



**Mennonite
Schools
Council**

Affiliated with the
Mennonite Church

High School Bible Curriculum

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The People of God: Growth and Struggles of the Church in History

**RECOMMENDED FOR GRADE 11
SEMESTER COURSE**

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OVERVIEW

This course surveys 21 centuries of Christianity with a specific concentration on the growth of the Anabaptist perspective. As with any survey course, areas of focus and coordination with other related courses must be determined. This outline begins with a look at Acts and is followed by a study of the influence of early church fathers, Constantine, Augustine, the Crusades, powerful popes and the Renaissance. The Reformation, pietism, missions and deism are examined. Anabaptism's rise and spread into Holland, Moravia and finally the West are given attention. After a look at the growth of Anabaptism around the world in the 20th and 21st centuries, Anabaptism is compared with other Christian disciplines.

Mennonite Schools Council (MSC) has commissioned the text, *Through Fire and Water*, to support this course. The 2010 edition by Steve Nolt provides stories and information for all units, from the early church to the spread of Anabaptism around the world. Schools are encouraged to have copies available for student use.

This outline does not define how the units are paced. It is suggested that the curriculum is developed with a sensitivity for growth in both content-knowledge and personal faith formation. Building in-depth understanding will mean that not all content is "covered." Biblical literacy may vary considerably. Pretests or other formative assessment strategies may help the teacher better understand the needs of the students. Learning groups, portfolios, assignment choices and other strategies for differentiated learning will be especially useful. In addition, the students may be coming from a number of other school settings. Activities that build a sense of community will help the school culture of learning, dialogue and support for faith development. Simulations and other "hands-on" activities are especially effective in engaging students of all backgrounds in the biblical story. Bible memory assignments can be very meaningful learning experiences with long-term rewards. Video clips can lead to interesting discussion of story themes, characters, alignment of video with Scripture and other topics. Journals and assessment activities can be useful in encouraging growth since students are asked to articulate elements of what they know, questions they have and what they believe.

See the Teacher Resources section of this course and the other courses for a variety of tools for teacher preparation, classroom activities and student assignments. The General Introduction to the curriculum also contains a foundational resource list for youth ministry and Mennonite faith perspectives.

The objectives of “The People of God: Growth and Struggles of the Church in History” relate to the following educational objectives of _____ : *(Fill in name of school and list relevant objectives.)*

UNIT 1: ACTS OF APOSTLES

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Understand the reasons for Jewish opposition to the church after Pentecost.
2. Identify details regarding Paul's first two missionary journeys.
3. Reflect on the conversion of Saul, the Ethiopian eunuch and Cornelius.
4. Take a modern issue facing the church and try to arrive at a consensus decision following the Acts 15 model.

CONTENT

1. Pre-Pentecost
 - a. Jesus commissions the church (Matthew 16:13-28).
 - b. The structure of the book of Acts is based on Acts 1:8.
2. Pentecost, "the birthday of the church"
 - a. Jewish origins of Pentecost: the giving of the law
 - b. Christian celebration of Pentecost: the giving of the Spirit
 - c. Keys of Peter's sermon on the resurrection of Jesus
 - d. The Spirit empowers community (Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-5:11)
3. Post-Pentecost
 - a. Early witness in Jerusalem and Judea (Acts 3-4)
 - b. Persecution drives apostolic community to go out of Jerusalem (Acts 6-7)
 - c. Early witness in Samaria (Acts 8)
 - d. Conversion of Saul, "apostle to the Gentiles" (Acts 9)
 - e. Witness to the "ends of the earth"—Gentiles—begins (Acts 10-11)
 - f. Synopsis of Paul's journeys (present structure of Acts 13-28)
4. Characteristics of apostolic Christianity
 - a. Its diversity: Hebrews and Hellenists (Acts 6), "God-fearers" (Acts 10:2), "proselytes" (Acts 6:5) and "weak and strong" (Romans 14-15)
 - b. Early confessions (I Corinthians 12:3, 15:3-5)
 - c. Worship and hymns (Philippians 2:5-11)
 - d. Its leadership (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - e. Decision-making (Acts 15)
5. Identities of the early church: brotherhood, ecclesial/church, body of Christ, saints, "the Way," etc.

