

Mountain States Mennonite Conference
Delegate Assembly 2024
Agenda
1:10 pm - 2:30 pm

Welcoming/Opening Prayer

2023 Assembly Minutes Approval

Approval of New Members for MSMC Committees
Vote for New Members

Conference Minister Remarks

Budget Presentation/Discussion
Budget Vote

Motion to Welcome Roca de Refugio as a Covenant Member into MSMC
Vote to Accept Roca de Refugio

Social Enterprise Report

Fostering New Communities Report

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Report

Moderator Remarks

Passing the Torch

Adjourn

Mountain States Mennonite Conference
Delegate Assembly 2023 Minutes
1:15 pm - 2:30

Welcoming/Opening Prayer - Ryan Koch

2022 Assembly Minutes Approval

- Summary of 2022 Assembly by Ryan Koch
- Motion to approve 2022 Assembly Minutes by Randy Spaulding
- Seconded by Pam Duncan
- No discussion
- Approved by show of hands - one abstention because not in attendance at 2022

Conference Minister Remarks

- Amy Zimbleman - shared some of written report and highlights from past year

Budget Presentation/Discussion

- Highlights by Ryan Koch - changes: sold church building in Pueblo; decrease in congregational giving
- Summary of Budget by Rita Balzer
 - Net income for 2022
 - Reports prepared on July 7, some giving has been received since then
 - Steve Ramer asked about investment income
 - Proposed 2024 Budget - projected decrease in giving from churches, projected increase in investments, increase in staff salary due to Amy moving to full-time
 - Steve Ramer asked if salary numbers included administrator salary - \$1200 to help with publishing Zing, but no other administrator costs
- Budget Vote
 - Motion to Approve 2024 Budget by Rhoda Blough
 - Seconded by Lynn Amstutz
 - No discussion
 - Time to vote

~~Releasing Defiance from MSMC~~ Blessing Defiance as they leave MSMC

- Defiance left to join Lancaster Mennonite Conference
- Matt Shedden gave remarks
- Prayer of blessing by Amy Zimbleman

Social Enterprise Report

- Report by Rhoda Blough and Jerry Martin
- Still meeting with experts and brainstorming ideas

Church/Community Planting Report

- Vern Rempel - Fostering New Communities Taskforce

Welcoming Western Slope Mennonite Fellowship as Covenant Member into MSMC

- Remarks by Katrina Toews and Paul Johnson
- Accepting Western Slope Mennonite Fellowship Vote
 - Motion by Jordan Farrell
 - Seconded by Annaken Toews
 - No discussion
 - Time to vote

Update on Sojourn Mennonite

- Remarks by Pam Duncan

RMMC Camp Report

- Remarks by Rodney Stutzman, Board Chair
 - Vote to Reaffirm Marie Voth to second term on board
 - Motion by Glenn Balzer
 - Seconded by Kim Kaufmann
 - Approved by show of hands, affirmed
- ~~Remarks by Corbin Graber~~ - will occur at dinner to time constraints

Approval of New Members for MSMC Committees

- Introduction of “new” members and call to fill two open positions
- When we have names for the two open positions, will have a vote later this year
- Vote for New Members
 - Motion by Steve Ramer
 - Seconded by Cindy Weaver
 - No discussion
 - Time to vote

Looking Forward/Closing Remarks

- Remarks by Ryan Koch
- Motion by Pam Duncan
- Seconded by Glenn Balzer
- Approved by standing up

Adjourn - Ryan Koch

Bios for Leadership Board & Ministerial Council Candidates

Leadership Board - Moderator

Rhoda M. Blough is retiring as the Stewardship Consultant for Everence Financial after 15 years of service with advocates and pastors across the west. She enjoyed the many connections she made through the years she worked at Everence.

Rhoda went to seminary at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Va., and has always enjoyed her many roles serving the church in a vast array of positions. One of those positions was being the moderator for MSMC from 2010 to 2015; an experience she enjoyed very much.

She attends Glennon Heights Mennonite in metro Denver, Colorado. She has two grown daughters, Bethany married to John; they have two sons and live in Denver and Brooke who lives in Philadelphia with her husband Manny and their two small children. Rhoda enjoys spending time with her grandchildren Ian, Shane who live locally and enjoys FaceTime with Jasmine and Crispin. She also enjoys reading, traveling, and conversation and coffee with family and friends.

