



**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

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## Membership Application to the Global Anabaptist Peace Network (GAPN)

The **Global Anabaptist Peace Network (GAPN)** is a network that seeks to connect and support peace organizations (agencies, schools, training programs, research projects, think-tanks, activist-focused initiatives, activists, scholars) that have emerged from and serve our global Anabaptist-Mennonite church communion. Our hope is to provide a supportive community as we work together at making our world a better and more just place. We want to help one another in embodying and witnessing to justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In our pursuit of these goals, the GAPN seeks to:

- **Connect** the “fruit” of our Mennonite World Conference related churches and walk in solidarity with, and support, one another.
- **Strengthen** the church and communities of peace and justice in our world and for the world.
- **Create opportunities** to explore what it means to be dedicated to Jesus’ way of peace.
- **Nourish** our Anabaptist-Mennonite Christian identity and our peace consciousness.

In seeking the above goals, the GAPN provides the following in our ongoing communal effort in being agents of peace and justice:

1. **Sharing news and resources:** we share and provide information, prayer requests, and resources (such as training and educational material) among member organizations.
2. **Connect:** we want to connect and learn from one another. In order to foster this connection, we help to provide and map organizational presence and activity and share that with member organizations.
3. **Create spaces:** we create spaces whereby member organizations can connect, learn, and be transformed through gatherings and opportunities to come together. The GAPN supports and facilitates spaces for members to meet, share, learn from one another, and connect, both incarnationally (i.e., in face-to-face gatherings) as well as virtually.

***We welcome your involvement in the GAPN!*** Please fill out this form and return it as indicated.

## GAPN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

The Global Anabaptist Peace Network (GAPN) is a global network of Anabaptist-Mennonites based agencies and organizations committed to witnessing to peace and justice, under the auspice of the Peace Commission of Mennonite World Conference (MWC).

**Name of your organization:**.....

**Street Address:** .....

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**Postal Address:**.....

.....

**Contact Person:** .....

**Telephone:** .....

**City:**..... **Country:**.....

**Email:** ..... **Website:** .....

The **Global Anabaptist Peace Network (GAPN)** is a global coalition of Anabaptist-Mennonite church-related agencies and organizations—for a more detailed description, see the Terms of Reference of the GAPN attached to this membership form. A member of the GAPN is:

- Interested and involved in peace-related ministries and working actively within its own community or in different parts of the world.
- Self-identified as rooted in an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective—see below the shared convictions for reference on the current self-description of the Global Anabaptist-Mennonite fellowship.
- Where formal organization is evident (the organization or agency has bylaws, departments, regular meetings, or a structure and work or action plans).
- Willing to contribute with different resources to the network—including agreeing to share the costs of involvement in the network through the MWC fair share approach or as otherwise agreed to.

Membership in the GAPN means:

- Commitment to sustain and actively participate in the GAPN.
- Having access to and offering resources.
- Be “developers” and “beneficiaries” of products and services of the network.
- Being invited to the network gatherings—both physical and virtual.

#### Annual Membership Contribution:

For the GAPN to function, member fees are needed. The May 2025 meeting determined that an annual contribution of \$100 is the minimum contribution. Members are encouraged to contribute up to \$300, if they are able. As well, for in-person gatherings, members need to work towards covering their travel costs since the network does not have the funds to cover the full budget. Members many need to do fundraising to assist them in covering their costs. Each year the steering committee will send out a form requesting confirmation of the funds an organization proposes to contribute.

**Please respond to each of the following questions on behalf of your organization-agency.**

- 1. How are you involved in peace ministries in your own community, country or around the world?**
  
- 2. Do you identify as rooted in an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective? What does this mean to you?**
  
- 3. Does your organization have a priority ministry that fits within a broad definition of what peace means** (conflict transformation, nonviolence, theological training, research and education, peace building, restorative justice, etc.)?
  
- 4. How is your agency or organization formally organized** (for instance, bylaws, departments of other organizations, regular meetings, or a structure and work or action plans)?
  
- 5. Do you agree in principle to help share the costs of involvement in the network as otherwise agreed to?**

6. **If you are applying as a church, are you a member of Mennonite World Conference?** (MWC membership is not required)
7. **Is your organization a member of another MWC-affiliated network?** (e.g., GASN or GMF)
8. **From the proposed actions/strategies of the GAPN, for my organization the most important is/are:** (please mark one or several of the following options with an X)
- The website (with the offered access to members of the GAPN, and through it to contact details of other member organizations, material/files, news, etc.)
  - Participating in gatherings/meetings (either in Conferences or a 6-year meeting within the framework of the Assembly of Mennonite World Conference)
  - Searching for opportunities of collaboration with other Anabaptist/Mennonite peace organizations and/or churches.
  - Finding support for our work through the network (sharing of materials, training resources, support in advocacy work, etc.)
  - Other (explain):
9. **How can my organization contribute to the GAPN?** please mark one or several of the following options with an X)
- Sharing our experiences, expertise and knowledge with other members
  - Offering our connections/networks as resources for other organizations
  - Sharing texts and materials on peace building and related topics
  - Support and respond to urgent call
  - Time of our staff team to support the work of the network
  - Funding
  - Other (explain):

