



## 2022 Report to Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA

*So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### Ways MC USA equipped conferences, congregations and communities to #BeTransformed in 2021

#### Our Mission

The mission of Mennonite Church USA Executive Board is to equip and empower leaders to share with others the gift of God's peace and transformative love.

#### Our Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

#### Our Renewed Commitments

- Follow Jesus
- Witness to God's peace
- Experience transformation



More than 1,000 people participated in [MennoCon21](#), MC USA's first hybrid convention, held online and in-person in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 6-10. Revitalization was a key focus, with Executive Director Glen Guyton introducing *Be Transformed* as the theme for the next biennium.

[Church Vitality](#) staff coached faith formation leaders during a difficult year through cohorts, roundtable discussions and webinars. At-home worship guides for Lent and Advent resourced families, while a [Bible-based curriculum about policing](#) helped congregations discuss important social justice issues.



MC USA supported new missional churches, awarding its second round of [Thrive Church Planting Grants](#) to three congregations: Community of Hope, Summit Street Church and Wild Church.



The first "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative of 2021, in collaboration with the Mennonites Against Militarism project, focused on the ["Cost of War,"](#) highlighting resistance to war as a core peace church value.

["Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty"](#) explored the topic of poverty from theological and practical perspectives, addressing its intersectional nature and the impact of the pandemic, through prayers, blogs and resources.

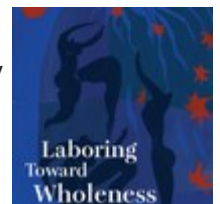
In response to rising gun violence, MC USA partnered with [RAWtools](#), an organization that teaches nonviolence and turns guns to gardening tools, which are sold to support the denomination's peace and justice work.

Twenty congregations received [Justice Fund](#) grants for their efforts to combat poverty, dismantle racism, seek immigration justice or reimagine policing. This work was supported by Allegheny Mennonite Conference, which provided a [\\$45K donation](#) and \$15K matching grant, and by giving from across the church.



Glen Guyton began his second four-year term as executive director in April 2021 and [Jon Carlson](#), pastor, Forest Hills Mennonite Church, was affirmed as moderator-elect at the Delegate Assembly in July.

MC USA's Women in Leadership ministry created ["Laboring Toward Wholeness,"](#) a Bible-based curriculum for dismantling patriarchy in the church, and relaunched its Holding It(,) Together podcast.



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MennoCon23, MC USA's biennial convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 4-8, 2023. Save the date for this transformative experience!