



YODA comes to Convention 2009 in Columbus

At Atlanta 2003, a new program was launched for young adults who were serving as representatives to the Delegate Assembly. The program became known as YODA or **Y**oung adult **D**elegate to **A**ssembly. YODA is designed to help young adult delegates become involved in the work of Mennonite Church USA. It has a three-fold vision for the young adult delegate's experience at convention.

1. To develop relationships with people in the broader church
2. To learn more about the workings of the church
3. To inspire young adults to become more involved with the present and future of Mennonite Church USA.

Dave Maurer and Amy Nissley will again serve as co-planners and facilitators of the YODA program this summer at Convention 2009 in Columbus. Dave is pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty, Ohio and Amy is associate pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church in Mountain Lake, Minn. The program will include three seminars for young adult delegates to learn more about the ins and outs of Mennonite Church USA polity and to talk about concerns and questions they may have from the delegate sessions. Additionally, more experienced delegates will be on hand for YODA participants to meet with in a small group setting to answer questions and be a listening ear.

Now is the time for churches and conferences to consider sending a young adult as a delegate to Columbus 2009. Please be sure that these young adult delegates are aware of the opportunity to participate in the YODA program. Participation is voluntary, but we recommend it especially for first time young adult (ages 18-30) delegates. Questions about the program may be directed to Dave Maurer at bethelpastor@2access.net or Amy Nissley at anissley@avalon.net.

Here are the descriptions of the three YODA events as they will appear in the program book:

- **YODA Orientation.** *Tuesday, June 30th, 4:15-5:15 p.m.*
You've been preparing for weeks and now it is almost time for the first delegate session. Before you officially begin your work as a delegate Wednesday morning, come to the YODA Orientation to meet the other young adult delegates, ask your questions, and find out about the rest of the YODA sessions. This time of orientation will also provide space to get acquainted with your YODA small group and mentor for the week.
- **Say What's On Your Mind.** *(day and time to be listed in program book)*
Young adult delegates are invited to come talk with Executive Board members for Mennonite Church USA. Need further background on issues raised in delegate sessions? Want to know more about Mennonite Church USA vision or leadership? Come to ask your questions and share your hopes and dreams for Mennonite Church USA.
- **Executive Board Reception for YODA Participants.** *(day and time to be listed in program book)*
The official business of Columbus has ended, but the work of the church continues. Join us for one last opportunity to dialogue with members of the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA about issues raised in the delegate sessions as well as about your experience as a young adult delegate. Come and share your visions for the church in the coming years.