

### ... believe in living simply.

Following Jesus has economic consequences. Wealth can separate us from God and make us insensitive to the needs of others. Living simply and practicing mutual aid are ways we work to confront consumerism and individualism. The *More with Less* and *Simply in Season* cooking and lifestyle books are well known attempts to share our vision for simplicity and creation care.

### ... believe in caring for creation.

God has made us stewards of the earth. We want our actions to have a positive impact on the natural world so that it will be a healthier place for future generations to live.

### ... are committed to being a multi-cultural church.

We are increasingly multicultural; many congregations worship in languages other than English. In Canada, we worship in 15 - 20 different languages!



Music is a vital part of Mennonite worship services. Sometimes we sing traditional four-part hymns and sometimes we join with a praise band as we sing our faith.

**... welcome you to fellowship!** In a time of individualism, consumerism, and loneliness, Mennonites seek to model a different kind of society—one built on mutual aid, trust, forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation, and restitution. We invite you to join us on this journey.



## Where do Mennonites come from originally?

Mennonites trace their roots to 16th-century Anabaptists, who were part of the Protestant Reformation. Anabaptists believed in adult believers' baptism, separation of church and state, and rejected participation in war. "Anabaptist" means "rebaptizer," a nickname given to these reformers because their adult baptism followed their earlier baptism as infants. Churches that come from the Anabaptist tradition include the Brethren in Christ, Hutterites, Old Colony Mennonites, Old Order Amish, Old Order Mennonite, Mennonite Brethren, and Mennonite Church.

The name "Mennonite" comes from Menno Simons, a 16th-century Dutch Anabaptist leader.



## Who are Mennonites today?

- You can't tell a Mennonite by looking. Anyone who chooses to follow Jesus can be a Mennonite. There are 50 Mennonite groups in North America.
- The first Mennonites in Canada arrived in the late 18th century, settling initially in Southern Ontario.
- Today there are 143,720 Mennonites/Anabaptists in Canada.
- Worldwide there are 2.1 million Anabaptists, and more than 65 percent live in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

## We Warmly Invite You

### ABCDEFG Mennonite Church

Address  
Telephone  
Email  
Pastor

#### Sunday Hours:

9:45 - 10:45 am	Service
10:15 - 11:00 am	Children's Sunday School
10:45 - 11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship
11:00 - 12:00 pm	Adult Sunday School



*Personal Message or Wording*

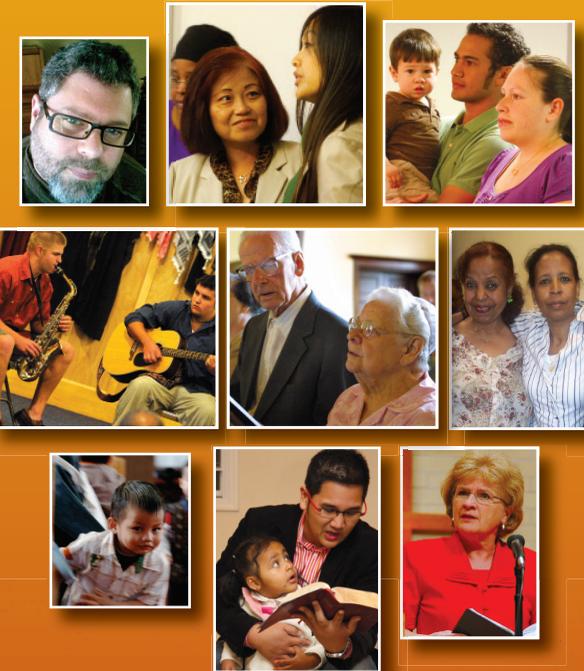


A Congregation of  
**Mennonite Church**  
Eastern  
Canada

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# Can you tell if someone is a Mennonite ... just by looking?

