

Key Findings and Recommendations

Participants acknowledge the historical significance of cultural traditions but also emphasize that this limits growth and diversity by alienating chosen/non-cradle Mennonites.

- Moving forward, leadership needs to work with delegates and representatives from different Mennonite groups to understand what aspects of MC USA have been isolating, and then plan actionable steps to reconcile past hurts and prevent exclusionary practices moving forward.

MC USA members emphasize the importance of living out their faith, which happens through denominational and interdenominational connections. MC USA participants are deeply committed to their faith and peacemaking. They believe that being Mennonite means interpreting Scripture and behaving in the world as peacemakers who live out the word of Jesus.

- MC USA should offer clear opportunities to serve those outside the church and to express Christian love. This will make people feel more connected to and engaged with MC USA and the denomination overall.
- MC USA should work to balance tradition and reinforce the teachings and beliefs of the Mennonite denomination while focusing on being more open and inclusive of those who want to be part of it.
- MC USA should continue to provide resources and networks to further develop intradenominational and interdenominational connections.

Members are drawn to the denomination because of the values and support they receive as they develop and live out their faith.

- MC USA should discern ways to model the embodiment of the Mennonite faith while guiding congregations toward MC USA's understanding of Anabaptism.
- To further model the mission and values of the faith, MC USA should consider developing additional training for congregational leaders centered around diversity, equity, inclusion, and conflict management within a church setting.
- MC USA should celebrate the support provided to members at the congregational level. At the denominational level, MC USA should provide more transparency regarding the mission and responsibilities of the executive board and develop ways to improve effectiveness in their communications.
- The denomination should continue its support of the agencies and organizations that MC USA is fostering and affiliated with.



Current MC USA members indicate a desire for MC USA to be forward-thinking and forward-looking.

While current members are reticent to cause further bifurcation to the denomination, they encourage denominational leaders to lead by example and take a stance on contemporary social issues. MC USA leadership deserves praise for their steps thus far in moving the denomination toward a more inclusive and diverse denomination.

- MC USA should work with committees of historically underrepresented identities to continue to identify their needs and create a plan to put their suggestions into action.
- MC USA governance should emphasize movement toward being a forward-thinking denomination that is actively working toward inclusive practices, as members view this as an embodiment of the core premise of the Mennonite faith.
- MC USA also needs to continue diversifying those in leadership (i.e., people who head denominational committees and boards) and giving voice to those who feel marginalized, including but not limited to members that are women, part of the LGBTQ community, people of color, young adults, and nonethnic/non-cradle Mennonites.
- Leadership needs to continue walking alongside conferences and congregations, providing resources and guidance as each community discovers how to live out the Mennonite faith.