

# TheMennonite

*Passed by The Mennonite, Inc., Board of Directors, November 2019*

## **Mission and Purpose**

The mission of The Mennonite, Inc., a self-supporting churchwide program entity of Mennonite Church USA, is to help readers glorify God, grow in faith and become agents of healing and hope in our world.

The bylaws of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) established three goals for The Mennonite, Inc.:

1. To provide a forum for the voices within the denomination
2. To promote the ministries of and to support identity-building for Mennonite Church USA
3. To offer an editorial voice distinct from but collaborative with other leadership voices

## **Editorial Policies**

- Barring special circumstances, contributors other than regular columnists will be published no more than once every six months in the magazine.
- We seek to provide coverage that represents diverse voices across MC USA. We reserve the right to approach individuals named or critiqued in articles or opinion pieces to ask for a comment or response.
- While our focus is on providing spaces for Anabaptist and Mennonite voices, including those throughout MC USA, we reserve the right to publish contributions from other writers whom The Mennonite's editorial staff believe are relevant to readers.
- Any article or submission that editors deem to be obscene, libelous, defamatory (racist, sexist, etc.) or hateful toward an individual or group will not be approved.
- The Editor and Executive Director are responsible for making the final decisions about what to publish.
- In the event published content leads to significant conflict among readers, the Executive Director may seek the counsel of The Mennonite, Inc.'s Board of Directors.
- In the event a request to unpublish content is made, staff shall exercise due diligence in addressing the situation – such as adding an editor's note or addendum to the original article. Only as a last resort will an article or other content be removed after being published. The Mennonite, Inc., is committed to the integrity of its archive.

## **Submissions Process**

### **When we receive a submission, staff will assess:**

- Is the piece saying something unique or new that is of interest? Is this representing a perspective or demographic that is overrepresented in our publication?
- Is the piece relevant to our audience?
- How recently has this author been published on the website or in the magazine? Does this piece build on verifiable evidence and data? Does it make unfounded allegations?
- Do we need to recruit another perspective or voice to run alongside or be held in conversation with this piece?
- Is the author connected to the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith tradition? If not, do they offer an "outside perspective" that is valuable to our audience and in line with our stated mission and goals?
- If offering a critique, does the piece focus on others' ideas and not their motives, character or faith? Is it responding to factual or written information?
- Is the content edifying<sup>1</sup> and important to our audience?

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that edify means "to instruct or benefit, especially morally or spiritually..." This does not mean that pieces will not be controversial, but the content should provide some sort of important moral/spiritual instruction or insight.