



2020 Report to Western District Conference of Menonite Church USA

"Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'" John 20:19b
Highlights from Menonite Church USA during 2019-2020.



MennoCon19 took place in Kansas City, Missouri, July 2-6, 2019. The lively youth-adult joint services and Bible study session for delegates were among new additions that received positive feedback. Over 2,800 people attended.

#BringThePeace, a call to action for individuals and congregations to extend peace in our communities, was introduced. #BringThePeace is also the church's prayer inviting God to bring the peace that expands our capacity for empathy, compassion and love that actively seeks to dismantle oppression and violence.



The 2019 Delegate Assembly voted to change the bylaws to add **youth, ages 16-21, as official delegates**. Congregations may now nominate one youth, and area conferences and racial/ethnic groups may each nominate two, as additional delegates.

The 2019 Delegate Assembly passed the "**Churchwide Statement on the Abuse of Child Migrants**," which condemns the abuse of migrant families and children at the border and calls for a change in policy and action by the United States government. In response, a group of the MC USA Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) visited Tucson, Arizona in Oct. 2019 to learn about **immigration initiatives and organizations**.



MC USA's Executive Board formed a **Membership Guidelines Advisory Group** to recommend a process for continuing the church's conversation on its Membership Guidelines. The 21-person group met for a one-time working session in Nov. 2019 and shared its recommendations with the board for further discernment.

Peace Academic Center, formerly Hopi Mission School, re-started classes for Kindergarten and pre-K students in Sept. 2019, Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

MC USA Transformative Peacemaking released several calls to action in 2019, urging prayer, conversation and individual and corporate action in response to the issues of gun violence, the death penalty and racism.



MC USA Archives launched an **oral history project** in July 2019 to collect interviews of young people ages of 24-40 within MC USA. Forty people participated in interviews recorded at MennoCon19.

MC USA held a "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative on **church planting**, together with Menonite Mission Network, introducing the Sent Network process for equipping MC USA congregations and conferences for church planting.



MC USA relaunched **The Gathering Place**, a virtual space where Anabaptist faith formation leaders can gather, learn, share and grow. Webinars focused on baptism instruction, social media, and Anabaptism and American politics.

MC USA's Church Vitality office updated **Mennodata** and the **Ministerial Leader Information (MLI)** process with user-friendly interfacing and better access for church leaders and potential pastors.

Stay Connected



Subscribe to PeaceMail, MC USA's weekly digest that highlights news and blogs from across the Church at menoniteusa.org/peacemail.



Save the date for MennoCon21, the MC USA convention, in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 6-10, 2021.

Follow Jesus Witness to God's peace Experience Transformation

MenoniteUSA.org

