

# Sponsor Handbook

#### Welcome to MennoCon21!

We are looking forward to seeing you and your group in Cincinnati, July 6-10! Thank you for sticking with us through all the uncertainties of the pandemic and for coming to convention in person in Cincinnati! Yes, some aspects of convention will be different this year, but your favorite parts — worship, seminars, recreation — are still planned for you as usual. We are also offering some new features — the Midday mixers and morning Bible studies, featuring singing from our new hymnal, *Voices Together*.

We know you want to make convention meaningful for your group. In this handbook, you will find information specifically for leaders of youth groups, allowing you to take full advantage of all the opportunities for spiritual growth and relational connection. You'll also find a lot of relevant information in the digital <u>General Information document</u> that was emailed to you.

There are three sections in this handbook: pre-convention, convention week and post-convention. **The pre-convention section** offers the information you will need as you prepare to head to Cincinnati. We share the purpose of convention, expectations for participants, and how to plan logistics like meals, lodging and transportation. We end this section with a list of tips and tricks for helping your group get the most out of convention.

The second section, **convention week**, covers helpful details for your week in Cincinnati. It includes important information regarding the program, schedule and convention center.

The **post-convention section** includes a group reflection process, designed to help you debrief your experience together. Taking the time for reflection, gratitude and debriefing the significant learning experiences your group encountered at MennoCon21 will solidify relationships, deepen bonds and form lasting memories.

We know coming to convention takes time, energy and commitment, and we thank you for investing in the lives of your youth. These churchwide experiences are often rich faith formation experiences for youth to see themselves, the church and God in new ways — experiences that will last a lifetime!

Whether you've been bringing youth groups to convention for years or this is your first time, we hope that this handbook assists you in planning and knowing what to expect at MennoCon21. We wish you a calm and grace-filled convention week, but we also know that no matter how well any of us plan, sometimes we have to be willing to go with the flow! Don't worry if something doesn't go as intended. Be assured that there are many people at convention who are happy to assist you.

In the meantime, check out the convention website (<u>convention.mennoniteusa.org</u>) for detailed information; join the Mennonite Church USA Facebook page (<u>www.facebook.com/MennoniteChurchUSA</u>) for up-to-date announcements; and stay on top of the latest convention happenings with Twitter (@MCUSAConvention). For specific questions, the convention staff emails are also listed in the Appendix.

With prayers and gratitude for all that God has in store for us at MennoCon21,

Scott Hartman, director of Event Planning Shana Peachey Boshart, denominational minister for Faith Formation Sarah Chase, convention services coordinator



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## Section one: Pre-convention

#### Convention purpose statement

The purpose of convention is to gather Mennonite Church USA for community, worship and faith formation.

### Expectations for convention attendees

As planners, we want convention to be safe and enjoyable for all our attendees, and we are counting on you to help make this possible. While we may not always agree with one another, we should always treat each other with respect. In order to make convention a positive experience for everyone, here are some of our expectations for all convention attendees:

- Convention attendees should not engage in language or behavior that threatens the safety or personhood of another convention attendee. This includes racist speech, hate speech, threats, sexual harassment and any other behaviors that could be understood as threatening. If you experience language or behaviors like this at convention, please report the offender to the convention office.
- Blocking of hallways, fire exits and means of egress is prohibited at all times. Gatherings that, in any way, violate fire code regulations will be dispersed.
- No literature (fliers, brochures, handouts, books, etc.) may be passed out beyond the exhibit hall area. However, seminar and workshop leaders may distribute handouts, as necessary, during their session.
- No promotional materials may be hung on convention center walls without the written approval of MC USA convention planning. This includes posters, postcards, pictures, etc.
- Disagreements should be resolved peacefully. In any and all disagreements, we ask that you treat your conversation partners with the respect they deserve as beloved children of God.
- Respect the instructions of the convention planning staff and volunteers on-site. We are here to serve you and to help make convention a good experience for everyone in attendance. If you have a disagreement or complaint about the behavior of any staff or volunteers, please come to the convention planning office to report this behavior.
- All protocols and procedures related to COVID-19 will be observed throughout the event. We are following local and national guidance for these protocols and procedures. This is one way we can practice mutual aid.

