

To Delegates, Pastors, and Committee Members of Central Plains Mennonite Conference,

This is a document stating the purpose and objectives of the Faith, Life, and Procedures Task Group, and have probably seen it in the Annual Meeting Agenda. It's purpose is to provide brief context ahead of our Annual Meeting.

This spring, in a discussion regarding the resolution [proposed by the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA to retire the MCUSA membership guidelines](#), our CPMC Conference Board decided to call upon the Faith, Life, and Procedures Task Group. This group (from here abbreviated as FLP) is being formed as per the CPMC Bylaws (5.1g) in cooperation with the PLC and Board. The task group's function is to assist in identifying, researching, studying, and shaping issues of faith, life, and procedures facing the Conference and to make recommendations regarding appropriate courses of action to follow.

At the Annual Meeting, we will provide further context and overview of this process. We'll take time for discussion at table groups over the FLP process, and have time for questions and feedback as well.

As I mentioned in my letter to the delegate body, it's no secret that we find ourselves currently in a time of tension. This tension is not only felt in our Conference, but in our communities, our nation, and even in our local congregations. It is my hope and that of our Board that Central Plains Mennonite Conference continues to function in a way that provides and facilitates leadership for witness, fellowship as witness, and discipleship for witness *for and with* all member congregations in our body.

I look forward to hearing the feedback and am glad to address clarifications or questions in the week leading up to our discussion at Annual Meeting.

Join with me in praying for our conference as we continue working together to pursue a hope-filled witness of Christ to a world desperately in need.

Grace and Peace,

John N. Murray - Moderator, Central Plains Mennonite Conference

# Faith, Life, and Procedures Task Group

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**Purpose: To make recommendations and create a guiding document that will faithfully address Central Plains Mennonite Conference's direction and congregational commitment in the context of the Mennonite Church USA resolution on membership guidelines, proposed for Spring 2022.**

Objectives:

1. Form the FLP team, consisting of 3-5 on the task group and a total of 8-12 as part of a larger advisory committee (inclusive of the 3-5), in cooperation with the CPMC Board and the Pastoral Leadership Committee.
2. FLP team will create a document that remains faithful to our Anabaptist theology: being attentive to the current state of our body, to the places where we are and/or want to see growth, to attend to sound theology, and most of all to continue fostering an atmosphere of Biblical imagination.
3. The guiding document is to maintain a sensitivity to congregations that differ from each other as we seek to uphold our commitments in a context of faithfulness, love, and, Spiritual direction.
4. To hold listening groups within CPMC geographical areas to hear congregant's ideas, concerns, while gaining ownership of our commitments to CPMC and MCUSA.

Timeline:

The group will be formed and begin ASAP  
To be completed by early Spring 2022