



timbrel *Timbrel as a talking circle*

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In the past few months since I began working as editor for MW USA, many people have asked me about how I envision timbrel. I have responded to this question so often, I thought it might be helpful for me to include this information in the magazine itself. Each of the three editors for MW USA has had her own vision, and each editor's vision is unique to her life experiences.

I envision timbrel as a talking circle, that indigenous tradition of placing everyone in a circle so that no one is in a superior position, and each person can see and hear each of the others making up the circle. Someone takes leadership to direct the focus of the talking circle, often using an object such as a stone, a feather, stick, or staff, for each participant to hold as she speaks. The object makes its way around the complete circle as each woman speaks from her heart what she feels God has given her to contribute to the conversation without repeating or responding to other's comments. Some women may choose to pass and not speak, and that, too, is considered participation for all intently listen.

Once the object has completed the circle, the activity is complete until the next person directs the focus of the circle to a new topic. I see timbrel as a safe place for all Mennonite women to gather and converse, with each one's voice equally valued in the conversation as she speaks from her heart. —ed. 

timbrel connects today's Mennonite women in all our diversity by sharing our stories and perspectives. Through our conversations with each other, we seek to walk more closely with God and to show greater love for self and neighbors near and far. The perspectives expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of Mennonite Women USA, **timbrel**, or the board of Mennonite Women USA.

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