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## TUESDAY • JANUARY 21, 2025

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14:00 *Singing and Devotional / Welcome*

14:20 **The Authority of God's Word**

*by Paul Zebr (Ontario, Canada)*

Most Christian denominations teach the authority of God's Word. But not many make that belief as practical as the Anabaptists did. Ever since Simon Stumpf made his famous statement, "Master Ulrich . . . the decision has already been made; the Spirit of God decides," the Anabaptists were committed to obedience to the Word of God no matter how radical its demands. The challenge still stands today: Where will we place the emphasis in our doctrine? How much will we compromise?

15:05 **Resurrection to Reformation:  
A Brief Overview of the Pilgrim Church**

*by Omar Eby (Pennsylvania, USA)*

The Anabaptists are not the only Christians. In fact, they are only a predominant minority in a recurring series of small groups who have been willing to "Come out and be separate" from both the world and from mainstream Christianity. The cost of separation has always been high, but committed fellowships of believers fit the description of the poor, suffering remnant—the Kingdom of God as Jesus prophesied it.

17:00 *Evening Meal*

18:30 *Singing and Devotional*

18:40 **The Seedbed of the Reformation  
and the Early Reformation**

*by Kurt Morse (Pennsylvania, USA)*

History is like peeling an onion. There are layers within layers, and only God knows the whole story. The more we learn about the life and times of the Anabaptists, the more complex the picture becomes. The influences of the Ottoman Empire, the Renaissance, the printing press, and the broader Reformation are large factors in the story. Yet the Anabaptists were not simply a product of their times—they represented not a social or political movement, but a faith that triumphed in Biblical churches.

19:35 **The Lordship of Jesus Christ**

*by Kenneth Witmer (Shropshire, England)*

If there was any winner in the Anabaptist movement, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. As Lord of the church, He was invited to walk in the midst of the little flocks that formed throughout the breadth of the land. How to hear Him and follow Him is the age-old question that we must answer yet today. This sermon addresses the matter of having Jesus as Lord in our own lives, as well as of the entire church in the present age.

20:30 *Youth Singing*

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## WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 22, 2025

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9:30 *Singing and Devotional*

9:50 **Anabaptist Beginnings in Zurich**

*by Andrew Ste. Marie (Michigan, USA)*

Fiery expository preaching, coupled with fervent Bible study and a commitment to follow Jesus all the way are the better parts of Anabaptist roots. But the Anabaptists were not perfect. Personal weaknesses, flaws, and tendencies to focus on the wrong things were there, too. Their background, their times, their lack of knowledge and experience (and sometimes their lack of faith) also color their history. Follow the emotion through growing public debates and the printing campaign as the brethren began to realize that the whole town was not going to walk the narrow way. The speaker will also introduce his newly-translated book *March Forward with the Word: The Life of Conrad Grebel / Schreite voran mit dem Wort: Des Leben des Konrad Grebel*.

10:35 **The Kingdom and the Conflict**

*by Virgil Schrock (Wisconsin, USA)*

How radical will you be? How far will you go with the Lord? Is your faith worth *living* for? Is it worth *dying* for? These questions are not Anabaptist questions only. The question stands today anywhere that men and women bond into local Christian churches and begin to take God seriously. Exactly what is *the Kingdom*, *the church*, and *the churches*? How did Jesus describe the Kingdom's place in the world?

12:00 *Lunch*

14:00 *Singing and Introduction*

14:10 **The Bernese Anabaptists: Beginning,  
Growth, Persecution, and Emigration**

*by Dale Burkholder (Pennsylvania, USA)*

The first flush of enthusiasm in Zurich quickly spread to Bern, and from there to the Emmental hinterland. Why did the Emmental farmers and villagers so quickly accept the faith? How did the Anabaptists persist so long in the Emmental despite persecution? Though the Anabaptists were becoming quieter, new members were still being added into the 1700s. Follow their migrations to the Jura Mountains and the Palatinate, and eventually to America.

14:55 **The Anabaptist View of the Church**

*by Arland Eberly (Shropshire, England)*

Some modern-day Anabaptists relegate the "faith" to following Jesus in personal life. But the real miracle of Anabaptism, and what gave it staying power, was that the believers learned to do this in community. This submission one to another in the context of unified doctrine, such as found in the Schleithem Confession of Faith, deserves serious thought. How might this view of the church be relevant in post-modern Europe, where individualism is king?

17:00 *Evening Meal*

All topics will be translated into German.  
If you need interpretation  
into another language,  
please let us know when you register.

Each session will be followed by a time of  
questions and answers as time permits.

Expenses are covered by donations.  
Suggested donation per person is  
50 CHF or euros.