MATERIALS, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Book of Acts, chapters 3-19
3. Kraus, C. Norman, and Alan Kreider. *Community of the Spirit: How the Church is in the World*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2008.
4. Articles from current Mennonite periodicals
5. Metzgar, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development and Significance*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

UNIT 2: EARLY CHURCH TO RENAISSANCE

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Explain dynamics of Christianity after CE 313.
2. Understand the teachings of Augustine.
3. Understand the rise and function of the papacy from New Testament times to Gregory I.
4. Understand the role of the Pope Hildebrand, Pope Innocent III, and the Crusades.
5. Compare the origin, spread and teaching of Christianity with Islam.

CONTENT

1. The early church comes alive
 - a. Message: Jesus Christ, heresy, baptism, the rule of faith, and saving not forcing
 - b. Identity and lifestyle
 - i. Living like others, living differently
 - ii. Wealth
 - iii. Respect for life
 - iv. Prayer for authorities
 - c. Christian culture and counterculture
 - d. A dialogue with Justin Martyr, an early apologist
 - e. The story of the martyrdom of Polycarp
 - f. Some examples of early church worship
 - g. Christians in conflict
 - i. Roman views of Christians
 - ii. Christian views
 - iii. Martyrdom and suffering
 - iv. Responses to suffering
 - h. Early church and mission
 - i. Conversion
 - ii. Preaching and apologetics
 - iii. Life and suffering
 - iv. Prayer for healing and exorcism
 - i. Early church and worship
 - i. Gathering and order of service
 - ii. Honoring the poor
 - iii. Prayers: structured and free

- j. Towards the mass church
 - i. Worldliness of Christians
 - ii. Constantine's conversion
 - iii. Empire accommodates church (Edict of Milan, CE 313)
 - iv. Church accommodates empire (Synod of Arles, CE 314)
 - v. Legislation about Sunday (CE 321)
 - vi. Constantine superintends determination of doctrine (Nicene Creed, CE 325)
 - vii. Constantine despoils pagan temples
 - viii. "God's kingdom" come
 - ix. Mass worship
 - x. Justifying compulsion
- 2. Constantine, Augustine and Gregory I
 - a. Constantinian synthesis
 - b. Augustine's theology
 - c. Asceticism and monasticism
 - d. Rise of papacy
 - e. Gregory I
- 3. Islam, strong popes and Crusades
 - a. Rise and challenge of Islam
 - b. Charlemagne and his times
 - c. Hildebrand
 - d. Crusades
 - e. Innocent III
 - f. Albigenses and Waldenses
 - g. Franciscans and Dominicans
- 4. The Renaissance
 - a. Background
 - b. Influence on society
 - c. Humanism
 - d. Leaders and their works

MATERIALS, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Kuiper, B.K. *The Church in History*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
3. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed. *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.

4. Driver, John. *How Christians Made Peace With War*. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1988.
5. Woodbridge, John D. *Great Leaders of the Christian Church*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1988.
6. Student research and debate

UNIT 3: REFORMATION AND SWISS ANABAPTISM

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Discover the two movements using the label “Christian”: the State Church and so-called heretics.
2. Describe the seven sacraments.
3. Understand reasons for the Reformation.
4. Associate the major reformers with their viewpoints.
5. Understand the differences in thinking between State Church Christianity and Anabaptism.
6. Compare the Schleithem Confession of Faith and Zwingli.

CONTENT

1. Pre-Reformation reformers
 - a. John Wycliffe
 - b. John Huss
2. Salvation by sacraments
 - a. Baptism
 - b. Confirmation
 - c. Confession of Sin
 - d. Eucharist
 - e. Extreme unction
 - f. Marriage
 - g. Ordination
3. Reasons for the Reformation
 - a. Reform abuses in the church
 - b. Wycliffe, Huss and Erasmus
 - c. Sacramentarians
 - d. Humanists
 - e. National opposition to Rome
4. The Reformers
 - a. Luther
 - b. Zwingli
 - c. Calvin