Ministerial Council

Susan Unruh is the daughter of a Russian refugee from the Molotschna Colony and a mother who grew up Old Mennonite in rural Illinois. She and her family attended the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita, Kansas for almost four decades. There, Susan held leadership positions on the Board of Deacons, the Board of Christian Education, and the Staff Relations Committee. In 2020, she and her husband retired to Albuquerque. Susan is currently serving a two-year term as the Stewardship Elder at the Albuquerque Mennonite Church; as such she works with many aspects of the church, including staff relations.

Susan has a degree in Psychology from Bethel College and a Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Kansas. She worked for 20 years as a practicing school psychologist in Wichita and retired as an Associate Professor of School Psychology at Wichita State University. As such, she taught courses in ethics and ethical decision-making. She has co-authored a textbook on working with English language learners.

Susan and husband Terry have a daughter, Marie, who is a vascular surgeon in South Bend, Indiana and a son, David, who is an archeologist in Albuquerque. Susan loves staying busy helping out with her four grandchildren, who are two, four, five, and eight.

She also loves being a covenanted member of the committed and forward-looking congregation in Albuquerque. She believes that healthy relationships between pastors, congregants, and within denominations are critical in carrying on the work of the church and the work of Christ.

2023-2024 Report from Conference Minister Rev. Amy S. Zimbelman

“Now let us begin. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to the long and bitter—but beautiful—struggle for a new world.”

—Re. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This last year since assembly 2023 was not without its beauty or its struggle. I’ll get right into naming where, from my vantage point, I’ve seen the Spirit working in our conference and how exactly I’ve tried to jump in and join that work:

We hired two **new staff**, which is lovely beyond measure. Our new administrator **Cheryl Beachey** is now in charge of conference communications like Zing! and weekly announcements. She is especially appreciated for her work on assembly planning/logistics/registration, as well as talking through any/all issues with me. **Lauren Roth** has hit the ground running as our new conference treasurer bringing years of experience to the role, which has proven incredibly helpful. And **Kim Landes** filled in as treasurer for a few months. Thank you!

What a delight it’s been for Mike Martin and I to team up and work with our RAWtools/conference intern Abe Dejene through the **Future Anabaptist Leaders program!** We’ve had the privilege of learning from this adventurous, thoughtful, winsome AMBS student and videographer this summer, and we’ve been keeping him busy forging tools, preaching, organizing events, interviewing folks, and more!

This year I **supported pastors and leaders** in 177 one-on-ones, and organized **pastors groups**, meeting once a month or more, both in-person and virtually. These are complete with things like singing, encouraging each other, praying, hashing out ministry joys and challenges, and often sharing a meal. I’m available for any of our **credentialed leaders** and cheerlead for our **Passion Ministries** (RAWtools, TiLT, and Prayerstream)--and will let them share their updates. We also require **Healthy Boundaries Training** and **Accountability Reports** to get all our credentialed leaders on the same page, ethically-speaking.

As far as pastoral transitions, Living Light of Peace welcomed **Co-Pastors Dwight and Rebecca Scull** in October, and both are in the process of seeking ordination. **Derek Hutchison** moved from being transitional pastor to settled pastor at Emmanuel in La

Junta earlier this year. **Ann Rosewall** is serving as Interim Pastor at First Mennonite. And Sojourn Fort Collins is looking toward **hiring a halftime pastor** soon.

As far as discerning a new direction collectively, we've been cultivating a relationship with **Pastor Dianne Garcia of Roca de Refugio** in San Antonio after Ryan Koch and I held two sessions in January for folks to talk about expanding our borders in general, and two sessions in the spring with Dianne and another church leader on Zoom so folks in our conference could meet them and ask questions directly. I also visited San Antonio to lay eyes on the church and wrote a Zing! article about it, and I interviewed Dianne and Marilyn Miller for an MC USA webinar. Hopefully all this has given y'all an opportunity to weigh in and learn more. (See Moderator's report for the ways this process has helped affirm our commitments as a conference.)

Our **Social Enterprise** task force explored many options and is putting a hold on the project and disbanding as a group for now, as we determined that the allotted amount of money requires a good deal of free labor to get a project off the ground. Thanks so much to Jonathan Moyer, Ray Miller, Rhoda Blough, Herm Weaver, and Jerry Martin for your time and energy discerning this!