### Worship theme

The MennoCon21 worship committee has created five worship services that progress along the theme, "Bring the Peace." We begin Tuesday evening considering "Peace from Roots to Fruits," that is, what is "the peace" we're talking about and what does it look like in our lives? Wednesday evening, we consider how "Jesus is the Peace;" Thursday evening, we aim to "Feel the Peace" that brings healing; Friday evening, we consider how we "Trust the Peace" in a world that often seems anxious or violent; and Saturday we end with a challenge from our executive director to be a people who "Bring the Peace." For information about the offering, see the <u>General Information document</u>.

#### Stay in the know

The best way to stay up-to-date with the latest convention news is with the convention app. Use it to get announcements, schedules, maps, speaker information and much more. Search for "CrowdCompass Events" in the App Store or Google Play. Once the app is installed, search for and select "MennoCon21." Changes to room locations and schedule will be shared via the app.

As you prepare for convention, you will find all the information you need on our website: <u>convention.mennoniteusa.org</u>. The schedule, seminar list and worship speakers are listed there. During convention, be sure to "like" the <u>Mennonite Church USA Facebook page</u> to see posts from convention.

### Step Up youth delegates

Your group may include one or more youth, aged 16-21, who have been appointed as delegates to the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly. Step Up is a program designed to orient and support them as delegates. You'll find information about Step Up on <u>the Step Up web page</u>. If you have questions or suggestions about Step Up, contact the coordinator, Brook Musselman, at <u>brookm@atlanticcoastconference.net</u>.

### Registration

A link to the registration system can be found on the <u>Mennonite Church USA convention website</u>. If you have any questions regarding the process, call Sarah Chase at 614-370-1120 or email her at <u>sarahc@mennoniteusa.org</u>.

**Medical release forms**: Medical release forms should be completed for anyone under the age of 18 attending MennoCon21. Forms should be completed and brought along with you to Cincinnati. We provide these forms as a service to you, so that you will have a signed release in the event that you seek medical treatment for one of your youth. You can access the form at this link: <u>MennoCon21</u> <u>Medical Release Form</u>. If you need any assistance with this, please contact Sarah Chase at <u>sarahc@mennoniteusa.org</u>.

**Meals**: Meals will be served in the dining hall (Exhibit Hall A). Lunch is included for everyone who registered. To help with traffic flow, we are asking adults to proceed to lunch right after worship, while youth groups spend time in their small groups. Please enter from the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Concourse. Dinners are on your own. There are numerous restaurants in the area, please stop by the information booth for some suggestions.

**Final payments**: Make final payments **before arriving to convention.** You can check your balance by logging into your registration account. For credit card payments, access your account and submit payment. Send checks to Mennonite Church USA, Attn: Registrar, 3145 Benham Ave., Suite 1, Elkhart, IN 46517. If you have not paid prior to arriving at convention, please see Sarah Chase in the convention office.

### Housing

It is recommended that you **call your hotel a week prior to arrival** to confirm your reservations. Do not call further in advance, because the hotels will not have your reservations until that time. When you confirm your rooms, you can provide final information about who will be staying in each room. You can also make any special requests (all our rooms on the same floor, all your rooms on lower floors, etc.).

#### Hotel phone numbers:

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati 513-579-1234

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza 513-421-9100

### **Arrival Information**

**Ground transportation**: A variety of transportation options are available to get you from the airport to your hotel, including rental cars, taxicab service, public transit and rideshare services (Lyft and Uber). Allow approximately 20 minutes to get to your hotel.

For more information about the area, please check out cincinnatiusa.com

Hotel check-in: The check-in time for the hotels is 4:00 p.m.