5. Swiss Reformation
 - a. Conrad Grebel
 - b. Felix Manz
 - c. George Blaurock
 - d. Schleithem Confession of Faith
6. The Counter-Reformation
 - a. Ignatius Loyola founds the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits.
 - b. Counter-Reformation or Catholic Reformation?
 - c. Catholic mystics
 - d. The Oratory of Divine Love
 - e. Pope Paul III's reform commission
 - f. Roman Inquisition and the Index
 - g. Council of Trent
 - h. Role of Calvinists and Jesuits in ideological warfare
 - i. Early beginnings of religious toleration: Erasmus, Anabaptists and Queen Elizabeth

MATERIALS, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Kuiper, B. K. *The Church in History*. Grand Rapids: Wm. E. Eerdmans, 1995.
3. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed. *Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.
4. Schleithem Confession of Faith
5. Assign oral reports on characters such as Conrad Grebel and George Blaurock.
6. Dramatize events such as the trial of Michael Sattler.
7. *Luther*. Exploration Films. MGM Studios, 2007. DVD.
8. *The Radicals*. Sisters and Brothers Production. Vision Video, 1990. DVD.
9. Braght, Thieleman Jan van. *The Martyrs Mirror*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1982.

Images available online

<http://www.bethelks.edu/mla/holdings/scans/martyrsmirror/>

Text available online <http://www.homecomers.org/mirror/contents.htm>

UNIT 4: HUTTERITES AND DUTCH ANABAPTISTS

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Distinguish between the Hutterite and Swiss Brethren positions.
2. Understand dynamics of Hutterite history.
3. Understand the role of the Dutch Anabaptists.
4. Compare the life, times and teachings of Menno Simons with Jacob Hutter.
5. Understand the differences between Dutch Anabaptism and English Baptists.
6. Compare and contrast the Dordrecht and Schleithem Confessions of Faith.

CONTENT

1. Hutterian Brethren
 - a. Tauferjagerin Tirol
 - b. Hubmaier at Nicolsburg
 - c. Hut vs. Hubmaier
 - d. Stabler vs. Schwertler
 - e. Jacob Hutter
 - f. Golden Age
 - g. Life in Bruderhof
 - h. Thirty Years' War
 - i. Transylvania and Russia
 - j. Migration to U.S. in 1874
 - k. Habaner
 - l. Schmiedleit, Dariusleit and Lehrleit
 - m. World War I
 - n. Land problems
 - o. Society of Brothers
2. Dutch Mennonites
 - a. Melchior Hoffman
 - b. Muenster
 - c. Obbenites
 - d. Menno Simons
 - e. State Church versus Anabaptists
 - f. Batenburgers, Jorists and Adam Pastor
 - g. Witness through suffering
 - h. English Anabaptists
 - i. Dordrecht Confession of Faith

3. Summary of the Anabaptist vision
 - a. Scripture alone
 - b. By the power of the Spirit
 - c. Following Christ in life
 - d. Love
 - e. Believers only
 - f. The rule of Christ: admonition
 - g. Mutual aid
 - h. The beginning of a vision

MATERIALS, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed. *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.
3. Dordrecht Confession of faith
4. *Hutterites: To Care or Not to Care*. Ruth, John L. Shanachie Entertainment, 1993. DVD.
5. Bender, Harold S. *The Anabaptist Vision*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1944.
6. Bragt, Thieleman Jan van. *The Martyrs Mirror*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1982.

Images available at:

<http://www.bethelks.edu/mla/holdings/scans/martyrsmirror/>

Text available online <http://www.homecomers.org/mirror/contents.htm>

UNIT 5: PURITANS, PIETISTS AND METHODISTS

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Compare Puritanism, Pietism and Methodists.
2. Compare England before and after John Wesley.
3. Compare the life teachings and times of Count Zinzendorf and John Wesley.

