



MOSAIC
mennonite
conference

REFLECT

SPRING 2021

First Mosaic Assembly

Live on Zoom and from Orlando

Delegates gave a virtual blessing as eight congregations in Florida joined Mosaic Conference during Assembly 2020.



First Mosaic Assembly

Live on Zoom and from Orlando

The first annual Assembly of Mosaic Mennonite Conference on November 7-8, 2020 was not what any of us had imagined last fall or even earlier this year. Nearly 200 persons met together on Saturday by Zoom from their homes, offices, and vehicles and on location at Iglesia Menonita Luz y Vida in Orlando, Florida, for a condensed business session.

While Zoom allowed us to gather efficiently, we missed the hugs, handshakes, and time of fellowship together over food that represents the cultural diversity of the Conference. We missed singing together and stumbling over each other's languages. At the same time, the work of the church continued, and the kingdom of God was glimpsed and extended through our two-hour session.

Moderator Ken Burkholder led the delegate business session.
Photo by Emily Ralph Servant.



▲ Leadership Minister Aldo Siahaan (Philadelphia Praise Center) and Assistant Moderator Angela Moyer Walter (Ripple congregation, Allentown, PA) hosted Sunday morning worship at Assembly 2020.

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP included multilingual music led from coast to coast, a children's story, a "virtual choir" recitation of the Lord's Prayer, and a time of honoring newly credentialed leaders. General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference César Garcia offered an important message for our time, challenging our mutual care and witness to glimpse the reign of God "on earth as it is in heaven" (the assembly's theme) both in the midst of our Conference's diversity and the turbulence of the time and context.

Grace and peace to each of you from Florida to Vermont, New Jersey to California. May we continue to live together as witnesses of Jesus, "on earth as it is in heaven."

◀ Tami Good from Swamp congregation (Quakertown, PA) challenged children (and adults) to dream God's dream for the world during the Sunday virtual worship.



Drane Reynolds (Homestead Mennonite Church), Josue Gonzalez (Iglesia Menonita Encuentro de Renovación) and Amy Grimes (Homestead Mennonite Church) met at Luz y Vida in Orlando, Florida for a condensed business session.
Photo by Emily Ralph Servant.

"In a time when so much seems tumultuous, the work of God continues."



Conference Office Update

A NEW LOCATION for the Mosaic Conference offices opened recently in Longacre Center (just off Detwiler Road) on the Dock Mennonite Academy campus in Lansdale, PA.

The Mosaic office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9am-3:30pm. At this time, though, most staff continue to work dispersed, so please call ahead to schedule an appointment before stopping by.

The office is waiting for finishing touches, but we look forward to working, meeting, and hosting from the new office suite and meeting rooms.



▲ Associate Pastor Hendy Matahelemual (left) uses the office space for a meeting. Photo by Hendy Matahelemual.

Online and Offline Events from Mosaic...

Who Will Be a Witness?

WEBINAR & VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY

THE MOSAIC INTERCULTURAL TEAM hosted a webinar interview with Dr. Drew Hart about his book, *Who Will be a Witness?*, and finding ways each of us can live out the call of Jesus.

Pastors and leaders were then invited to register and join the conference intercultural team for a book study group. Groups have been reading and discussing Dr. Hart's book over five monthly sessions using the study guide by Terrance Hawkins.



Photo by Terri Nyce



Snow Sculpture Contest

YOUTH OUTDOOR WINTER FUN!

ON FEBRUARY 3, six youth groups gathered for the Mosaic Conference Snow Sculpture Competition. Congratulations to Zion (Souderton, PA) Mennonite Church youth (pictured) for their winning dragon, earning them a pizza party.



Photo by Hendy Matahelemual

In a Time of Violence Toward Asian Americans:

Our Shared Commitments

BY STEPHEN KRISS, EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Over the last year, an alarming uptick in anti-Asian violence has emerged across the United States. As my colleague, Hendy Matahelemual, wrote recently, these biases and this violence are not new, but there is an emerging new awareness.

In Mosaic Conference, we have almost a dozen member congregations with a majority or sizable Asian populations. Asian communities and leaders are increasingly a significant part of our Mosaic identity. Asian communities bring vital ideas about evangelism, community, discipleship, and global connection, challenging and expanding our ideas of neighbor and family.

As Executive Minister of our Conference, I want to underscore our shared commitment to the Asian persons and communities in our Conference. We will continue to do our own work to uncover anti-Asian biases in our personal and communal perspectives. We deplore violence toward Asian Americans in our communities. We weep with those who have experienced violence, and we commit to listen to the difficulties of ongoing bias and aggression, both big and small, against Asian Americans.

As a Conference, we continue to search for ways to honor our uniqueness as part of the Mosaic of God. We are a plurality of Black, white, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous people. As part of Mosaic, we are individually unique yet part of a whole that God is transforming beautifully together.

In these times, we see the brokenness of the bias against Asian neighbors and friends. And we celebrate the beauty of each unique Asian identity in language, culture, and personhood. And in each Asian person, we recognize the imprint of our Creator who has so extended love to us that we might be called the children of God.



“We deplore violence toward Asian Americans in our communities. We weep with those who have experienced violence, and we commit to listen to the difficulties of ongoing bias and aggression, both big and small, against Asian Americans.”



Candles and signs from a vigil for victims of Anti-Asian violence that was held at 3/17 in 10th Street Plaza, Philadelphia. Photo by Hendy Matahelemual

Mosaic held a live webinar on 3/25: *Seeking Peace and Justice in a Time of Violence toward Asian Americans*. The webinar was streamed through Zoom and Facebook. ▼



REFLECT is the quarterly newsletter of Mosaic Mennonite Conference. For more information, contact us at:
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