

REGISTRATION

breathe AND be Filled

Convention 2009

John 20:21-22 NRSV



**Mennonite
Church
USA**

June 30 to July 5, 2009
Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio

breathe ANd be FiLLeD

CONVENTION 2009 John 20:21-22 NRSV

On behalf of Executive Leadership and the many volunteers helping make Mennonite Church USA Convention 2009 a reality, thank you for taking this first step toward joining us as we gather as a body of believers in Columbus, Ohio.

The convention theme is "Breathe and be filled." It's a theme meant to remind us that before we can recognize where God is at work in the world and join that work, we must first breathe in and be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. In John 20: 21-22 Jesus breathes on the disciples and invites them to receive God's Spirit so they can be prepared for the work that lies ahead. Just as Jesus' disciples were encouraged to take in God's Spirit so they could do God's work in the world, so will everyone who comes to Convention 2009 be invited to take a moment to stop and breathe in God's Spirit. It's not about breathing to be content. It's about breathing so that Mennonite Church USA can grow as a community of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

For more information on the convention theme, schedule, worship services or special activities, visit www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention. This is also the place for all ages to register online. It will be important for you to read the instructions carefully. Online registration opens at 8 a.m. EST Dec. 1, 2008. To help your registration process go smoothly, fill out this paper form first and have it in front of you as you register online.

If you don't have Internet access, you may fill out a hard copy form and mail or fax it to our office after Jan. 2, 2009. You'll want to register as soon as possible because hotel options go fast. April 30, 2009, is the deadline for early registration discounts.

If you have questions regarding this form, the registration process or any of our gatherings, call 574-523-3049 or e-mail ConventionInfo@MennoniteUSA.org.

May God bless you as you prepare for Convention 2009,

Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership



About registration

Anyone attending daytime sessions, whether full-time or part-time, must register for Convention 2009. Early registration will help make your arrival and visit a more pleasant experience, save you a late registration fee and allow time for you to receive confirmation. If necessary, you may register on arrival at the convention center, but meal packages will not be available for purchase at that time. By registering early and paying the required deposit (\$180 per youth, junior youth, sponsor or adult), you will be eligible to sign up for your hotel rooms immediately.

Participants may register online or by mailing the enclosed registration forms to Convention Planning. To register online, go to www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention. All participants are encouraged to register early. Online registration will begin at 8 a.m. EST, Dec. 1, 2008. We will accept paper registrations postmarked on or after Jan. 2, 2009.

If you only attend Tuesday evening or Sunday morning, stop by the information booth and ask for a temporary name badge.

Children's Gathering

Use the "Children Registration Form" (enclosed) to register your child. You need to register children separately for meals as meal costs are not included in the children's registration fee. Also, parents are responsible to take their children to lunch daily between noon and 1:30 p.m. Programming is provided for children of all ages. Descriptions for age breakdowns are listed below along with a brief description of each group's activities. Please note that families are asked to register as a family unit.

K-5 (completed spring 2009)

Programming: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday

The week is designed to promote a community of learning as Bible stories, dramas, music and mission activities are explored. Children will enjoy field trips, games, entertainment, make-it-and-take-it art projects as well as opportunities to give to and serve others.

Preschool (for toilet-trained 3 year olds to kindergarteners in fall 2009)

Programming: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday

Preschoolers will enjoy activities developed for their age group, including worship, music, recreation, special projects and snack times.

Infant and toddler care (for children ages 6 weeks to 3, not toilet trained)

Care schedule: 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Tuesday;

8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 9:15 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday

Quality care will be provided for your infants and toddlers while you're participating in convention activities.

Snacks for older toddlers will be provided. Please provide diapers and formula for infants.



Junior Youth Gathering

Students completing grades 6 through 8 in spring 2009 are invited to the Junior Youth Gathering in Columbus. Junior youth will have activities (including meals) in The Hyatt, which is connected to the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Use the "Junior Youth Registration Form" (enclosed) to register junior youth and sponsors.

The Junior Youth Gathering will include worship, excursions, recreation, a service experience and more. Note that activities are planned for junior youth from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. On Tuesday, junior youth are invited to join either the youth or adult worship service. On Thursday, junior youth will join the adults and youth for the joint worship service. No other junior youth activities will be scheduled for this evening. During non-programmed times, junior youth will be expected to be under the guidance of their junior youth group sponsors or their families. Students entering 9th grade in fall 2009 may join either the Junior Youth Gathering or the Youth Gathering.

Youth Gathering

Students completing grades 9 through 12 in spring 2009 may attend the Youth Gathering in Columbus. Activities will be in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and worship will be in the Nationwide Arena. Use the Youth Registration Form for both youth and sponsors.

