



Mennonite
Church
USA

Mennonite
Church
Canada

Congregational Information Form

To be completed by congregations seeking new pastoral leadership.

Purpose of this form

This form is to assist a congregation to present information concerning itself to prospective candidates for a pastoral leadership position. Completing the form will also assist the pastoral search committee in self-understanding as they assess the strengths and weaknesses which may exist at the time of pastoral transition.

I. Information

A. BASIC INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

1. Mountain View Mennonite Church

795 Mennonite Church Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901

406-755-8772 / www.mountainviewmennonite.org

2. Janet Szabo

3720 Foothill Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901

(H) 406-755-1338 (C)406-261-5913

janetkszabo@gmail.com

3. Area church/conference

Pacific Northwest Conference / Eric Massanari

Office – PO Box 301036 Portland, OR 97294

316-212-6514

eric@pnmc.org

4. Year in which the congregation first began meeting or was organized

1913

B. MEMBERSHIP

1. Average Sunday worship attendance during the last 12 months:

Highest-50 Lowest-15

2.Total current attendees (adults) - 39

Inactive members - 55

Children (not members) - 11

3. Age of members and children. Totals/percentages.

0-12 11 / 32% **31-45** 7 / 14%

13-18 0 / 0% **46-64** 9 /
18%

19-30 3 / 6% **65+** 20 / 40%

4. Occupational profile: (ages 19 to 70)

Business/manager/proprietor - 5

Education/administrator/teacher – 4

Craftsman/laborer/operative – 6

Medical: doctor/nurse/administration – 4

Church institution/administration/minister – 3

Homemaker – 5

Clerical/sales – 5

Student/VS – 0

Farmer/rancher – 1

Other Professional – 6

5. Educational level of adults:

Up to and including high school – 99%

Some college or college graduate – 58%

Graduate school – 20%

6. Describe the racial or ethnic composition of the congregation.

Caucasian

C. LEADERSHIP

1. Identify the present staff position for which you are seeking a candidate.

Pastor

2. Two previous persons in the above position:

Miriam Mauritzen December 2022 to present (Transitional Pastor)

Jeryl Hollinger June 1996-October 2022

Jeryl retired after pastoring our church for 26 years. We used a Search Committee to hire Miriam as our transitional pastor to help us work through our grief and to maneuver moving forward in our journey.

3. Did your congregation follow the Pastor Salary Guidelines recommended by the denomination for the previous pastor?

We did not follow the Pastor Salary Guidelines for Jeryl, We paid less than the suggested salary.

We are following the guidelines for Miriam's salary.

4. Other Staff:

Office Assistant – Frieda Kauffman, 5% of full time.

We are in the process of defining and updating this position. She has served 20 years.

Janitor – Jessica Breneman, 5% of full time. *K*

Keeping the building clean and ready for the next event. She has served 1 year.

5. Describe housing options for the above position:

There isn't a parsonage but there is a housing allowance. Housing in the area has become more expensive and challenging as it has in many places. We have people in the congregation who can be very helpful with finding housing either in renting or buying.

II. Interpretation

A. Describe the commitment of your church to Anabaptist/Mennonite faith. How does this contribute to strengthening your ability to join God's mission in the world?

Mountain View is committed to Anabaptist/Mennonite faith as expressed in service, peace and justice, inclusiveness. We desire to stay connected to the broader Mennonite Church.

B. What is the vision for your church? What are your priorities that shape the church's ministry?

Our vision is to grow in following Jesus, maintaining unity in diversity, welcoming and mutual care, serving God and the broader community.

C. What is your view of the pastor's role in the church? Are there special gifts in ministry which you hope will be fulfilled? How do you expect the pastor to be a representative of the congregation beyond the congregation?

Role: leading and shepherding, teaching and enabling the gifts in the congregation, aiding growth in following Jesus in today's world. Administrative skills will be a strength. Be a liaison with conference and denomination, as well as relationships in the broader community.

D. Recognizing our differing theological orientations as persons and as congregations, make a brief statement about your congregation and the overarching theological commitments important to you.

We consider our diversity a strength. We are committed: to Jesus' life and teaching as the example for us to be the body of Christ in our context today; to grow in faith; to care for God's creation, both people and earth.

E. Church morale: Assess the spiritual and emotional health of the congregation. Are relationships among members wholesome and harmonious? Is there openness to new ideas and ways of doing things? Would everyone agree with your answers?

