



MOSAIC  
mennonite  
conference

# REFLECT

SUMMER 2022



## *A Mosaic of Hospitality*

*Across our Conference, there have been many joyful experiences of fellowship this summer.*





📷 Pastor Hendy Matahelemual (of Indonesian Light in South Philly) welcomes Zion congregants to lunch.

# Just Eat the Food

## Zion visits churches in South Philly

BY JORDAN LUTHER

On Sunday, July 17, Zion Mennonite Church traveled from Souderton, PA to worship with Philadelphia Praise Center, Nations Worship Center, and Indonesian Light Church in South Philadelphia.

Prior to the visit, Zion focused its worship services on the importance of the global church and our Mosaic relationships. Below is an excerpt from Pastor Jordan's sermon on July 10, based on Acts 10.

**EATING THE LOCAL FOOD** and graciously accepting hospitality is one of the best things we can do as cultural outsiders. Eating another's food opens doors to new relationships and for the Spirit of God to shake things up.

In Acts 10, both Peter and Cornelius are transformed. God's initiative to bring them together gives us a taste—literally—of what it is like to come together as an intercultural church.

Eating new foods is a simple but profound act of surrendering to God's mission to bring all people together through Jesus Christ, without sacrificing our deep cultural identities.

May we, like Peter and Cornelius, lean into the blurred lines between guest and host. May we do so with the confidence that it is God who is setting the table and bringing us together. May we come to the table eager to learn from one another in a spirit of mutual transformation.

God has set the table. We just need to show up... and eat the food.

[🌱 Read full article here.](#)



📷 Pastors and leaders of Mosaic congregations in California gather for dinner and fellowship. Photo by Stephen Zaccheus.



📷 Nations Worship Center (Philadelphia, PA) welcomed members from Zion (Souderton, PA) for worship and lunch in July.

*“Even during our planning meeting, we felt that we’ve become closer. We believe that Jesus made closer what was once far and opened many doors for personal relationships that were previously closed. As we share our experiences in serving together, we felt a deep sense of intimacy despite our different cultures, languages, and skin colors. I believe this is the work of the Holy Spirit in Mosaic churches.”*

- HENDY MATAHELEMUAL  
TRANSLATED FROM BAHASA INDONESIA

[🌱 Original Indonesian Article](#)



📷 Pastors from Zion Mennonite (Souderton, PA), Indonesian Light, Philadelphia Praise Center, and Nations Worship Center (all in Philadelphia, PA) eat lunch and dream together.

# A Mosaic of Californian Hospitality

BY MARTA CASTILLO

**IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**, there are no strangers, only fellow citizens of the Kingdom, brothers and sisters whom we have not met. In my new role as Associate Executive Minister, I traveled to California to get to know our Mosaic congregations there better.

Upon my arrival, a group of us enjoyed a meal of gratitude and fellowship together as we talked and learned more about each other and our ministries.

On Sunday morning, “Bishop” Jeff Wright and I worshipped at LA Faith Chapel with a mostly Nigerian congregation. Lively, Spirit-filled worship songs kept our bodies moving and our voices raised in praise to God. We shared a time of blessing, prayer, and anointing for the seven leaders from the congregation who are in the credentialing and transfer process with Mosaic.

During my trip, I experienced a truly joyful mosaic experience of fellowship. We celebrated a birthday lunch with Pastor Virgo at Jemaat Kristen Indonesia Anugerah (JKIA) in Sierra Madre, CA, breakfast with Pastor Jeff Wright and Makmur Halim, and a tour of the [Joyful Music & Arts School](#) in Los Angeles with Pastors George and Mukarabe Makinto.

[🌱 Read full article here.](#)

📷 La Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Shalom (Shalom Evangelical Mennonite Church), a Mosaic congregation in Tampa, FL, recently hosted a baptism beach party. After six months of classes and studying, baptismal candidates, family, friends, and church members gathered at the beach for baptisms on a recent Sunday afternoon, followed by a celebratory feast.



✦ Original Spanish Article

## Mosaic Institute



Photo by John Drescher-Lehman

**EIGHT MOSAIC PASTORS AND LEADERS** participated in An Introduction to Mosaic, a class offered by Mosaic Institute, this past year. Back row: Ramona Pickett (7 Ways Home Fellowship), Brandon Landis (Finland), Tracy Commons (Swamp), Scotty Meiser (Bristol Redemption), Steve Kriss (Mosaic staff), Susan Alloway (Bristol Redemption), Hilarion Chidi Ihezuoh (LA Faith Chapel); Front row: Michelle Ramirez (Luz y Vida), Kevin Opett (Alpha), Rose Bender Cook (Mosaic Institute staff).