Convention 2009 youth are invited to experience God in life-changing ways through worship, seminars, dramas, concerts, recreation, small groups and servant projects. It will be a time to get reacquainted with old friends and make new ones, a time to celebrate and grow in faith, and a time to make a deeper commitment to Christ.

Early registration, postmarked by April 30, 2009, will be \$180 per youth or sponsor for the entire week. After April 30, late registration will be \$215. For every five youth registered, a sponsor may register at a discounted rate of \$125. Hotel, meal and travel costs are not included. Youth groups, including sponsors, are asked to register as a group. Sponsors need to register their children immediately after they have entered their own form.

Each youth group must identify a contact sponsor. If registering online, this person must register before any other registrations from the group will be accepted. The responsibilities of the contact sponsor are to:

- be a registered participant of the youth convention;
- submit all youth convention registration forms together for your youth group to the youth convention office or make sure all youth are registered online by April 30, 2009;
- submit completed Convention 2009 lodging reservation form for your youth group to the Housing Bureau by May 22, 2009;
- provide names of up to two youth representatives from your youth group to be part of the Speak Up! sessions;
- be available to be contacted for any questions on registration or housing concerning your youth group;
- submit medical release forms;
- pay registration amount due.

The contact youth sponsor will receive confirmation of your youth group's registration along with the Sponsor Handbook beginning in February 2009.

Young Adult Gathering

Young adults ages 18 to 30 are invited to the Young Adult Gathering in Columbus. Register for the Young Adult Gathering by checking the box for young adult information on either the adult or youth registration form.

At Convention 2009, young adult seminars, late-night activities and casual space will be available. All young adults are invited to enjoy numerous events together and to meet new people from across the church.

YODA (YOUNg adult Delegate to Assembly), back by popular demand, will make its fourth appearance at the Mennonite Church USA Convention. Not to be confused with the Jedi Master, YODA is a program designed to help young adult delegates (ages 18 to 30) become more deeply involved in the work of Mennonite Church USA. Through participation in the program, we hope that young adults serving as delegates will develop relationships with people in the broader church, learn more about the workings of the church, and be inspired to become more involved with the present and future of Mennonite Church USA. The program consists of three workshops: an orientation, a panel Q&A with Mennonite Church USA Executive Board members, and an informal reception with additional board members. There is also an optional small group mentoring component in which young adult delegates can reflect with each other and an experienced delegate about the delegate work. For more information, contact this year's YODA Co-planners: Dave Maurer (bethelpastor@2access.net) or Amy Nissley (anissley@avalon.net). Note: YODA participants are encouraged to include an early arrival in their travel plans to Columbus as the Orientation Session will be Tuesday afternoon, prior to opening worship.

Adult Gathering

Adult registrants will have opportunities to worship, attend Learning Tracks and seminars, participate in delegate sessions, special dinners and receptions, socialize and enjoy recreation. Use the "Adult Registration Form" (enclosed). Delegates will need to register themselves for Convention 2009 and make sure their church secretary or pastor enters delegate names and addresses on the Mennonite Directory Congregational Update Web page, for which they have received separate instructions.

Early registration, postmarked by April 30, 2009, will be \$180 per adult for the entire week. After April 30, late registration will be \$215. Daily registration fees for those attending part-time will be \$50 per day, if registering prior to April 30. After April 30, the daily registration fee will be \$55 per day. Hotel, meal and travel costs are not included. Families are asked to register as a family unit.



Lodging

By registering early and paying the required deposit (\$180 per youth, junior youth, sponsor or adult) you will be eligible to reserve your hotel rooms immediately. Failure to register your entire group or family prior to reserving hotel rooms may result in penalties being charged.

Your options for making hotel arrangements once you have completed the registration process include:

- After registering online at www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention, you will be given a link to the online hotel reservation site on your registration summary page. Make your reservations here.
- If you register by paper, you will be mailed a housing form with your registration confirmation. Once you complete the form, you have two options for returning it:
 1. Mail it to Columbus Housing Bureau, 277 W. Nationwide Blvd. Ste. 125, Columbus, OH 43215 or
 2. Fax it to 614-222-6140.

A confirmation from the Housing Bureau will be e-mailed, faxed or mailed to you. Requests for reservations must be received by May 22, 2009, to receive the convention rates.

To process your request, you **MUST** have a credit card number including expiration date on the housing form. The credit card may be charged equal to the amount of one night's room and tax by your assigned hotel. The deposit is refundable if the cancellation is made prior to June 18, 2009. If the cancellation is not made by June 18, 2009, the reservation is subject to a \$25 cancellation fee. If the cancellation is not made at least 72 hours prior to arrival, the reservation is subject to one night's deposit charged by the assigned hotel. Beginning June 19, you will need to contact the hotel directly to reserve a room.