Hotel parking: The Hilton has self-parking, but the Hyatt does not. There are several parking garages near both hotels.

**Registration pick-up:** Convention registration will be open Tuesday, July 6, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. To avoid congestion in the registration area, send a few sponsors (not your entire youth group) to pick up your materials. Find the registration area in the Elm Street East Concourse. Registration materials will be available under your congregation's name.

#### Covenant

As you anticipate coming to convention, take some time as a youth group — and perhaps invite parents to participate, as well — to process how you will "live together" for the week. We encourage youth groups to develop a covenant together. This agreement could cover areas such as technology use, meeting times, seminar expectations, curfew, meals, etc. It should also include clear consequences, should the covenant not be upheld. Consider having youth leaders, youth and parents sign the covenant for MennoCon21. Sample covenants are included at the end of this document.

### Top 20 tips and tricks

We want you to feel prepared and equipped for your week at convention! Below are a few suggestions from leaders who have "been around the convention block" with some wisdom that might help you to prepare.

1. **Read** the sponsor handbook — check!

- 2. At the airport: Travel in "travel teams," where one adult travels with 3-5 kids and is responsible for getting them from the starting point all the way to the hotel lobby. This makes getting taxis/shuttles and moving through airports so much easier and removes the need to keep a large group together. Pick up a couple headphone splitters. They are great for letting youth share music and killing time while waiting at an airport.
- 3. **Make sure everyone fills out the medical release and contact information form.** Hopefully, you have already uploaded medical release forms to the registration system for each youth under the age of 18. If you haven't done that, please be sure to do it as quickly as possible. We encourage you to keep a copy of the forms in your hotel room, file a copy with your church secretary AND take a picture of each one on your phone. If there's an emergency, no matter where you are, you have the info at your fingertips.
- 4. Ear plugs are helpful for some adults in worship.
- 5. **Talk positively** about your youth group. At gatherings like this, it seems very tempting to talk with other sponsors about your youth, and this can often turn into a "gripe session." It is most helpful to remain positive and to name things about your group that are affirming.
- 6. Make sure you have time for yourself. Build in some space for quiet and alone time.
- 7. **Find some time to chat one-on-one** with your youth throughout the week. This can be tough sometimes, but it is well worth the effort. This is one of the only ways to hear how everyone is really doing.
- 8. **Don't skip small group time!** If your group is very large, sometimes it can be difficult for youth to be honest and participate. It is much easier to be vulnerable in a small group. Groups of four to five work well. Make the time meaningful by emphasizing or discussing some key things from the messages.
- 9. **Be vulnerable** with your youth throughout the week, as much as you feel able and is appropriate. Sharing your feelings with them may empower them to share their feelings.
- 10. As much as possible, show your youth you trust them. If you are always setting up rules to stay ahead of all possible problems or infractions, you and your youth will be miserable! Instead, show them your trust, and often, they respond in kind. Obviously, this is not always the case and some things need to be dealt with firmly. But, in general, remember that love for your youth trumps all rules!
- 11. **Include large group-building times throughout week**. This is important not only for group dynamics but to deepen connections, build trust and share faith with one another.
- 12. **Be clear about your expectations** for the number of seminars you expect your youth to attend, worship participation, meal attendance, etc. Decide ahead of time what to do as a group and what to do individually. It can be fun to go to the recreation hall as a group or decide to go to a workshop or two together, while also giving enough freedom to explore individual interests. Always be sure to provide an opportunity for your group to come back together afterward so they can share about their experiences.
- 13. Find another youth group ahead of time and plan to get to know them at convention. This can build bridges across Mennonite Church USA, among urban and rural congregations, between people who grew up Mennonites and people who are newer to the church, etc. Contact Shana Boshart for help connecting with another youth group.
- 14. **Invite members of your congregation to be prayer partners** for the youth and adults who will attend convention. Invite those at home to be in prayer throughout the week for their assigned person. Have them write a note or card to be opened at convention. Provide cards for the youth to write to their partner at the end of the week. Not only is prayer essential to a successful convention experience, it also keeps those at home and at convention mindful of one another!

