



MOSAIC
mennonite
conference

REFLECT

ASSEMBLY 2022 EDITION

FOR THE FIRST TIME, an Intercultural Worship Cohort met throughout 2022 to plan both Pentecost and Conference Assembly worship. Despite differences in geographies, languages, and cultures, the cohort's meetings were filled with laughter, brainstorming, and prayer, building connection, and friendship. Worship Cohort members included George Makinto (Los Angeles Faith Chapel), Emily Ralph Servant (Refuge, Baltimore, MD), Dody Atmajaya and Tirza Daeng Situju (Bethany Elevation, New York), Josue Gonzalez (Iglesia Menonita Encuentro de Renovación, Miami, FL), Brent Camilleri (Deep Run East, Perkasie, PA), Charlene Smalls (Ripple, Allentown, PA) and Aldo Siahaan (Philadelphia Praise Center).

Seeking The Spirit, Discerning a Pathway

BY JEFF WRIGHT

FOR MOSAIC CONFERENCE, annual Assemblies have been nothing but transformational. During three worship times, multiple delicious snacks, three business sessions, and one pleasant luncheon, Mosaic Conference worked hard at the continuing task of transformation from a system concerned mostly with organizational detail into a formational, missional, and intercultural community.

The gathering was animated by life together in the Holy Spirit and fed through the encouragement of the scriptures, acts of praise and worship, and remembering Jesus in the celebration of Communion. Although there was contentiousness related to the denominational decision-making process and outcome from the Mennonite Church USA Special Delegate Assembly in May 2022, by the end of the day, for many, the uncertainty had given way to a cautious, even hopeful, optimism.

The major building block for this delegate Assembly was a listening process initiated by the Mosaic Board. The Board distilled those findings into a single, four-point "Pathway" document, presented to the delegates. The Pathway document called for an increase in prayer and fasting, along with a call to walk together and begin a two-year strategic planning process, allowing for clarifying priorities and relationships. The document also offered congregations the opportunity to suspend membership in Mennonite Church USA while remaining within Mosaic Conference. Of the delegates who voted, 81.5% expressed a preference with or without reservations for the Pathway document.

We gathered yearning for consensus; we finished the day with a pathway forward.

📷 Newly credentialed leaders were introduced and anointed: (L-R), Gary Alloway (Redemption Church of Bristol), Tracy Commons (Swamp), Maria Hosler Byler (Salford), Chidi Ihezouh (LA Faith Chapel), Jordan Luther, Andrew Zetts (Salford).



📷 (L-R) Robin Presthus (Franconia), Kevin Opett (Alpha), Dania Hernandez (Peña de Horeb), Marco Güete (Mosaic Staff), Jenny Fujita (Upper Milford), Marcos Acosta (Homestead).



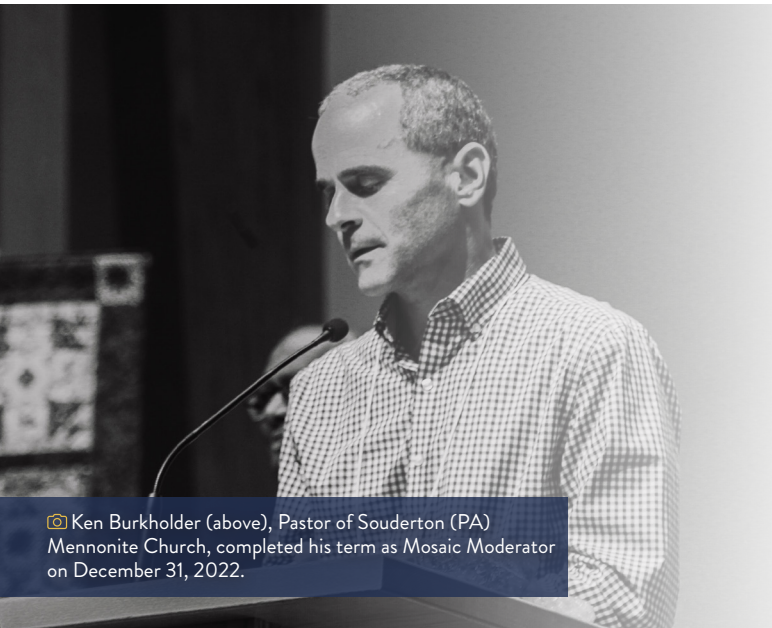
📷 (L-R) Wendy Kwong (Souderton [PA] congregation), Graciella Odellia (Nations Worship, Philadelphia) and Toan Nguyen (Vietnamese Gospel, Allentown) read portions of Psalms 116-117 as part of a team that proclaimed Scripture in Haitian Creole, Spanish, English, Swahili, Cantonese, Indonesian, and Vietnamese. Not pictured: Lisa Quinones (Garden Chapel, NJ), Charlene Smalls (Ripple Allentown), and Mukarabe Makinto (LA Faith Chapel).



*What is the thread
that keeps our
uniquenesses
intact but binds us
to each other?
It is nothing but the
Chesed of God.*

- STEPHEN KRISS (RIGHT),
Executive Minister,
opening worship sermon

📷 Ken Burkholder (above), Pastor of Souderton (PA) Mennonite Church, completed his term as Mosaic Moderator on December 31, 2022.



Nathan Good, Pastor of Swamp Mennonite Church (Quakertown, PA) and member of the Listening Task Force, prayed for the delegates.



Glen Guyton (right), Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, offered a prayer of blessing for Roy Williams (left) and Angela Moyer Walter (middle). On January 1, 2023, Angela Moyer Walter (Ripple, Allentown, PA) began as Mosaic Conference Moderator and Roy Williams (College Hill, Tampa, FL) began as Assistant Moderator.

AS THE FIRST in-person Assembly of Mosaic Conference, time was spent getting to know each other. Because the past two Assemblies have been held virtually, there was energy and enthusiasm in being able to be together in person and interact in new ways.

An exciting part of the morning delegate session was learning about and affirming a new congregation and a new Conference Related Ministry (CRM). Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Oración y Adoración, located in Philadelphia, PA, was welcomed by the delegates. The congregation meets on Sunday mornings, led by Pastor Nicolás Sandoval, and is very active in evangelism during the week. Amahoro International, based in Los Angeles, CA, was welcomed as a new CRM. Amahoro's founders and leaders, George and Mukarabe Makinto, shared about Amahoro's work of supporting African refugees and strengthening communities through peace and love.



Delegates at their discussion tables took time to share, listen, and pray together. Here they prayed for Mosaic's new leaders.



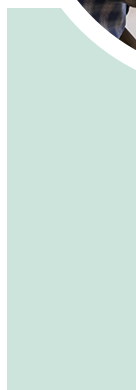
Noel Santiago (middle), Mosaic's Leadership Minister for Missional Transformation, offered a prayer for leaders of Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Oración y Adoración and Amahoro International, Mosaic's newest members.



Renewing Nations and Generations

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022

THE MOSAIC INTERCULTURAL TEAM hosted the Renewing Nations and Generations gathering at Ripple (Allentown, PA). Pastor Ertell Whigham from Nueva Vida Norristown (PA) New Life was the keynote speaker for the day. The group then cooked and shared a meal together. A variety of dishes were present in the kitchen, from meatballs and empanadas to nasi goreng (Indonesian fried rice).



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

1000 Forty Foot Rd, Ste. 100, Lansdale, PA 19446

Phone: 267-932-6050 | **Email:** office@mosaicmennonites.org