



May 1, 2017

Dear delegates to Orlando 2017:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We look forward to seeing you at our Delegate Assembly. Following is the proposed schedule for official business adopted by the Executive Board in its most recent meeting. As you can see, we will have a shorter delegate session than usual, with sessions planned for Thursday and Saturday. However, between these sessions, we will meet in what we are calling a **Future Church Summit**, a generative, open space for denomination-wide conversation — to dream together, reset priorities and engage one another in answering the question: How will we follow Jesus as Anabaptists in the 21st century? Here and throughout this email, you can click on the hyperlinks for more information: <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/future-church-summit/>

**Thursday, July 6 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm**

- a. Opening, welcome of guests, committee and table introductions (30 min.)
- b. Roll call, explanation of group process and affirmation of group covenant (30 min.)
- c. Adoption of agenda and special rules for this meeting, intro to business (30 min.)
- d. Break (30 min.)
- e. Voting on ballot, Resolution on Israel/Palestine, any other business (120 min.)

***FUTURE CHURCH SUMMIT***

**Saturday, July 8 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

- f. Action on Future Church Summit (30 min.)
- g. Report from Anti-Racism Team (5 min.)
- h. Report from Listening Committee (5 min.)
- i. Transfer of authority from Patricia Shelly to David Boshart (20 min.)

We are also pleased to announce that the “[Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine Resolution](#)” is now available for your study. At the end of March, the Executive Board approved this resolution for consideration by delegates at our upcoming Delegate Assembly.

This is a revised version of the “Israel/Palestine Resolution” which was tabled by delegates in Kansas City. The [re-writing process](#) involved extensive consultation and opportunity for feedback.

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Steve Kriss, Franconia Conference executive minister, served on a ten-member reference group for the writing team. He writes: "This resolution represents broad listening, hard prayerful work and takes into account our relatedness as well as the prophetic and repentant work that's ahead of us. . . [It] is honest, hopeful and leans toward the invitation to extend Christ's peace." We believe many others will view it the same way, and look forward to hearing your response at the delegate session.

The revised resolution addresses both military occupation *and* antisemitism within a restorative justice framework. We recognize these are complex matters. A half-page summary captures the content and the spirit of the resolution. Other resources are available on the [delegate assembly resources page](#). For additional resources, please contact Jonathan Brenneman (Coordinator, Israel/Palestine Partners in Peacemaking) [JonathanB@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:JonathanB@MennoniteUSA.org). We invite you to prayerfully consider this resolution in your congregation or in other venues in preparation for our time together in Orlando.

Yours in Christ,



Ervin R. Stutzman  
Executive Director



Patricia Shelly  
Moderator