

# Mission Commission, MWC General Council

## Terms of Reference

### **Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Vision and Mission**

The vision of MWC is to be a communion of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service, and witness. The mission of MWC is to (1) be a global community of faith in the Anabaptist tradition, (2) facilitate relationships between Anabaptist-related churches worldwide, and (3) relate to other Christian world communions and organizations.

### **Mission Commission Identity**

In accordance with the MWC constitution, the General Council of MWC has established commissions, of which the Mission Commission is one. The Mission Commission provides leadership and inspiration for MWC's vision in the areas of witness and service. The general functions of the MWC commissions are:

1. To prepare issues or materials for consideration by the MWC General Council.
2. To give guidance and propose resources to MWC or member churches.
3. To facilitate MWC-related networks or fellowships working together on matters of common interest and focus.

In accordance with # 3, the Mission Commission facilitates two global mission networks of Anabaptist churches and/or agencies:

1. **Global Mission Fellowship (GMF):** a global fellowship of Anabaptist-related churches and mission groups who meet triennially for promoting consultation and cooperation in inter-cultural mission with a focus on church development and extension.
2. **Global Anabaptist Service Network (GASN):** a global coalition of Anabaptist church service agencies which meet triennially with a focus on reaching out beyond the church in service to "the widow, the orphan, and the alien" as witness to God's love and compassion for all.

### **Vision**

1. To link arms in mission – north, south, east, west.
2. To pray for each other, encourage each other, and partner together as God leads us.
3. To learn from each other.
4. To share resources in mission – prayer, personnel, teaching and finances.

To recapture in every part of the church the apostolic vision of the whole body of Christ engaged in faithful discipleship, filled with the Holy Spirit, and reaching out to all those around us and beyond us to whom the Lord leads us.

### **Tasks**

The specific tasks of the Mission Commission include:

1. Facilitating the work of the GMF and GASN, including budget planning, program planning, and fund-raising.
2. Casting vision and fostering cooperation for global missional engagement, including both witness and service networks/agencies in complementary ways.
3. Facilitating web-based (and other) communication for inter-cultural witness and service.

4. Resourcing regional and local MWC-related groups for witness and service.
5. Initiating and responding to missional conversations, projects, and resource development at the MWC General Council level.
6. Encouraging, shaping, and facilitating guidelines for consultation, cooperation, and partnership in witness and service among Anabaptist-related churches, agencies, and networks.
7. Creating and distributing a database of Anabaptist witness and service efforts around the world.
8. Researching and reporting on one frontier for Anabaptist-related witness and service annually.
9. Working with the other MWC General Council commissions (Faith & Life, Peace, Deacons) to encourage strong, holistic, and integrated engagement in witness and service.

### **Infrastructure**

1. The Mission Commission consists of seven members, three appointed by the MWC General Council (each person from different continent), two appointed jointly by the GMF and the MWC General Council, and two appointed jointly by the GASN and the MWC General Council. The four members (2 from GMF and 2 from GASN) are appointed jointly and ideally represent different continents. Term length: six years, with four of the members appointed at the triennial meeting of the MWC General Council between assemblies and three of the members appointed at the triennial meeting at assembly time. Members may serve up to two consecutive terms of six years each. Including the chair, total Mission Commission membership is either 7 or 8.
2. The chair of the Mission Commission is selected by the MWC Executive Committee. Term length: six years, with two consecutive terms possible. The chair may be selected from either outside or inside the regular Mission Commission membership.
3. The secretary of the Mission Commission serves the Mission Commission itself, the GMF, and the GASN. The secretary will assist the subgroups and work with the chairs of GMF and GASN. This is an MWC staff position, and the secretary is accountable to the Mission Commission chair and the general secretary of MWC.
4. The two chairs of the GMF and GASN also serve as vice-chairs of the Mission Commission. They are selected by the GMF and GASN respectively and as vice-chairs of the Mission Commission are approved by the MC. Term length: six years, with two consecutive terms possible.
5. The Mission Commission meets in plenary session every 1.5 years, at the time of triennial gatherings of the General Council and once between each of these gatherings.
6. During Mission Commission meetings, the group at times breaks into two subgroups for GMF program planning and GASN program planning. Every member of the Mission Commission is a member of one of these two groups.
7. Likewise, the MC also may break into subgroups for such areas as finance, joint meeting (GMF and GASN) planning, administrative issues, and other things the Mission Commission does, such as web-based communication.

*--approved in joint session by the Mission Commission and the Provisional Task Force of the GASN on May 13, 2012 for consideration by the MWC Executive Committee and General Council.  
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