

Faith Mennonite Church Committee for the MC USA Special Delegate Assembly, May 2022 Final Report

At the urging of a church member, a few members of Faith Mennonite Church drew together to create an ad hoc committee. This committee, The Faith Committee for the MC USA Special Delegate Assembly, May 2022, reviewed and voted on the four resolutions being presented at a Special Delegate Assembly of Mennonite Church USA. This Special Delegate Assembly is a result of a shortened Delegate Assembly in 2021 due to the COVID virus. All resolutions were postponed until this year. Our Committee's actions are recommendations for the Faith Church Council and for our delegates to the Assembly.

The four resolutions

- Clarification on Mennonite Church USA Polity and the Role of the Membership Guidelines of Mennonite Church USA
 - The Committee voted Yes to retire the Membership Guidelines.
- MC USA For Justice Resolution
 - The Committee voted Yes to this “study” resolution.*
- MC USA Accessibility Resolution
 - The Committee voted Yes to pass the resolution.
- A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation
 - The Committee voted in favor of our delegates voting Yes to bring this resolution to the floor for discussion and a vote. If brought to the floor, our delegates will vote Yes for the resolution.

*A study resolution is just that - congregations and conferences agree to study the topic of the resolution. In this case, the subject is the criminal justice system and how it works and its deleterious effects on certain socio-economic and ethnic and racial groups. We noted that Faith has done research in the past and we already have involvement with several local and state groups. We should aspire to increase our involvement with input from these groups.

Our committee consisted of the following members of Faith.

Andi Kuenning
Dick Westby
Donna Minter
Karen Wiebe

Leslie Minkler, Chair
Phil Stoltzfus, Delegate to the Assembly
Rachel Geisinger
Roberta Malles, Delegate to the Assembly

We were able to review, discuss, and vote on all resolutions in four weekly meetings. The group voted unanimously for all four resolutions which expresses our desire for Faith's delegates to vote affirmatively for all.

As requested by the Faith Council Moderator, John Hershey, we created a statement to be read by one of the delegates in the discussion time during the "retiring of the Membership Guidelines" is up for a vote. Both delegates are also encouraged to present the statement at their assigned tables during table discussions.

As Chair I thank all the members of the Committee for their contributions to the discussions. We learned from each other and, in my opinion, we voted as a more informed group.

I give special thanks to Karen W., Phil S., and Donna M. for their input on running meetings and their encouraging comments.

I also am in debt to Karen W. and Brianna (our office manager) for their assistance with Zoom.

I am grateful for our delegates, Phil S. and Roberta, who volunteered to represent Faith at this Special Delegate Assembly.

With gratitude, I thank John H. and Thom for their guidance and assistance from the time I said yes to organizing the Committee to the end of the Committee's work.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Minkler on behalf of the Faith Committee for the MC USA Special Delegate Assembly