



**Mennonite
World Conference**

A Community of Anabaptist
related Churches

**Congreso
Mundial Menonita**

Una Comunidad de
Iglesias Anabautistas

**Conférence
Mennonite Mondiale**

Une Communauté
d'Eglises Anabaptistes



Mission Commission

Terms of Reference

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 that meet triennially for promoting consultation and cooperation in intercultural mission with a focus on church development and extension.
2. **Global Anabaptist Service Network (GASN):** a global coalition of Anabaptist church service agencies that 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, 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 intercultural 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 Commissions (Faith & Life, Peace, Deacons) to encourage strong, holistic, and integrated engagement in witness and service.

Structure

1. The Mission Commission consists of members from the following groups:
 - a) **General Council appointees to Commissions:** three appointed by the MWC General Council (each person from a different continent). Term length: Members may serve up to two consecutive terms of six years each.
 - b) **Specialist appointees to Commissions:** Specialists are indispensable for fortifying and equilibrating the resources of MWC Commissions. The process of identifying these three persons with particular gifts begins one year before the meeting at which the General Council appoints them. The process unfolds in two stages.

First, internal nominations and consultations (moving from Commission Secretaries and Chairs, through the General Secretary, Operations Team, Regional Representatives, Officers and finally the Executive Committee) to screen candidates for any regional or leadership concerns, accompanied by the preparation of summary bios.

Second, an external validation phase where Commission Secretaries secure formal agreement from each candidate's national church leadership before directly confirming the individual's willingness to serve.

Term length: Members may serve up to two consecutive terms of six years each.
 - c) **Network appointees to Commissions:** the Network representatives to Commissions are appointed by the Network and do not need additional confirmation by the MWC Executive Committee or General Council. They can only serve a maximum of six years. They do not need to be the chair of the Network.
 - d) Including the chair and the Secretary, the total Mission Commission membership is around 10.
2. A Commission Chair is selected by the MWC Executive Committee and is confirmed by the MWC General Council to serve for a six-year term as a volunteer. Based on the MWC constitution, vision, mission, and strategy, the Commission Chair helps to shape the Commission's vision and collaborates with the Commission Secretary to propose the operational plan for each triennium in consultation with Commission members.

The Commission Chair works closely with the Commission Secretary to lead the commission by:

 - a) preparing issues or materials for consideration by the General Council,
 - b) giving guidance and proposing resources to MWC or member churches,
 - c) facilitating MWC-related networks working together on matters of common interest or focus.

3. The secretary of the Mission Commission serves the Mission Commission itself and will assist the subgroups and the work of the chairs of GMF and GASN. This is an MWC staff position, and the secretary is accountable to the Mission Commission chair and the Director of Commissions of MWC.
4. The Commissions and Networks Administrator is the contact person for the organizational members of the networks of the Mission Commission (GMF and GASN). The Commissions and Networks Administrator will also work with the different functional areas of the MWC as needed. The Commissions and Networks Administrator is accountable to the Director of Commissions.
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 and GASN program planning. Every member of the Mission Commission is a member of one of these two groups.

Likewise, the MC may also break into subgroups for such areas as finance, joint meeting (GMF, GASN) planning, administrative issues, and other things the Mission Commission does, such as web-based communication.