Generally healthy, committed to relationship even when we agree to disagree, with differences addressed openly. We are on a spectrum regarding openness to the new: from eager embrace to avoiding the situations that challenge us. With time and good communication, slowly but steadily transformation takes place.

F. What changes or trends do you envision for the congregation over the next five years? Do you have any other comments significant in the process for looking for new pastoral leadership?

Young families, bringing a younger demographic, will lead to program needs for growing children and youth in the congregation.

Candidate strengths: Able to recognize and relate to old ways of doing while moving forward with changes. Help the congregation navigate the undertow of cultural division while striving to embody the mercy, generosity and love of Christ.

III. Organization/Ministry

A. CHURCH STRUCTURE

1. Identify the primary governing body (council, board, elders) which represents the church.

Leadership Team

Monthly

2M / 5 F

Age spread is 34-77

2. Identify five other significant leadership/programming bodies:

Worship Team

Monthly

2M -5F

Age spread is 42-77

B. Worship AND MUSIC

1. Our worship services are creative and flexible, structured but relatively informal. There is lay participation and sharing time can be creative, personal, vulnerable, tender or all of these plus more. There is usually music, scripture reading, a meditation and sharing with a response.

2. Music plays a large part in our congregation. We have many people who love to sing and even if they don't sing they still love music.

3. We use Voices Together and the past Mennonite hymnals are all still available and are used from time to time.

4. Musical instruments used are piano, guitar, violin, clarinet and occasionally banjo.

5. We have an adult choir of about 12 people aged 30 and up. We have ideas of starting a children's choir also. Sometimes smaller groups are formed to do some special music.

C. Christian Formation – Describe your approach to Christian Formation

1. Number of children's classes: 1

Total Sunday school enrollment: 8 kids + 15 adults

Number of youth classes: 0

Average total attendance: 5ish kids + 10 adults

What curriculum resources are used by these classes? Children – Jubilee, Adults – Salt & Light

2. How does the congregation attend to the formation needs of persons of all ages?

The congregation went through a period during which there were not any young families attending and regular children's Sunday school classes/formation were not needed. This has recently changed and the congregation is in the process of determining the best ways to provide children's Sunday school/attend to children's formation needs. In the past, special classes have been offered when individuals are interested in baptism. These have generally been teens and adults.

3. What other opportunities are there for growth and transformation?

The congregation has participated in service opportunities, including a local Mennonite Disaster Service unit and Work & Learn tours with Mennonite Central Committee. There are also opportunities for study groups as interest arises, such as dismantling racism, storytelling and campfires, Anabaptist distinctives.

4. Describe the involvement of youth in the life of the congregation.

There are not currently any youth attendees. In the past, the youth group has participated in the worship service in the capacity of scripture reading and skits. Youth have also participated in service projects and held Youth Group fundraisers to participate in activities and trips. Looking ahead to when the congregation has youth again, the hope is that they would be similarly involved.

Does your church support and send young people to Mennonite camps, area church/conference and colleges?

No current youth attendees. The church did support and send the last generation of youth to MC USA gatherings, PNMC conference gatherings, MCC and/or service-related travel, and Mennonite colleges, where interested. The hope is that this support would exist in the future.

5. Does your congregation have active small groups? If so, describe the number of groups, focus of the groups and how often they meet.

A young families group (5 families, approximately 21 people) meet for dinner once every other week during the school year. The focus of this group is fellowship, relationship building, and support. (Men and Women) form a Mennonite Disaster Service unit that meets regularly. No other small groups are currently meeting; this is a welcome area for growth.

6. What men's/women's groups are active?

There are no men's/women's groups currently active. Existing groups stopped meeting with the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a desire and movement to restart these groups.

7. What ministries do you have for children, youth and young adults over 18, etc.?

For about 20 years, lasting until 2019, MVMC had an afterschool program in the basement of the church building. This served children from area rural schools and was a feature of the community for many. The congregation has recently leased this same space to a separate organization for the purposes of operating a preschool. While this is not a MVMC ministry, MVMC participates in making this service available to the community.

8. In the next five years, do you anticipate a membership:

Stability. There has recently been an increase in young families in the congregation. However, older members have also moved away or passed away. We would like to see a continued increase with a diversity of ages.

