



FAQ

My conference voted to leave Mennonite Church USA. Now what?

Q: Our MC USA area conference just voted to leave MC USA. Our congregation would like to remain in MC USA, what can we do?

A: According to the MC USA bylaws, "Congregations automatically derive and attain membership in Mennonite Church USA through their membership in an area conference member of Mennonite Church USA." Therefore, your congregation will need to be part of an MC USA conference for you to remain connected. Here are the options:

- The **simplest option** is for the existing conference to remain intact as an area conference, blessing those who wish to move on to different affiliations, leaving the conference for those who wish to remain. This requires no additional steps for those who wish to remain connected.
- If the above doesn't happen, those congregations that wish to remain connected to MC USA have **two additional options**.
 - They can create a new conference and seek membership in MC USA.
 - They can join an existing MC USA conference.

MC USA Executive Board staff can assist your congregation and other congregations in your conference who wish to remain in MC USA with this discernment process and the processes to either create a new conference or join an existing conference. Please contact MichaelD@MennoniteUSA.org or RachelRM@MennoniteUSA.org to begin this conversation.

NOTE: Each area conference is responsible for determining membership in their conference. The Delegate Assembly is responsible for admitting new conferences into MC USA.

Q: Our conference voted to leave MC USA. We would like to stay connected to that conference but also be affiliated with an MC USA conference. Is that possible?

A: Dual affiliation is possible, but it is completely up to the MC USA area conference you would like to join. Some conferences allow dual affiliation, some do not, and most decide this on a case-by-case basis. You will need to reach out to potential MC USA conferences for their policies and processes.

Q: I'm a credentialed leader and the MC USA area conference that holds my credential just voted to leave MC USA. What is the status of my credential with MC USA.

A: As of the date of the vote, your credential status within MC USA will be "Withdrawn."
A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) defines this as, "The status given when a ministry credential is ended for non-disciplinary reasons. *This status is also given to a pastor who no longer is affiliated with Mennonite Church Canada or Mennonite Church USA.*" *Your credential may still be valid in your area conference. Check with your conference office with specific questions.*

Q: I'm a credentialed leader, and the MC USA area conference that holds my credential just voted to leave MC USA. I want to remain connected to MC USA, as does the congregation I pastor. Is that possible?

A: If you are pastoring a congregation that wishes to remain connected to MC USA, that is actively pursuing either participating in the formation of a new MC USA conference or is in the process of joining an existing MC USA area conference, the Church Vitality Office of MC USA will maintain your credential as "Active" within MC USA until such processes are complete. Please email Michael Danner or Rachel Ringenberg Miller (emails p. 1) to discuss your options.

Q: I'm a credentialed leader and the MC USA area conference that holds my credential just voted to leave MC USA. I want to remain connected to MC USA, but my congregation does not. Is that possible?

A: Please contact Michael Danner or Rachel Ringenberg Miller, and we will assist you in discerning your options.

Q: I'm part of a congregation in an area conference of MC USA that voted to leave MC USA. I serve on a denominational, agency or partner board as an MC USA appointee. Will I be able to continue in that role?

A: Perhaps. If your congregation wishes to remain in MC USA and is actively pursuing any of the options above, you may be able to remain in this role. If you transfer to a congregation that is a part of MC USA, you can continue to serve. If your congregation does not wish to remain in MC USA, and you remain in that congregation, then you will not be able to continue in that role as a representative.

Q: I'm currently on The Corinthian Plan. Will I need to get new health insurance if my MC USA area conference votes to leave MC USA?

A: No. While the Corinthian Plan is an MC USA health plan, there is a "grandfather clause" that allows anyone who has been a part of the plan to remain on the plan in the event their congregation and/or area conference leaves MC USA. For more information about

FAQ continued

The Corinthian Plan, please email Duncan Smith, executive director of The Corinthian Plan at DuncanS@MennoniteUSA.org.

Q: I have a question that is not included in this FAQ. Who can I talk to?

A: Please direct other questions to Michael Danner or Rachel Ringenberg Miller. If they cannot answer your question(s), they will connect you to someone who can.

MichaelD@MennoniteUSA.org or RachelRM@MennoniteUSA.org

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