

Changes to the Ohio Mennonite Conference Constitution

2024

- 1. Conference name.** (Article I) The “Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA” has officially changed its name to “Ohio Mennonite Conference” to reflect the fact that not all congregations claim derived membership in Mennonite Church USA and to differentiate it from the Ohio Conference of the Adventist Church. The short name for Ohio Mennonite Conference is Ohio Conference.
- 2. Conference Assembly.** (Article V) includes only the governance requirement that the delegates meet annually to conduct the business of the Conference. Details about the timing, fellowship, Biblical teaching, worship, and celebration objectives for Conference events will be included in the Strategic Plan rather than in the Constitution.
- 3. Youth Delegate** (Article VI) changes to age 16-25 rather than age 16-30.
- 4. Leadership Council.** (Article VII) The new Leadership Council model reduces the number of meetings required for volunteer leaders and avoids the duplication of responsibilities that exist between Leadership Team and Ministry Development Team. The Leadership Council provides spiritual leadership and replaces the Leadership Team and the Ministry Development Team. The Leadership Council is made up of Conference staff (see below) and five Conference leaders (Moderator, Moderator Elect, and representatives from the Credentialing, Stewardship, and Gifts Discernment Committees). It supervises the Conference Minister, sets the agenda for the Conference Assembly, and oversees the work of committees. Between Conference Assembly times, the Leadership Council works on behalf of the Conference for operational and program decisions.
- 5. Moderator Elect.** Ohio Mennonite Conference has a Moderator Elect instead of an Assistant Moderator. After a two-year term, the Moderator Elect moves into the Moderator role when the Moderator completes their two-year term. There are no term extensions for these roles.
- 6. Committees.** Conference Committees are streamlined to four: Program, Credentialing, Stewardship, and Gifts Discernment. Each committee is represented on the Leadership Council. Specific tasks which were previously assigned to Resource Teams and the Capacity Building Team will be given to ad hoc committees with time-bound and short-term commitments. Work on salaries and benefits is assigned to the Stewardship Committee.
- 7. Program Committee:** The newly designated Program Committee carries the responsibility for creating, implementing, and evaluating vibrant Conference programs for the support of congregations, pastors, and the congregations’ outreach in their communities. The Program Committee is anchored by the Conference staff position who represents the Program Committee on the Leadership Council. The Program Committee

includes five additional members from OMC congregations. The Program Committee has assumed the programming role formerly assigned to the Ministry Development Team and/or Resource Teams.

- 8. Stewardship Committee.** In the amended constitution, a single Stewardship Committee will address all finance, property, and benefits/compensation questions for the Conference rather than having multiple finance-related committees with overlapping responsibilities.
- 9. Ad Hoc Committees:** The Leadership Council has the option of appointing additional ad hoc committees to delegate time-bound specific tasks such as planning a program initiative or event or to advise the Conference in a particular area.
- 10. Titles:** Specific staff titles and roles have been removed from the Constitution because they are operational staffing decisions and not constitution-level decisions.
- 11. References to past mission statement:** The words “worship, faith, and witness” have been replaced by wording from the current mission statement — “gather, equip, send.”