### SAVE THE DATE!

CONFERENCE **20**  
**ASSEMBLY 22**  
NOVEMBER 5 | PENNSYLVANIA

**Chesed** חֶסֶד  
God's constant, steadfast, and faithful love



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022**

Plan now to attend Mosaic's Annual Assembly on November 5, 2022 at Souderton (PA) Mennonite Church. The theme for the weekend is *Chesed* (חֶסֶד), based on Psalms 116 & 117. The Assembly will be fully in-person, so make plans now to join.

## It will get better!

PENTECOST WORSHIP 2022



**IT WILL GET BETTER!** The closing song of Mosaic's Conference-wide Pentecost worship service in June invited everyone to dance together for God. Mosaic churches from around the Conference participated in celebrating the Spirit of Pentecost together.

✦ [Watch the entire Pentecost service](#) ✦ [Watch the closing song](#)

### staff updates



Mosaic Conference has named Danilo Sanchez to a new position as Leadership Minister for Intercultural Transformation effective May 1, 2022.

Sanchez had been part of Mosaic's Youth Formation team over the last several years and had also worked with intercultural initiatives. In his new role, Sanchez will support the work of the Intercultural Committee, which began with the formation of Mosaic Conference in 2020.

### board updates



The Mosaic Conference Board has elected Roy Williams, Pastor of College Hill Mennonite Church in Tampa, FL, as the Assistant Moderator-Elect for Mosaic Conference.

The election of Williams is a new process, as this is the first time since the origin of Mosaic Conference in 2020 that we will be naming a new Assistant Moderator. If approved by the Delegate Assembly on Nov. 5, Williams will become Assistant Moderator, and Angela Moyer Walter will become Moderator on January 1, 2023. Ken Burkholder will conclude his term as Moderator on December 31, 2022.



# Mosaic Conference to Review Relationships with Mennonite Church USA

**ON JULY 18**, the Mosaic Conference Board moved to form a task force to lead a listening process and review of the Conference’s relationships with Mennonite Church USA (MC USA). The task force is made up of Board members, staff, and nominated members from across the Conference’s diverse constituency. The task force’s goal is to listen to each Mosaic community and ministry and to provide direction for further discernment at the upcoming Annual Assembly on November 5.

At the July meeting, the Board reviewed numerous letters from Mosaic congregations, pastors, and leaders, urging action in considering the ongoing relationships with MC USA. For many, the resolutions and decision-making processes at the MC USA Special Delegate Session in May demonstrated a disconnect with the denomination and Mosaic Conference’s formation document and mission.

The Board and task force are committed to a thorough, thoughtful, and timely process of listening and discerning. Conference delegates will be notified of any balloting processes a month before the November Assembly. Listening to the Spirit as well as each other will require careful and thoughtful attention. Please pray for the work of the task force. Watch Mosaic News for updates.

 [Read full article here.](#)

*from the executive minister*

## When Nothing Has Changed, But Everything Seems Different

BY STEPHEN KRISS

**SINCE** the Mennonite Church USA Special Delegate Assembly in Kansas City in late May, Mosaic Conference has hosted listening sessions. Nearly 100 delegates participated. A clear request emerged from the sessions for clarification of Mosaic’s position regarding the narrowly passed “Resolution for Repentance and Transformation” in KC.

We are now living into our feelings about and responses to the vote. In reality, nothing has changed for Mosaic Conference. Denominational resolutions are non-binding for area conferences. The formation document that binds our reconciled Conference continues to stand. We still abide by the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective. Our specific Conference vision and mission statements remain the same.



Although nothing has changed, it can feel like everything is different. For some, A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation represents a significant departure from the history and practice of Christian tradition. There are calls within our Conference for immediate distancing from Mennonite Church USA. Others in the Conference desire more time to listen, reflect, and discern.

*“The possibility of our shared witness is far greater than we have yet lived into.”*

I believe in the work of the Spirit that drew Mosaic Conference together. The possibility of our shared witness is far greater than we have yet lived into. I invite us to rest in what we know has not changed for us as a Conference community. Let us lean into the Spirit’s work as we discern our path forward, holding onto the things that endure: faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

 [Read full article here.](#)



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