



MENNONITE CHURCH USA EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT TO DELEGATES

“God has made known to us the mystery of God’s will, according to God’s good pleasure that God set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in God, things in heaven and things on earth. –Ephesians 1:9-10

Mennonite Church USA has been on an important journey these past two years – **the Journey Forward!** We believe that history has a direction, and it is moving toward the fullness of time when God will gather up all things in heaven and on earth in unity. We will gather in Kansas City for our biennial convention on July 2-6 to check in on our journey and how our Renewed Commitments are shaping our journey. The following are glimpses of the work of MC USA’s Executive Board and staff during the past two years.

The primary Executive Board focus this biennium was carrying out the work created by the 2017 **Future Church Summit** in Orlando. This included:

- August 2017: MC USA staff worked together with the Executive Committee to:
 - 1) Plan a follow-up process to the Future Church Summit (Journey Forward).
 - 2) Nominate individuals for a Writing Team and Reference Council to produce follow-up materials.
- September 2017: The Executive Board approved the **Journey Forward** documents (statement of core values, outcomes and strategies and the process of a congregational study), commending them to the Constituency Leaders Council for feedback.
- January 2018: The Writing Team developed a one-page document entitled **Renewed Commitments for MC USA**. This was broadly circulated through the church for feedback and critique.
- June 2018: After receiving feedback on the *Renewed Commitments* document, the writing team developed and released **Pathways for the Journey Forward**, a Bible study for congregations. This study enabled congregations to study the biblical foundations of the *Renewed Commitments* and reflect on their specific call to embody them in their own context.
- August 2018-May 2019: **Stories were collected** for sharing at MennoCon19.

In other business:

The board appointed and installed **Glen Guyton** as the third executive director of MC USA. Several other key MC USA staff were appointed.

Linda Dibble, a chaplain and long-time leader in Pacific Northwest Conference was nominated as MC USA moderator-elect beginning in 2019.

The board approved a **new strategic plan** prepared by Executive Director Glen Guyton.

At a meeting between the Executive Committee and **Lancaster Mennonite Conference**, leaders committed to pray for each other, share with each other what the Spirit of God is doing among them and endorsed LMC’s desire to remain fellow communicants in the larger Anabaptist body of Mennonite World Conference.

After lengthy negotiations, the board gave its endorsement to the terms and conditions of **releasing The Mennonite, Inc. as an entity of MC USA** to explore merging with Mennonite World Review, Inc.

The board received the report of the Panel on Sexual Abuse Prevention and a resource for congregations, **Prevention and Response: Sexual Abuse and Non-Credentialed Individuals**.

Membership Guidelines. The EB is working with denominational leaders and staff to outline a process for engaging MC USA constituency during the next biennium, with a goal to bring a recommendation to delegates in 2021.

—submitted by David Boshart, moderator for MC USA