

Greetings in Christ's name! The Executive Board is sending this survey to you as a credentialed leader for several reasons. First of all, since the local church is the primary gathering of God's people, and other levels of church are "supporting communities," it is essential that we check with credentialed leaders from time to time to see how well these "supporting communities" are serving the local church. If you indicate on the second question that you have a congregational pastoral assignment, you will be presented with a number of questions that seek that kind of information.

Secondly, since congregations may be affected by upcoming discussions about church structure, it seems appropriate to give credentialed leaders a chance to speak about their preferred connections to the church beyond the local congregation. Therefore, several questions will relate to overall church structure.

Finally, since tensions in the broader church regarding same sex relationships have motivated several groups of pastors/credentialed leaders to share their convictions via open letters to the broader church, we deem it important to give opportunity for all credentialed ministers to voice their personal convictions, even if they are reluctant to sign open letters.

You may respond one time to this questionnaire and only one person (the email recipient) may answer the questions. Your responses will remain confidential and will not be identified with your name—all analysis and reporting of the results will be on an aggregate level and not by individual.

Please complete the questionnaire by September 8. Responses received after this date will not be included in the data analysis. Conrad Kanagy will analyze the responses, and provide a report to the Executive Board. We will also make the report available to everyone who completes the survey, along with a summary report for the church at large.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through my assistant Shelley Buller (see contact information in the P.S. below). Your responses will be part of the broader discernment of the Executive Board as it prepares a proposal for the Delegate Assembly to consider at our convention in Kansas City in 2015. Thank you for your willingness to be part of this discernment process.

Shalom,

Ervin R. Stutzman
Executive Director
Mennonite Church USA

P.S. If you become aware that another credentialed leader did not receive this invitation, please contact Shelley Buller at 1-866-866-2872, ext. 34257 or ShelleyB@MennoniteUSA.org. We try our best to keep email addresses up to date in our database. Paper copies will be mailed to those persons whose email address was undeliverable.