CONTENT

1. Puritans
 - a. English Reformation
 - b. Puritan movement
 - c. Separatists
 - d. Civil war
 - e. Puritan domination
 - f. Restoration of the crown
2. Pietism
 - a. New movement in Lutheran church
 - b. Philip J. Spener
 - c. August Francke
 - d. Ecclesiolae in ecclesia
 - e. Unitas Fratrum
 - f. Count Van Zinzendorf
 - g. Herrnhut
 - h. Moravians and mission
3. Methodists
 - a. Wesley brothers
 - b. Four influences on John Wesley's life
 - c. Wesley and Moravians
 - d. Religious conditions in England
 - e. Wesley's message
 - f. Wesley's influence
 - g. George Whitefield

MATERIALS, RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES:

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Kuiper, B.K. *The Church in History*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

UNIT 6: RUSSIAN MENNONITES AND AMERICAN MIGRATION

Course content in Units 6-9 may be tailored to make connections with elements of the school's geography and history.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Distinguish between Prussian migration to Russia and Swiss German Russian migration to the U.S.
2. Understand similarities and differences between Mennonites and Quakers.
3. Describe Mennonite experiences in the American Revolution and Civil War.
4. Understand the impact of Funk, Coffman, Kauffman and Bender.
5. Describe dynamics of Mennonites and other Christians under democratic and totalitarian regimes.

CONTENT

1. Mennonites in Russia
 - a. Catherine II's invitation
 - b. Chortitza colony
 - c. Molotschna colony
 - d. Amtrakt and Alexanderthal
 - e. Johann Carniers
 - f. Growth in Russia
 - g. Religious development
 - h. Economic and social progress, 1850-1920
 - i. Later developments
 - j. Present conditions
2. Migration to America
 - a. Germantown in 1683
 - b. Mennonite and Quaker relations
 - c. Origin and faith of Quakers
 - d. Black and Indian relations
 - e. Hans Herr
 - f. Groffdale - Weaverland
 - g. Local connections for North American schools
 - h. Mennonites in U.S. Revolution and Civil War
 - i. Arrival of Russian Mennonites

3. 19th- and 20th-century Mennonites
 - a. John F. Funk
 - b. John S. Coffman
 - c. Daniel Kauffman
 - d. Harold Bender
 - e. J.C. Wenger

ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed. *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.
3. Dyck, Peter and Elfrieda. *Up from the Rubble*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1991.
4. Ruth, John L. *'Twas Seeding Time: A Mennonite View of the American Revolution*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 1999.
5. Horst, Sam. *Mennonites in the Confederacy*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1967.
6. "American Civil War" *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online*. Web. <www.gameo.org/encyclopedia/contents/A457.html>
7. Role plays on Mennonite migrations

UNIT 7: AMISH AND BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Course content in Units 6-9 may be tailored to make connections with elements of the school's geography and history.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Compare the beliefs of Anabaptist groups such as the Amish and Brethren in Christ.

CONTENT

1. Amish
 - a. Jacob Ammon
 - b. Ammon's convictions
 - c. Split in 1693
 - d. Migration to U.S.
 - e. Old Order Amish
 - f. New Order Amish
 - g. Fellowship Amish
 - h. Beachy Amish
 - i. Amish life
2. Brethren/German Baptists
 - a. Radical Pietists
 - b. Schwarzenau
 - c. May 23, 1708
 - d. Early growth
 - e. Migration to U.S. in 1719
 - f. Peter Becker
 - g. Conrad Beissel
 - h. Brethren distinctives
 - i. Brethren schisms

MATERIALS, RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed., *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.
3. *The Amish: A People of Preservation*. Ruth, John L., and John A. Hostetler. Updated. PBS, 2000.

4. Don Kraybill has written a wide selection of books on the Amish. Information is available on Don's website: <http://users.etown.edu/k/kraybilld/books.htm>.

UNIT 8: RISE OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AND NORTH AMERICAN MENNONITES

Course content in Units 6-9 may be tailored to make connections with elements of the school's geography and history.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Distinguish between Catholic and Protestant missions.
2. Reflect on the Mennonite experience with the issues of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.
3. Differentiate between past and present Mennonite groups.
4. Examine the current vision and goals of the Mennonite Church.

