

2019 Mennonite Women USA Report

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OUR MISSION: Mennonite Women USA is a sisterhood of Anabaptist women following Jesus.

OUR VISION: Engaging the prophetic voices of all women as we honor our stories, share grace, practice justice and embrace healing.

Executive Summary

Mennonite Women USA (MW USA) is amidst transformation. We are living into our new vision at a time in church history where the denomination is experiencing major changes. MW USA is prime to lead and empower women throughout the church to assist the broader church in carving a new path.

I. Cooperation with Churches and Agencies

1. MW USA has visited 20 Mennonite churches as a guest and speaker.
2. MW USA met with female church leaders across the United States and internationally to discuss our work.
3. MW USA sponsored several gatherings encouraging women in the church to connect across traditional divides through our Choosing Sisterhood initiative. Women in Conversation has provided a platform for women to address issues facing our families and communities. These gatherings have been well attended.
4. MW USA has prioritized listening to young women in the church. We have visited three Mennonite Colleges with the sole purpose of listening to the needs of our younger sisters.
5. MW USA also met with international students at Hesston College, listening to the needs of women of color on campus. Together we brainstormed ways in which women throughout MW USA might be of service.
6. MW USA continues to provide over 20 scholarships annually to international students through our International Women's Fund. These scholarships assist women studying in the field of theology, Anabaptist and church history, ministry and pastoral care and counseling.
7. MW USA attended the Everence Development Conference obtaining useful material to support our work.
8. MW USA is currently working with Rhoda Blough, Everence stewardship consultant, to provide financial webinars for MW USA beginning January 2020.
9. MW USA attends the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) gathering where conference and constituency groups reported on their connection with MC USA.

II. Next Steps

1. Website. Our primary means of communication with constituents is through our website. Watch for our new interactive website that allows engagement in a timely manner and will enliven our communication and connection with the broader church.
2. Social Media. The focus will be on two social media platforms: Facebook and Instagram.
3. Fundraisers. We are working on fundraisers for MW USA in 2020:
 - a. Annual Golf outing, September 2020
 - b. 5k and 10k walk/runs at one or more women's retreats, 2020

III. Conclusion

I am encouraged by the many connections we are making with women and agencies within the Mennonite church. In addition to our faithful constituents, Mennonite Women USA is supported by pastors and leaders of the church. As we continue to live into our vision, these connections and others will become stronger. This is good for the church, but even more so for women and girls throughout the church.