



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2024 CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY



MOSAIC



WHAT ARE MOSAIC'S DELEGATES DISCERNING AT CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY?

At Assembly on November 2, 2024, Mosaic delegates will discuss the following resolution:

“To affirm, with gratitude, the work and recommendation of the Pathway Steering Team to establish a robust partnership with Mennonite Church USA, and to bring recommended bylaw amendments for delegate discernment at the 2025 Mosaic Conference Assembly.”

Delegates will be given time to discuss and discern together and then will vote using a three-color system: Green (“I affirm/support this direction”); Yellow (“while I have some concerns, I yield to the discernment of the process”); and Red (“I do not affirm this direction”). Because this proposal doesn’t require a bylaw change, it can pass as a simple majority. Both green and yellow votes will count as a “yes.” Abstentions are still counted as part of the total, so both red votes and abstentions will be recorded as “no” votes, which maintain the status quo.



WHY ARE THE PATHWAY STEERING TEAM, MOSAIC BOARD, AND MOSAIC STAFF RECOMMENDING A PARTNERSHIP WITH MENNONITE CHURCH USA (MC USA)?

As people of Christ’s peace, we are not called to withdraw entirely from challenging relationships but are invited to collaboratively reimagine what a healthier way of relating might look like. We desire our relationship with sibling conferences in MC USA to be mutual, so that we benefit from the wisdom of others even as we contribute from our own breadth of experience.

We identify as Mennonites and desire an ongoing relationship with MC USA to help ground us in the Anabaptist story. At the same time, reducing the time spent struggling with MC USA structure and policies will allow Mosaic’s leaders to focus on our strategic plan, conference priorities, and identity work. We acknowledge that this change will not resolve the differences in our congregations around human sexuality and we are committed to discerning our conference posture as an early step in implementing our strategic plan.

A redefined relationship with MC USA may open opportunities for other Anabaptist partnerships in the US and globally, while allowing us to stay in relationship with our siblings in MC USA. We hope a partnership model will create space both for those within our conference who want a more formal relationship with MC USA and those who don’t.



HOW HAVE WE COME TO THIS RESOLUTION FOR ASSEMBLY?

During the reconciliation of Eastern District and Franconia Conferences, the question of affiliation with MC USA emerged. For some members, questions around the process and content of the MC USA Repentance and Transformation Resolution at Kansas City in 2022 accelerated the desire to reconsider affiliation.

As Mosaic has become a larger, more diverse community, there have been ongoing challenges related to the shared credentialing process, the national boundaries of MC USA, and a tension between the emerging centered-set/relational framework of Mosaic and the denomination's more institutional design.

Over the last year, in multiple conversations, Mosaic's leaders heard a willingness from MC USA to explore new ways of relating. The Pathway Steering Team (PST) discerned that a partnership with MC USA was the best recommendation to achieve the goals of Mosaic's strategic plan. In public responses to this recommendation, MC USA clarified that conversations related to partnership are ongoing and likely require MC USA delegate approval.

In September, Mosaic leaders met with conference delegates in a series of delegate preparation sessions. During these sessions, Mosaic's board, staff, and members of the PST answered questions, clarified issues, and, most of all, listened to the feedback of the delegates. Many delegates indicated trust in the discernment process and also desired a clearer understanding of how a partnership might work.

In response, the Mosaic board decided on September 30, 2024, to shape a resolution that gives space and a timeline for a more fully developed plan for partnership with MC USA.



WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE COSTS FROM A REDEFINED RELATIONSHIP WITH MC USA?

Many of the costs resulting from a redefined relationship with MC USA would be borne by Mosaic's more vulnerable communities. Amid changing circumstances, "bearing each other's burdens" will continue to be a significant part of our Mosaic identity. Some of these costs include:

- Mennonite World Conference support (\$5 per member; \$40,000 annually)
- Scholarships for Spanish-language leadership development (\$30,000 annually)
- Support for congregations purchasing their first meetinghouse, including some repayment of grants from Mennonite Men (immediate need \$80,000)



WHAT'S NEXT?

In October, delegates are invited to participate in additional feedback and equipping sessions to continue the conversation. As of now, hybrid gatherings are scheduled for two Thursdays, October 10 and 24 (3pm EDT, noon PDT) at the Conference office and on Zoom. Additional Zoom-only sessions will be held on two Mondays, October 14 and 21 (7pm EDT, 4pm PDT). Watch *Mosaic News* for more details!