

**Resolution for Moving Forward
For South Central Mennonite Conference
For consideration by the delegate body at the 2021 SCMC Summer Assembly**

Since:

- South Central Mennonite Conference's Discovery 20.21 Process in which each participating congregation was encouraged to think about, pray about, and communicate with conference leaders their discernment of God's call for them revealed:
 - some South Central Mennonite Conference (SCMC) churches have become uncomfortable with SCMC's ongoing relationship with MCUSA and believe strongly that it is time for SCMC to leave MCUSA
 - other SCMC churches continue to treasure their relationship with MCUSA and are unwilling to cut those ties

(See "A Short History of Mennonite Church USA and Its Current Realignment" at <https://tinyurl.com/MCUSAhistory> and *Discover 20.21 responses* at <https://tinyurl.com/phase1compiled> and <https://tinyurl.com/phase2compiled>)
- Conference leadership desires to find a path forward for SCMC that will:
 - glorify God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit),
 - honor our rich history of fellowship and brotherhood/sisterhood,
 - acknowledge our differences,
 - allow all churches to remain true to, and live out, their understanding of God's will for their congregation,
 - allow all churches to uphold, pray for and support all the other churches, and
 - prevent congregations from coming out of the process feeling like "winners" and "losers."

As a way of:

- agreeing and disagreeing in love
- recognizing and honoring our history and our differences
- avoiding "winners" and "losers"
- allowing each congregation to say "Yes" to what God has for their future without having to say "No" to the past;

Be it Resolved that:

Following the 12-month transitional period outlined below; on or about July 24, 2022 South Central Mennonite Conference Inc. will be dissolved.

- ❖ Assets of the conference will be liquidated and divided equally according to the number of congregations, and distributed to whatever body individual congregations have chosen to affiliate with. If any congregation elects to become an independent entity, their portion of the disbursement will be given to an Anabaptist Ministry of their choosing. Any undesignated funds will be donated to Mennonite Mission Network.
- ❖ Approval of this measure will also give authority to the Network Leadership Team to act on behalf of the conference in whatever ways are consistent and necessary to carry out this decision.

(continued)

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12-month Transitional period for A Resolution for Moving Forward:

1. For this 12-month period SCMC will remain a conference of Mennonite Church USA

2. SCMC leadership and staff will provide congregations with resources and assistance in finding and opting into another conference or organization that they find most aligned with their understanding of God's vision for them. SCMC will assist with:
 - Transferring affiliation to another MCUSA conference
 - Creating a new affiliation with another denomination/network either on their own or with other SCMC congregations.
 - Determining how they may relate with the Mennonite Church USA agencies (Everence, Mennonite Education Agency, Mennonite Mission Network, MennoMedia, Mennonite Health Services Alliance) as well as other mennonite-related organizations such as Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS).
 - Determining the future status and options for where pastoral credentials are to be held.

**If this resolution is not approved SCMC will continue as it currently exists.

Motion to Suspend $\frac{2}{3}$ Majority:

Because requiring a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority as stipulated by the constitution may result in continuing the conference as it stands with only minority support, we plan to present a motion to suspend the constitutional requirement for a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote in favor of a majority vote before this resolution is considered. The motion to suspend must be seconded and will require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to pass.