

July 6-10, 2021
Cincinnati, OH

OCTOBER 2020



I have been helping plan the churchwide convention for over 20 years. Every convention brings new and exciting opportunities and a few challenges. MennoCon21 is shaping up to be no different. With COVID-19 affecting many aspects of our lives, planning for convention has also been affected. This newsletter will highlight some of the opportunities and challenges around MennoCon21.



During the final worship service at MennoCon19, Executive Director Glen Guyton issued a challenge to Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) – #BringThePeace. We quickly adopted this as our denominational focus for the next two years and the theme for MennoCon21. Over the past months, MC USA has highlighted ways our membership is working at peace. We have also mourned areas where peace is missing in our world. MennoCon21 will be another opportunity to think about what it means to #BringThePeace.

We have assembled an amazing group of people to help plan the worship services (see photos on page 3). I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know some new friends and reconnect with long-time friends within this group. It became very clear during our first meeting that this group of people cares about MC USA, convention and also peace and how to embody the peace to which God calls us. Our next newsletter will include more information about worship service themes and speakers.

I've been asked many times what we are thinking about convention next summer in light of COVID-19. I am holding out hope that we will be able to meet in person in Cincinnati, Ohio. I have been monitoring the current situation in Cincinnati and the U.S., as well as keeping up with industrywide best practices. Staff have been talking to other convention planners to understand how they are approaching their upcoming events. We realize that 10 months from now there will likely be some restrictions related to the pandemic. We also realize some people still might not be comfortable traveling or gathering in large groups. We will continue to keep you updated as plans are formed.



Scott Hartman,
ScottH@MennoniteUSA.org
MC USA director of Event Planning





Hybrid Event

Following MennoCon19, Mennonite Church USA staff made the decision that we would offer a hybrid convention in 2021. “What is a hybrid event?” you ask. A hybrid event consists of in-person programming as well as virtual programming. We are working at exactly what the virtual option will look like. Current technology provides some exciting opportunities for people to participate remotely. At the same time, remote participation doesn’t allow community to be built the same way it does when we are together at convention. More information will be shared in the next several months about the virtual programming.



Facilities

Assuming we can meet in person, we will be gathering at the Duke Energy Convention Center in the heart of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. The convention center currently has the following protocols in place to make a safer environment for meetings:

- **Daily temperature checks and health screenings for all staff and outside vendors**
- **Hand sanitizer stations outside each meeting room and in all common areas of the building**
- **Working toward its Global Biorisk Advisory Council certification**
- **Increased cleaning, especially in high traffic areas**
- **More touchless options (faucets, soap dispensers, etc.)**

We have secured hotel rooms at the [Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza](#) and the [Hyatt Regency Cincinnati](#). These hotels are within a couple blocks of the convention center. Both Hyatt and Hilton hotel brands have added additional safety features to their already rigorous cleaning protocols.





Seminar Submission Info

It's time to submit your proposals for Equipping Seminars! For many convention goers, seminars are a highlight. As planners, we get excited about the many ways youth and adults will be challenged to grow in faith and discipleship through seminars. In these trying times, we very much need opportunities to learn the practices and skills that equip the church to live as a contrast society in witness to Christ's peace.

We have time slots for nearly 200 seminars, the majority of which are for youth or adults. A small number of slots are reserved for seminars for youth sponsors, young adults and an intergenerational group. Whether you can be there in person or not, submit your seminar idea by October 10, 2020. Find the submission form and criteria used to evaluate proposals at <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/the-experience/worship-equipping-seminars>.



*Questions about seminars can be directed to Shana Peachey Boshart
ShanaPB@MennoniteUSA.org*

Registration Pricing

Convention is a rich and valuable time to connect with people, learn and worship together! Your investment of time, energy and financial resources come together to create cherished memories.

Registration for MennoCon21 will include access to all the convention activities including worship, exhibits, equipping sessions, community groups, special events and much more! For this convention, early registration includes a convention t-shirt and lunches for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mark your calendar for March 3, 2021 for the opening of registration! Please go to the registration section on the website to access the instruction guide, worksheet, medical release information and scholarship application.



We never want the financial cost to keep you from convention, so need-based scholarships are available. We partner with congregations and area conferences to help send people to convention. Our funds will be prioritized for first-time attendees. For more information on scholarships, visit the registration page at <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration>.



*Questions about registration can be directed to Sarah Chase,
SarahC@MennoniteUSA.org*

	EARLY <i>March 3 - 31</i>	REGULAR <i>April 1 - 30</i>	LATE <i>May 1 – July 10</i>
FULL REGISTRATION Adults Delegates Youth Youth Sponsors Jr Youth Jr Youth Sponsors	Includes T-Shirt and lunches for Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	Includes T-Shirt and lunches for Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	
	\$325	\$335	\$350
SERVANT PROJECT	\$10	\$10	\$10
DAILY REGISTRATION Adults Youth Youth Sponsors Jr Youth Jr Youth Sponsors			
	\$125	\$125	\$125
VIRTUAL REGISTRATION	TBD	TBD	TBD
CHILDREN'S FULL REGISTRATION Grades K-5 & Preschool	Includes lunches for Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	Includes lunches for Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	
	\$155	\$165	\$175
CHILDREN'S DAILY REGISTRATION Grades K-5 & Preschool	\$60	\$60	\$60

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**Mennonite
Church
USA**

MennoCon is Mennonite Church USA's biennial gathering for community, worship and faith formation.