

Global Mission Fellowship
Facilitated by the Mission Commission, MWC General Council
Mennonite World Conference
Terms of Reference

Preamble: 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.

Within the MWC vision and mission, the MWC General Council has established four commissions—Faith and Life, Peace, Deacons, and Mission.

Preamble: Mission Commission—Nest for the Global Mission Fellowship

The Mission Commission, like the other three, prepares issues or materials for consideration by the MWC General Council, gives guidance and proposes resources for MWC or member churches, and facilitates MWC-related networks or fellowships working together on matters of common interest and focus.

The purpose of the Mission Commission is to help the global body link arms in mission – north, south, east, west; pray for each other, encourage each other, and partner together as God leads us; learn from each other; share resources in mission – prayer, personnel, teaching and finances; and capture 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.

One of the networks facilitated by the Mission Commission is the 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.

GMF Vision

The GMF was formed in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in 2003 with this underlying vision:

- The church at all levels--local, national, regional, and global--exists to participate in God's mission to the world.
- God's mission through the church involves conveying the whole gospel of Jesus Christ across spiritual, cultural, economic and political boundaries as well as within a church's local settings.
- The church's mission includes ministries in word and deed to persons and peoples outside the community of Christ with the goal of making disciples and bringing these new disciples into fellowships of believers.
- The gospel of Jesus Christ is expressed through a spectrum of evangelistic, disciple-making and humanitarian/social activities, including preaching, teaching, intercessory prayer, fasting, healing, deliverance, church planting, social services, disaster relief, development aid, peacemaking, advocacy for justice, conflict mediation, discipling, and training and equipping others for mission.

- Every church, whether at a local, national or regional level, has the responsibility to develop and sustain in biblical ways its God-given gifts for doing and being in mission.
- Anabaptist-related churches and mission groups desire consultation and cooperation in order to increase capacity, mutual accountability, collaboration, and stewardship of resources for cross-cultural mission.

Principles of Consultation and Collaboration

The members of the GMF commit themselves to pursue consultation and collaboration in the GMF itself as well as in other inter-Anabaptist forums and in direct bilateral connections.

When initiating new mission efforts, members of the GMF commit to:

- seek information about mission interests, plans and/or activities by other churches, especially Anabaptist-related groups in or near a proposed mission location.
- inform other Anabaptist-related groups or associations already engaged or established in or near the location of investigation and plans before committing personnel or material resources to the new mission effort.
- welcome information and counsel and information from the Anabaptist-related groups already engaged or established in or near a new location.
- pursue prompt and mutually satisfactory resolution of any tensions which may arise from different goals, strategies or personalities.

When another Anabaptist-related group initiates a new mission effort in a location close to the mission activities of a GMF member, GMF members commit to:

- welcome interest by other Anabaptist-related groups in initiating mission efforts in or near their location;
- offer information and counsel other Anabaptist-related groups initiating a mission effort in or near their location;
- seek prompt and mutually satisfactory resolution of any tensions which may arise from different goals, strategies and personalities.

Objectives

Important objectives of the GMF are to:

- Encourage better/stronger collaboration among members
- Enable the global church to influence inter-cultural Anabaptist mission agencies and groups
- Increase awareness and understanding of global Anabaptist mission activities
- Share best practices among members
- Accomplish things together what each could not attempt individually
- Provide opportunities for training, growth and development
- Increase the capacity of members
- Reflect together on what it means to be an Anabaptist agency or group engaged

- in intercultural mission
- Better understand global needs and effective responses
- Honor and value gifts from Anabaptist mission agencies and groups of all sizes

Membership and Gatherings

- All Anabaptist-related churches and mission groups interested or engaged in crosscultural mission may send representatives to the GMF.
- Each member may have one representative with voting privileges in the GMF.
- The GMF will gather every three years, alternately in conjunction with the MWC Assembly.
- Every member will contribute on a fair share basis to the costs of the GMF.
- Triennial gatherings of the GMF which are held between MWC assemblies may convene either at the same location of MWC General Council meetings or at another location as determined by the GMF Planning Committee in consultation with the Mission Commission.

GMF Planning Committee

- The gatherings of the GMF are planned by a sub-committee of the Mission Commission which is chaired by either the chair or vice-chair of the Mission Commission. The purpose of the GMF Planning Committee is to foster the vision of the GMF.
- Two members of the GMF Planning Committee, each representing a different continent, are selected for membership in both the Mission Commission and the GMF Planning Committee by the GMF membership and the MWC General Council. Other members of the GMF Planning Committee are selected by the Mission Commission from among Mission Commission members, with an attempt to maintain continental representation (Africa, Asia, Latin America & Caribbean, Europe, and North America).
Total size of the GMF Planning Committee is five or six members, but not more than seven including the chair.
- Meetings of the GMF Planning Committee are held in conjunction with the gatherings of the Mission Commission which occur approximately once every year and a half. Other meetings may be scheduled as needed, either by phone/internet or face to face.
- The GMF Planning Committee is accountable to the membership of the GMF and the Mission Commission of the MWC General Council.
- The staff prepares the agenda for the committee's meetings in consultation with the chair. Minute-taking for the GMF Planning Committee is done by the secretary or other designee of the secretary; correspondence is handled by the secretary and/or chair, as appropriate.
- The GMF Planning Committee seeks consensus on all decisions i.e. the assent of all members, but relies on a majority vote if consensus cannot be attained.

GMF Planning Committee Tasks

Specific tasks of the GMF Planning Committee, in appropriate consultation with the Mission Commission, include:

- Interpreting the vision of the GMF
- Interpreting and applying the criteria for GMF membership
- Planning the GMF triennial gatherings
- Elaborating guidelines for decision-making by the GMF
- Drafting and presenting amendments to the GMF Terms of Reference as needed
- Raising the funds needed for its operations and for the GMF gatherings
- Monitoring the expenditures of the GMF Fund
- Supervising staff in the performance of GMF tasks
- Reporting on its activities and plans to the GMF membership through annual reports and at GMF gatherings
- Informing and communicating with entities with overlapping interests (e.g., global mission fellowships of other denominations, inter- and non-denominational global mission entities) on behalf of the GMF

Finances

GMF finances are supervised by the GMF Planning Committee and administered by the Mission Commission.

--approved by the Mission Commission and GMF membership on May 14, 2012 for consideration by the MWC Executive Committee and General Council. Approved by the MWC Executive Committee on May 2012.