D. Outreach and Evangelism

1. Describe how you cultivate the visibility of your church in the community.

MVMC has an annual Peacemaker Award, given each year to a local entity or individual whose work exemplifies peacemaking. This also brings visibility to MVMC. Each November MVMC hosts a Windows to the World/Ten Thousand Villages gift festival, which draws many people from the community into the church building for shopping and fellowship. MVMC has recently constructed a gazebo as part of a dream for a peace garden. This serves as a place for Continental Divide bicyclists to rest and replenish their water. Participation in clergy Interfaith group. MDS is called upon by the local disaster service to rebuild ramps and houses to help local neighbors in need. Each spring, MVMC serves food at the large Creston Auction in our neighborhood.

2. Describe how you connect to seekers and make new disciples.

MVMC doesn't overtly connect with seekers with the purpose of making new disciples. MVMC connects with the community via service, hoping that in being a living example of Christ and in individual relationships we may reach those who are seeking. MVMC strives to be welcoming and is known to provide a safe space for healing and peacemaking.

3. Describe your congregation's ministry in and with the community.

MVMC's ministry in and with the community centers around service, as described above. MVMC also quietly supports other local organizations addressing housing insecurity, food insecurity, and immigrant resettlement. Individuals bring passions to the congregation, who come alongside to help these ministries.

E. HOW DOES THE CHURCH UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP, IN TEACHING, AND IN OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY?

MVMC has a website, which is actively updated and used to disseminate information about services, church life and community events. Other forms of digital outreach include a Facebook Page and Zoom access to all of our services. We play videos and use visual aids on a regular basis. Our minister compiles and writes a weekly email newsletter of congregation/local/international news and goings on which is also posted in a blog style on our website. MVMC is not afraid to embrace new technologies as they benefit those in our community.

F. CHURCH BUILDING AND PROPERTY

1. Do you own or rent your facility? If rent, describe the type of space.

Own

2. Seating capacity of sanctuary or worship area

220

3. Date of construction of church building

1960

4. Date of last renovation. Describe what was done

1994: An addition was added which included a fellowship hall, ADD bathrooms, large entry foyer, handicap ramp, storage rooms, a large commercial kitchen and a fourth access to our lower level.

What if any building/renovation program is needed or projected?

No building/renovation is projected or needed at this time.

5. Describe the educational facilities.

Six classrooms, a fellowship hall and lower level (which is currently rented by a local childcare center)

6. Describe the fellowship and/or recreational facilities.

The fellowship hall is on the main level and with tables and chairs can seat about 120 for a meal. It has an adjoining kitchen, restrooms etc. MVMC does not have an indoor gymnasium but a well designed and large fenced playground is situated on the north side of our building.

7. Describe the church office location and equipment: Computers, phones, other.

The office is located on the lower level and includes a church use computer, internet and phone access, a copier and other office supplies.

8. Are the buildings and equipment adequate for the needs of the congregation? Describe any special assets or liabilities of the building.

The building and equipment are adequate for the current need. There are restrooms on both levels. Our sound system was updated in 2022 with all new state of the art equipment that allowed for more variety of access to our services. Speakers, camera, large projector screen, mics and a moveable visual cart with a TV that broadcasts our Zoom attendees. The handicap access from the lower to upper levels must go outside.

9. Name the insurance company and describe the coverage for church liability, property, pastor's liability, etc., for the church.

Church Mutual Insurance Company S.I. It is full and comprehensive.

10. Are there community programs or groups who also utilize your church facilities? Who are they and how often do they use the building? What interaction do you have with them?

Yes. Various areas of our facilities can and are rented for events such as weddings, funerals, family gatherings, craft sales etc. by outside community members. Currently Mountain View Christian Church has rented the majority of the lower level for a preschool/child care program that runs during the school week. We have a written contract with them, which we created with legal guidance.

G. CHURCH STEWARDSHIP/FINANCES

1. Based upon your last report, identify the previous years giving of your church In 2022: \$96,250

Local Church

Expenses: \$66,800

Local needs and outreach: \$800

Buildings and facilities: \$14,000

TOTAL LOCAL CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS: \$81,600

Non-Local Contributions

Area church/conference: \$4,500 (PNMC)

Denominational total: \$2,000 (MC USA)

Mennonite institutions and agencies: \$1,800 (MMN)

Mennonite Central Committee pass through donations

Other Mennonite causes

Non-Mennonite causes: \$500 (Mercy Ships)

TOTAL NON-LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$8,800

2. Church budget

Who makes recommendations regarding pastoral and staff salaries?

