

JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY

# 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.

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



# Here's what your support helps us do

- **Connect to the global Anabaptist community.** We represent MC USA members as part of the General Council of Mennonite World Conference and connect to Anabaptist faith communities around the world. We also work closely with Mennonite Church Canada in regard to faith confessions and ministerial credentialing.
- **Connect to be the larger faith community.** From Christian Churches Together to Bridgefolk, we regularly engage in dialogue with other faith traditions to learn, grow and share.
- **Preserve Anabaptist Mennonite history.** The work of our archives ensures that both Anabaptists and non-Anabaptists can access the stories that are forever a part of who we are.
- **Collaborate with all parts of MC USA for the good of the whole.** The Executive Board brings together our conference leaders, program agencies and entities to prioritize the use of resources and development programs that strengthen our work and witness.
- **Respond to national issues on behalf of our church.** From gun violence and war protests to issues of immigration, our national body can make statements, address policy and mobilize the denomination in ways that the local church cannot.
- **Create forums to connect members of MC USA.** Our national convention and delegate assembly are our primary churchwide gatherings, but there are many more gatherings hosted by the agencies of MC USA.



Mark 12:41- 44

"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.'"

*Your generosity allows us to continue the good work of MC USA as we live out our mission:*

**God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ, 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 organizations 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.**

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



# 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 budget line.**

## **Church Planting Sharing Fund**

MC USA partners with Mennonite Mission Network to create and nurture missional peace churches — communities of people, gathered together by Jesus, whose lives and witness reflect the gospel of peace and who are engaged in their local settings. We do this through the Thrive: Church Planting Grant, a \$5,000 renewable grant that supports church plants across the United States. Every dollar that is donated allows us to offer church planters the support they need to pursue their calling of planting a peace church within MC USA.



## **Racial/Ethnic Leadership Program**

The Racial/Ethnic Leadership Fund develops leadership and empowers local ministries and leaders. MC USA works with Racial/Ethnic leaders to develop sustainable programs for the various Racial/Ethnic groups who have often found monetary support to be intermittent and fragmented. We aim to empower the next generation of leaders in MC USA.



## **Women in Leadership**

Women in Leadership (WIL) works to raise awareness across the church about the multifaceted expressions of patriarchy within the body of Christ and challenges us to think critically about how we practice Christianity. WIL connects and empowers women in ministry through online forums, in-person gatherings, "Holding It(.) Together" podcast, and print and online resources. Over the next biennium, WIL will organize its Women Doing Theology conference and host trainings across MC USA to help leaders understand and dismantle harmful patriarchal systems.



## **The General Fund**

The General Fund directs donations to where they are needed most, strengthening our denomination, which in turn, supports area conferences, congregations and members. The denominational staff is responsible for: resourcing conferences, planning conventions, managing the historical records of the denomination and much more



## **MC USA Biennial Convention Scholarships**

The convention is our foremost faith formation event. We envision a gathering of the broadest representation of our church to worship, learn and discern together. A key component of the convention is to invite youth to make or strengthen their commitment to Christ. We do this by creating a "set apart" experience for youth in which they can learn about Jesus and grow in discipleship through vibrant worship and relevant seminars. Your donation will help provide additional scholarships for Mennonite youth who would not otherwise have the finances to attend this vital faith formation gathering.

## **#BringThePeace (Peace & Justice)**

Our work is to strengthen and equip people across the church to follow Jesus's way of nonviolence and be peacemakers in our homes, congregations and communities. Their long-term work is to be witnesses against all forms of violence including war, systemic racism, poverty, climate crisis and other issues that impact the most vulnerable. We provide resources and training and speak publicly through statements and prayers for the church and our communities.

## **MC USA Archives**

The Mennonite Church USA Archives seeks to inspire people worldwide to follow Christ by engaging them with the historical record of Mennonite Christian discipleship. Donations to the MC USA Archives will strengthen our efforts to improve long-term preservation and online access to the rich materials in our collections, including photographs, oral histories, at-risk audiovisual recordings, and written documents.

## **Justice Fund**

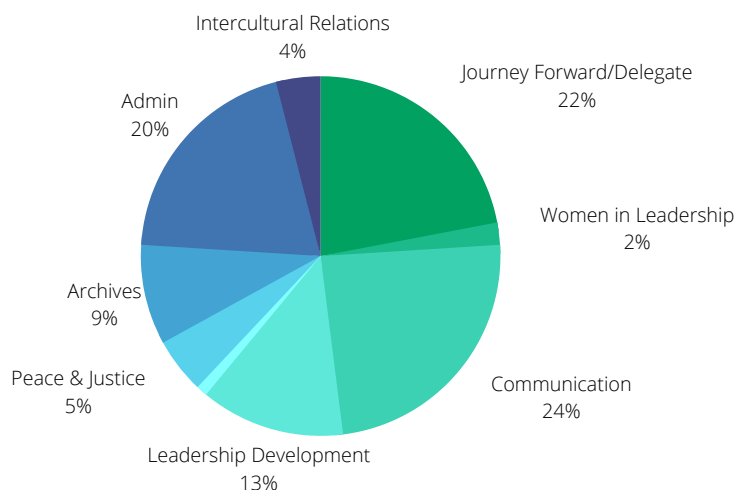
Launched amid significant social unrest in the United States, the Justice Fund provides a way for individuals and congregations to support MC USA churches that are actively involved in dismantling racism, addressing police brutality, reimagining policing in our society or combating poverty.

# Commonly asked questions...

## Who supports the work of the Executive Board?

The five program agencies of MC USA (Everence, MHS, MennoMedia, Mennonite Education Agency and Mennonite Mission Network) provide a little more than half of our annual financial support. The Executive Board relies primarily on the generosity of conferences, congregations and individuals to provide the other half.

## How is the budget spent?



If everyone does their part, a little goes a long way.  
Here is a suggested model for giving:

### 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.

### Individuals

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

If you value the collective work of MC USA, we ask that you donate today to help us Journey Forward into the 21st century as a relevant and Spirit-led peace church, helping to share the good news locally and across the globe.

We encourage our members and conferences to give to the work that they most care about.

Please make checks payable to MC USA, noting EB in the memo line and where you would like your donation to go.

You can also give online at: [MennoniteUSA.org/give](https://MennoniteUSA.org/give)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Racial/Ethnic Leadership Program        | <input type="checkbox"/> MC USA Archives     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Planting Sharing Fund            | <input type="checkbox"/> The Justice Fund    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #BringThePeace Initiative               | <input type="checkbox"/> Women in Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MC USA Biennial Convention Scholarships | <input type="checkbox"/> The General Fund    |

### SEND CHECKS TO:

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