

Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference

Mission Policy

Adopted July 1, 2013

PREAMBLE

God's great purpose for creation is to create people of grace and hope so they may bless all creation. The church is rooted in the history and destiny of the God who acts to create a new peoplehood, a new humanity and a new community that are created by the Spirit of Jesus, the Christ.

This community is a distinct people characterized by a spiritual conversion whose lives are re-oriented to a radical obedience to the teachings of Jesus. As a result of this conversion, we are committed to healing, reconciliation, and peacemaking in the non-violent way of the cross.

This new community stands witness to the transforming power of God working through the people of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference (PSMC) who witness and serve in the fractured and violent communities in which they live, by being agents of healing, reconciliation and re-creation.

The following section delineates the Mission Policy of PSMC.

The principal mission for PSMC is to mobilize Mennonites in Arizona, California and Nevada to fulfill God's purposes by: equipping leaders, building relationships, and by organizing for mission. We understand that the locus of missional activity is congregationally based and is supported by the Conference Mission Team (CMT) and the Conference Mission Team Coordinating Group (CMT CG).

In our effort to accomplish our mission, the Conference recognizes that it exists in the midst of a global mission field, as well as being a launching pad for global mission, and is committed to developing partnerships among its member congregations and with various Mennonite church wide agencies and area conferences to expand the number of persons being sent into cross-cultural mission and service assignments, and into ministries of healing and reconciliation. PSMC also desires to expand the number of partnerships with immigrant and racial / ethnic groups in our effort to be faithful ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

The Mission Policy is developed by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Conference Minister and is implemented by the Minister of Mission and/or other appropriate person(s).

The Minister of Mission gives leadership to the Conference Mission Team and the Coordinating Group.

Conference Mission Team

The CMT consists of persons who are interested in missional activities, resourcing and networking around a variety of mission actions and who attend CMT meetings. As such, the CMT is an ad hoc group, meets twice a year, and will include members of the CMT CG. Congregational representatives are the creative energy that generates mission vitality to which the Minister of Mission and the CMT CG gives administrative structure. The CMT responds to and assists with discernment of congregationally based missional initiatives and helps congregations to expand their missional vision.

Coordinating Group

The Coordinating Group (CG) receives direction from the Minister of Mission and will take action on congregational initiatives and ideas of the CMT and will assist the Minister of Mission to implement, network and resource emerging ideas. The CG works within the confines of the PSMC Long Range Plan, and the PSMC Income and Expenses Budget and is responsible for advising and refining mission theology and missiological education.

The Minister of Mission will represent the Conference in conversations with member churches and other mission organizations, particularly, but not limited to Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) and the West Coast Mennonite Central Committee (WC MCC).

The Minister of Mission will provide leadership and direction to the CG and will:

- A. Facilitate the CG meetings by scheduling and announcing meeting dates, soliciting items for the CMT agenda, and be responsible for creating and distributing minutes of the CMT meetings.
- B. Coordinate implementation of approved CMT initiatives.
- C. Network with agencies of the Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Central Committee and other appropriate agencies.
- D. Disseminate information and communicate the missional vision of Conference through PSMC media resources: the Panorama, the weekly EUpdate, and at the Conference's twice a year assemblies.
- E. Meet with the CG at least two times a year.
- F. Report to the Conference Minister and to the PSMC Board.

Composition of the Coordinating Group: The CG will be a network of four persons and will select a secretary from among its members. Each appointee will serve until they choose to resign or until they no longer represent the sending agency. The positions are:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Minister of Mission	PSMC Staff and is the Chairperson
PSMC Board Member:	PSMC Board, member congregations and constituency groups
At-Large Member:	Mennonite Mission Network
At-Large Member:	West Coast Mennonite Central Committee

- A. The **Secretary** will ensure that minutes of each meeting are taken and disseminated.
- B. The **Conference Minister** is an ExOfficio member.
- C. The **MMN Representative** will represent the MMN and provide resourcing, networking and be a conduit of information exchange between MMN and PSMC.
- D. The **W.C. MCC Representative** will represent MCC and provide resourcing, networking and be a conduit of information exchange between MCC and PSMC.
- E. The **PSMC Board Representative** will represent the PSMC Board, member congregations and constituency groups which have an informal connection to PSMC such as, but not limited to, the ABC MMA.