- 15. **Be the adult.** Don't be afraid to send kids to their rooms for bedtime. That is your job. Be proactive and specific about your expectations for hotel conduct.
- 16. **Fringe youth.** Do you have youth that are sometimes on the fringes of group activities? Talk about it. Don't expect them to blend in or have a positive experience without good communication on your part. Facilitate time for shared experiences, find out what interests them and encourage it.
- 17. **Food.** Youth love to eat! You'll have good restaurant options in Cincinnati. Consider building costs for snacks into your budget. Consider providing an easy snack, such as granola bars. This can encourage healthy eating and spending and also provide a chance to check in as a group.
- 18. Write a covenant together before you come to convention. Include expectations for travel, participation, dress code, electronics and how people treat one another. Include consequences when expectations are not met. Ask parents, youth and sponsors to sign the covenant before convention. Samples can be found in the Appendix.
- 19. Your hotel concierge is a great source of information about restaurants and businesses in the area. They can tell you where the closest pharmacy or coffee shop is, too.
- 20. Have fun! Don't forget to have fun as a group!

## Section two: Convention week

Welcome to convention week! All your planning and attention to details has gotten you to Cincinnati. We hope this week is filled with meaningful experiences.

### General information

In the <u>General Information document</u> that was emailed to you, you'll find information on these topics:

Accessibility services, convention app, audio and video recording disclaimer, children, emergency and medical information, exhibit hall, hotel phone numbers, Information Booth, junior youth, lost and found, meals, morning runs, offerings, prayer ministry, recreation hall, social media, translation and interpretation, volunteers, worship band, worship leaders

### **Convention schedule**

The schedule for the week can be found in the Program Book, which will be printed and made available at convention. The Program Book is also available at <u>convention.mennoniteusa.org/the-experience</u>.

### Worship

For many youth groups, worship is the highlight of the convention experience. There will be five worship services during convention week — one each evening. Services will include singing, praying, Scripture, compelling speakers, videos and more.

This diverse crowd of Mennonites from across the nation coming together is a wonderful representation of the body of Christ. In preparation for worship, it might be helpful to talk with your youth about the fact that convention worship is not necessarily like the worship at your home congregation, and it is not supposed to be. Invite your youth to be open and hospitable, even if parts of the service might seem different to them, or if they prefer another method of worship. Remind them that our church is home to diverse people and that the purpose of our worship gathering is to please God, not ourselves. The worship planning committee has been crafting these worship services for over a year, and it is our prayer that each of you will encounter God in a transformational way.

**Worship Schedule**: Each worship service will deepen our understanding of our theme, "Bring the Peace." We trust that God will be glorified and that the presence of the spirit will be evident. We are pleased to have Seth Crissman and band leading music again. We are also blessed to have Chris Cox, Hendy Matahelemual and Kay Schroeder serving as worship leaders for our services.

Here are the themes and speakers for each worship service. See the <u>convention website</u> for more information about the worship leaders and speakers. Discussion questions for each worship service will be included in the app.

## The five evening worship services will feature Mennonite pastors sharing messages rooted in peace Scriptures:

#### Tuesday, July 6

Lesley Francisco McClendon, senior pastor, and Caleb McClendon, assistant pastor of C3 – Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Virginia, will speak on the topic, "Peace from Roots to Fruits," based on Scriptures in Genesis and Philippians 4:6-7.

#### Wednesday, July 7

Meghan Good, teaching pastor of Trinity Mennonite Church, Glendale, Arizona, will speak on the topic, "Jesus is the Peace," based on Ephesians 2:14-16.

#### Thursday, July 8

Ana Hinojosa, immigration education coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee, Brownsville, Texas, will speak on the topic, "Feel the Peace," based on Mark 5:21-43.