Our **Fostering New Communities** task force created an application process and is soliciting proposals for funding new/reborn communities. Multiple communities are interested and we hope to have projects going in the next few months!

My **communications within the conference** include writing for Zing!, helping with bulletin announcements, and preaching at or visiting congregations about once or twice a month. One highlight was working with Hannah Martin to teach kids how to preach at Beth-El. **Notable volunteer Ken Gingerich** continues to manage our social media accounts and provide amazing graphic design work, and **John Beck** volunteers to work on the MSMC website.

I'm incredibly grateful for everyone who participated in our MC USA **Women in Ministry study**, and I was able to publish a series of MC USA blogs and two MC USA webinars (including [one with Marilyn Miller and Dianne Garcia](#)) and an [Anabaptist World article](#). My research partner Elizabeth Johnson and I were also invited to present our research to the conference ministers at our annual gathering in Banff. This coming October Pastor Erica Lea-Simka and I will be teaching a Practical Leadership Training

course on Women and Power in the Church through AMBS—let us know if you're interested in attending.

The churches in our conference have so many amazing ministries which I try to encourage and support in general, and I worked with a couple churches to bring in outside professional mediators to facilitate circle processes to help congregants **communicate and heal following conflict**.

Ministerial Council will give their own update, but I will say here that it has been and continues to be an honor to work with this group of leaders. Thanks especially to Chair Jenelle Roynon and Randy Spaulding who finished their terms in January and put in more than their fair share of work!

As far as events, our **Faith & Life Forum** will be November 2nd this year, and Eastern Mennonite University's Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Shannon Dycus has agreed to speak in person. She wrote the Advent devotional *The Holy in the Night* (MennoMedia) and we thought it was fitting for her to speak on spiritual themes like hope and despair and change and patience a few weeks before Advent and the weekend before the vote for the next U.S. president.

Last fall we had about 40 attendees who learned about the animals and plants in our food systems in a conversation with ethicist and academic Trevor Bechtel and immigration attorney Ismael Camacho.

And **planning Assembly** with a great team under Katrina Toews's leadership is always a joy—hopefully the fruits of that will be evident this weekend!

Nationally, I attend **monthly Conference Ministers meetings**, and I attended two **Constituency Leaders Council** meetings with Ryan Koch and other leaders. I also joined Nancy Kauffmann's **Safe Church board** to learn from the best and offer support for that work. I was also part of a team reviewing MC USA's next iteration of our **Misconduct Policy**, which is still in the works.

Ryan Koch has been a dream to work with. He's someone who sees gifts and empowers those around them, is brilliant in his strategic thinking, has a genuinely caring heart and the best interest of the organization in mind, has a well-developed moral compass coupled with the courage to act, and doesn't take life too seriously. What an incredible gift he has given me and the whole conference by serving as

Moderator, and I'm so grateful he's still around pastoring! My sadness that he's no longer Moderator is tempered only by my excitement to hopefully work with **Rhoda Blough** (Vote Rhoda 2024)!

And now to discuss two **struggles** we faced this year:

—We will be saying **goodbye to East Holbrook** Mennonite, the oldest congregation in Mountain States, as they leave the conference. While Mountain States does not require its congregations to agree on specific topics—and in fact finds strength in differing perspectives—East Holbrook folks have shared that they are hoping to align with other denominations/groups that share a more similar Biblical and cultural interpretation to their own. Therefore, while MSMC leaders find this change unfortunate, our prayers are with East Holbrook folks as they journey from us.

—On September 15, 2023, I received a formal complaint of ministerial **misconduct** regarding Pastor Glenn Balzer at First Mennonite. All of the leaders looped in—Ministerial Council, Moderator, national staff, and myself—agreed that it must move forward.

Ministerial Council's report will share the play-by-play of the months-long investigative and appeals process, and you can look over [MC USA's misconduct policy here](#), which we followed as closely as possible.

After Glenn was found guilty of two charges (one of which was amended after the appeals process), his credentials were suspended, and he could engage in a process to restore them that would take about 6 months. Our goal was a fair but firm approach, as any credentialing body would do with a professional (i.e., doctor, social worker) who was found by independent investigators to have violated at least 10 ethical standards (as outlined in our ethics manual *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership*).

