

MC USA Membership Guidelines Advisory Meeting

Final 09/19/2019

Purpose

The **purpose** of this gathering is to get input from a broad group of MC USA stakeholders and other influential parties about next steps for discerning the future of the Membership Guidelines of MC USA.

Advisory Group Makeup

The advisory group will consist of no more than 24 people, not including the process facilitator. Advisory group members will also be selected to ensure a balance of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and identity, and theological breadth. Members will be members in good standing of MC USA, with 1-2 persons selected for specific expertise.

Process and Qualifications

The advisory group will convene for a three-day meeting to generate possible ways to move forward on the Membership Guidelines. The group will engage in structured dialogue to review the history of the guidelines and how they are currently functioning within the church, develop insight needed to frame issues arising from these guidelines and consider options for how the church might address them. The group will also consider the delegate responses from delegate session on the Membership Guidelines from MennoCon2019.

We are looking for people who are willing to:

1. Demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22 – 23)
2. Thoroughly read delegate responses and background material and take them seriously
3. Listen deeply
4. Engage in constructive dialogue as sisters and brothers in Christ
5. Collaborative spirit
6. Fully participate for the entire process
7. Committed to the *Renewed Commitments*

Goal

The primary goal of this gathering is to generate option(s) for how to best discern the future of the Membership Guidelines in a way that builds up the church and embodies the renewed commitments of MC USA - including MC USA's values of diversity and inclusion.

The resulting option(s) will also be grounded in Anabaptist/Mennonite theology, show attentiveness to the history of the guidelines and how they have impacted LGBTQ persons in the church, demonstrate clear understanding of MC USA polity and show evidence of having listened to the delegate feedback from MennoCon19.

These options will be available to the EB, in report form, within 15 days of the advisory group meeting.

Decision-making Process

The MC USA Executive Board will engage these options as they make decisions concerning a potential church-wide discernment process related to the Membership Guidelines.