

## 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 | Districts | Members      | Population   |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Manitoba             | 2           | 2         | 81           | 205          |
| Ontario              | 7           | 56        | 4,503        | 8,281        |
| Prince Edward Island | 1           | 1         | 47           | 91           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>10</b>   | <b>59</b> | <b>4,631</b> | <b>8,577</b> |

Source: *Families of the Old Order Mennonite Church in Canada, 2025*

### 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         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>21</b>   | <b>68</b>     |         | <b>24,929</b> |

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 as 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           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>11</b>   | <b>22</b>     |         | <b>2,638</b> |

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           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>12</b>   | <b>17</b>     | <b>1,631</b> | <b>3,740</b> |

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        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>2</b>    | <b>2</b>      |         | <b>579</b> |

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        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>2</b>    |               | <b>417</b> | <b>855</b> |

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        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1</b>    |               | <b>149</b> | <b>276</b> |

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          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>15</b>   | <b>15</b>     | <b>1,225</b> | <b>2,669</b> |

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        |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>6</b>    | <b>20</b>     | <b>371</b> |            |

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 August 2025