CONTENT

1. Rise of Christian missions
 - a. Reason for missions
 - b. Roman Catholic missions
 - c. Protestant missions
2. Mennonite struggles
 - a. Revivalism
 - b. Conservative schisms
 - c. Progressives
 - d. Old Orders
3. General Conference and Mennonite Church merger
4. Mennonites in North American environment
 - a. Economics
 - b. Language
 - c. Spirituality
5. Current "missional" emphasis of Mennonite Church USA
 - a. Definition from website: "As followers of Christ, our mission is to develop Christ-likeness in all of life. As a result of our call to follow Christ, Mennonite Church USA has adopted the following missional definition. It serves as a guide for churches, conferences and agencies as they seek to follow God's mission in the world."

- b. A missional church is:
 - i. Shaped by participating in the creative love and reconciling mission of God through Christ.
 - ii. Sent by God's Spirit as Jesus was sent, proclaiming God's presence and power in the world.
 - iii. Visibly Christ-like as it engages its culture.
 - iv. Willing to take risks through the power of the Holy Spirit in light of God's final victory in Christ.
 - c. "A congregation which practices the above [5b] will be guided in all of its life by a missional intention in worship, discernment, discipling believers, witness and its life together." - (See www.mennoniteusa.org/Default.aspx?tabid=124, "Pathways to a Missional Future." Mennonite Church USA. Web.)
6. Contemporary issues of the 20th and 21st centuries (See Unit 10 for additional info.)

MATERIALS, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed., *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.
3. Refer to the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee website (www.mcusa-archives.org).
4. Check the Mennonite Mission Network website (www.mennonitemission.net) for videos and resources on current mission topics.
5. Check Mennonite Church USA website (www.mcusa.org) for information on current vision and work of the denomination.
6. Check Mennonite press outlets such as *The Mennonite* (www.themennonite.org) and *Mennonite Weekly Review* (www.mennoweekly.org) for articles and information about current issues. Archives can be searched to compare perspectives over time.

UNIT 9: MENNONITES AROUND THE WORLD

Course content in Units 6-9 may be tailored to make connections with elements of the school's geography and history. Countries below had some of their region's largest membership as of 2009.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Grow in understanding the relationships between culture/ethnicity and religion.
2. Survey the role of the Mennonite Church in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
3. Understand growth patterns in the Mennonite/Brethren in Christ Churches in various parts of the world.

CONTENT (See Unit 10 for more resources regarding "global Christianity.")

1. African Mennonites
 - a. Mennonite beginning in Africa
 - b. Congo
 - c. Ethiopia
 - d. Tanzania
 - e. Zimbabwe
2. Asian Mennonites
 - a. Asian religions and culture
 - b. India
 - c. Indonesia
 - d. Vietnam
3. Mennonite churches in Latin America
 - a. Latin American culture
 - b. Mexico
 - c. Paraguay
 - d. Honduras

MATERIALS, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed. *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.
3. The Mennonite World Conference website includes a map of church membership around the world:
www.mwc-cmm.org/en15/files/MWC%20Map%202009%20Oct%20FINAL.pdf.

4. Refer to the current issue of the *Mennonite Yearbook and Directory* for statistics.
5. Resource speakers: Invite returned missionaries or mission staff personnel to speak to the class. Skype or other online phone/video connections can be used for live conversation with persons around the world.
6. Connections with local populations or congregations can be great resources.

UNIT 10: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CHRISTIANITY

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Understand the diverse viewpoints of different Christian disciplines and distinguish between Catholic, Protestants, Anabaptists and others.
2. Understand the difference between fundamentalists and liberals.
3. Become familiar with the rationalistic views of deism and distinguish deism from historic Christianity.
4. Differentiate between statements representing Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism.
5. Review Anabaptist principles.
6. Grow in understanding that we are a part of the people of God, the church in history.