Glenn Balzer then chose to resign from his position at First Mennonite, which was made known to the congregation in a letter read on January 14, 2024.

Confidentiality was one of the hardest pieces of all this. I've been affirmed again and again in various aspects of the case—moral and legal—that protecting complainants by not disclosing too much information was and is the right thing to do; but that meant that congregants at FMC could not learn every detail of the case and misinformation

could not always be corrected, which was understandably frustrating. Conference leaders shared as much as we could with Glenn himself, who was given additional information upon request in order to address specifics in his hearing and call the appropriate witnesses, which he did. We also released a 21-page document answering congregant questions, but we knew that more information would only cause more harm to those most vulnerable in the situation and open us all up to liability.

For me, being the person responsible for moving the process forward in a timely fashion was all-consuming; I worked an extra 8 to 30 hours per week (in addition to my 40-hour workweek) for about five months which took a toll on me and my family. Additionally, it was particularly taxing on FMC's leadership board, church members, the complainants, the respondent and his spouse, and Ministerial Council—and my sincere hope is that the work of processing and healing this painful situation will continue. I commend FMC for being so intentional about their own work of healing, and my prayers have been and continue to be with everyone involved.

As difficult as the entire process was, I am grateful to the many leaders who put in extra time and energy to ensure that our churches are healthy places, whether it makes them popular or not. And at the end of the day, I want to be a part of an organization that does not sweep complaints under the rug, and does not assume the worst of any pastor, but instead uses the tools we have (namely, the misconduct process) to look into potential harm in a fair and firm way. My conscience is clear that, as much as it is possible, that is what happened here.

For this or anything else, I'm always open to conversation and will answer whatever questions I can.

And now back to partnering with you all in this long and beautiful work of struggling for a new world...

Submitted by Conference Minister Rev. Amy S. Zimbelman

MSMC 2023 Financial Report

Mountain States Mennonite Conference is such a generous conference. I want to thank all the churches and individuals who faithfully and generally give their time, money and gifts to support Mountain States Mennonite Conference. I want to thank all the people who hosted dinners this spring as a fundraiser and for all the people who attended. We are a small conference. Most of our churches are relatively small. And yet, we continue to find ways to make a much larger impact on our society and we deeply value remaining connected together and supporting the conference which makes this connection easier. Thank you!

At Mountain States, our goal is always to use our limited resources as wisely as we can while extending them as far as we can. This isn't easy in our world of inflating costs. And we know our churches and passion ministries are facing similar challenges. We tried to get by as a conference in 2023 without an administrative assistant to make our budget more feasible. Unfortunately, we quickly realized that this was not a long term solution. This means that fundraisers will likely be an annual part of our conference life going forward.

Before we get to next year's budget, briefly let's recap last year as well as how this year is starting to shape up.

2023 Recap

On paper, 2023 was another good year for Mountain States Mennonite Conference financially. Annual assembly at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp was a success. Interest earnings were much higher than expected due to increased interest rates on CDs and the fact that we sold the Pueblo Property in the middle of 2023 and put that money in a 12 month CD as well. It was not an easy decision to sell the property especially since it was still being utilized by Alive with Grace. However, we were losing money every year on the property due to rising insurance rates and the property was badly in need of repair. We realized that we could not keep losing money on the property. We were able to have a surplus in 2023 mainly due to the interest income and the decreases in expenses tied to the Pueblo Property. We did not have to transfer any money from reserves as well. We also did not have an administrative assistant for much of 2023 which greatly lowered costs.

That being said, costs continue to rise due to inflation and congregational giving is not rising at an equal pace. Every year we are squeezing our budget more and more, to present a balanced budget. As you will see, in the 2025 budget, we had to slightly decrease the amount that we give to Mennonite Church USA, in order to present a balanced budget.

Overall, 2023 was a good year financially for the conference. I am so thankful for the new staff that we have in place and for everyone's service and commitment to our conference. Our balance sheet remains healthy and we were able to take advantage of stashing money in CDs while interest rates remained high.

2024 at a glance

It is far too early to really gauge 2024 income but we are expecting income to be below expected. We believe that congregational giving will decrease slightly further in 2024 and we have seen giving slow at the start of the year. We recognize that giving is not linear. Some congregations give every month, some every quarter, some once a year. We are not alarmed by the decreased giving, yet. That being said, we have seen a few churches giving more than they have historically. That brings us such hope and joy. Thank you! Our expenses are higher than expected because we do have a new administrative assistant. We also should have more income than expected to offset this in 2024 thanks to the meals and the art donations as part of the conference fundraiser.