Room rates are quoted for single through quad occupancy for all hotel properties (except Embassy Suites). Until hotel check-in time, early arrivals can have their luggage put in the hotel's storage space, which is available free of charge. Be sure to tip the baggage handlers for doing this favor.

The youth hotels for Convention 2009 include: Double Tree, Drury Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn City Center, Hyatt on Capitol Square, Hyatt Regency Columbus, Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin and Crown Plaza Hotel Columbus-Dublin. All hotels are downtown and are near or connected to the convention center, except the Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin and the Crown Plaza Hotel Columbus-Dublin. You will find more detailed hotel information on our Web site.

We know that staying downtown is the first choice for youth. However, the two hotel properties located out of the downtown core have a lot of attractive amenities included. The city of Columbus is offering free shuttle service to and from downtown during the hours of our program (6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.). Shuttles will pick you up at your hotel and drop you off in front of the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Also, these are the only two hotels that offer free parking and full breakfasts to all guests. A bonus of Embassy Suites is that their sleeping rooms are very spacious and can accommodate between four and six people. This is a great deal for youth groups on a budget.

The adult hotels for Convention 2009 include: Courtyard by Marriott, Crowne Plaza, Hampton Inn & Suites, Red Roof Inn, The Renaissance Hotel and The Westin. All hotels are downtown and are near or connected to the convention center. You can find more detailed hotel information on our Web site.



Meals

Convention participants have several meal plan options. Select your meal plan option on the registration form. All meals will be served in the convention center. The official meal plan will begin with breakfast Wednesday morning and end with breakfast Sunday morning. Requests for meal packages must be postmarked by May 22, 2009. Meal plans will NOT be available for purchase on site. Treat your meal tickets like cash. They will not be replaced if lost or stolen.



Transportation

Columbus is an easy city to navigate. The main east-west highway is I-70. There are two primary north-south freeways, I-71 and St. Rte. 315. The outer belt, I-270, circles the city. I-670 connects the airport to downtown and continues to the west side. Port Columbus International Airport, located just 10 minutes east of downtown, is served by all major airlines and their regional affiliates. Carriers include American, Continental, Delta, Midwest/Connect, Northwest, Southwest, United and US Airways. The average taxi fair from Port Columbus International Airport to downtown is \$25.

Refund Policy

Registration fee

Before April 30, 2009	Full refund less \$40
May 1 to 22, 2009	One-half refund
After May 22, 2009	No refunds on cancelled registrations

Meals

Before April 30, 2009	Full refund less \$40
May 1 to 22, 2009	One-half refund
After May 22, 2009	No refunds on cancelled meal packages

Choir

No refunds after April 30, 2009

Deadlines

March 31, 2009	Financial Grant Application Deadline
April 30, 2009	Early Registration Deadline
May 22, 2009	Meal Package Deadline
May 22, 2009	Lodging Reservation Deadline
May 22, 2009	Medical Release Form Deadline



Special features

5K fun run/walk

A 5K fun run/walk along the Scioto River in North Bank Park (five blocks from the convention center) will be at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, July 5. Registration is \$10 and limited to 500 registrants. All participants will receive a bottle of water and T-shirt.

Choir

An adult and youth choir will participate in the joint worship service Thursday night. Hal Hess from the Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship will direct the choir. Both youth and adults may sign up to participate in the choir on the registration form (please indicate which part you sing). The \$8 charge covers the cost of music scores, which will be included in your on-site registration packets.

Convention Summary DVD

A summary DVD will be produced for Convention 2009. It will include: a short summary clip, suitable for reporting to your congregation; a 30-minute summary section; and some of the Ken Medema songs shared during the convention week. The DVD can be ordered on the registration form and will be shipped several weeks after convention. Cost is \$25.

Daily seminars

Many seminars will be offered for adults and youth Wednesday through Saturday. Seminars provide opportunities to learn about specific topics. Information about seminars will be available online beginning January 2009. The Program Book (which you will receive at convention) will list the time and location for each seminar.

Exhibit Hall/Recreation Hall

Mennonite Church USA organizations and educational institutions, as well as other Mennonite-related Christian groups, will have displays in the Exhibit Hall. Individual booths, cooperative exhibits and interactive experiences will be available. Adjacent to the Exhibit Hall, children of all ages will be able to enjoy the Recreation Hall where plenty of games and activities will be available.

