



# ALLIANCE PEACEMAKING

## Building a Denominational Peacemaking Ministry

### I. Introduction

Rick Stein, National Director of Alliance Peacemaking (AP)

- Thirty-nine years attorney of private practice
- Twenty-six years as a Christian mediator
- Six years as the Director for Alliance Peacemaking

### II. History

- Rev. Tim Owen, a former Rocky Mountain District Superintendent, established AP at the National Office in 2011.
- Gary Friesen led the ministry from 2013 to 2014.
- Rick Stein took over in 2015.

### III. Mission

Change the culture of The Alliance in the way we do conflict. If we are God's people, then we need to act like it, especially in conflict because that's where it's the hardest. This must be part of our DNA; it must be normative.

### IV. Why a Denominational Ministry?

- The Alliance needs a common biblical framework and language for addressing conflict. The C&MA has 25 geographically-based districts in the U.S., three ethnically-based districts, 11 ethnic associations, and over 900 missionaries operating around the world. There are 37 languages spoken in the C&MA in the United States alone, and, with God's help, one language and biblical framework for addressing conflict.
- Cost: In-house mediation and training help mitigate the financial and spiritual costs of church conflicts.
- Polity: A common culture regarding conflict is a matter of polity and unity as an organization.
  - Peacemaking is required training for ordination or consecration.
  - It coordinates with the disciplinary process.
  - We can provide expert intra-division conflict assistance.

- Relationships within the Denomination: We are a relatively small denomination, and relationships are important.

## V. What It Looks Like

- Training:
  1. Level 1: Resolving Everyday Conflict (Basic Biblical Principles)
  2. Level 2: Conflict Coaching
  3. Level 3: Mediation
  4. Advanced Workshops
- Building Peacemaking Infrastructure: Identifying, training, and mentoring trainers and mediators nationally and internationally.
- Mediation:
  1. Local level
  2. National level
- Consulting: We offer frequent, informal consulting with district superintendents and pastors to avoid or mitigate conflict in early stages.
- Cost Structure: Director and assistant personnel cost and office expenses are covered by the National Office. Training and mediation expenses are paid by districts, churches, and participants.

## VI. Necessary Ingredients

- President and senior leadership must strongly and continuously express public support
- Financial Commitment
- Others called by God to the ministry
- Experienced and skilled leaders at multiple levels for both mediation and training
- Director must be relational, patient, able to delegate, manage well without over-managing.

## VII. Conclusion

## VIII. Q & A