

## Quick Reference

	Creation	Intention	Application	Important Questions
<i>Confession of Faith</i>	Written by Inter-Mennonite Confession of Faith Committee (co-chairs and reps from both MC and GC)  Approved by Delegate Body in Wichita, KS 1995.	Provides broad guidelines for interpretation of scripture, orthodoxy and orthopraxy, discipleship, and evangelism.	Historically been used as a baseline for Mennonite Church USA theological and ministerial practice. Has not typically been applied as a legalistic document.	Is a Confession of Faith intended to be static, or should it be reviewed?  Does a Confession change with a shifting denominational culture, or is the culture shaped by the Confession?
<i>Membership Guidelines</i>	Written by Integration Committee. After rejection by MC delegates in 1999, were revised by a CLC task force and voted on again in 2001.  Approved by Delegate Body in Nashville, TN 2001.	Intended to outline basic principles that congregations would agree to uphold as members of the larger denomination. Integration Committee proposed a 6 year lifespan for the document. The Executive Board chose to review after 6 years—were reviewed and revised in 2007.	Have provided a touchstone for membership in Mennonite Church USA after being agreed upon by original delegate bodies.	Are these Guidelines reflective of the denomination's current state?  Are the tensions reflected in the initial document still of primary concern for the denomination, or are there other concerns within the community that we should be addressing?
<i>A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Polity</i>	Written by the Joint Committee on Ministerial Leadership, beginning in 1987 and published in 1995 after several drafts. Not voted on by delegate bodies.	Written to help provide direction to congregations and area conferences in the responsibilities of pastors and other congregational leaders.	Used as originally intended as guidelines for ministerial practice and credentialing.  Reviewed beginning in 2012 and new working document, A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership, accepted by Mennonite Church Canada in 2014 and Mennonite Church USA in 2015.	What do you know about A Shared Understanding of Church Leadership and what role does it play in your congregation?  How does this polity fit into the broader spectrum of Mennonite Church USA polity, and how does its purpose compare to that of the other documents?
<i>Purposeful Plan</i>	Written in 2011 under advisement of Executive Board. Reviewed every 2 years and affirmed by delegate body.	Intended to outline the vision for the church as identified in 7 priorities for Christian life and ministry.	Often referred to for the ethos found in the outlined principles. Often cited in releases from denominational leadership.	Do these seven priorities still align with the current state of the church?  In what ways could our goals be made clearer and more accurately expressed by our churches?