

# World Fellowship Sunday

## Worship Together: Celebrate our Anabaptist Movement

**World Fellowship Sunday helps all Anabaptist churches enter more fully into fellowship, intercession and thanksgiving with and for our global faith family.**

On January 21, 1525 at least a dozen men in Switzerland gathered to pray together and seek God's direction after the government had forbidden all those in favour of adult baptism to meet together. After the prayer, George Blaurock stood up and asked Conrad Grebel to baptize him with the true Christian baptism upon his faith and knowledge, breaking a thousand-year tradition of church-state union. After his baptism Blaurock proceeded to baptize all the others present. The newly baptized then



**“The World Fellowship Sunday celebration was a very special time. Here we are weaving a network that represents our global church united through the love of Christ. We prayed for our churches in Asia and the Pacific and took an offering for the invaluable work of MWC.”**

*– Sandra Báez, pastor of the Torre Fuerte  
Mennonite Brethren Church in Bogotá, Colombia*

**At a World Fellowship Sunday celebration in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands greetings of peace were shared by the youth of Mennonite churches in Indonesia and in Friesland, the Netherlands. “A true feeling of being a global family was expressed by many.”**

*– From a report by Gerlof Born*

pledged themselves as true disciples of Christ to teach the gospel and hold the faith, with five of them suffering a martyr's death for their faith within five years.

Today, that Anabaptist movement has grown to nearly 2 million baptized believers in over 80 countries, in about 250 conferences of churches. We are a global movement with many languages and cultures, all seeking to be true disciples of Christ, teaching the gospel and holding the faith. Some still experience persecution and even martyrdom today. Mennonite World Conference is called to be a communion of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service, and witness.

Each year, Anabaptist-related churches around the world celebrate World Fellowship Sunday. World Fellowship Sunday provides an opportunity to remember our common roots, celebrate our worldwide Anabaptist movement of faith, and to pray for each other. World Fellowship Sunday is usually held on a Sunday close to January 21.

Mennonite World Conference members from different continental regions designate writers and direct preparation of worship material reflecting life and the church in their part of the world for this annual celebration. Planning for this special day rotates among the five continental regions.



**Mennonite  
World Conference**

A Community of Anabaptist  
related Churches

**On World Fellowship Sunday, 470 delegates from two national churches met for worship in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, “to internalize and promote Mennonite identity and to consolidate the fraternal communion between the Mennonite communities of Congo.”**

– from a report by Cisca Ibanda and Charlie Malembe

**Worship materials for each year are available on the MWC website: [www.mwc-cmm.org](http://www.mwc-cmm.org)**

Mennonite World Conference is the global community of Anabaptist-related churches. We are called to be a communion (Koinonia) of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service and witness.

We welcome you contacting us for more detailed information at:

**Mennonite World Conference**

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## One Lunch Offering

Mennonite World Conference also invites a special offering to be taken for the global Anabaptist church movement on World Fellowship Sunday. One way to think about this offering is to invite every member to contribute the cost of at least one lunch in their own community to support the networks and resources of our global Anabaptist church family. This could include:

- A special offering for MWC during the worship service
- Shared fasting and prayer during mealtime with an offering for MWC
- Shared congregational meal with an offering for MWC

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**Members of Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship in Corvallis, Oregon, United States, observed World Fellowship Sunday by using MWC worship materials. As part of a special offering for MWC, they collected the costs of a single lunch in their community.**

**“We appreciated the opportunity to remember and celebrate our connections to the global Anabaptist family,”**

– Cathleen Hockman-Wert, a member of the congregation



**“One Lunch” offering bags from the World Fellowship Sunday celebration at College Community Church Mennonite Brethren in Clovis, California, United States.**