



MOSAIC

A MOSAIC IDENTITY: CLARIFYING OUR CENTER

Mosaic Mennonite Conference is a community called to embody the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world. As people following in the way of Jesus, we have committed together to celebrate and extend God's grace, justice, and peace.

As part of Mosaic's strategic plan, the Conference Board has committed to clarifying our identity as a conference. Since Mosaic was launched in 2020, we have been structuring our conference life around a centered-set model of discipleship. As a community dedicated to the Mennonite stream of Christianity, we gather around Mennonite World Conference's Shared Convictions and remain rooted in the historic values of Anabaptism as expressed in Palmer Becker's Anabaptist essentials (Jesus, Community, Reconciliation). Additionally, as we seek to define our common center, we believe that our community's identity is as much about our posture towards one another and the way we act together as it is about what we believe together.

In a culture shattered by division, hatred, greed, and violence, we desire to assume the mind of Christ: shaped by love, humility, and a concern for the well-being of others (Philippians 2:1-5). We have committed to cultivating a community that prioritizes relationship, in which authentic conversation leads to understanding, and where we are all changed as we recognize the Image of God in one another (Genesis 1:26).

Just as a tile mosaic is comprised of many pieces that are different shapes, colors, and textures, so Mosaic Conference includes people from a variety of races, ethnicities, cultures, identities, language-groups, educational and economic backgrounds, geographies, political perspectives, faith journeys, and life experiences. We acknowledge the presence of these differences and the discomfort we often feel when we look around and see unfamiliar faces, perceptions, and experiences looking back at us.

As leaders in Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we commit to cultivating a community that seeks a place of flourishing where high expectations and gracious hospitality meet. God's abounding love and kindness opens the door wide while God's faithful truth calls us to an encounter with God and others that leads to growth and change (God's loving-kindness, chesed, and faithful truth, emet, as described in Psalm 116 & 117).

In recent years, we have seen God's Spirit leading us into new relationships and ministries that have surprised us. We desire to join God in what God is doing: experimenting and exploring across human-made divisions of nationality, language, and race in order to foster meaningful connections that are faithful, fruitful, and generative.

As our conference follows God's Spirit into these innovative spaces, our conference board will welcome new members, credentialed leaders, congregations, Conference Related Ministries, partners in ministry, and creative expressions of church that share a commitment to loving-kindness and faithful truth. We invite our current and future Mosaic community to gather around a shared posture, our common center, with gracious hospitality and high expectations:

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to becoming like Jesus. Because we believe that Jesus is Lord, we invite our community to follow Jesus with our lives so that we are transformed into the image of Jesus, even when it's costly (formational priority).

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to loving like Jesus. Because we recognize the image of God in others, we invite our community to maintain relationships across differences and allow ourselves to be transformed by those with whom we might disagree. We offer our own gifts and receive the gifts of others (intercultural priority).

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we are committed to living like Jesus. Because we are called to participate in the healing of our world, through the power and inspiration of the Spirit, we invite our community to advocate for justice, work for peace and reconciliation, and radically share the love of God in our words and actions (missional priority).

We acknowledge that this shared center allows space for differences in faithful theology and practice. The intersection of gracious hospitality and high expectations is full of potential and yet often messy. We will rarely be able to draw clear lines of inclusion and exclusion; this can be disquieting, confusing, and even scary. We commit, in the messiness, to patient attentiveness: we will remain open to the movement of the Spirit, even when the Spirit does something new or unexpected (Acts 10). We will choose a posture of curiosity and learning (Acts 11:18), prioritizing understanding over judgment (Mark 3:20-30). We will watch for the fruit of God's Spirit in those around us (Galatians 5:22-26), believing that Jesus meant it when he said that we will know a tree by its fruit (Matthew 7:13-20).

As we live out our community of mutual hospitality, we commit to seeing the humanity of others, even those with which we have significant disagreements. As broken humans, we know that we will sometimes make mistakes; conversations will not always be safe since no conversation is isolated from real-world implications. In a community of patient honesty, our commitment to faithful truth is reflected in the ways that we honor one another and care for and protect others (even those with whom we disagree). We commit to utilizing restorative, rather than punitive, practices. We commit to cultivating brave space where harm is quickly acknowledged and where healing is nurtured.

We believe that each person and community has been brought to us by God's Spirit for God's purpose. We have witnessed the ways that God has already been at work in a diversity of contexts in our conference for hundreds of years, sometimes in ways that astonish or confuse us. We desire to honor each other's pursuit of faithfulness and movement toward our common center, even when we may choose different interpretations and practices to get us there. This does not mean that we ignore our differences or pretend these differences do not exist until conflict drives them to the surface. Instead, we acknowledge and accept the reality of these differences with grace and humility, knowing that each of our communities is needed in order for us to see the full picture of who God is and what God is doing in the world.

We believe that discerning God's presence in our differences will lead to mutual transformation, forming us, together, into the image of Jesus. This vibrant Mosaic is God-breathed, a witness to the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.

QUICK SUMMARY:

As Mosaic Mennonite Conference, we choose to center ourselves on being a community together that honors and values our differences as we partner to live, love, and become like Jesus in our broken and beautiful world.

FULL SUMMARY:

Mosaic Mennonite Conference is a diverse community committed to living out the reconciling love of Jesus in our broken and beautiful world. Since its founding in 2020, the conference has centered its identity on following Jesus, rooted in Mennonite World Conference's Shared Convictions and the "Anabaptist Essentials" of Jesus, Community, and Reconciliation. Rather than focusing only on shared beliefs, Mosaic emphasizes how members relate to one another—choosing love, humility, and respect across differences.

Our conference compares itself to a mosaic: many unique pieces forming a beautiful whole. Members come from different cultures, races, political views, and life experiences. Mosaic seeks to hold together both gracious hospitality and high expectations, creating space where people are welcomed but also challenged to grow in faith.

Mosaic's priorities are to become like Jesus (spiritual formation), love like Jesus (intercultural relationships), and live like Jesus (working for justice, peace, and reconciliation). Mosaic acknowledges that this work can be messy and uncomfortable, but commits to curiosity, patience, and restorative practices when conflict arises.

Ultimately, Mosaic sees diversity as a gift from God and believes that learning from one another will transform the community into the image of Jesus, becoming a witness of God's love to the world.

