OVERVIEW

## An introduction to Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA is an Anabaptist denomination with roots in the Radical Reformation of 16th-century Europe. From its beginnings in mostly German-speaking parts of Europe, the Mennonite Church today is growing rapidly in many parts of the world. In fact, more Mennonites currently reside in the southern hemisphere than in the northern. In the United States, people from various faith traditions, ethnicities, nationalities and other backgrounds are also identifying with the vision and mission of Mennonite Church USA. For more information about Mennonites and their faith, visit: [www.mennoniteusa.org/about-us/who-are-the-mennonites](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/about-us/who-are-the-mennonites)

## Sharing a vision of healing and hope

*God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

That's where it starts: **the individual follower of Jesus Christ.** Mennonite Church USA wouldn't exist without the individual people who respond to God's call.

**Local congregations** are communities in which these individuals can find support for their efforts to live out their faith, share their joys and sorrows with each other, learn about and discuss biblical teachings, and discern together what it means to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. In local congregations, individuals can pool their resources of time, abilities and money to join in God's work in the world in ways they could not do alone.

Likewise, through participating in area **conferences**, 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 one of 18 area conferences, 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.

Conference gatherings also offer opportunities for individuals representing congregations to hear from each other and see the bigger picture of God's activity in the wider church, as well as to discern together ways to be engaged in what God is doing.

The area conferences make up **the denominational body of Mennonite Church USA** and provide congregations with a direct link to the larger ministries and constituency groups of the denomination, which exist to help local faith communities embody the message of Christ's love, peace and reconciliation.

Mennonite Church USA is part of Mennonite World Conference, a global faith family that includes more than 1.4 million baptized believers in 105 national conferences of churches in 56 countries.

## Denominational organization

**Mennonite Church USA** was formed in 2002 by the merger of the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Church, both of which were binational (U.S. and Canada) denominations. Mennonite Church USA has more than 62,000 adult members in about 565 congregations and 17 area conferences. It is the largest of numerous Mennonite groups in the United States.

Mennonite Church USA organizational structures are relatively "flat" compared to many other denominations. 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 Executive Board staff.

Delegates are representatives from Mennonite congregations, area conferences and racial/ethnic groups who attend the national **Delegate Assembly**. 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.

The **Constituency Leaders Council**, a group consisting of Executive Board representatives, area conference leaders, constituency group representatives and agency and Executive Board staff, meets semi-annually 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.

**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. The **executive director** is the job title for the staff leader of MC USA Executive Board. Glen Guyton is the current executive director of MC USA.

**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.

**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 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

**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.

## Renewed Commitments for MC USA

### *A Living Document for the Journey Forward Process*

God invites us to experience and bear witness to the belovedness of all creation. We yearn to know and share in the mystery of God's unending love.

We confess that sin fragments our wholeness and strains our relationships with God, each other and the world. Confronted with the misuses of power in our lives, communities and institutions, we seek to tell the truth and repent.

The Holy Spirit beckons us toward the restoration of all things in Christ. God continually calls us beloved. On this journey together, we commit to:

#### **Follow Jesus**

As an Anabaptist community of the living Word, we listen for God's call as we read Scripture together, guided by the Spirit. Through baptism we commit ourselves to live faithfully as Jesus' disciples, no matter the cost.

#### **Witness to God's peace**

We are called to extend God's holistic peace, proclaiming Christ's redemption for the world with our lives. Through Christ, God frees the world from sin and offers reconciliation. We bear witness to this gift of peace by rejecting violence and resisting injustice in all forms, and in all places.

#### **Experience transformation**

The Holy Spirit dwells in and among us, transforming us to reflect God's love. Through worship the Spirit gathers the body of Christ, where our diversity reveals God's beauty. The Spirit empowers our communities to embody the grace, joy and peace of the gospel.



## A visual design to unite us and remind us of who we are

*Time after time, the Spirit in the form of a dove announces the coming of God to us. As Mennonites, we recognize the centrality of Christ as proclaimed in Scripture, revealed through the Holy Spirit and discerned in Christian community. The dove represents Jesus and the missional calling to follow him into the world — gracefully, joyfully and peacefully.*