Leadership Team and Treasurer

Who determines the church budget or makes recommendations to the church? Leadership Team and Treasurer, approved by congregation

What plan is used to challenge the church to Christian stewardship

As we near the end of the fiscal year we indicate to the congregation the amount lacking to reach the budget we approved at the beginning of the year. We usually end the year having received the full budgeted offering amount, or more. *Current total budget \$112,659*

3. Is there church indebtedness? None

IV. Relationships

A. COMMUNITY

1. Character of community your congregation serves or in which it is located:

Rural/City (over 10,000)

2. Which best describes this community? Growing

3. Describe racial or ethnic composition of the community.

The 5 largest ethnic groups in Flathead County, MT are White (Non-Hispanic) (92.4%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (2.18%), White (Hispanic) (1.33%), American Indian & Alaska Native (Non-Hispanic) (1.29%), and Two+ (Hispanic) (0.955%).

4. List two or three primary business/industries in the community.

Medical services, tourism, logging and wood product manufacturing, home construction, and manufacturing.

5. Identify other Mennonite/Anabaptist churches in the community, if any.

None

What other churches and faith groups are in the community?

Kalispell Mt is a very "churched" community. Overwhelmingly Christian based communities including (but not limited to) Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, Non Denominational, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Some of the larger churches include Canvas, FreshLife, Easthaven, Veneration Church.

6. Name of nearest college or university

Flathead Valley Community College / University of Montana (Missoula)

In what way does your church relate to this academic community?

Flathead Valley Community College/University of Montana (Missoula). We do not have a history of connecting with FVCC or other higher learning institutions.

7. Identify significant issues confronting your community.

Homelessness, Cost of living/Wage disparities, Racial/political intolerance and unrest

8. Describe what you believe to be distinctive assets of your community.

Small community feel, community buy in to healthy growth. Year round outdoor recreation, natural beauty.

9. Describe your congregation's ministry in the community.

Mountain View is present and engaged in our local community through our congregants participation and our own partnerships with the following:

- Windows to the World- A congregational member run group that hosts an annual Fair Trade festival & community gathering. W2W raises awareness of local and international human rights issues and strives to help bring education to the Flathead valley on these types of conflicts.
- A local MDS chapter
- Partnership with the local Interfaith Clergy group
- Valley Neighbors-Valley Neighbors is a nonprofit organization that cultivates a welcoming environment within the Flathead Valley for all kinds of immigrants.
- Creston Auction - An annual community fundraising event for the Creston Fire Department. MVMC hosts a food booth (all proceeds going to the fire department) and many volunteer their time setting up, running and tearing down.

10. How does your congregation work with ecumenical and interfaith efforts?

We are active with Valley Neighbors; offering funds, volunteering time and meeting needs of families new to our area. Our pastoral leadership is an integral part of the Valley Interfaith Clergy group. Our congregation also honors a local citizen or group with an annual "Peacemaker of the Year" award, given in the spirit of MLK Jr.

B. AREA CHURCH/CONFERENCE

1. Describe your relationship with and your participation in the area church/conference.

There are some limitations due to the far-flung nature of PNMC, since we're on one of the "edges," but we normally have delegates for the annual meeting and for the Conference Communications Council. In the past we have been represented on the conference board, and in the role of moderator.

C. WIDER CHURCH

1. Describe your relationship with and your participation in Mennonite Church Canada/Mennonite Church USA.

In the past Mountain View has participated in the MC USA Convention, though that has not happened for some years now. Again, due to distances, participation is challenging. Our budget includes yearly financial support for MC USA. We also have an *Anabaptist World* subscription group, currently 16 active subscribers.

As well as MC USA, the congregations has a long-standing commitment to supporting someone through Mennonite Mission Network, and some of these relationships have continued even after the workers have retired or moved on from their assignment.

There is also strong support for Mennonite Central Committee through participation in Auction Sales. And a number of members of the congregation have served shorter or longer terms with MCC, the most recent including Ukraine, Haiti, and Chad.

Name of group or persons responsible for completion of this form:

Twila Brenneman, Rose Hash, Steve Kauffman, John Stutzman, Elaine Kauffman & Jessica Brenneman

Date of completion

October 2023