#### Friday, July 9

Jon Carlson, lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pennsylvania, Mennonite Church USA board member and moderator-elect nominee, will speak on the topic, "Trust the Peace," based on Matthew 27 and Psalm 22.

#### Saturday, July 10

Glen Guyton, Mennonite Church USA executive director, will speak on the topic, "Bring the Peace," based on John 15:12-17.

#### **Bible studies**

Each morning, Wednesday through Friday, we begin the day with a Bible study led by Safwat Marzouk, associate professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. The Bible study will open with worship selections from Voices Together, the new Anabaptist hymnal and worship resource from MennoMedia.

#### Youth small groups

Small group time is your time to connect with your group. It's your opportunity to find out what they are hearing in Bible study or worship and guide them to deeper understanding. You know your group — carry forward your best practices from youth group back home, whether that's encouraging conversation in dyads or triads, journaling, drawing, singing — whatever works for your group. Here's where you find out how they're experiencing and responding to what they are learning and help them process for deeper spiritual growth.

Do this together at 11:30 a.m., after Bible study, and again in the evening. Some groups like to meet immediately after evening worship in the convention center; other groups gather in the hotel just before curfew. Do what fits your group's habits.

### Leading small groups

Here are some tips for leading small group time.

1. Begin with the prompt, "Name one thing that stood out to you."

2. Ask, "Why do you think that got your attention?"

3. Listen carefully to their answers and listen for signs of growth or resistance to change.

Think in terms of the major objectives of Christian formation, such as clarifying our image of God, understanding the Bible, following Jesus, or deepening relationship with God.

4. Then ask clarifying questions around those objectives. For example:

"Are you considering a new way to think about?"	image of God
""What does that mean for your?	understanding of the Bible
"How would that change your?"	sense of what it means to follow Jesus
"How might this expand your?"	desire to grow closer to God

5. Ask, what is difficult/energizing/worrisome/exciting about that?

6. Assure your youth that questions, discomfort, excitement, confusion, etc., are all part of growing in maturity as Christians. Affirm the signs of growth that you see and let them know you are cheering them on as they grow in faith.

7. End your small group time by praying for them as individuals, for your group, your congregation and the broader church.

#### Midday mixer

Worship leader Chris Cox will lead this time designed specifically for youth. The midday mixer will start with games and opportunities to get to know youth from other congregations. The second part of midday mixer will be an opportunity to interact with the worship speaker from the previous night's service. Bring any questions that you may have developed during their message.

#### Seminars

We have scheduled many seminars on a variety of topics. The <u>final seminar lists are available on our</u> <u>website</u> and include many seminars designed specifically for youth. The list will also be included in the printed Program Book and on the mobile app.

Consider encouraging your youth to go to an agreed-upon number of seminars, before the week starts. This can let them know what is expected of them and also give them some freedom to choose the ones they want to attend. There will be a total of eight seminar slots for youth.

### Free afternoon

If your group is looking for ideas for the free afternoon on Thursday, here are some links with local options:

- Things to do in Cincinnati
- <u>National Underground Railroad Freedom Center</u>

## Section three: Post-convention

### **Evaluations**

Watch for a link to the evaluation form in your email. Please complete the form as soon as possible. A link will also be placed on our website. The convention app will include surveys for various seminars and worship services. Your responses can help make the next convention even better.

### Videos

By late August, speaker videos will be available for download from the convention website, <u>https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/</u>.

### Wrap-up

You are encouraged to use the next two sections, "Upon re-Entry," with your youth group after returning home.

### Upon re-entry: Post-convention thoughts for the youth leader

By Emily Peck-McClain

We often think of retreats or conventions as a time to get away from our daily lives and focus on our relationship with God. This is true. But our daily lives never really leave us. When our youth come to weeks like this one, although they are physically in a different place than they are when they are at home, they cannot get away from themselves. In some way, the challenges, struggles, tasks and celebrations of daily life come with them, even though their daily life at this convention will be much different than daily life at home.