18:30 *Singing and Devotional*

18:50 **Christian Families—A Home Environment That Nourishes the Souls of Our Children**

*by Paul Martin (Bolderslev, Denmark)*

After the early period of the Anabaptist movement, the faith was carried forward mainly through “internal expansion.” Children grew up in deeply devout homes and voluntarily decided they wanted to make their parents’ faith their own. In modern Christendom, this is rare. What characterizes conservative Anabaptist home life today and makes it appeal to those brought up in it, even though they see all the weaknesses and failures of their elders?

19:35 **Remember and Hold Fast** (Revelation 3:3)

*by Dwayne Weber (Ontario, Canada)*

Five hundred years is a long time. Movements can peak and fade out in less time than this. Indeed, many groups with Anabaptist roots have lost connection with the historic faith. Some are worldlier than much of the world itself. Those at this conference represent a conservative segment of the Anabaptist heritage. But we are not inoculated against failure, either. Not all the signs are good. What can we do to be faithful in our time, passing on Biblical faith to our children and our children’s children?

20:30 *Youth Singing*

**THURSDAY • JANUARY 23, 2025**

***Multiple walking tours of Zurich, Switzerland***

A slide presentation followed by guided 2.2 km (1.4 mile) walking tours of sites related to early Anabaptism will be given throughout the day to those who are interested.

More details will be given later to those who sign up for this.



# REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is required.

Please register by October 28, 2024.

Space is limited. Get your reservation in early.

Grace Press, Inc.

2175 Division Highway

Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522

email: [Taufer-konferenz@gracepress.us](mailto:Taufer-konferenz@gracepress.us)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

*(Children are welcome. Please include in the total.)*

Supper will be provided on the evenings of January 21 and 22. Lunch will also be provided on January 22.

Please check all that apply:

☐ I plan to attend on January 21.

☐ I plan to attend on January 22.

☐ I plan to take part in the January 23 Zurich tours.

The address of the conference is:

Dorfstrasse 108K • 4954 Wyssachen, Switzerland

This location is 100 km (62 mi.) from the Zurich airport. There is no lodging at this facility. Attendees are responsible for their own lodging. There are several hotels as well as bed and breakfasts in the area. Feel free to contact us for assistance or recommendations for lodging or transportation arrangements.

Please carpool or use public transportation when possible. Parking is limited at the Wyssachen conference location. There is also a limited amount of parking within walking distance at a lot 300 meters (900 ft.) south of the conference, on the opposite side of the road.

The nearest train station is: BLS Reisezentrum Huttwil, Bahnhofstrasse 44 • 4950 Huttwil

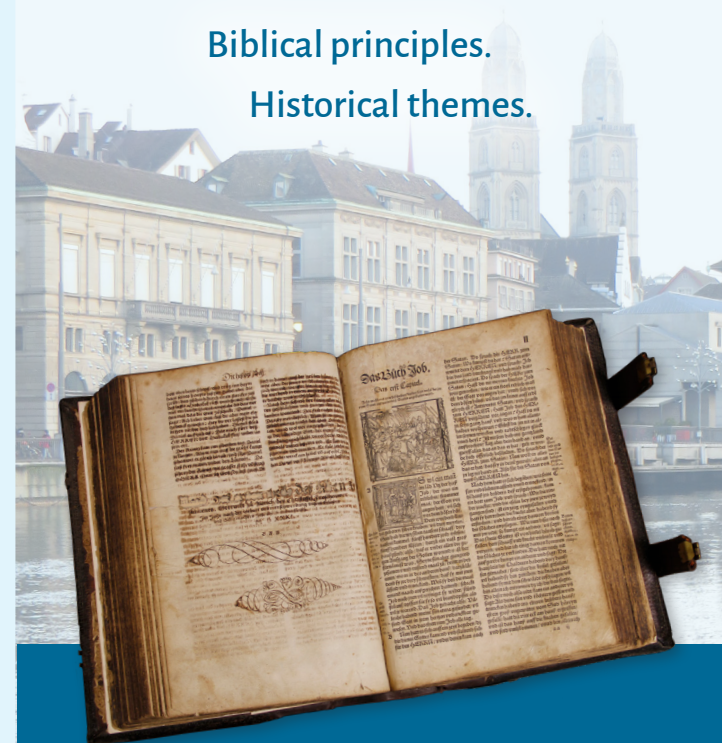
In remembrance of the  
**500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ANABAPTISM**  
we invite you to attend an

# ANABAPTIST CONFERENCE

**JANUARY 21–23, 2025**

**Biblical principles.**

**Historical themes.**



*Presented by Conservative Mennonites from England,  
Denmark, Canada, and the USA*