CONTENT

1. Review of major Christian groups
 - a. Protestant
 - i. Liberal-Fundamentalist controversy
 1. 19th-century scientific world view
 - a. Darwin
 - b. Freud
 - c. Marx
 2. Liberalism
 - a. Moral experience - heart of religion
 - b. Rauschenbush, father of social gospel
 - c. Genesis myth
 - d. Redefine miracles
 - e. Question of the deity of Christ
 3. Fundamentalists
 - a. Reaction to liberals
 - b. Charles Hodge and B.B. Warfield
 - c. Essentials of faith: deity of Christ and blood atonement
 - d. Evangelicals emerge from Fundamentalists
 - ii. Mainstream
 - iii. Evangelical

- b. Catholic
 - i. Theology
 - ii. Liturgy and sacraments
 - c. Orthodox Christian Church
 - i. Liturgy
 - ii. Icons
 - iii. Monasticism
 - d. Pentecostalism
2. Attacks on Christianity
- a. Enlightenment
 - b. Roots of Rationalism
 - i. Hugo Grotius
 - ii. Rene Descartes
 - iii. Newtonian physics
 - c. Deism
 - i. Universal
 - ii. God, the great architect
 - iii. Moral law
 - iv. Reason
 - v. High view of humanity
 - d. Unitarian church in 1774
 - i. Reject Trinity, miracles and atonement
3. World religions (*If world religions are not addressed in other areas of school curriculum, this may be a good placement.*)
- a. Islam
 - b. Hinduism
 - c. Buddhism
 - d. Judaism
4. Post-Christendom
- a. Post-modern values
 - b. Influence of technology
5. The rise of the global church - Refer to the following books:
- a. Jenkins, Phillip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press USA, 2007.
 - b. Noll, Mark. *The New Shape of World Christianity*. Westmont, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2009.
 - c. Rah, Soong Chan. *The Next Evangelicalism*. ReadHowYouWant, 2009.

6. Review of Anabaptist beliefs
 - a. Believers' church
 - b. Repentance
 - c. Accountability
 - d. Discipleship
 - e. Peace, nonviolence and justice
 - f. Two-kingdom view
 - g. Mission and evangelism
 - h. No faith/no works dichotomy

MATERIALS, RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
2. Dyck, Cornelius J., ed. *An Introduction to Mennonite History*. 3rd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1993.
3. Klaassen, Walter. *Anabaptism: Neither Catholic Nor Protestant*. 3rd ed. Kitchener: Pandora Press, 2001.
4. Student reports/presentations: student choice of a person, religious theory/group or contemporary issue
5. Jenkins, Phillip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press USA, 2007.
6. Kreider, Alan, Eleanor Kreider, and Paulus Widjaja. *A Culture of Peace: God's Vision for the Church*. Intercourse: Good Books, 2005.
7. Kreider, Alan. *Journey Towards Holiness: A Way of Living for God's Nation*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1987.
8. Weaver, J. Denny. *Becoming Anabaptist: The Origin and Significance of Sixteenth Century Anabaptism*. 2nd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2005.
9. Murray, Stuart. *Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World*. Carlisle: Paternoster Pub., 2004.
10. Noll, Mark. *The New Shape of World Christianity*. Westmont: Intervarsity Press, 2009.
11. Rah, Soong Chan. *The Next Evangelicalism*. ReadHowYouWant, 2009.
12. "Major religious groups" *Wikipedia*. Web.
 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_religious_groups>
13. Kreider, Alan and Eleanor. "Worship and Mission after Christendom – Sample Chapter." *The Anabaptist Network*. Web. <www.anabaptistnetwork.com/node/523>
14. Yoder, John Howard. *The Royal Priesthood: Essays Ecclesiastical and Ecumenical*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1994. An excerpt follows:

How then do we face de-Constantinization? If we meet it as just another turn of the inscrutable screw of providence, just one more chance to state the Constantinian position in new terms, then the judgment that has already begun will sweep us along in the collapse of the culture for which we boast that we are responsible. But if we have an ear to hear what the Spirit says to the churches, if we let ourselves be led out of the inferiority complex that the theologies of the Reformation have thus far imposed on free church thought, if we discover as brethren in a common cause the catacomb churches of East Germany and the Brüderschaften of West Germany, if we puncture the “American dream” and discover that even in the land of the God-trusting post office and the Bible-believing chaplaincy we are in the same essentially missionary situation, the same minority status as the church in Sri Lanka or Colombia; if we believe that the free church, and not the “free world,” is the primary bearer of God’s banner, the fullness of the One who fills all in all, if we face de-Constantinization not as just another dirty trick of destiny but as the overdue providential unveiling of a pernicious error; then it may be given to us, even in the twentieth century, to be the church. For what more could we ask?