While at convention, your youth were probably asked to think about the things in their lives that get in the way of their relationship with God. They may have been asked to symbolically leave something behind as they prepare to return home and live life differently from the way they lived before. Conventions often spark a spiritual "high," where we feel close to God and leave the week ready to change the world.

As your group considers their return to daily life after this week away, the question changes a bit. Instead of "What are you leaving behind?", have them consider: "What are you taking with you?"

This week has provided community, celebration, worship, depth of experience of the Holy, spiritual friendship, humor and fun. As youth return home, many return to families who are fighting; their own struggles with things like drinking, drugs or other kinds of self-harm; tense relationships; and feelings of desperation or stagnation. Waiting for them on the other side of this convention are real-life challenges that a week like this doesn't rescue them from but rather prepares them for.

Ask yourself:

- What are my youth struggling with in their daily experiences and in their faith journeys?
- How can the community we have formed this week be a resource of strength and support for them going forward?
- How can God help me to be an adult in their lives who will confront their challenges with them?
- How can I connect with other youth leaders that I have met to support me in my ongoing commitment to the flourishing of these young people in my care?

### Upon re-entry: Reflections for youth

Take some time to talk about what the experience of convention meant to the youth, individually and as a group. You may use the following questions as guides, or let the conversation move wherever there is the most energy.

1. During convention, what did you learn about yourself? Your youth group? The wider church?

2. What experiences are going to stick with you? Are there things that you think you'll remember five years from now?

3. What stories would you tell to communicate your experience at MennoCon21?

4. What surprised you the most about convention?

5. Who was your favorite speaker, and what was the thing that stuck out the most about what they said?

6. What was the most challenging thing about the week of convention? How did you grow because of this experience?

7. What will you bring back with you from convention, in a spiritual sense?

8. What was your favorite seminar? What was the topic, and why was it important to you?

9. What was your favorite part of the worship services?

10. Which of the exhibit hall booths were most interesting to you and why?

11. What did you learn about what it means to be part of Mennonite Church USA?

12. What did you learn about Cincinnati?

13. How would you explain convention to someone who has never gone and is asking you why they should?

#### Worship Gatherings

- 1. What stood out to you most from the morning Bible studies?
- 2. What did you learn about God's peace and how it shows up in the world?
- 3. In what ways did you sense the movement of the Holy Spirit?
- 4. How do you think differently about the movement of the Spirit?
- 5. To what or whom is Christ sending you now?

#### Blessing

As you leave convention and return home, may the peace of Christ, the joy of the Lord and the breath of the Holy Spirit be with you. May you release your fears to Jesus. May you receive the Holy Spirit. May you go into the world as a sign of God's great and steadfast love. Amen.

#### See you in Kansas City in 2023!

MennoCon23 will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. Mark the dates on your calendar now: July 4-8, 2023.

## Appendix

### Meet the convention planning staff!

The convention planning team is hard at work, collaborating with leaders and church members across the country, to help ensure that MennoCon21 is a meaningful and formative event. We are all available to speak with you, and we are easily accessible by e-mail, should you ever have a question or concern.



#### Scott Hartman, director of Event Planning

Scott has been helping plan the churchwide convention for over 20 years. He works closely with contracts, schedules, exhibits, recreation and logistics to make convention a success. He loves seeing all the parts fall into place, as the convention week unfolds.

<u>ScottH@MennoniteUSA.org</u>, Mennonite Church USA Elkhart, Indiana, office

Phone direct: 574-523-3049, (toll free) 1-866-866-2872, ext. 23049



#### Sarah Chase, convention services coordinator

Sarah loves God and loves people. She especially enjoys bringing the two together and loves planning for convention! Sarah also wrangles three lively kids and her husband, who serves as a pastor.

