

Old Order Mennonites (Horse-and-Buggy)

All the Old Order Mennonite groups listed below use horse-and-buggy transportation. Use of other technologies and power sources varies by group. Formal schooling in all groups ends with eighth grade. All speak Pennsylvania Dutch (Pennsylvania German) as their first language, with the exception of the Old Orders in Virginia who speak English exclusively. Mennonites in Virginia had anglicized by the time the Old Order movement coalesced there.

Settlements refers to distinct geographic communities, some of which include more than one congregation.

Members are all baptized adults.

Population is inclusive of baptized adults and unbaptized children and teens.

Old Order Mennonite directories report different kinds of information (members, population, or both). That variation is reflected in the tables below.

Old Order Mennonite Church in Canada

Old Order Mennonites organized in Ontario in 1889 under the leadership of Abraham Martin. Numbers below do not include two small groups, the so-called David Martin Church that split from the main body in 1917, and the Orthodox Mennonites, who left the David Martin group in 1957.

Province	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Manitoba	1	1	52	136
Ontario	7	51	4,121	7,535
Prince Edward Island	1	1	21	52
TOTAL	9	53	4,194	7,723

Source: *Families of the Old Order Mennonite Church in Canada, 2021*

Groffdale Mennonite Conference

Largest Old Order Mennonite group, formed in 1893 in Lancaster County, Pa., under the leadership of Jonas Martin. Steel-wheeled tractors permitted for farming. Telephones and electricity in homes, but restrictions on personal technology (e.g., no computers, television, or radio). Commonly nicknamed "Wenger Mennonites." In 1973, the Old Order Mennonites of Indiana, previously a distinct group dating back to 1871, united with Groffdale.

State	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Indiana	2	5		824
Iowa	1	3		910
Kentucky	2	3		1,128
Michigan	1	2		399
Missouri	3	7		1,792
New York	3	11		3,856
Ohio	2	5		1,917
Pennsylvania	5	23		10,740
Wisconsin	2	9		3,363
TOTAL	21	68		24,929

Source: *Directory of the Groffdale Conference Mennonite Churches (Eighth Edition), 2022*

Midwest Mennonite Conference

The Midwest Mennonite Conference formed from a 2018 schism in the Groffdale Conference. Issues included computer use, as well the authority of the conference. The group's Illinois settlement is not of Groffdale origin but represents former Stauffer Mennonites in Illinois who joined the Midwest Conference in 2019.

State	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Illinois	1	1		128
Indiana	1	2		410
Iowa	1	—		12
Kentucky	1	2		340
Missouri	3	7		733
New York	3	9		971
Tennessee	1	1		44
TOTAL	11	22		2,638

Source: *Directory of the Midwest Conference Mennonite Churches (First Edition), 2022*

Stauffer Mennonite Church

The earliest Old Order Mennonite group, formed in 1845 in Lancaster County, Pa., under the leadership of Jacob Stauffer. Horse farming (no tractors). No phones or electricity in homes. Among the most technologically conservative Old Order groups. Sometimes known by the nickname "Pike Mennonites."

State	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Illinois	1	1	29	94
Kentucky	1	1	34	113
Maryland	1	2	253	623
Minnesota	1	1	26	54
Missouri	2	2	211	442
New York	2	2	130	368
Ohio	1	2	230	566
Pennsylvania	3	6	708	1,448
Virginia	1	1	10	32
TOTAL	12	17	1,631	3,740

Source: *Records of Members of the Stauffer Mennonite Church at the Present Time, 2020*

Original Virginia Conference, Old Order Mennonites

Old Order Mennonites organized in Virginia in 1901. In 1953, a schism split the group. About one third of the members sided with Bishop John Dan Wenger and identified themselves as the "original" church. They have remained somewhat more traditional than other Virginia Old Orders, for example not using public utility electricity.

State	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Kentucky	1	1		39
Virginia	1	1		540
TOTAL	2	2		579

Source: *Directory of the Original Virginia Conference Old Order Mennonite Families, October 2023*

Virginia Conference Old Order Mennonites (Riverdale)

In 1953, the larger body of Old Order Mennonites in Virginia, under the leadership of Russell Cline, established fellowship with the Groffdale Conference. It remains similar to Groffdale in many ways. In 2018, the “Cline” group split, with the resulting sides known as Riverdale and Pleasant View, the names of their respective meetinghouses.

State	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Virginia	1		339	704
Ohio	1		68	151
TOTAL	2		417	855

Source: *Directory of the Virginia Conference (Old Order) Mennonite Families, January 2024*

Virginia Conference Old Order Mennonites (Pleasant View)

State	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Virginia	1		149	276
TOTAL	1		149	276

Source: *Directory of the Virginia Conference (Old Order) Mennonite Families, January 2024*

Old Order Mennonite Communities (Noah Hoover)

Complex origins that crystalized in 1963 in Snyder County, Pa., under Minister Noah Hoover but then disbursed to other locations. Combines ultra-conservative stance on technology with an intense spirituality and strict morality. Has drawn converts from other “plain” groups, including the Amish and so-called “Russian” Mennonites in Belize.

State/Prov./Country	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Alabama	1	1	42	87
Kentucky	2	2	319	685
Missouri	3	3	247	553
Ohio	1	1	94	188
Tennessee	3	3	249	529
New Brunswick	1	1	20	48
Belize	4	4	254	579
TOTAL	15	15	1,225	2,669

Source: *Old Order Mennonite Communities, April 2023*

Reidenbach Mennonite Churches

Named for the Lancaster County community in which they organized in 1943, this group separated from the Groffdale Conference, feeling that Groffdale was becoming lax. Generally more separatist than other Old Orders and fragmented into various subgroups. Nicknamed the “35ers” because the original group was 35 families.

State	Settlements	Congregations	Members	Population
Kentucky	3	3	10	
Missouri	1	1	18	
Pennsylvania	2	16	243	
TOTAL	6	20	371	

Source: Jonathan Martin, Muddy Creek Farm Library, Ephrata, Pa.

Compiled from the most recent directories by Edsel Burdge Jr., Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College, 1 Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Updated November 2024