TEACHER RESOURCES

Used copies of many of these resources are available online (e.g. www.amazon.com).

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Finkel, Donald L. *Teaching with Your Mouth Shut*. Portsmouth: Boynton/Cook, 2000.

Herschberger, Michele. *God's Story, Our Story: Exploring Christian Faith and Life*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2003.

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Kauffmann, Joel, and Don Yost. "Mennonite Church USA News: Readers Theater Scripts for Congregations." Mennonite Church USA. Web.
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Klaassen, Walter. *Anabaptism: Neither Catholic Nor Protestant*. 3rd ed. Kitchener: Pandora Press, 2001.

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Krahn, Cornelius. *Smith's Story of the Mennonites*. 5th ed. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2005.

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Kreider, Robert, Nelleke Schiere, and Jacob Schiere. *Anabaptist Mennonite Timeline II: Living Echo of Menno Simons*. Newton: Faith and Life Press, 2009.

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"Mennonite Youth: YMLT Tip Jar." Mennonite Church USA. Web.
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- Noll, Mark. *The New Shape of World Christianity*. Westmont: Intervarsity Press, 2009.
- Nolt, Steven M., and Harry Loewen. *Through Fire and Water: An Overview of Mennonite History*. Rev. ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2010.
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- Roth, John R. *Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2005.
- . *Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2007.
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- "Youth Peace Resources." *Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA*. Web. <<http://peace.mennolink.org/youth.html>>

FURTHER READING SUGGESTIONS from Steve Nolt, textbook writer

A concise introduction to Mennonite history:

Roth, John D. *Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2006.

A comprehensive reference source on Anabaptist-Mennonite history and theology:

Dyck, Cornelius J., and Dennis D. Martin, eds. *Mennonite Encyclopedia*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1955-1990. Five volumes.

Its contents, with some updates, are also available online at www.gameo.org.

For more on 16th-century Anabaptism:

Snyder, C. Arnold. *Following in the Footsteps of Christ: The Anabaptist Tradition*. Orbis Books, 2004.

Weaver, J. Denny. *Becoming Anabaptist: The Origin and Significance of Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism*. 2nd ed. Scottdale: Herald Press, 2005.

A concise summary of Anabaptist theology:

Snyder, C. Arnold. *From Anabaptist Seed: Exploring the Historical Center of Anabaptist Teachings and Practices*. Intercourse: Good Books, 2008.

For some of the Anabaptists' own writings:

Klaassen, Walter, ed. *Anabaptism in Outline*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1981.

Dyck, C.J., ed., *Spiritual Life in Anabaptism*. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1995.

There are good books on almost every aspect of the North American Mennonite experience; a few recent examples are:

Epp, Marlene. *Mennonite Women in Canada: A History*. University of Manitoba Press, 2008.

Shearer, Tobin Miller. *Daily Demonstrators: The Civil Rights Movement in Mennonite Homes and Sanctuaries*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.

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Key studies of Russian Mennonite history:

Urry, James. *None But Saints: The Transformation of Mennonite Life in Russia, 1789-1889*. Pandora, 1988.

Toews, John B. *Czars, Soviets, and Mennonites*. Scottdale: Faith & Life Press, 1982.

For more information on Mennonites and Brethren Christ around the world:

See books in the Global Mennonite History Project, sponsored by Mennonite World Conference. Volumes on Asia and North America are forthcoming.

- *Anabaptist Songs in African Hearts: Africa*. Intercourse: Good Books, 2006.
- *Testing Faith and Tradition: Europe*. Intercourse: Good Books, 2006.
- *Mission and Migration: Latin America*. Intercourse: Good Books, 2010.

On the Web:

Global Anabaptist Wiki (<http://anabaptistwiki.org>) includes entries on churches on all continents.

Mennonite World Conference's website (www.mwc-cmm.org) and its quarterly magazine *Courier* has current articles.

There are many fine books on the global Christian story more generally; recently published titles include:

Tickle, Phyllis. *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*. Baker Books, 2008.

Marty, Martin E. *The Christian World: A Global History*. Modern Library, 2007.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Rev. ed. Oxford University Press, 2007.