In May of 2023, the leadership board decided to put the money from the sale of the Pueblo Property into the Endowment. CD rates are starting to come down and we need that money to earn income on a long term basis to maintain the organization. We have removed from a CD a large portion of money from the estate gift so that we can start dispersing the money for new communities/churches during the 2nd half of 2025. There is already an application process available for all new communities who might want to receive a financial gift to help them during this state.

The Leadership board decided to put the money dedicated towards the future anabaptist leaders program as well as the social enterprise program into another CD. We received a grant this year to help us have a future anabaptist leader and we have enough money to have several more interns in future years. But we do not foresee us needing this money until next summer and we maintain solid cash on hand, in case an opportunity for an intern arises.

As of May 2024, we were running a significant deficit of 10,000 however, we had not transferred any money from the estate gift to pay for Amy's elevated working hours as she works full time until June of 2025. After this transfer, our deficit will be closer to a more manageable and realistic \$1000.

Looking ahead to 2025

In 2025, we are projecting a slight decrease in congregational giving once again. We are projecting a large increase in endowment income and a still significant interest income due to money remaining in CDs. We really need congregational giving to increase especially if we want to remain a geographical conference. We added a conference fundraiser to the agenda to help increase income. This fundraiser will likely have to keep getting larger in the years to come, if giving does not start to increase soon.

At 2022's annual assembly, Delegates approved moving Amy Zimbelman to full time for two years starting in July of 2023. The salary for the last 1/4th time is part of the estate gift so that Amy can devote about 10 hours a week to overseeing the new priorities approved at 2022's

assembly. The estate gift transfer of \$11,000 is to cover this increase in salary for 2025. Amy's salary will revert to 3/4th time starting on July 1st 2025.

We further decreased conference travel expenses for all non conference staff. 2024 will not be a convention year or a delegate assembly year and the constituency leaders conference of MC USA is only gathering in person, once a year while meeting virtually once a year now. We recognize that at some future CLC meetings, we will not be able to send more than one person. We decreased the CM's discretionary fund and we also decreased slightly the amount we give to MC USA.

I am so thankful for all the work the leadership board and the treasurers of MSMC have done to continue to increase our assets and cash flow. Specifically I want to thank Lauren Roth. Lauren has had to learn a lot in a very short amount of time. She has put in extra hours to learn new systems and to help make sure all the checks are coming to the right place. She is a gift to the conference and we are very fortunate that she is our treasurer. We are deeply appreciative for Rita Balzer and the work she did for the conference for a decade. She was a huge blessing for us. She put in so much time and energy to maintain our conference. Thank you Rita! And a special thanks to everyone who gives both financially as well as with their time and energy to the betterment of the conference. We couldn't be who we are nor do the work that we do, without your gifts.