Kutless

Christian/alternative band Kutless will perform a concert Saturday night following the youth worship service in the Nationwide Arena. All ages are invited to attend.

Learning Tracks

Learning Tracks provide opportunities for equipping pastors, other congregational leaders and area conference leaders. Learning Tracks are for people who have specific leadership responsibilities in areas such as education, stewardship and ministerial credentialing or provide leadership in specific contexts like pastors and congregational leaders in rural and urban settings, bi-vocational pastors.

Learning Tracks will provide participants with training, churchwide perspectives, peer resourcing and networking opportunities. Learning Tracks will be offered two to three times during the convention. Because of the continuous learning approach in multiple session tracks, participants should plan to be present for all the sessions devoted to a specific Learning Track. More specific information about Learning Tracks will be available online January 2009. The Program Book, which will be available at the convention, will list times and locations for each track.

Pastor's Day

Pastors are invited for a full-day learning experience from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 30. The topic will be Pastoral Leadership from a Missional Perspective. Darrell Guder, Jim Schrag, Lois Barrett and Gilberto Flores will be the resourcing team.

In order to optimize the learning process, everything will be organized in an atmosphere of participation, dialogue and fellowship. This will be a refreshing and life-giving experience that stimulates a desire to grow professionally. This event will begin and end with worship.

Cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch and snack. Spouses are welcome to attend.

Guarantee: this will not be a dry, academic exercise. We will work in a relaxed atmosphere with good humor.

Servant projects

Servant projects are an opportunity for adults and youth to offer a ministry of service from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. These projects are learning experiences that allow convention participants to serve people in the city of Columbus. Delegates, please note that servant projects are scheduled at the same time as delegate sessions.

Participants will work at many sites throughout the city. Service opportunities will include working with community children, elderly/nursing home residents, yard work/trash pickup, home repair/building or food bank/homeless shelter/soup kitchen. The \$7 fee per person helps cover the cost of transportation and other related expenses. Confirmation including information about your area of service will be mailed to participants prior to convention.

T-shirts

Convention 2009 T-shirts are available at a cost of \$6 per shirt, \$7 per XXL. Children's T-shirts will also be available at \$6 each. You may order a T-shirt on your registration form. You will receive the T-shirts at convention. For a preview of the shirt design, visit www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention.

Youth representatives "Speak Up!"

At each convention, delegates from each congregation and area conference are invited to give feedback and make decisions that affect how the church functions. We believe youth have something to say about the church and to the church as they make a huge difference throughout our denomination.

Each youth group is asked to send one or two individuals to Speak Up! sessions. These youth should be interested in leadership and care about what happens in the broader church. They will attend Speak Up! sessions daily from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. Speak Up! is supported by the Mennonite Church USA Youth Ministry Leadership Team.

Speak Up! sessions will be modeled after the delegate meetings, including reports, round-table discussions and sharing with each other on various topics. The youth will hear reports from adult sessions given by Mennonite Church USA leaders. There will also be a listening committee that will share a report with the Delegate Assembly about Speak Up! During one session, Speak Up! representatives will join the adult delegate session to give input on decisions they will make. On the registration form, the contact sponsor can name the youth who will participate in this event.

The Good News of Biblical Lament: Walking with Youth in Loss and Grief

This youth leader workshop will be led by Bob Yoder. Today's adolescents are more likely than a few decades ago to commit suicide, to suffer from mental illnesses, such as depression and eating disorders, to live in a home whose parent has been remarried due to divorce, and to feel the brunt of a society that demands success at early ages and hurries young people to unhealthy levels of stress and tiredness. Do our programmed youth ministry efforts take such realities into account?

In this workshop, youth leaders will discover insights into the realities of young people today, learn about biblical lament as revealed through the Psalms and Lamentations, and gain practical skills and ideas in walking with youth in such times for both individual and group settings. This workshop will take place during the Wednesday afternoon seminar time slots (3 hours). The cost of this workshop is \$10.

Scholarship program

You and your congregation are invited to help raise funds for delegates, adults and youth of all ages who may not be able to attend Convention 2009 without additional financial assistance. Last convention, some congregations chose to give donations to other congregations in their region or area conference. If you have established these relationships, we encourage you to continue to give in that way. Many churches struggle to raise enough money to send everyone from their congregation who would like to attend conventions. If you value the convention experience and are an individual or congregation that has a larger financial base to pull from, we offer you an opportunity to tithe/donate to help other participants in need. There will be a place for you to contribute to our scholarship fund on the registration form or you can send donations directly to our office. We will distribute your donations, which will help to cover registration costs, based on need.

