

MOSAIC
mennonite
conference

REFLECT

Summer 2020



Sherri Binder and Holly
Faix, both from Ripple
congregation (Allentown,
PA), embrace during a
conference gathering.

*New Name,
New Power,
New Possibilities*

A New Name on Pentecost Comes with Power and Possibilities

by Emily Ralph Servant, Director of Communication

Eastern District & Franconia Conference has become Mosaic Mennonite Conference, a change that was announced on Pentecost Sunday.

This new name was affirmed by the conference board in February 2020 after a year-long process that included two rounds of focus groups over four months. The Naming Task Force received suggestions of nearly fifty names; “Mosaic” was a clear favorite.

This creation of something new out of many parts was central to the choice of the new name.

“We’re different people—we’re allowed to experience Jesus in different ways,” reflected Danilo Sanchez, Conference Youth Formation Pastor.

Mosaic Mennonite Conference was formed by the reconciliation of Eastern District Conference and Franconia Conference and the transfer of congregations from California and Florida. The new conference is now one of the largest and most diverse in Mennonite Church USA.

“The times when names of people are changed in the biblical story represent a turn,” Executive Minister Steve Kriss said in his Pentecost message. “We are turning in the midst of a crisis,” referring to the COVID-19 quarantine, the economic downturn, and the waves of #BlackLives Matter protests around the country. “We did not plan this time,” Kriss explained. “This is God’s time for us to gain a new name. To receive power. To recognize our gifts.”

The fire of the Spirit is “not only upon us, not only around us, but deeply inside of us, individually and together,” Kriss reflected. “May our new name, on these most strange days of Pentecost, shape new possibilities: for us, for our neighbors, and for the whole world.”

Watch the [video announcement](#) or the [Pentecost worship service](#) at MosaicMennonites.org. Read the full stories on the following pages at MosaicMennonites.org/newsletters.



ABOVE: (L-R, onto next page) Sister Kim Basore, Pastor Cherokee Cruise, Minister Ando Wachiye, and Pastor Hue Fortison distribute emergency food supplies as a ministry of Victorville (CA) congregation, a new church plant of Mosaic Conference.

BELOW: Charlene Smalls (Ripple Congregation in Allentown, PA) was the first person credentialed in our reconciled conference. Get to know her and other newly credentialed leaders at MosaicMennonites.org/call.





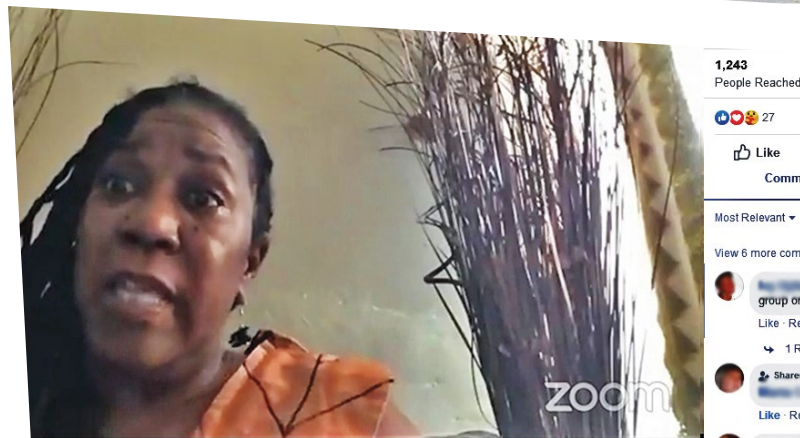
BELOW: Marina Setyati and Levi Matahelemual of Indonesian Light Church receive eggs in South Philly as part of the Conference's Shalom Fund initiative. To read articles about the Shalom Fund and the many ways it supported people during COVID-19, go to MosaicMennonites.org/newsletters.



ABOVE: Taftsville (VT) Chapel Mennonite Fellowship practices creation care both on and off church property in creative ways. Read more about this congregation and others in the conference at MosaicMennonites.org/profiles.

BELOW (TOP): Earlier this year, Leadership Minister Marta Castillo and Associate Executive Minister Mary Nitzsche (back row, far right) visited Florida to get to know the congregations joining our conference at our November Assembly.

BELOW (BOTTOM): Yvonne Platts, a conference board member from Nueva Vida Norristown (PA) New Life congregation, spoke with Executive Minister Steve Kriss via Facebook Live in June. Platts discussed possibilities and responses in a time of frustration, protest, and unrest. To join Facebook live conversations, follow Mosaic Mennonite Conference on [Facebook](https://Facebook.com).



A Call to Lament, Repentance, and Action

by Mosaic Mennonite Conference Intercultural Team

We are the newly named “Mosaic” and find ourselves immediately facing a challenge to this new picture of “us” together. Can the pieces of the “mosaic” lament, repent, intercede, and act together in a way that reflects the whole body of Christ?

To those within our conference who identify as Black, African American, Afro-Latinx, Caribbean American, of African descent or part of the African Diaspora. First, we want to emphatically affirm that your lives matter and that you are made in the image of the Divine. You are not alone and we commit to stand by and with you.

To those who are People of the Global Majority, with an identity other than Black. We also see your pain and struggle to not be crushed by the systems of white supremacy. Our goal is mutual transformation, but in order to get to that, the evil spirit that is at work must be identified. When Black lives matter, all lives will matter.

To those who are white within our conference. Choose to commit to your own work of repentance by educating yourselves about our complex and painful history of race in this nation. Listen, understand, lament, and repent for the ways whiteness and white supremacy have lived in our hearts and in our churches. Act for racial justice.

The full statement, with a list of resources for this critical time, is available on our website at: [MosaicMennonites.org](https://mosaicmennonites.org).

Mosaic Conference: By the Numbers

WORSHIPING LANGUAGES



(ENGLISH, SPANISH, VIETNAMESE, INDONESIAN, CANTONESE, HAITIAN CREOLE, KAREN)

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY



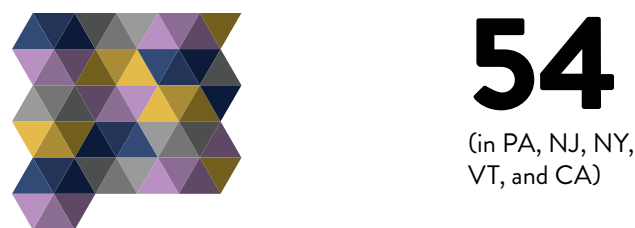
(in PA, FL, NY, VA, MD, CA, and MEXICO)

CONFERENCE RELATED MINISTRIES



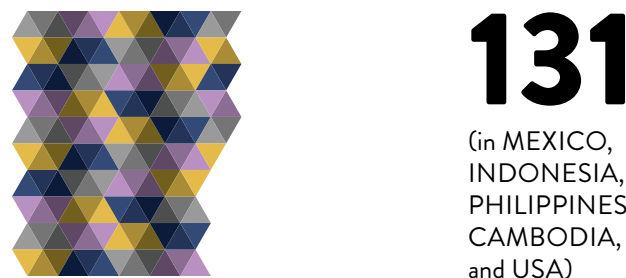
(in PA and VT)

CONGREGATIONS



(in PA, NJ, NY, VT, and CA)

ACTIVE CREDENTIALLED LEADERS



(in MEXICO, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, CAMBODIA, and USA)

NEWEST CHURCH
VICTORVILLE (CA)

OLDEST CHURCH
TOWAMENCIN
(KULPSVILLE, PA)

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

8500