

FRANCONIA MENNONITE CONFERENCE DELEGATE MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Accepting the role of serving as a Franconia Conference delegate means that you are committing to:

- 1. Preparation for Conference Assemblies:** Pray for God's Spirit to lead us all in being a faithful and worshipping community. You will receive materials in preparation for conference assemblies. Become familiar with these materials and the matters that will be presented at conference assembly sessions for group consideration and action. Seek clarification on materials or statements that are not understood. When offered, plan to attend conference assembly scattered meetings in preparation for the work of conference assemblies. Be in conversation with your congregation or conference related ministry (CRM) about pertinent issues. In advance seek input from others, engage in prayerful discernment, and your own best thinking.
- 2. Ongoing communication:** Keep aware of what is happening within Franconia Mennonite Conference between conference assembly sessions by reading delegate mailings, emails, and *Intersections* (the Franconia Conference periodical), as well as being familiar with the Franconia Conference Web site (<http://www.franconiaconference.org>). Find effective ways to keep your congregation or CRM informed and facilitate two-way communication between your congregation or CRM and your conference (which may include conversations or correspondence with conference leaders or representatives).
- 3. Attendance at Conference Assemblies:** Attend and participate in all regular and special conference assembly sessions. During conference assembly sessions, join with other delegates in worship, conferring, and acting upon conference assembly agenda items as a representative of your congregation or CRM. In a spirit of discernment, try to represent the perspectives of your congregation or CRM while working cooperatively with other delegates to discern the voice of the Spirit in the assembly and to articulate God's desired future for Franconia Mennonite Conference.
- 4. Post-Conference Assemblies:** After a conference assembly session, report and explain the conferring actions of the conference assembly to your congregation and encourage your congregation or CRM to support these actions. At a minimum, delegates should be ready to report to their congregations:
 - Where they have seen God at work in the conference assembly/ Franconia Mennonite Conference.
 - What connects with their passion for ministry within and throughout Franconia Mennonite Conference.
 - The immediate priorities of Franconia Mennonite Conference and articulate them with a personal ownership and passion.
- 5. Primary Congregational Delegate:** Unless a congregation arranges otherwise, the (lead) pastor will be regarded as the primary delegate for any congregation. The pastor is expected to equip the delegate(s) to function responsibly.
- 6. Mennonite Church USA General Assembly delegates:** Congregations are encouraged to invite conference assembly delegate(s) to serve as their representatives to the biannual denominational General Assembly.

Qualifications and Skillsets:

1. Embrace Franconia Conference's mission, vision, and direction.
2. Congregational delegates must be active members of a Franconia Mennonite Conference congregation and called by their congregation to serve as delegates. Conference Related Ministry delegates must be active members of a Mennonite Church USA congregation.
3. A commitment to discerning God's desired future for Franconia Mennonite Conference.
4. Interest and capacity to deal with systems, values, vision, and the long term.
5. Willingness to make policy decisions in the best interests of the whole church.
6. Personal commitment of time and necessary resources to attend each conference assembly session.