



## Mennonite World Conference

A Community of Anabaptist  
related Churches

## Congreso Mundial Menonita

Una Comunidad de  
Iglesias Anabautistas

## Conférence Mennonite Mondiale

Une Communauté  
d'Eglises Anabaptistes

www.mwc-cmm.org  
info@mwc-cmm.org

General Secretariat:  
Calle 28A No.16-41 Piso 2  
Bogotá, Colombia  
T: (57) 1 287 5738  
F: (57) 1 287 5738

North America:  
50 Kent Avenue  
Kitchener, Ontario  
Canada N2G 3R1  
T: (1) 519 571 0060  
F: (1) 519 571 1980

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Africa:  
65 Avenue de la Justice  
Kinshasa Gombe  
R.D. Congo  
T: (243) 81 375 3282

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

*"A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace" (James 3:18).*

We are writing to invite you and your congregation to observe Peace Sunday together with brothers and sisters in the global Anabaptist church family on September 22, 2013.

Following the recommendation of the 2003 Peace Council in Bulawayo regarding the establishment of Peace Sunday, the 2006 Peace Commission in Pasadena has chosen the Sunday nearest to September 21 (International Day of Peace) as a Peace Sunday to be observed by Mennonite World Conference member churches.

The International Day of Peace was established by the United Nations Resolution no. 36/67 dated 30 November 1981 to be observed for the first time on the third Tuesday of September 1982 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. Later, the UN General Assembly set 21 September as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. The resolution states:

"The Assembly, reaffirming the contribution that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace makes in strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict, (decided that) beginning with the fifty-seventh session, the Day should be observed on 21 September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace."

The resolution further declares:

"... that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day; (and that the Assembly) invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire."

The Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at the time, also asked all United Nations departments and agencies to expand their observance, extending a special invitation to civil society and highlighting the Minute of Silence at 12 noon.

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In light of this, the 2006 Peace Commission held in Pasadena decided on March 11, 2006 that:

1. The Sunday nearest to September 21 (the International Day of Peace) would be designated as a Peace Sunday to be observed in our churches around the world. For 2013, this will be September 22.
2. The MWC Peace Commission staff would prepare suggestions for scripture readings, prayer concerns, and ideas of activities to help churches observe this day.
3. Churches are invited to report back to the Peace Commission on their activities for this day.
4. Churches who already observe a different Sunday as Peace Sunday are encouraged to continue with their practice, and are invited to include the global church concerns in their prayers on the global Peace Sunday.

Along with this letter, we are sending you worship and resource material suggestions for a Peace Sunday service that you may want to use in your churches on September 22. MWC would like to hear how you observed Peace Sunday. If you have stories or reports of activities and worship events in your congregations, please send these to MWC head office in Bogota (Bogota@mwc-cmm.org), so that we can share them with the MWC church community. God's blessings to you as you work for peace!

In Christ's Name,

Robert J. Suderman  
Peace Commission Secretary