Wild peace,

Ryan Koch, moderator

2025 Budget Presentation

Mountain States Mennonite Conference

Accounts	2025 WORKING BUDGET	Jan-Jun 24 Actual	2024 Budget	% of Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
INCOME						
Churches & Emerging Groups						
Albuquerque Mennonite	7000.00	1,875.00	7,000.00	26.79%	6,900.00	7,000.00
Alive With Grace Fellowship	1200.00	600.00	1,200.00	50.0%	1,200.00	1,200.00
Anabaptist Fellowship Alamosa	1000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	1,000.00	1,000.00
Beloved Community	500.00	350.00	500.00	70.0%	300.00	500.00
Beth El Mennonite	7250.00	4,500.00	7,250.00	62.07%	7,687.50	14,500.00
Boulder Mennonite	5000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%	11,000.00	6,000.00
East Holbrook Mennonite	0.00					
Emmanuel Mennonite	4000.00	600.00	6,000.00	10.0%	2,800.00	6,000.00
First Mennonite Denver	24500.00	12,250.02	24,500.00	50.0%	24,500.04	28,000.00
Ft Collins Mennonite	500.00	400.00	500.00	80.0%	500.00	350.00
Glenwood Menno dba Defiance Ch					0.00	500.00
Glennon Heights Mennonite	10500.00	4,375.00	10,500.00	41.67%	10,500.00	10,500.00
Hmong Mennonite	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.0%	650.00	600.00
Living Light of Peace	1500.00	1,900.00	1,000.00	190.0%	1,100.00	1,000.00
Mtn Community Mennonite	3000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.0%	6,000.00	3,500.00
Sojourn Mennonite	1000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	2,000.00	1,500.00
Western Slope	500.00					
Total Church Income	68050.00	26,850.02	69,050.00	38.89%	76,137.54	82,150.00
Investment Contributions						
Endowment Earnings	24000.00	6,057.90	12,500.00	48.46%	14,087.08	12,500.00
Interest Earnings - Other	9500.00	12,236.47	12,500.00	97.89%	18,468.33	250.00
Operating Reserve Earnings	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%	68.80	100.00
Total Investment Contributions	33600.00	18,294.37	25,100.00	72.89%	32,624.21	12,850.00
Other Revenue						
Conference Fundraiser	6000.00					
Annual Assembly	8000.00	4,521.20	8,000.00	56.52%	5,525.00	8,000.00
Designated TWIMC, ASC, Other					216.64	
Development Fund Transfer (25%)	1500.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	2,363.63	2,700.00
Other Contributions	12000.00	2,302.81	12,000.00	19.19%	10,423.29	11,130.00
Healthy Boundary Training	0.00					
Reserves Transfer	5000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%	0.00	15,000.00
Future Anabaptist Leadership Fund						
Pueblo Properties, Income	0.00				2,250.00	5,400.00
Estate Funds Transfer	11000.00	0.00	22,000.00	0.0%	0.00	9,938.00
Total Other Revenue	43500.00	6,824.01	49,000.00	13.93%	20,778.56	52,168.00
TOTAL INCOME	145150.00	51,968.40	143,150.00	36.3%	129,540.31	147,168.00

EXPENSES
Conference Minister /Transitlonal
Medical Ins Allowance
Pension/HealthSavAcct
Salary and Housing Allowance/Fica
FICA
Conference Ministry Expenses (office)
Continuing Education
Travel & Auto/Ministry Exp
Moving Exp
Total Conference Minister
Conference Staff
Administrator Salary
Treasurer Salary
Administrator FICA
Treasurer FICA
Tech Allowance
Total Conference Staff
Office/Capital Expenses
Liability Insurance/Workers Comp
Office Supplies
Pueblo Properties
Total Office/Capital
Conference Gatherings
Annual Assembly
Faith and Life Forum
Travel
Church wide gatering (MCUSA)
Total Conference Gatherings
Supporting Our Mission
Conference Development
TWIMC F&R Project
MCUSA Support
Rocky Mtn Menno Camp
Hmong Leadership Cont Ed
SEED projects/Future ALF
CM initiative
Total Supporting our Mission
TOTAL EXPENSE
NET INCOME

2025 WORKING BUDGET	Jan-Jun 24 Actual	2024 Budget	% of Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
16200.00	7,777.26	15,200.00	51.17%	14,708.64	14,200.00
3000.00	1,250.00	2,500.00	50.0%	2,500.00	2,500.00
69650.00	37,599.96	75,200.00	50.0%	60,921.00	60,921.00
1260.00	630.00	1,260.00	50.0%	1,293.50	1,260.00
250.00	91.67	250.00	36.67%	573.53	250.00
1000.00	51.84	1,000.00	5.18%	467.57	1,000.00
9800.00	4,748.05	9,800.00	48.45%	9,213.70	9,000.00
101160.00	52,148.78	105,210.00	49.57%	89,677.94	89,131.00
8850.00	3,010.89	1,200.00	250.91%	722.74	8,468.00
4270.00	2,377.50	4,100.00	57.99%	3,249.66	4,006.00
815.00	241.26			62.41	650.00
200.00	159.68	315.00	50.69%	266.84	307.00
400.00	167.50	400.00	41.88%	435.50	806.00
14535.00	5,956.83	6,015.00	99.03%	4,737.15	14,237.00
4000.00	3,069.00	4,000.00	76.73%	3,157.00	4,000.00
4000.00	3,048.22	4,000.00	76.21%	4,432.50	4,000.00
0.00				3,757.03	9,500.00
8000.00	6,117.22	8,000.00	76.47%	11,346.53	17,500.00
6500.00	0.00	6,500.00	0.0%	1,720.00	6,500.00
2000.00	300.00	2,000.00	15.0%	300.00	3,000.00
2000.00	783.11	3,000.00	26.1%	809.08	5,000.00
				285.00	
10500.00	1,083.11	11,500.00	9.42%	3,114.08	14,500.00
5000.00	2,750.00	5,500.00	50.0%	5,500.00	5,500.00
4800.00	2,400.00	4,800.00	50.0%	4,830.00	4,800.00
0.00				500.00	
0.00	-3,303.40			1,736.07	
1000.00	400.00	1,500.00	26.67%	776.20	1,500.00
10800.00	2,246.60	11,800.00	19.04%	13,342.27	11,800.00
144995.00	67,552.54	142,525.00	47.4%	122,217.97	147,168.00
155.00	-15,584.14	625.00	-2,493.46%	7,322.34	0.00

