

MOSAIC LISTENING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE BOARD

- 1. Fast and pray. Organize widespread continuous fasting and praying so that we can discern, yield to the Holy Spirit, record revelations, and increasingly rest in God together.
- 2. Discern. Divided votes won't help us find a way together, as evidenced by what happened in Kansas City. Agree to make decisions in a different way, which may take longer. This document is a step forward toward this way of connective discernment.
- 3. Walk together. Corporately lament and grieve knowing there will be losses for Mosaic, regardless of how Mosaic proceeds, yet affirm that how we move forward is as or more important than what our decisions are. Commit to walking with one another with honor and grace in our relationships with MCUSA and congregations that are staying, going, or discerning whether their vision aligns with Mosaic, etc. We shouldn't learn about losses from news items after a congregation has left. Use reconciling resources (like Peaceful Practices) to assist this process.
- 4. Clarify. Create a FAQ handout for the Delegate Assembly to clarify specific facts about polity and resources like the Corinthian Plan, MennoMedia, nonbinding resolutions, pastors being forced to perform same-sex weddings or not, that congregations are members of Mosaic, while Mosaic is a member of MCUSA, etc. Clarify the implications of the resolutions.
- 5. Focus on what unites us. Acknowledge that our views on sexuality are not what bind us together. Mosaic is united through our Jesus-centeredness, mission, and vision, and relationships. Our commonalities can guide us to make decisions in a different way than how MCUSA has made decisions.
- 6. Build relationships across differences. Acknowledge with honor and grace the multiple storylines/ narratives we've heard about Mosaic's relationships with MCUSA so that we all understand how complex our issues (and we) are as a family. Commit to finding ways to know each other better, practice interdependence with one another, learn from one another, share power, and lean into the discomfort and joy of becoming intercultural. Find ways to explore our theology together through our common Anabaptist/Jesus-centered hermeneutical lens. Assure wide engagement in our relational efforts, beyond Leadership Ministers.
- 7. Communicate with MCUSA. Communicate our concerns to MCUSA clearly through a public letter (e.g., the damage caused by poor decision-making models and bad processes, the marginalization of immigrant groups and people of color in Kansas City, the alienation of persons who hold to our Confession of Faith, etc.), and ask for what we want/need from MCUSA (e.g., a step toward "marriage counseling" before we decide to "divorce"). This could involve negotiating more membership alternatives for congregations and CRMs with Mosaic, as well as for Mosaic with MCUSA, (e.g., staying provisionally, leaving provisionally, etc.)
- 8. Plan. Begin a deeply relational strategic planning process to maximize what has been learned, lean into our commonalities, and as much as possible, relate across our differences as we find clarity. Involve our entire priesthood of believers and engage with our constituency. Grow connections throughout the Anabaptist world, including with seminaries, organizations, and agencies, etc. A decision about Mosaic's relationships with MCUSA could emerge out of this strategic planning process.
- 9. Rollout. Deliver these recommendations in direct and personal ways prior to Nov. 5.