



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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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace!

We write to invite you and your congregation to observe Peace Sunday together with brothers and sisters in the global Anabaptist church family on 23 September 2018. Accompanying this letter, we send worship and resource material that your churches may want to use in celebrating Peace Sunday this year.

The theme for this year's Peace Sunday is: "A Renewed Peace Church Welcomes the Stranger." Throughout the biblical narrative we encounter a God who reminds his people to show hospitality to others, especially those who are the most vulnerable in society – the widow, the orphan, and the alien. If our desire is to be a Renewed Peace Church (as we build on the [Renewal 2027](#) process on which MWC has embarked), how, therefore, do we faithfully witness to this in our context?

Rationale for Peace Sunday

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 21 September (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 on 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...". It 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."

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In light of this, the Mennonite World Conference Peace Commission, beginning on 11 March 2006, decided that,

1. The Sunday nearest to 21 September (the International Day of Peace) would be designated as a Peace Sunday to be observed in our churches around the world. For 2018, this will be 23 September.
2. The MWC Peace Commission staff would prepare suggestions for scripture readings, prayer concerns, reflections from our global communion, and ideas of activities to help churches observe this day.
3. Churches are invited to report back to the Peace Commission about their activities for this day. Please send stories and pictures to photos@mw-cmm.org.
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.

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 Peace Commission (see email address below) or to photos@mw-cmm.org, so that we can share them with our global church community. God's blessings to you as you continue your work towards Christ's peace!

Yours in Christ's peace,



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