3:40 PM

Mountain States Mennonite Conference Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

07/15/24

As of June 30, 2024

Cash Basis

	Jun 30, 24	Jun 30, 23	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
CD-12months	225,178.15	250,396.77	-25,158.62	-10.1%
CD - 6 month	0.00	344,649.62	-344,649.62	-100.0%
Checking - Everence FCU	312,463.01	72,629.37	239,833.64	330.2%
Money Market Acct. EFCU				
Church Development	132,338.26	7,338.26	125,000.00	1,703.4%
TWIMC/SEED FUNDS	1,385.12	1,385.12	0.00	0.0%
Money Market Acct. EFCU - Other	149.98	57.57	92.41	160.5%
Total Money Market Acct. EFCU	133,873.36	6,780.95	125,092.41	1,424.6%
Savings, Everence FCU				
Future Anabaptist Ldrshp Fund	8,325.12	7,887.62	437.50	5.6%
Savings, Everence FCU - Other	28,230.51	28,178.32	54.19	0.2%
Total Savings, Everence FCU	36,555.63	36,063.94	491.69	1.4%
Total Checking/Savings	708,070.15	712,460.65	-4,390.50	-0.6%
Other Current Assets				
Endowment Fund Acct - MMA	308,386.95	292,789.77	15,597.18	5.3%
Operating Reserves Acct - MMA	1,588.91	1,520.49	68.42	4.5%
Undeposited Funds	1,263.60	1,516.67	-253.07	-16.7%
Total Other Current Assets	311,239.46	295,826.93	15,412.53	5.2%
Total Current Assets	1,019,309.61	1,008,287.58	11,022.03	1.1%
TOTAL ASSETS	1,019,309.61	1,008,287.58	11,022.03	1.1%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
Misc Payables	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00	0.0%
Payroll Liabilities	544.51	326.29	218.22	66.9%
Total Other Current Liabilities	4,144.51	3,926.29	218.22	5.6%
Total Current Liabilities	4,144.51	3,926.29	218.22	5.6%
Total Liabilities	4,144.51	3,926.29	218.22	5.6%
Equity				
APPROPRIATED BALANCES, EQUITY				
Church Development	7,196.86	7,128.46	68.42	1.0%
The World Is My Community Fund	1,385.12	1,385.12	0.00	0.0%
Total APPROPRIATED BALANCES, EQUITY	8,582.00	8,513.58	68.42	0.8%
Certificate of Deposit	336,971.29	336,971.29	0.00	0.0%
MSMC - Endowment Fund	308,386.95	292,789.77	15,597.18	5.3%
Unrestricted Fund Balance	373,393.06	367,570.72	5,822.34	1.6%
Net Income	-12,168.20	-1,484.07	-10,684.13	-719.9%
Total Equity	1,015,165.10	1,004,361.29	10,803.81	1.1%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,019,309.61	1,008,287.58	11,022.03	1.1%

Who Are We?

During 2023, Mountain States Mennonite Conference wrestled with the question: “Who We Are” given the changing landscape of Mennonite Church USA. Over the last decade, the reality of Mennonite Church USA has been rapidly changing. Churches have been leaving. Geography has been becoming less important especially as we have embraced new technologies that allow us to better stay connected from a distance. Conferences are becoming more theologically affiliated.

