

 

September 10, 2024

Dear Congregational Leader,

Grace and peace to you. Thank you for the leadership you provide your congregation.

As we approach election day, how do we as Mennonites provide witness to and enliven the peacemaking work of Jesus in the world? How do we protect the vulnerable within our churches and our communities at large?

"A Confession of Evangelical Conviction" was released on Friday, September 6 at <https://www.evangelicalconfession2024.com>. This confession echoes the bravery of the Confessing Church during Nazi Germany, urging contemporary evangelicals to examine themselves in light of current challenges.

As Mennonites, we were struck by the document's resonance with our own peacemaking convictions. We celebrate this effort to call evangelicals to prayerful reflection and a renewed focus on Jesus' message of peacemaking!

Fear and division are pervasive, threatening to fracture the bonds that once held us together. Families and neighbors often find themselves at odds, turning our once shared tables into spaces of loss, hopelessness, pain, and anger.

There's reason for hope amidst this darkness. Perhaps, as the text suggests, our Mennonite theology and practice of peacemaking hold special relevance for "such a time as this." It’s a good time to be Mennonite!

We invite you to take a look at "[A Confession of Evangelical Conviction](https://www.evangelicalconfession2024.com)" and its call for revival. How can we bridge divides and offer support to our evangelical brothers and sisters? How can we forge unity based on the shared convictions it contains?

This week, the CDC staff will be dedicated to prayer for this movement of revival. We invite you and your church communities to join us, alongside "churches around the country in a call for renewal, refocus on Jesus as Lord, and a prayer for the Holy Spirit to restore the witness and love of the Church."

Furthermore, we encourage you and your church communities to re-examine our Mennonite history, theology, and practices around peacemaking and political engagement. We've included some resources below to facilitate deeper engagement.

Thank you for your continued witness of God’s peacemaking work in your community and neighborhoods!

Sincerely,



Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister



Matt Pritchard, Associate Conference Minister of Emerging Communities of Faith



Sarah Werner, Communications Coordinator



Emma Hartman, Conference Administrator

Confession of Faith In a Mennonite Perspective. Article 23. Church’s Relation to Government and Society. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/what-we-believe/confession-of-faith/churchs-relation-to-government-and-society/>

Mennonite Church USA calls for bold peacemaking during the election <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/bold-peacemaking/>

A beginners’ guide to political advocacy <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice/beginners-guide-to-political-advocacy/>

Mennonite congregations in the landscape of abolition

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/mennonite-congregations-in-the-landscape-of-abolition/>

AMBS Witness Colloquium Series: Understanding and Engaging Movements for Justice <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZSu_8BWw_M>

Community Peacemaker Teams <https://cpt.org>

Mennonite Mission Network Peace Resources <https://www.mennonitemission.net/resources/peace>

Who Will Be A Witness: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance by Drew G.I. Hart

East Point Peace Academy <https://www.eastpointpeace.org/ourtrainings>

Religious Identity and Political Participation in the Mennonite Church USA <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/247657270_Religious_Identity_and_Political_Participation_in_the_Mennonite_Church_USA>

Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw