



Interim Council

Mennonite Church Canada

Mennonite Church British Columbia

Mennonite Church Alberta

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

General Terms of Reference for all Working and Reference Groups

- 1) Working and Reference Groups are tasked with reviewing aspects of church life related to their area of assignment.
- 2) The Groups will supply progress reports as needed, and a final report, to the Transition Coordinator.
- 3) The Groups will interact with the Transition Coordinator through the life of their mandate.
- 4) The Interim Council will in most cases suggest a person from the members of each Group to act as chair or moderator. The chair/moderator will be the primary contact for the Transition Coordinator.
- 5) The Groups, in conversation with the Transition Coordinator may develop methods for testing ideas with the broader church beyond those in place through the current transition process.
- 6) The Groups will consult with the Transition Coordinator in the event of confusion about their mandate, difficulty with working together, or any other issue where outside assistance would be helpful.
- 7) In conducting their work the Groups shall aim for outcomes that support the overall vision of the FDTF Report and Addendum:
 - a) The centrality of the congregation as a place of worship and mission;
 - b) The centrality of the Area Churches as a place of support to congregations in their work of worship and mission;
 - c) The centrality of the Area Church for congregations be part of something larger than themselves;
 - d) The centrality of the National church for being part of something larger than either the congregation or the Area Church;
 - e) The centrality of the National Church as a place of connection, communion across the country, identity, and working together to do things we cannot do alone;
 - f) The centrality of the Global Church for us to be part of something larger than the National Church; and,
 - g) All levels of the church are central to our identity as a particular expression of the body of Christ.
- 8) In conducting their work the Working Groups shall aim for outcomes that support the 1995 vision statement:
Vision: Healing and Hope
God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace,
so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.
- 9) Throughout their deliberations and decision making the Groups will ask:
 - a) How does the outcome of our work contribute to helping local congregations be their best?
 - b) How does the outcome of our work contribute to helping the larger church (in its Regional, National, and Global expressions) be their best?
 - c) Is the outcome of our work faithful?
 - d) Is the outcome of our work feasible?
- 10) The Role of Staff
 - a) Staff persons may be named as ex officio members of some Groups.
 - b) The role of staff is to provide advice and expertise to the Group.
 - c) Staff assigned to a Group do not participate in the making of decisions.
 - d) There may be occasions where the Group meets without staff present.
- 11) Decision Rule
 - a) The Groups will make decisions about the content of their reports by consensus.