SarahC@MennoniteUSA.org, Plain City, Ohio Phone direct: 913-961-3149, (toll free) 1-866-866-2872, ext. 34256



## Shana Peachey Boshart, denominational minister for Faith Formation

Shana has attended convention most of her adult life and has volunteered there in many capacities, most notably as a youth sponsor, member of several planning committees and co-founder of several programs that introduce youth and young adults to the delegate sessions. She looks forward to seeing youth and sponsors worshipping, learning, growing and having fun together.

ShanaPB@MennoniteUSA.org, Elkhart, Indiana

Phone or text direct: 319-936-5905, (toll free) 1-866-866-2872, ext. 33070

#### Sample 1

#### Youth group covenant for MennoCon

We agree to follow the guidelines as set forth below:

- 1. Attend all worship sessions and small group gatherings.
- 2. Meet and sit together for worship sessions.
- 3. Attend a minimum of five seminars.
- 4. Agree to turn off and put away **ALL** electronic devices during worship sessions, small group times and seminars.
- 5. Obey the established meeting and curfew times. When meeting as a group, a tardy student will be charged \$1.00 per minute late. If the youth is not present in their room at the time of curfew, they will not receive their next day's snack money.
- 6. Follow all the convention standards of conduct as listed below:
  - 1. Abide by the laws set forth by the state of Ohio and the city of Cincinnati.
  - 2. Follow the rules and regulations set forth by the hotel where we are staying.
  - 3. Show care and respect for the hotel, convention center and city employees and properties.
  - 4. Agree not to use or possess any controlled substances or items considered illegal.
  - 5. Observe the curfew of 12:30 a.m. in rooms and 1 a.m. lights out.
- 7. Depending on the incident and the guidelines broken, a youth may be required to contact their parents/guardians and make immediate arrangements to return home, at their parents' expense.
- 8. Agree to make the most of my convention experience, by participating in activities, meeting new people, acting as a positive representative of Mennonite Church USA and having lots of fun!

Youth's Signature

Parent's Signature

Sponsor's Signature

#### Sample 2

#### **COVENANT** for MennoCon

We agree to follow the guidelines as set forth below:

- ♦ Attend all worship sessions.
- ♦ Attend all small group meetings, following worship sessions.
- ♦ Attend a minimum of six seminars.
- ◆ Participate in our group's service project.

Check-in times are as follows:

• Every morning at 10:15 a.m., prior to worship (location will be determined after we arrive in Cincinnati)

• Every night at 11:30 p.m. at the hotel. All youth are to be in their rooms by 12:30 a.m. Lights out by 1 a.m.

♦ It is important that you are on time for the check-ins. If you are late, you will be assessed a \$3 fine upon the second occurrence. Thereafter, each occurrence will result in a \$3 fine.

 $\blacklozenge$  All convention rules apply. Any youth that breaks convention rules or engages in activities that are illegal, harmful or dangerous to themselves or others will be returned home, at his/her parents' expense.

Any additional items:

Youth	Date
Youth	Date
Sponsor	Date

Parent	Date
Parent	Date
Sponsor	Date

#### Sample 3

### MennoCon Group Covenant

We, the youth and sponsors of the Anyname Mennonite MYF, commit to the Lord, and to each other our intent to allow the following points to guide our attitudes and conduct while living, serving, worshiping and seeking together. We commit to:

- **1.** Abide by convention guidelines
- 2. Sit together for worship
- **3. Attend at least six seminars**
- 4. Turn off & stow all phones during worshipful times
- 5. Suck it up!
- 6. Respect those in charge
- 7. Look for opportunities for spiritual growth
- 8. Be open to forming new friendships
- 9. As appreciation to the congregation, look for ways to bring our experience home
- **10.** No guys in girls' rooms or girls in guys' rooms without an adult present
- **11**. Pray daily for those in our group
- **12.** Be on time!! (penalties may apply)
- 13. Be flexible
- 14. No fireworks
- 15. Have FUN!!