Mission Network highlights

Global Partnerships

Africa/Europe
» Belgium: Read this article about the reconciliation program at Holy Trinity in Brussels.

» Sibonokuhle Ncube began working Jan. 17 as Regional Director for Africa and Europe, along with Steve Wiebe-Johnson.

Asia/Middle East
» South Korea: Read this article about the book, “Our Peacebuilding Story,” by international service associates Jae Young Lee and Karen Spicher, and this article, which reflects the important efforts of our brothers and sisters in doing peacebuilding work.

» Thailand: Jonah and Memee Yang, from Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Lauderdale, Minnesota, are spending the year preparing to serve in Thailand.

Latin America
» Mennonita moved to a new stage, with multiple hosts along with Peter Wiigington. Anabaptist World continues to promote this Spanish podcast from Latin America.

» Andean Regional Seminary: The Seminario Bíblico Menonita de Colombia (SBMC), with Mission Network support, is in dialogue with church and theological education leaders in the Andean region to develop into a regional seminary, and with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) for Masters level Anabaptist theological education in Spanish.

» The new Anabaptist Spanish Healthy Boundaries materials were released and are available in the digital library: La confianza, sagrada. Limites saludables para el liderazgo en las iglesias. While much of the Anabaptist curriculum is new, the materials also include exercises adapted with permission from FaithTrust Institute.

Service statistics

222 participants served in short-term service programs in 2022. This includes SOOP, Youth Venture, Short Term Groups, and Just Peace Pilgrimages.

34 participants began longer-term service assignments with Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) and Service Adventure for the 2022-2023 program year.

56 people/families are currently serving as international service workers.

Thoughtful exercise adapted from Healthy Boundaries materials is new, the materials also include exercises adapted with permission from FaithTrust Institute.


to join the program advisory council for Practical Leadership Training.

» Ann Jacobs led a worship workshop at Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland, Ohio, and spoke at Open Door Women’s Conference in Jackson, Mississippi.

Training and Resources

» Last year, Mauricio Chenlo, Joe Sawatzky and Henok Mekonin provided leadership for two SOOP cohorts — U.S. and Tanzania/South Africa — and Pacíficadores, an online course was launched in February for 13 participants in Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Peru.

» Joe Sawatzky continues liaising with the AMBS Global Leadership Network to build relationships and opportunities for international volunteers to serve as long-term North American workers.

» Youth Venture includes trips to Indonesia and Benin.

» We added two SOOP hosting locations this past year: Amigo Centre in Michigan and Open-Door Mennonite Church in Mississippi.

Constuent Engagement

» Churches and conferences: Representatives have been attending annual conference gatherings to meet with conference staff and pastors/missional leaders and promote and invite participation and partnership with Mission Network.

» Youth: Representatives have been reaching out to high schools, colleges and youth groups to recruit for 2023-24 MVS and Service Adventure.

Training and Resources

» Collaborative and teaching two courses during the school year.

» AMBS invited Training and Resources director Joani Miller to join the program advisory council for Practical Leadership Training.

North America
» Long-term service: We are actively working to create opportunities for international volunteers to serve as long-term North American workers.

» Youth Venture includes trips to Indonesia and Benin.

» We added two SOOP hosting locations this past year: Amigo Centre in Michigan and Open-Door Mennonite Church in Mississippi.

» Just Peace Pilgrimages are an emerging initiative in the United States. These tours invite people to listen and learn, while visiting places of historical and contemporary significance, challenging them to reflect on how faith calls us all to stand in solidarity against injustice.

Prayer partners

Join the network of prayer! You can request a copy of our Mission Mosaic by going to our website or by emailing Prayer@MennoniteMission.net. This is a good way to pray for Mission Network workers and participants.
Marketing and Communication

- We have focused on peace and justice, through Stir Up Peace, nonviolent direct action instructional modules.
- The reboot of the MissionWary Podcast has promoted Mission Network’s innovative approach to mission work.
- We have been collaborating with Anabaptist World to offer more international stories with broad appeal.
- New and established social media accounts have seen new life through increased interactions and followers.
- Mission Network’s website is being redesigned and is scheduled to launch in the summer of 2023.
- We developed marketing and communications plan and execution for new Just Peace Pilgrimage, while heavily promoting service programs with social media, video and story campaign.
- The popular Shared Voices style guide has been updated to include an international glossary of terms. The style guide has been referenced by a growing number of communicators to help improve their cultural competency.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team was formed in April 2022 and has created a charter, with goals for our agency to work better at addressing antiracism in our structure and system.
- An anti-racism endowment fund has been established to specifically fund Mission Network anti-racism initiatives and the efforts made to dismantle racism by Mission Network partner organizations that are run by people of color.

Development

- Peace/Dove Pin campaign. Fall 2022–spring 2023: The purpose of this campaign was to inspire individuals to wear the pins and engage in active peacebuilding in communities.
- Pass Along Peace campaign, Spring 2023: This campaign was specific to Mission Network service alumni and friends and included a matching gift.

Aug. 1, 2022–Jan. 31, 2023 fiscal year financials

The Aug. 1, 2022–Jan. 31, 2023, financial report showed $3,315,000 raised, with $1,005,000 in congregational and $1,240,000 in individual contributions. We anticipate a total of at least $3.7 million in congregational and individual contributions and $1.4 million in estates and bequests, totaling at least $5.1 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Mission Network continues to manage resources responsibly, as we anticipate economic challenges in the domestic and global economies. We are adjusting our spending, as needed, and continuing to find creative ways to reduce expenses while applying prudent investment strategies to increase positive returns. We are currently planning the next fiscal year’s budget and will continue to be good stewards with the gifts given to us by faithful donors to God’s mission.

Financial activity from Aug. 1, 2022 to Jan. 31, 2023

Revenue $3,315,000
- 37% Individual contributions $1,240,000
- 30% Congregational contributions $1,005,000
- 10% Other income $320,000
- 23% Estates and bequests $750,000

Additional notes
1. This report is for the current fiscal period of August 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023.
2. Program revenue includes funding from partner organizations, program fees, event fees, sale of publications and resources, and worker earnings.
3. Confidentiality policy: Contribution information in the Mission Network/ Mennonite Church USA database will not be shared. Address information may be shared with other Mennonite Church USA agencies.

Expenses $3,581,000
- 71% Program ministry $2,549,000
- 16% Support services $575,000
- 8% Fundraising $273,000
- 5% First fruits grant to MC USA $190,000 (1.5%)

5. Other income includes investment income, program income and grants.

Thank you for your continued partnership in God’s mission!