Church Planting

We desire to empower congregations and leaders to plant new churches primarily within the regional boundaries of the Conference, but are open to partnering with other Anabaptist groups in other places that seem good to us and to the Holy Spirit.

In order to be effective stewards of the generosity of God, and in recognition of the limited human and financial resources available to the Conference, we shall work in the following ways:

- A. The Minister of Mission will create a culture for church planting within the Conference by:
 - Encouraging a passion for church planting throughout the Conference
 - Offering educational events to advance church planting opportunities
 - Develop alliances between PSMC member congregations and other Anabaptist groups to join together in church planting opportunities
 - Participation in / with church planting networks
- B. Church planting initiatives that emerge from member congregations will receive encouragement and support from Conference.
- C. Congregations desiring Conference support with new church plant projects must coordinate with the Minister of Mission or the designated representative identified by the Conference Minister.
- D. Proposals, when it seems appropriate to the parties involved, will follow the guidance that is provided in the document, "Guidelines for Church Planting," which is available upon request.
- E. The Minister of Mission will review the assessment of all church planters and suggest appropriate training, coaching, and consulting resources.
- F. Each church planting project will complete a business/ministry plan which will be reviewed by the CG and approved by the Minister of Mission.
- G. PSMC may provide funding in the form of a one-time startup grant in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000 contingent on availability of financial resources and demonstrated need.
- H. Some determining factors for grant requests:
 - Are Conference funds available?
 - Does the granting request generally comply with the Conference's "Guidelines for Church Planting?" For example, has a mission and vision statement, a business/ministry plan and a budget been provided? Is there a ministry support team in place? Is there significant support from a "sister" congregation?
 - Is the location of the proposed church plant in a region of interest to the Conference?
 - Is there evidence of strong commitment to an Anabaptist / Mennonite faith perspective?
 - Is there a procedure to ensure transparency and accountability for the use of grant monies?
 - Has the grant request been affirmed by the Minister of Missions and Conference Minister?
 - Priority will be giving to church planting requests over missional outreach activities.
 - The protocol for applying for funds will be determined by the Minister of Mission.

Missional Outreach Activities

(Healing, Reconciliation, and Peacemaking)

PSMC desires to encourage its member congregations to witness to the transforming power of God by their witness and service in the fractured and violent communities in which they live by being agents of healing, reconciliation and re-creation. To that end, and in order to be effective stewards of the generosity of God, and in recognition of the limited human and financial resources available to the Conference, we shall work in the following ways:

- A. Healing, reconciliation and peacemaking (HRP) initiatives which emerge from member congregations will receive encouragement and support from Conference.
- B. Congregations desiring Conference support with HRP projects must coordinate with the Minister of Mission or the designated representative identified by the Conference Minister.
- C. The CMT CG will review the initiative to determine its merits for support and receive approval of the Minister of Mission.
- D. Each project will complete a business/ministry plan which will be reviewed by the CMT-CG.
- E. PSMC may provide funding in the form of a one-time startup grant in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000 contingent on availability of financial resources and demonstrated need.
- F. Some determining factors for granting requests:
 - Are Conference funds available?
 - Is the location of the proposed HRP initiative in a region of interest to the Conference?
 - Is there evidence of strong support by the local Mennonite faith community?
 - Is there evidence of strong commitment to an Anabaptist / Mennonite faith perspective?
 - Is there a procedure to ensure transparency and accountability for the use of grant monies?
 - Has the grant request been affirmed by the Minister of Missions and Conference Minister?
 - Priority will be giving to church planting requests over missional outreach activities.
 - The protocol for applying for funds will be determined by the Minister of Mission.