# M Who are the Mennonites?



## Here's a sampling of our beliefs, values, and practices.

# Who are the Mennonites?



Perhaps you heard of Mennonites through cookbooks such as *More with Less—A World Community Cookbook* or through sports professionals, Cindy Klassen, Olympic Speed Skater, or Jonathan Toews and James Reimer, professional NHL players. Some people picture Mennonites as rural folk who wear bonnets and travel in horse-drawn buggies. This brochure will give you a brief introduction to Mennonites represented at 50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener, ON.

Mennonites share essential core beliefs with Christians of Catholic and Protestant communities. We believe in Jesus Christ as the One sent by God to bring reconciliation to a broken world, and believe in the Bible as the central source of inspiration for faithful living.

## Mennonites are Christians who ...

**... strive to follow the example and teachings of Jesus in daily life.** We believe that Jesus is not only our Saviour, but also our teacher and guide. A key Scripture for Mennonites is the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus explains how his followers should think and act. We believe that God gives Christians the power to live in a Christlike way. As the 16th-century Anabaptist Hans Denck said, "No one can know Christ unless that person follows after him in life."



"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ."

(1 Cor. 3:11 NRSV  
—Menno Simons' favorite passage)

### ... believe we should read Scripture as Jesus did.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus placed his teachings above all others when he repeated the phrase, "You have heard that it was said ... , but I say to you, ... ." So if the words and example of Jesus conflict with a verse in the Old Testament or Epistles, we follow Jesus.



Ken Gogginch, Mennonite Church USA

### ... are faithful to Jesus, first and foremost.

As Christians we attempt to follow Jesus' example of love for all people, even our enemies. Mennonite convictions on separation between church and state are as important today as ever. When some governments in the global community attempt to suppress the rights of individuals and minority communities, we believe the church is called to share the news of Jesus that God's love extends to all people.



MACE file photo - Kingsfield, Ontario

"We must obey God rather than any human authority."

(Acts 5:29)



Neda Snyder, Mennonite Church USA

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

(2 Corinthians 5:18)



Wada Jolene, Mennonite Church USA

### ... see the church as a place for mutual support and accountability.

We believe in a church where adult believers help each other live faithfully and where children are valued and nurtured in the way of Jesus. We know that following Jesus is only possible in a community that constantly challenges us to be Christlike in our thinking and actions.



Wayne Gehman, Mennonite Mission Network

### ... interpret the Bible in community.

We encourage all believers to read the Bible and then check their interpretation with fellow Christians. We believe the Spirit of Jesus is present as we gather to understand and apply the meaning of Scripture.

### ... believe that the ministry of reconciliation is the heart of the gospel.

Jesus calls all people to be reconciled with God and each other. We believe that the church, as the body of Christ, is called to continue that ministry of reconciliation with all people, including enemies for whom Jesus said to love and pray. For that reason, most Mennonites reject military service and the "myth of redemptive violence" found in most justifications for participating in war.

**... are active peacemakers.** We believe that peace and wholeness are real possibilities. We believe it is important to find nonviolent solutions to conflict, whether between individuals, groups, or nations. Mennonites initiated and continue to promote mediation services and alternatives to the criminal justice system, like victim-offender reconciliation programs.



Ryan Miller, Mennonite Mission Network

### ... believe in service to others as a witness to God's love for the world.

As the body of Christ, we believe Christians are to be his hands and feet in the world. Menno Simons made the connection between faith and action the mark of the true Christian. He said, "For true evangelical faith ... cannot lie dormant, but manifests itself in all righteousness and works of love; ... it clothes the naked; feeds the hungry; consoles the afflicted; shelters the miserable; aids and consoles all the oppressed; returns good for evil; serves those that injure it; prays for those that persecute it; ... seeks that which is lost; binds up that which is wounded; heals that which is diseased and saves that which is sound." Disaster relief, voluntary service programs, and raising funds through relief sales are some of the ways that Mennonites live out service to others.



Lynell Bowman, The Mennonite

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?"

(1 John 3:17)