

The Future Church Summit: Schedule

The Future Church Summit A gathering to imagine an Anabaptist future for Mennonite Church USA: *How will we follow Jesus as Anabaptists in the 21st Century?*

Thursday, July 6

5:00	Doors open
5:30-6:00	Opening ceremony and introduction to the process
Building community within table groups	
6:00-6:25	Building relationships within table groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Where are you coming from?</i> • <i>Share a story about your name.</i> • <i>Share a sincere hope for this Future Church Summit.</i>
6:25-7:00	Building community in table groups: creating a covenant of our values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the values that will enable us to have meaningful and compassionate conversations at this table?</i>
7:00-8:00	Grounding in our faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appreciative inquiry interviews</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share a story of a time when you felt the most connected within the Mennonite church. ○ Share what is most life-giving and essential for you in being an Anabaptist. • <i>Table group discussion: What really stood out for you from these stories?</i> → Input to Theme Team: Please identify compelling insights describing what is most life-giving and essential in drawing people to this faith.
How our past has shaped us – and what this may mean for us going forward...	
8:00-8:15	Introduction
8:15-9:15	A journey through history: from the roots of Anabaptist formaton – and the past 100 years of the Mennonite church and the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Plenary discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What were the significant Mennonite developments, decade by decade? ○ How did these intersect with developmets in the broader world? ○ What patterns do we see emerging over time? • <i>Table group discussion → Input to Theme Team</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the main learning points from the discussion about our history? ○ What might this mean for us going forward?
9:15-9:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theme Team report: Grounding in our faith: What is most life-giving and essential?</i> • <i>Closing remarks</i> • <i>Song</i>

Acknowledging where we are; exploring how we want to be	
8:00-8:15	Opening of morning session
8:15-9:20	<p>Revisiting our past: What do we want to affirm? What do we need to lament?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Table group discussion</i> → Input to theme team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revisiting our past, what do we want to affirm and take forward? ○ What do we need to lament and let go of? • <i>Plenary discussion using 'Spiral' process</i> • <i>Theme Team report</i>
9:20-10:25	<p>Acknowledging diversity; living with differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Plenary discussion using 'Samoan Circle' process</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the implications of our diverse identities within our church? ○ Can we live with our differences? Do we choose to do so? • <i>Table group discussion</i> → Input to the Theme Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the implications of having diverse identities within our church? ○ How can we be constructive in living with our differences?
10:25-10:30	Closing
11:00-12:15	Worship
12:00-1:30	Lunch
1:30-2:00	<p>Opening of afternoon session <i>Shifting from an internal to an external focus; from the past and present to the future</i></p>
2:00-2:45	<p>What is the world yearning for? What we can contribute as a church?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Individual reflection</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What do you perceive as central challenges in the world today? • <i>Table group discussion</i> → Input to the Theme Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the key things we can collectively take action on as an Anabaptist witness in response to the world's needs?
2:45-3:00	Energizer and stretch
3:00-3:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theme Team report: What can we collectively prioritize as an Anabaptist witness in response to the world's needs?</i> • <i>'Samoan Circle' discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What does it mean to be a peace church in the 21st century? ○ What is our evangelism in the 21st century?
3:45-4:40	<p>How will we follow Jesus as Anabaptists in the 21st century?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Singing and prayer</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Personal reflections</i> • <i>Table group visioning exercise and discussion</i> → Input to the Theme Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What does it mean for us to follow Jesus as Anabaptists in the 21st century?
4:40-4:50	Energizer and stretch
4:50-5:20	What kind of church is God calling us to be? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theme Team report</i> • <i>Spiral process</i>: Given all the things we have been discovering, what kind of church is God calling us to be?
5:20-5:30	Closing
5:30-7:00	Dinner
7:00-7:20	Opening for the evening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Panic Squad improv group</i> • <i>Overview of evening session</i>
7:20-8:50	World Café about Mennonite Church USA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Orientation to World Café and recruiting table hosts</i> • <i>World Café Discussion</i> • <i>Theme Team report</i>
8:50-9:00	Closing

Saturday, July 8

What Kind of Church is God Calling Us to Be? Synthesizing the Summit

8:00-8:15	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Blessing, singing and prayer</i> • <i>Overview of the final session and shifting into the Delegate Assembly</i>
8:15-8:45	Coming together as Mennonite Church USA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theme Team report from the World Café</i> • <i>Table group buzz</i> • <i>Samoan Circle</i>: What are the key insights for priorities and things to address in the future development of Mennonite Church USA?
9:10-9:45	Synthesizing the Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theme Team Synthesis Report</i>: Review all the main inputs and themes generated throughout the Summit • <i>Conduct polls of priority messages</i>: What are the key insights and things to address in the 'Future Church Summit Outcomes' document?
9:45-10:00	Break/table swap <i>Delegates go to their assigned tables; other participants can remain in the room as observers.</i>

10:00-11:00	Closing Delegate Assembly
11:00-11:30	Doors open for adult worship
11:30-12:00	Worship