



USMB ends representation on Everence board

Dear USMB Family,

One of the privileges of the USMB Leadership Board is to seek out representatives who can serve and represent USMB in board or leadership positions with multiple institutions that we are in affiliation with. We consider our relationships with these institutions as significant and are honored when we are asked to provide representatives. Over the past many years, one such organization has been Everence (formerly Mennonite Mutual Aid).

In July of 2022, MC-USA passed a resolution titled, “A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation.” The resolution calls for 1) Honoring all LGBTQIA relationships regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or marital status; 2) Prescribing policies for program agencies prohibiting any restrictions, and 3) Advocating for promotion of this theology when interacting with other denominations or faith groups. The resolution was binding on the national office and created significant impact on MC-USA agencies. Because Everence was a Program Agency of MC-USA, Everence was accountable to the MC-USA Executive Board, and this new resolution.

The passing of this resolution set in motion numerous conversations about how this resolution impacted USMB’s relationship with Everence for the future. This involved members of the USMB Leadership Board and our National Director having several conversations with members of the Everence board and leadership—which included discussions about how Everence would embrace or not embrace the stated principles of the adopted resolution.

Also, in response to the resolution, our USMB Board of Faith and Life responded with a stated re-affirmation that marriage is a Biblical covenant between one man and one woman. In October of 2022, the USMB National Strategy Team recommended to the USMB Leadership Board that it consider ceasing, or altering, USMB’s relationship with Everence.

On Oct. 3, 2023, the USMB Leadership Board unanimously passed the following:

In response to the recent resolution and policy of Mennonite Church USA (MC-USA) - the current primary stakeholder for Everence - to embrace the secular, LGBTQ+ agenda, and given Everence’s lack of movement to reject this agenda, we move that the USMB Leadership Board no longer appoint members to the Everence Board. In addition, we move that the two existing MB representatives on the Everence board may complete their current terms, if they so desire. (After current board members complete their respective terms, no new USMB representatives would be approved for the Everence board.)

We recognize that many individuals and churches continue to use Everence products and services. We also recognize that the Mennonite/Anabaptist community is relatively small. And while these tough decisions are made at the national level with national implications, ongoing conversations are typically amongst friends and acquaintances. This can make these national-level decisions challenging. However, the resolution is considered by the USMB Leadership Board to be an aggressive and loud decree, which is ultimately unbiblical, going directly against our USMB Confession of Faith. For that reason, the USMB Leadership Board felt it necessary to reshape and re-define our relationship with Everence. We encourage each USMB church to re-evaluate its own relationship with Everence—in light of the MC-USA resolution and the USMB Leadership Board's decision pertaining to future representation on the Everence board.

May God give us courage to live faithfully.

USMB Leadership Board