



## 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



### Young Anabaptists (YABs) Network Terms of Reference

#### PURPOSE

On the foundation of our Anabaptist identity, through global and local networking, we as young people want to walk together, empower and support each other in fellowship, decision-making, and peace-making initiatives.



#### FOCUS

1. Create some infrastructure for **networking** within young people, both through face-to-face and online interaction
2. Encourage **fellowship** and closer relationship within young people, and with other groups in the church, locally and globally
3. **Capacity building** for young people
4. Provide space for young people to influence **decision-making** in the church
5. Promoting **peace-making** and the **Anabaptist identity** among the young people

#### Focus 1 – Networking

Goals:

- Create platforms, face-to-face and online, for young people to interact with each other, locally and globally.
- Create a network of committed young Anabaptists who will help networking to happen, either by translation, sharing of information, or preparation of events.

#### Focus 2 – Fellowship

Goals:

- For young people to have strong real relationships with each other, both locally and globally.
- For them to have a sense and understanding that they are a part of one real global family that supports each other, prays for each other, and is responsible for each other.
- For young people to participate and share their gifts more with the global and local church, as they realize their important role in the global family.

#### Focus 3 – Capacity Building

Goals:

- Equip young people to serve and make a difference.
- Emphasize the importance of mentoring and training for young members of the church.
- Improve awareness of exchange, training, service and scholarship opportunities for young people.

#### Focus 4 – Decision-Making

Goals:

- Open the ways for young Anabaptists to get more involved in church activities and decision-making locally and globally.
- Bring up the voices and ideas of the young Anabaptists to MWC structures and ensure that these messages are heard.
- Provide opportunity for young Anabaptists to gather to study, discuss relevant issues, and make decisions.

#### Focus 5 – Anabaptist Identity and Peace-Making

Goals:

- Strong foundation on the Anabaptist identity throughout the youth network within MWC.
- Youth identified with the Anabaptist tradition and peace-making processes.

Through the above goals, and the support of the different groups in the local and global church, we hope that youth in MWC will look like the following in the long term:

- An empowered young body / arm that is involved in decision making in their local church, conference and MWC.
- A group with a defined Anabaptist identity. They know who they are, what they believe and what makes them unique.
- A group who has strong fellowship and real relationship with each other, not just locally but globally, and one who has a sense that they are one global yet real family that supports each other.
- They are active members of the body of Christ, devoted to discipleship, peace-making and transforming the realities in their communities.

## **STRUCTURE**

### **1. Format and name**

The youth committee does not wish to be a Commission – which obligates half of its committee member to come from General Council (a vast majority of whom are not youth), rather a permanent network within the MWC structure that is connected to the voice and realities that young people are facing continentally and globally.

The name **YABs**, short of Young AnaBaptists, describes the network of youth and young adults under MWC, and future committee members be named the YABs committee.

### **2. Committee members, leadership, terms of service**

The youth committee consists of five members, one representing each continent, chosen primarily (but not necessarily) from among the GYS delegates. Each member has equal say in decision-making, and should make every strategic decision by vote in consensus.

The team will choose a chairperson from among the five, whose main responsibilities are (a) being a facilitator to discussions, (b) be the main face or contact person on youth-related correspondence, and (c) be an overseer to the youth funds along with the Mentor.

The committee members' term starts after one GYS and ends in the next GYS, roughly a 6-8 year term, with the possibility of midway replacement (e.g. because of relocation, study, family or work commitment). Two people from the existing team will continue on to next team to ensure smooth transition.

During the new committee members' first meeting, a time should be set aside to learn each other's culture, leadership and decision-making style, to ensure effective communication throughout their term.

### **3. Personnel needs**

The YABs committee reports to MWC General Secretary and is accountable to the Executive Committee on annual basis.

To assist with the administrative tasks, the YABs committee is equipped with a dedicated staff member on part-time basis. The YABs committee should also be able to assign certain tasks to various young volunteers, mainly chosen from the pool of talents that have participated in GYS, to provide opportunity for more young people to exercise and share their gifts within the MWC structure.

To ensure smooth transitioning between one youth committee to another, any MWC youth officer would be one that has sat in the previous team.

*Based on the Blueprint approved by the MWC Executive Committee. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 2010.*

(Note: Whenever the term “youth” is used, it refers to both youth and young adult, loosely referring to teenagers plus young adults up to the age of 35.)