



MOSAIC
mennonite
conference

REFLECT

ASSEMBLY 2023 EDITION

Gathering to Worship God's Faithful Truth

ASSEMBLY WORSHIP SERVICE


AROUND 250 PEOPLE gathered for worship during Mosaic's Assembly on November 4, centered on the theme of *emet*, תֵּמֶת, God's faithful truth. Songs and scriptures were proclaimed in the languages of Mosaic congregations, prayers were offered, and newly credentialed leaders were anointed and offered anointing to all present who wished to receive it.

There was a time of remembering the seven credentialed leaders who had died over the past year, one who had retired, as well as a congregation that had closed, and three congregations who had left Mosaic.


In her sermon, Hyacinth Stevens (pictured below), Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee East Coast, offered guidance for the rest of the day, "Let us not prioritize schedules over the practice of presence."

*"Bind us together
with cords that
cannot be broken,
bind us together,
Lord, with love,"*


- HYACINTH STEVENS



A SPECIAL SONG was written for Mosaic Conference by George Makinto and Leadership Minister Emily Ralph Servant, which represented the cries of so many gathered, to remain bound together, sharing across differences: "Let your faithful truth abound... Spirit heal us, Spirit lead us over hills and deepest valleys, prepare ye a way."



NEWLY CREDENTIALLED LEADERS were anointed by their Leadership Ministers.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM Line Lexington (PA) and Towamencin (Kulpville, PA) congregations came forward for prayer, Mosaic representatives laid hands on them, and Executive Minister Steve Kriss offered a prayer.



LEADERSHIP MINISTER Mary Nitzsche lights candles during worship



NEWLY CREDENTIALLED LEADERS offered anointing to all present who wished to receive it.

 **MODERATOR** Angela Moyer Walter (Center/Front)
and member of Mosaic Board.

Bound Together, Sharing Differences

ASSEMBLY DELEGATE SESSIONS


THE MORNING DELEGATE SESSION, led by Angela Moyer Walter, Conference Moderator, began with an introduction of the Mosaic moderators, Board, staff, and committees, greetings from Jon Carlson, MC USA Moderator, and a prayer from Roy Williams, Assistant Conference Moderator. Delegates got acquainted using an identity chart as a tool to help “bring your whole self to the meeting,” explained Gwen Groff, Mosaic Board member and Pastor of Bethany (VT).

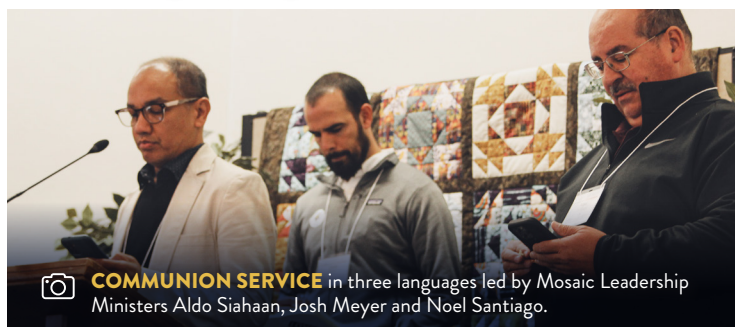
After table discussion, a communion service in Spanish, Indonesian, and English invited everyone to “bring to Christ in communion all the beautiful and broken parts of us.”


A HIGHLIGHT OF THE AFTERNOON was a session on peacebuilding and reconciliation through drumming, led by George and Mukarabe Makinto, Associate Pastors of LA Faith Chapel. The room was divided into parts, each given a phrase from Ephesians 4:1-6, to offer repeatedly with a rhythmic instrument or beating of hands on the tables. “Each rhythm is different, just like life, and when it comes together, builds a beautiful mosaic of rhythm,” Makinto shared.

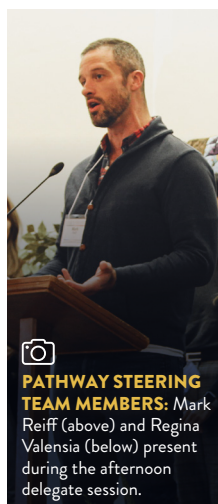
Later in the afternoon, delegates reflected on which biblical stories and personal experiences shape their understanding of what it means to be a Spirit-led Mosaic Conference.




 **DRUM CIRCLE**, a session on peacebuilding and reconciliation through drumming, led by George and Mukarabe Makinto



 **COMMUNION SERVICE** in three languages led by Mosaic Leadership Ministers Aldo Siahaan, Josh Meyer and Noel Santiago.



 **PATHWAY STEERING TEAM MEMBERS:** Mark Reiff (above) and Regina Valensia (below) present during the afternoon delegate session.



MAKING HEADWAYS ON THE *Pathway Process*

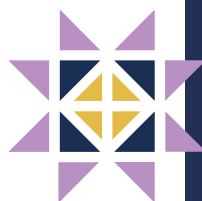
PATHWAY STEERING TEAM member Mark Reiff explained, “The newness of Mosaic Conference means we need to ask, ‘Who are we?’ before we ask, ‘With whom do we affiliate?’” Reiff continued, “There is a lot of breadth in how each of our congregations come to Mosaic’s missional, formational, and intercultural priorities and articulating that helps us as we dream about what God is calling us to.”

In table groups, delegates shared feedback on the Pathway Strategic Planning listening tour summary and named what goals they would have for Mosaic’s three priorities and how to achieve the goals. Themes that emerged from the large group sharing time were the desire for more opportunities for fellowship and deeper relationships, more connection and communication between congregations, and a greater emphasis on antiracism. Some felt impatient with the Pathway process, and others recognized the difficulty of communicating across differences.



Renewing Nations and Generations 2023

THE MOSAIC INTERCULTURAL TEAM hosted this year’s Renewing Nations and Generations gathering at Nueva Vida Norristown (PA) New Life. A diverse group of members and leaders of Mosaic churches and partners gathered to mingle the day before Assembly and learn about the legal process of immigration into the US. The day’s speaker was Rachel Diaz, immigration lawyer at MCC in South Florida. The attendants participated in a fellowship meal following the event.



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