**10. Please identify a person or an agency who can serve as a reference to your organization and to its Anabaptist/Mennonite commitment. Kindly inform the person that they will be contacted by a member of the GAPN and a prompt response will be appreciated.**

**Name:** .....

**Role:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Telephone:** .....

**Email:** .....

**11. Name of the person representing the applying organization:**

**Name:** ..... **Email:** .....

**Whatsapp number:** ..... **Date:** .....

***Thank you for your application for membership in GAPN***

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(For use of the GAPN)

**Date Received:** .....

**Received by:** .....



## **ATTACHMENT 1: SHARED CONVICTIONS**

### **Mennonite World Conference A Community of Anabaptist-Mennonite related Churches *Shared Convictions***

By the grace of God, we seek to live and proclaim the good news of reconciliation in Jesus Christ. As part of the one body of Christ at all times and places, we hold the following to be central to our belief and practice:

1. God is known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Creator who seeks to restore fallen humanity by calling a people to be faithful in fellowship, worship, service and witness.
2. Jesus is the Son of God. Through his life and teachings, his cross and resurrection, he showed us how to be faithful disciples, redeemed the world, and offers eternal life.
3. As a church, we are a community of those whom God's Spirit calls to turn from sin, acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, receive baptism upon confession of faith, and follow Christ in life.
4. As a faith community, we accept the Bible as our authority for faith and life, interpreting it together under Holy Spirit guidance, in the light of Jesus Christ to discern God's will for our obedience.
5. The Spirit of Jesus empowers us to trust God in all areas of life so we become peacemakers who renounce violence, love our enemies, seek justice, and share our possessions with those in need.
6. We gather regularly to worship, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, and to hear the Word of God in a spirit of mutual accountability.
7. As a world-wide community of faith and life we transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, gender and language. We seek to live in the world without conforming to the powers of evil, witnessing to God's grace by serving others, caring for creation, and inviting all people to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

In these convictions we draw inspiration from Anabaptist forebears of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, who modeled radical discipleship to Jesus Christ. We seek to walk in his name by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we confidently await Christ's return and the final fulfillment of God's kingdom.

Adopted by Mennonite World Conference  
General Council  
Pasadena, California (USA)  
March 15, 2006

## **ATTACHMENT 2: GAPN TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Global Anabaptist Peace Network -GAPN**

#### **Facilitated by the Peace Commission**

#### **Mennonite World Conference *Terms of Reference – Revised July 2025***

#### **Vision and Purpose of the GAPN**

As Christians and members from the Anabaptist-Mennonite Family, we recognize that peace is at the very center of the Gospel, and that by witnessing to justice and peace (Just-Peace) we anticipate and participate in the already-inaugurated but yet-to-be-fulfilled Kingdom of God. As we seek to walk in the ways of peace, we need companions, fellow sojourners, to support us on the road, and we them. In doing so we can walk and journey together in witnessing to God's Just-Peace.

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is a global communion comprised of 110-member churches from 61 countries around the world. These church bodies, which comprise approximately 10,180 local congregations, have produced much fruit – many peace-related organizations, programs, schools, training programs, research projects, activist-focused initiatives, activists, and scholars.

As an envisioned Global Anabaptist Peace Network (GAPN), we want to support and connect organizations and agencies that have emerged from and serve our church communion. Our hope is to foster an alternative consciousness – a consciousness of peace – as a witness to the realities and mechanisms of death and violence in the world. As such, we want to nurture an imagination built on the kingdom of God and it's all encompassing and all-embracing vision of *shalom*.

In light of this, the GAPN seeks to become a space in which it is possible to:

- Walk in solidarity with and support one another as we pursue, promote, and build peace in the world;
- Have the fruit of our churches –i.e. the organizations, programs, schools, training programs, research projects, think-tanks, activist-focused initiatives, activists, and scholars – connected and to explore ways in which to walk with one another in mutually supportive, transformational, and interdependent ways;
- Strengthen the church and communities of peace and justice in our world and for the world;
- Create opportunities to explore the meaning (theological and philosophical) and impact (ethical and practical) of peace (i.e. *shalom*) as we seek to be a Peace Church in the world, which includes exploring and addressing the root causes of conflict, violence, injustice, and oppression;
- Strengthen our Anabaptist-Mennonite Christian identity and our peace consciousness.

## **Relation with Mennonite World Conference and the Peace Commission**

The creation of networks under the MWC umbrella is an opportunity for organizations and agencies to come and walk together as we strive to participate in God's kingdom. Networks of agencies or entities that are facilitated by MWC commissions exist to resource the institutions that belong to the network. This resourcing may be exercised through meetings, materials, information, and facilitating of relationships among the members of the network.

The members of networks shall meet face-to-face every three years, normally in conjunction with the MWC General Council meetings. Official decision-making process shall be by consensus as practiced during all the official meetings of MWC.

A three-year budget for operation shall be established, and each participating member shall contribute to the budget according to the membership fee approved by the network. Other arrangement for financial participation shall be made individually. Membership fees policies for networks should reflect our desire for equitable and just relationships in a world where unequal distribution of wealth is our reality.

