



*We cannot stop telling
about the wonderful things
we have seen and heard.*
—Acts 4:20 *NLT*

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October 5, 2004

You have been reading and hearing announcements about Charlotte '05. With this letter you are receiving more materials to inform you and to inspire you to register for this special joint assembly of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA.

There are several reasons for meeting together as two church bodies:

- a) It gives us an opportunity to worship, learn, fellowship and discern together with a sister church on the other side of a political border that separates us.
- b) It gives us the opportunity to see the agenda of our national church bodies with new eyes through being in close proximity during our delegate discernment sessions.
- c) It models the trans-national character and agenda of the Kingdom of God as well as the globalism of the 21st century.
- d) It recalls our common history, shared in our predecessor organizations, Mennonite Church and General Conference Mennonite Church, and gives us opportunity to connect with people we have known in those settings.

Many of the events will be shared between both churches: worship, seminars, entertainment, meals, and informal conversations. The youth convention will be one event for youth of both countries. One of the delegate sessions will be held together—Wednesday afternoon for three hours we will talk about our common vision and foundations of faith from our past that still guide us for the future.

Except for Wednesday afternoon, both delegate bodies will meet in separate sessions. We will report to each other the work that we are doing, but our agendas will be different.

On behalf of our respective churches, we invite you to be part of this historic gathering. We're so excited we "Can't Keep Quiet" about getting together. We think you will feel the same.

Sincerely

Jim Schrag
Executive Director
Mennonite Church USA

Dan Nighswander
General Secretary
Mennonite Church Canada

A joint convention of
Mennonite Church Canada and USA

