

GIVING Guide



Supporting the Ministry Work
of Mennonite Church USA

This guide is to help you align giving to MC USA with your faith and values. We believe in the biblical principles of reaping and sowing. Giving, while being a very practical exercise in helping to cover the ministry, staffing and other overhead to run our denomination, is also a spiritual practice that not only blesses others but the giver as well.



“He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Mark 12:41-44

CONFERENCES

5-7%

of your annual budget to support the work of MC USA. Conferences could commit to give a minimum of \$5,000 per year to the work of the MC USA Executive Board.

CONGREGATIONS

3-5%

of your annual budget to support the work of MC USA. As an alternative, consider giving a minimum of \$10 per member to MC USA annually.

INDIVIDUALS

Consider an annual donation of \$100 or more. That is the equivalent of a few trips to get coffee for many of us.

We need your support to continue the good work of MC USA as we live out our vision: *God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

It is crucial that our constituents support the work of the Journey Forward as MC USA seeks to do relevant ministry in the 21st century. Our agencies and members organization are working to:



Follow Jesus: We value the scriptures, and guided by the Spirit, we commit ourselves to live faithfully as Jesus' disciples.



Witness to God's peace: We are called to extend God's holistic peace, proclaiming Christ's redemption for the world with our lives. We bear witness to this gift of peace by rejecting violence and resisting injustice in all forms and in all places.

Help our Communities Experience Transformation: The Holy Spirit dwells in and among us, transforming us to reflect God's love. Through worship, the Spirit gathers the body of Christ, where our diversity reveals God's beauty. The Spirit empowers our communities to embody the grace, joy and peace of the gospel.





Which Mennonite Church USA organizations should your congregation include in your spending plan/offering schedule?

GIVING OPTIONS:

Option 1: Give via our Churchwide Formula

This allows organizations to write one check to Mennonite Church USA that is distributed to the following agencies

- 66% Mennonite Mission Network
- 15% Mennonite Church USA Executive Board
- 14% Mennonite Education Agency
- 3% MennoMedia
- 1% Iglesia Hispana Menonita
- .8% African American Mennonite Association
- .2% Native Mennonite Ministries

Using the church-wide formula ensures your generous gift is shared by our key agencies and allows the agencies to direct funds where they are needed most. This is the simplest way to give, and it benefits the broad work of MC USA. *Make your check out to "MC USA" and mail it to Mennonite Church USA, 718 N. Main St., Newton KS 67114-1703. In the memo line, indicate that you want the check distributed according to "The Formula."*

Option 2: Give to a specific agency or organization of Mennonite Church USA

These organizations and programs are a part of Mennonite Church USA:

- Mennonite Church USA Executive Board
- Mennonite Education Agency
- Mennonite Mission Network
- MennoMedia
- Mennonite Health Services Alliance
- Everence
- The Mennonite
- Your area conference
- Racial/Ethnic Groups: African American Mennonite Association (AAMA); African, Belizean, Caribbean Mennonite Mission Association (ABCMMA); Asian Mennonite Ministries (AMM); Iglesia Menonita Hispana (IMH); Indonesian Mennonite Association (IMA); and Native Mennonite Ministries (NMM)
- Constituency Groups: Mennonite Men and Mennonite Women USA

Option 3: Give to a specific program

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

If there is specific ministry work that touches your soul, we encourage you to target your giving. Our finance department will make sure the funds are directed to the correct program line.

- ☐ Journey Forward (MC USA Strategic Plan)
- ☐ Church Planting Sharing Fund
- ☐ Women in Leadership
- ☐ Racial/Ethnic ministry grants
- ☐ MC USA biennial convention scholarships
- ☐ MC USA Archives
- ☐ Peace Witness Training and Resources
- ☐ Peace Academic Center (Formerly Hopi Mission School)

Church Planting

We are building a church planting support system to include assessment, training, coaching, ongoing support and seed money for qualified church planters with the goal of planting nine new MC USA congregations in 2019. Each dollar creates the support church planters need to pursue their calling within MC USA.

We hope to start a church planting sharing fund of at least \$60,000

Women in Leadership

Women in Leadership connects and empowers women through online forums, in-person gatherings and print and online resources. Over the next biennium, WIL will organize its fourth Women Doing Theology conference and host trainings across MC USA to help leaders understand and dismantle harmful patriarchal systems.

Annual budget: \$40,000.

Peace and Justice

We are committed to following Jesus as peacemakers. Our work focuses on and responds to issues of immigration, anti-racism, violence, war, gender and sexual abuse. We provide resources and trainings, and speak our peace witness publicly for the church and our communities.

Budget: \$25,000 to subsidize trainings and resources.

MC USA Biennial Convention

The convention is our foremost faith formation event, creating an experience for youth to learn about Jesus and grow in discipleship. We envision the broadest representation of our church to worship, learn and discern together. Your donation provides scholarships for Mennonite youth who would not otherwise have the finances to attend.

Budget: \$15,000 for convention scholarships.

Peace Academic Center (Formerly Hopi Mission School)

Hopi means "peace." We plan to honor that by rebuilding Hopi Mission School with a new name and vision. The Peace Academic Center will begin with a preschool and GED completion courses, and we plan to continue developing partnerships and programs with long-term benefits for the Hopi community.

We hope to raise at least \$35,000 to restart the school.

MC USA Archives

Donations to the MC USA Archives will improve long-term preservation and online access to the rich materials in our collections, including photographs, oral histories, audiovisual recordings and documents. Over the next year, we also plan to create an oral history project for the 2019 convention focused on stories of Mennonite youth.

Annual budget: close to \$130,000.

Racial/Ethnic Fund

The Racial/Ethnic Fund develops leadership and empowers local ministries identified by the Racial Ethnic Committee. This fund represents sustainability for important projects: leadership development, mentoring programs, local missions, educational opportunities and summits on issues such as planting churches and mission.

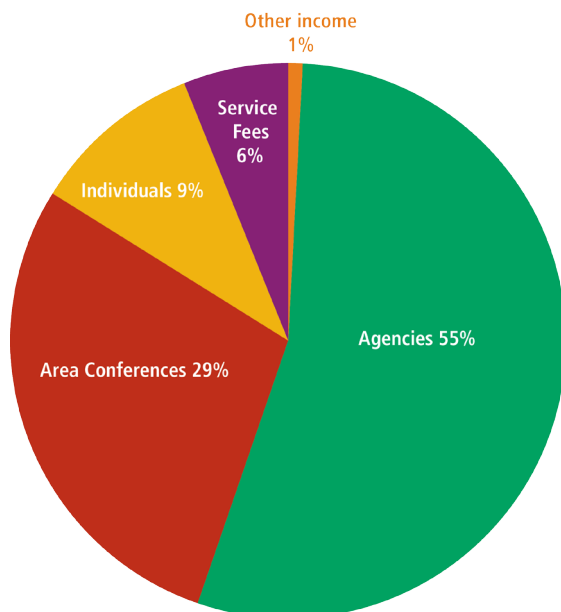
Annual budget: \$24,000 for providing grants

Can I just give to the denominational leadership to direct funds where needed most?

Yes, this is always the best way to ensure your offerings support our Journey Forward efforts.

Denominational staff is responsible for: resourcing conferences, collaborating with our agencies and entities, planning conventions, managing historical records, creating communications forums, and representing MC USA in national and global forums, including Mennonite World Conference.

WHO SUPPORTS THE WORK OF MC USA EXECUTIVE BOARD?



WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