Over the last year, in the midst of conversations with two churches who were discerning interest in joining Mountain States Mennonite Conference, we decided to gauge again some of the conference’s core tenants. Some of the things we learned is that geographical identity is still really, really important to us. We do not want to be a conference tied to a theological identity. We want to be a place that welcomes, learns from and grows with voices from the wider Mennonite spectrum. We also learned again that we do not want a conference that speaks for our churches and our passion ministries. Instead we want a conference that empowers our churches, our passion ministries to be better versions of themselves. We want a conference that helps equip them with resources and tools to grow and live into their own visions and mission, in their own contexts. We also learned again that relational accountability remains at the heart of our conference. Our churches love spending time together. They want to learn from one another. They value the structures that we have in place that help us stay together.

We also learned that our geography might need to expand if we are going to remain viable in the long term. We firmly believe that technology enables us to do this. The big question we wrestled with is how far can we expand that will not burn our conference minister out while making sure that every church will be able to get the resources they need, especially in times of crisis and transition. Because relational accountability remains so important, we remain committed to in person connections and relationship building. Any church that might want to join us would need to see the value, the commitment and even the resources that are needed to remain connected despite our geographical distance.

Ultimately, we heard mostly positive remarks about the potential of Mountain States expanding into only Kansas and Texas. And while the distance and the relational accountability commitment was a hurdle for one community who ultimately discerned to affiliate elsewhere, I am really excited to be potentially welcoming in Roca de Refugio from San Antonio at our upcoming assembly this July. I think they are a great fit for our conference. They long to be connected to a larger Mennonite body and they have so many gifts that we can learn from which will greatly help us be the body of Jesus in our local contexts. Roca de Refugio really embodies the God of being with. They remind us of the importance of doing community together and I can’t wait to see how they help our conference grow in the coming years.

Who knows how our wrestling with identity will affect the coming years. But I feel good about the commitments that we reaffirmed together, in our times of discernment. We know we didn’t hear from all the voices but the voices that we did hear from have greatly helped the

leadership board gain a better sense of the conference which our churches and our passion ministries truly desire.

Late this spring we also learned that East Holbrook voted to leave our conference and Mennonite Church USA. East Holbrook is the oldest church in the conference. We are saddened to hear of their longing to depart. We also know that East Holbrook has been struggling with their affinity to our conference and our denomination for years. Please do note that this decision was not taken lightly. Due to the late timing, we are still uncertain if their releasing from the conference will happen at this year's assembly or next. Either way, we wish them well and we pray that they continue to be a community which brings love, peace, justice and hope to their local community and we hope to find ways to work together, in some capacity, in the future.

We know that 2023 was a challenging year for some of our congregations and passion ministries. We know that some congregations are still struggling to understand who they are on the other side of the pandemic. I'm so thankful as moderator for the continued support and the deep love that was shown to our conference by so many, through all the struggles. It was also a challenging year for the conference. Unfortunately, we discerned as a conference that pursuing a social enterprise endeavor was not feasible at this time. We just couldn't find the point person to bring an endeavor together. But I'm hopeful that the next moderator will continue pursuing this idea when the time is right. 2023 was also hard because of staff transitions. We didn't have an administrative assistant for much of the year and it became very clear that we desperately needed one (even if finances make this difficult!) I'm so thankful that we have now two new wonderful staff to help the conference do its work. It has been such a joy to get to know both Lauren and Cheryl. They are both so generous and full of love. I hope they will both be serving this conference for years and years to come.

This is my final report as conference moderator. I cannot tell you how much I've enjoyed my 4+ years of serving as the moderator of this conference. Mountain States Mennonite Conference is such a beautiful, warm, engaging, fun and free conference. You all fill my heart with such joy and hope and you inspire me, in so many ways. And working alongside Amy was energizing, hopeful and life giving. I'm going to miss our weekly conversations! What I hope everyone knows is this: our conference has one of the most loyal, loving, committed leaders who has a heart full of love for everyone. As a pastor in this conference, I hope Amy is in this role for as long as I'm pastoring here, and hopefully for years after that. That being said, being moderator is a lot of work. I'm looking forward to the end of December when I will be officially passing the torch to Rhoda Blough (please elect her!). I know she will serve this conference well and I can't wait to see how her leadership helps our conference fully grow. Thanks again for allowing me to serve in this capacity. It has been a great joy and honor which I have tried to never take lightly.

Wild peace,

Ryan Koch