## **Membership and Structure of the GAPN**

### **1. Membership**

- Membership will be based on formal organizations/agencies<sup>1</sup>, in particular:
  - Those who are interested in peace from a Mennonite/Anabaptist perspective or root their existence and emergence in this perspective.
  - Those who accept the MWC Shared convictions
  - Those who are already engaged in peace-related activities
  - Those who contribute with different resources to the network
  - Those who agree to participate in a membership fee contribution
- Membership means:
  - Commitment to sustain and actively participate in the GAPN.
  - Having access to and offering resources.
  - Will be “developers” *and* “beneficiaries” of products and services of the network.
  - An invitation to the network gatherings.

<sup>1</sup> This disposition that the GAPN will initially search for agency/organization as potential members does not mean that in the future some changes of could be possible, considering specifically the potential interest and involvement of persons/individuals. In the meantime, what could be considered is different forms of relationship, endorsement or support from individual or agencies, organization or churches (non-members) and the GAPN.



## 2. Administrative Structure:

The GAPN will organize through a Steering Committee (SC). The SC will be tasked to be in contact (via email) and to meet on a regular basis (via an online platform and/or face-to-face) and follow up closely the life of GAPN members.

Some of its task will involve:

- Overseeing the work of the network
- Planning possible joint actions and meetings;
- Nurturing and promoting the exchange among member organizations;
- Facilitating the relations between the GAPN, the PC and other networks to address matters of mutual interest;
- Following up on the decisions made by the members of the GAPN;
- Making decisions and plans in line with the vision of the GAPN; about membership requests and what is part of the membership requirements, and about member fees and budget matters in general and monitoring the budget and the spending plan.

Composition and internal organization of the SC:

- There will be at least one representative from each continental region (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America), who are chosen from the membership of the GAPN, considering gender and age balance.
- A network coordinator is assigned to assist/participate the work of the network.
- The Peace Commission's (PC) Chair and Secretary are invited as observers, at any GAPN SC meeting.
- One of the GAPN SC members will serve on the PC as a liaison between the two.
- The internal leadership of the SC will include a chair, vice chair and secretary.

## What the GAPN does

### 1. ***Facilitate the sharing of information and resources:***

Share with one another urgent prayer and advocacy requests, news, stories, resources, perspectives, studies, expertise, and experiences of network members. This exchange may also include member related or driven opportunities for learning exchanges, internships, bursaries, funding, learning tours, and so forth, that may exist or arise.<sup>2</sup> Sharing in such a way would enable:

- Opportunities to empower one another
- Opportunities to learn from one another
- Opportunities to create and share resources with one another

### 2. ***Creating spaces:***

In order to create interdependent relationships, we want to enable the creation of spaces whereby such connections, synergies, and friendships can emerge.

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<sup>2</sup> Note that GAPN is not a funding organization. Our desire is to create opportunities for members themselves to share information about such funding opportunities as they exist, which is not granted by the GAPN itself.

### 3. **Membership Directory:**

In order to promote the exchange between the different agencies and organizations, one key step is to develop a membership directory which responds to the needs of the GAPN. This means going beyond simply submitting or sharing “contact details” about different Anabaptist-Mennonite organizations. It would seek to explore the context and the kind of work in which organizations are involved. This will enable the members of the GAPN to explore and consider more concrete forms of exchange with other members.

### **Guidelines for the GAPN**

Given its vision, we have identified certain ways in which the GAPN should operate:

1. The GAPN will focus on providing the infrastructure that nourishes its members. This does not exclude encouraging urgent actions, campaigns and prayer requests, among others, that can be motivated from the network. Yet, at the center of the GAPN is the idea that the member organizations (and not the network) are at the center of the process. This can be done in different forms:
  - Website: developing a website that allows members to share information, news, resources, etc.
  - Facilitating connections/exchanging of experiences: we would encourage and try to connect members with one another so that they can build relationships and share experiences.
  - Encourage participation: even though we acknowledge that being part of the network is a significant investment of resources and energy and that maintaining it beyond meeting sporadically is difficult, we want to encourage and promote the participation of the different Anabaptist-Mennonite inspired agencies.
2. The GAPN will seek to establish multidirectional engagement:
  - Toward each other (other GAPN members).
  - Toward MWC and MWC related churches.
  - Toward other agencies outside of the Anabaptist-Mennonite family of faith.
3. The GAPN will seek to foster spaces for interdependent relationship, building from the local to the global level. In this sense, the GAPN will seek to promote different levels of engagement:
  - at a micro level (e.g., encouraging local/regional involvement and/or action, such as local gatherings, conferences, advocacy involvement, etc.).
  - at a macro level (e.g., international relations; responding to political, economic, systemic realities; global gatherings, etc.).
4. Every voice matters in the life of the GAPN: we want to make sure that the different voices are heard, acknowledged, and respected in the actions and processes of the GAPN. This implies that:
  - GAPN members can participate in the GAPN meetings, contributing their valuable opinions and insights regarding decisions that affect the network.
  - GAPN members will be able to nominate and approve SC members, nominees.