



The administration of The U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (USMB) continues to be served by two staff members. Donna Sullivan has served the Conference as the administrative secretary and bookkeeper for 30 years from the national office located in Wichita, Kan. Lori Taylor has served as the executive assistant and webmaster for 12 years from Bakersfield, Calif. The national office facilitates and administers a variety of programs, events and services on behalf of USMB, pastors and its member churches.

## **BENEFITS**

### **Life Insurance**

*GuideStone Financial Services* provides a \$50,000 term life insurance policy for all eligible pastors, district and national staff.

### **Retirement Plan**

MB Foundation sponsors the MB Associational Plan, a retirement plan for USMB staff, MB Foundation and MB church staff. The plan provider is *GuideStone Financial Services*. MB churches are encouraged to enroll their church pastors and staff. Having retirement income designated as housing allowance is a significant benefit for pastors participating in the denominational retirement plan.

### **Annual IRS Reporting**

Annual reports are submitted to the Internal Revenue Service to maintain the Group Exemption status for the USMB Conference and member churches as 501(c)3 tax exempt organizations. USMB Churches obtain and maintain their tax exempt status from being a part of USMB.

## **RESOURCES**

### **USMB Website**

The website is a valuable resource for current events, newsletters and stories from new and existing churches all across our country. Church listings, job postings, book reviews and licensing documents are also available and updated regularly. The Confession of Faith is available in English, Spanish and Russian with links to printable versions. Historic information about our story, our beliefs and our Anabaptist roots provides a wonderful overview of our rich heritage. The website also links to the online version of *Christian Leader* magazine.

### **Free Printed Resources**

Numerous promotional and informational resources are available from our office at no charge:

- Ways to Give – USMB/MB Foundation brochure
- Leading on Purpose – an informational brochure outlining the LEAD Initiatives, including: LEAD One, LEAD Cohorts, LEAD Coaching and LEAD Consultations (CHAT).
- Faith and Life Pamphlet Series: ten different pamphlets dealing with various issues of faith and life including: *Who Are the Mennonite Brethren, What We Believe, Human Sexuality, Sex Before Marriage, Dealing with Money, Baptism and Church Membership, Christians and Media, Faith and Social Media, Living as People of Peace and Race Relations-The Difference that Difference Makes.*

### **Other Resources**

Printed booklets of the Confession of Faith in English and Spanish are available by contacting the national office. Copies of the Confession of Faith Commentary and Pastoral Application book are also available.

### **Communication**

Ongoing communication regarding events, webinars, podcasts, news releases and general information for pastors, leaders and church administration is sent out via email and social media. *Snapshot*, the monthly newsletter from Don Morris, includes encouraging stories from our established churches or new church plants.

## **EVENTS**

### **National Pastors Orientation (NPO)**

Every two years, pastors and their spouses are invited to attend this retreat-style orientation which provides fellowship, connection, resources and information for those who are either new to the denomination or new to ministry. The Board of Faith and Life plan and lead this event.

**USMB Gathering** – the new name for the two national biennial events, chosen to be easily recognizable and consistent when referring to the National Pastors’ Conference and National Convention. It will be used for these biennial national events moving forward.

#### **National Pastors’ Conference**

Every two years (opposite of the NPO), USMB pastors and their families are invited to a special conference intended to provide inspiration, encouragement, instruction and fellowship. This conference immediately precedes the national convention.

#### **National Convention**

The biennial delegate convention brings together the national USMB family for a time of celebration, inspiration and fellowship. All denominational business is presented and voted on by delegates; reports from MB boards are presented and updates from the broader Mennonite family are available. The next biennial events will be in July 2022.

## **OTHER**

### **Receipting and Administrative Support**

Church and individual donations are receipted for USMB national ministries including church plants, as well as for Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, MCC and MDS. These funds are then distributed to the various ministries, agencies or church plants.