

# 18<sup>th</sup> ANABAPTIST IDENTITY CONFERENCE

## March 21-23, 2024

Conference Location:  
Millersburg Fairgrounds  
Harvest Ridge Event Center  
8880 St. Rt. 39  
Millersburg, OH, 44654

Hosted by: Nathan & Matthias Overholt / The Christian Hymnary Publishers

*The birth of The Anabaptist Identity Conference was to awaken the conscience and arrest the alarming desertion of our people from radical Christianity.*

Who Are We? Where Have We Come From? Where are We Going?

### Thursday Afternoon, March 21

1:00 Songs, Welcome & Opening Prayer

**The Pyramids, Abraham Lincoln & Psalm 78:** Why Christians Should Study History.....Andrew Ste. Marie, Manchester, MI

**A Symbol of Authority:** An Invitation to Relationship.....Justin Denlinger, Hartville, OH

**The Deacon's Choice:** Fabulous Wealth or His Beloved Home and Community?.....Leroy Hershberger, Hutchinson, KS

5 - 10 minute Question & Answer Periods Following Each Dissertation

### Thursday Evening

5:00 Supper

6:30 Special Singing

7:00 Songs, Welcome & Prayer

**The Kingdom Constitution :** Survey of the Sermon On the Mount..... John D. Martin, Chambersburg, PA

**Preying "Christians":** Where's the Bishop?.....David Bercot, Amberson, PA

### Friday Morning, March 22

8:30 Songs, Welcome, Prayer

**From Reprobate Minds Returning:** Radical Discipleship, Intentional Community & Sex Offenders, 20 minute report.....  
.....Patrick Matthews, Chambersburg, PA

**Hunger Resources: Where's the Food & Who's Getting It?** 20 minute report.....John Higgins, Liberty, KY

**Anabaptist Buggy Tours:** Jesus Takes A Ride With You.....Philip Showalter, Windsor, KY

**The Anabaptists:** A Continuation of the Ancient Faith .....David Bercot

12:00 Lunch

### Friday Afternoon

1:30 Songs, Welcome & Prayer

**My Journey to Radical Christianity:** .....Steve Williams, Yanceyville, N.C.

**Are the Turtles Beating Us?**.....Brandon Byler, Shippensburg, PA

**To Suceava With Love**.....Leroy Hershberger

### Friday Evening

5:00 Supper

6:30 Impromptu Youth Chorus

7:00 Songs, Welcome & Prayer

**Anabaptists & Artificial Intelligence:** Ignorant or Informed? .....Chester Weaver, Itasca, TX

**Youth Topic:** A Story of Grace & Mercy.....Michael Miller, Millersburg, OH

### Saturday Morning, March 23

8:30 Songs, Welcome & Prayer

**Documentary:** The Peaceful Revolution: Amish & Mennonites 57 Years Later.....Chester Weaver

9:30 Break

**Panel Discussion**.....John D. Martin

Offering for expenses, Closing Remarks & Announcements

12:00 Lunch

Let's look at the retention rate first. Amish children know who they are. They do not confuse themselves with Protestants or Catholics. They have a clear choice between being Amish or worldly. As a culture becomes less clear about who they are, and who they are not, it becomes much easier to assimilate into surrounding culture. When anyone who names the name of Christ becomes our inner circle, we lose our identity. This becomes increasingly true as we begin to adopt worldly Christianity's definition of salvation and methods of evangelism.

Now how about family size? I repeatedly hear the argument that Amish growth is only through procreation. Honestly, I am rather weary of that argument. It just points to their incredibly successful teaching program. A Christian culture that cares for their elderly, their children, their young mothers, and their sick is nothing to be snuffed at. Plus, they honor the sanctity of marriage, make provisions for their youth to acquire life partners, structure their social lives around childcare and family life, provide business opportunities for young men, and teach gender appropriate work skills to children. Contrast this to a worldly Christian society that promotes child-free marriages, delayed marriages, nursing homes for the elderly, confusion of gender roles, and detachment from business under the guise of being free for the Lord's work.

*-Hector Troyer, Jesus And The Mennonites*

Area Contact & Lodging: Ray Miller PH 330-276-6508

Hotels: Holiday Inn PH 234-301-9004

Comfort Inn PH 330-473-4774

Hotel Millersburg PH 330-674-1457

Registration Information: 941-954-2399 voicemail only Email: [anabaptistidentityconference@gmail.com](mailto:anabaptistidentityconference@gmail.com)

Please call to leave a voicemail or email with your name, how many are in your group attending and where you are from.

Special thanks to area Amish churches who have graciously coordinated, lodged, cooked and made this conference a reality.

#### **Mission Statement**

- #1 To propose the truth of the good news of Jesus (gospel) in subjects that are relevant for our times.
- #2 To hold forth the ancient radical faith of those who've gone before us as examples for ourselves.
- #3 To provide a forum where questions can be asked without fear of reprisal.
- #4 To be too conservative for the liberals and too liberal for the conservatives hoping thereby to stir up the apathy that each camp contains.
- #5 A forum to be able to think outside of the box and question that which we've been told.
- #6 To assist Anabaptist groups in strengthening the things that remain and sending them back to their camps to build up and encourage.
- #7 To provoke Anabaptist groups to thoughtful consideration of Biblical truths lacking in their individual congregational settings.
- #8 To provide fellowship for conservative Anabaptist groups.
- #9 To respect all groups, bashing no one, and not encouraging sheep stealing but rather encouraging a building up of the church of Jesus.

#### **Evangelicals vs. Anabaptists**

Evangelicals insist on salvation by grace alone, which leads to salvation in sin rather than salvation from sin, whereas Anabaptists insist that grace empowers the believer to be genuinely Christ like in all of life, that getting saved is simply the beginning, and that Christianity is all about an obedient love-faith relationship with Christ. They believe obedience to Jesus' teachings is not optional. To evangelicals, personal salvation is the goal of Christianity. To Anabaptists, the Kingdom of God is the goal of Christianity, and personal faith in Christ is the means to that end. Evangelicals relegate the Kingdom of God to the future, whereas Anabaptists believe the Kingdom of God is a reality to be experienced now by obeying Jesus' teachings, especially the Sermon on the Mount. Evangelicals base their theology of grace alone on a misconstrued understanding of the Epistles, whereas the Anabaptists understand the Epistles in light of Jesus' clear teaching in the Gospels. Evangelicals believe Christians should use force to impose a Gospel ethic on society, whereas Anabaptists believe in two Kingdoms: the Kingdom of God in which the Gospel ethic is obeyed voluntarily without the use of carnal force and the Kingdom of this world, which keeps order in society by force. Anabaptists see the Kingdom of God as the society God originally intended, made possible by the death and resurrection of Christ that gives the believer power to conquer sin and demonstrate what the whole world would look like if everybody obeyed the King. John D. Martin