To apply for a scholarship to attend Convention 2009, you will need to complete an application form and turn it in by March 31, 2009. Application forms may be downloaded from the Mennonite Church USA Convention Web site at www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention. For more information or to request a hard copy, call Carol at 574-523-3048.

Special dinners

Special dinners are listed in order of date and time. They cost \$23 per dinner if you have not registered for a convention meal plan. If you purchase a meal plan, there is no extra cost for special dinners. Please indicate on the registration form if you plan to attend a special dinner. Meals may not be purchased at the convention.

Wednesday, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Mennonite Men

All men are invited to a dinner sponsored by Mennonite Men. We will celebrate 25 years of providing JoinHands Mennonite Church Building grants to young congregations acquiring their first church building. There will be updates about our denominational men's ministry. Enjoy entertainment with musical performers, JoinHands testimonials and fellowship.

Mennonite Women

"Breathe and be filled: Kitchen Table Theology." All women are invited into our "Mennonite Women kitchen." Pull up a chair, have dinner and join a conversation with Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, Megan Ramer and Regina Shands Stoltzfus about experiencing God's spirit in everyday life. Music by the Anointed Voices of Joy, women's a cappella choir, Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland. Door prizes and updates on Mennonite Women USA's ministry and global connections.

Urban Leaders Network Gathering/Dinner (open to all)

Enjoy an evening gathering/dinner with urban ministry practitioners. Come network and hear stories of church planting and church revitalization. The 2009 George and Pearl Kauffman Urban Leader Award will be presented during this dinner.

Keynote speakers Karl McKinney and Sally Schreiner Youngquist will dialogue about their past and present ministries, noting the dichotomy and similarities between church planting, congregational revitalization and missional church engagement. Karl and Sally were the church planting team that established Living Water Community Church in Chicago. Sally is currently senior pastor of Living Water and Karl is the senior pastor of Northern Virginia Mennonite Church in Fairfax, Va.

Friday, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Stories of Healing and Hope: Stories for and by People of Color

People of color are invited to a dinner hosted by the Mennonite Church USA Intercultural Relations Committee. The evening will be a time of fellowship, getting to know the reference committee members and to hear stories of healing and hope. Our hope is to leave inspired by what God is doing in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Receptions and meetings

African American Mennonite Association, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bethel College, Iglesia Menonita Hispana's "Young Adult Latino Event," and others invite alumni and friends to attend these receptions without advance registration. In addition, the Peace and Justice Support Network will offer a Bible study option on two evenings. A complete list of receptions and alumni meetings and their locations will be available in the Program Book at the convention.

The following groups request pre-registration for their events. Please indicate on the registration form if you plan to attend. Like the special dinners, receptions are listed by date and time.

Tuesday, 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Mennonite Central Committee Alumni and Friends Gathering

Come and see your friends and other MCC alumni and supporters. Hear what MCC is doing in the world in the name of Christ.

Wednesday, 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Values-Based Leadership Program Alumni and Friends Reception

Alumni and friends of the Values-Based Leadership Program are invited to gather for refreshments and fellowship. Visit with program sponsors and faculty. Re-connect with other program graduates. This event is sponsored by the Institute for Anabaptist Leaders.

Eastern Mennonite Seminary Alumni and Friends Gathering

Eastern Mennonite Seminary alumni and friends are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and refreshments with fellow alumni. You will have opportunity to visit with President Loren Swartzendruber, Dean Ervin Stutzman and other EMS faculty and staff.

Hesston College Alumni and Friends Gathering

Hesston College alumni and friends are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and refreshments with fellow alumni. You will have opportunity to visit with President Howard Keim and other Hesston College faculty and staff.

Thursday, 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Bluffton University Alumni and Friends Gathering

Bluffton University alumni and friends are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and refreshments with fellow alumni. You will have opportunity to visit with President James Harder and other Bluffton University faculty and staff.

Eastern Mennonite University Alumni and Friends Gathering

Eastern Mennonite University alumni and friends are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and refreshments with fellow alumni. You will have opportunity to visit with President Loren Swartzendruber and other EMU faculty and staff.

Goshen College Alumni and Friends Gathering

Goshen College alumni and friends are invited to gather for a time of fellowship and refreshments with fellow alumni. You will have opportunity to visit with President James Brenneman and other Goshen College faculty and staff.





**Mennonite
Church
USA**

breathe AND be FiLLed

CONVENTION 2009

John 20:21-22 NRSV

June 30 to July 5, 2009

Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio

For more information about Convention 2009 contact:

Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership

Convention Planning

P.O. Box 1245

Elkhart, IN 46515-1245

Phone: 574-523-3048

Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872

Fax: 574-293-1892

ConventionInfo@MennoniteUSA.org

www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention