

Response Form

Name.....
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Address.....
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Tel No.....

Email.....

I want to join the Anabaptist Network. Please add me to your mailing list and send me your free newsletters.

Please send me details of my nearest local study group.

I am interested in hosting a local event and would welcome a speaker from the Anabaptist Network.

Other (please specify):

***Please return this response form to: Anabaptist Network, 14
Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ***

The Anabaptist Network

14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ

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www.anabaptistnetwork.com

What is the Anabaptist Network?

The *Anabaptist Network* is a relational network of individuals and churches. Looking for authentic expressions of discipleship and community in a changing culture where Christians are now on the margins, we value the insights of the Anabaptist tradition.

The Anabaptist movement began in Europe in the 16th century and, despite sustained persecution, survived and spread by migration and mission. It is now a global family of churches and networks.

Christians from many traditions in the UK have encountered the Anabaptist tradition and have been challenged and encouraged by its emphases on the centrality of Jesus, radical discipleship, peace and justice, community and holistic mission. We value Anabaptism as a lens through which to look afresh at gospel and culture.

What are the Anabaptist Network's core convictions?

1. Jesus is our example, teacher, friend, redeemer and Lord. He is the source of our life, the central reference point for our faith and lifestyle, our understanding of church and engagement with society. We are committed to following Jesus as well as worshipping him.

2. Jesus is the focal point of God's revelation. We are committed to a Jesus-centred approach to the Bible, and to the community of faith as the primary context in which we read the Bible and discern and apply its implications for discipleship.

3. Western culture is slowly emerging from the Christendom era when church and state jointly presided over a society in which almost all were assumed to be Christian. Whatever its positive contributions, Christendom seriously distorted the gospel, marginalised Jesus and has left the churches ill-equipped for mission in a post-Christendom culture. We are committed to learning from the experience of movements such as Anabaptism that rejected standard Christendom

assumptions and pursued alternative ways of thinking and behaving.

4. The frequent association of the church with status, wealth and force is inappropriate for followers of Jesus and damages our witness. We are committed to exploring ways of being good news to the poor, powerless and persecuted.

5. Churches are called to be committed communities of discipleship and mission, places of friendship, mutual accountability and multi-voiced worship that sustain hope as we seek God's kingdom. We are committed to nurturing and developing such churches in which young and old are valued, leadership is consultative, roles are related to gifts rather than gender and baptism is for believers.

6. Spirituality and economics are inter-connected. In an individualist and consumerist culture and in a world where economic injustice is rife, we are committed to finding ways of living simply, sharing generously, caring for creation and working for justice.

7. Peace is at the heart of the gospel. As followers of Jesus in a divided and violent world, we are committed to finding non-violent alternatives and to learning how to make peace between individuals, within and among churches, in society and between nations.

What does the Anabaptist Network offer?

* **Newsletters** three times a year (by post or email), including a short article and book review, as well as news of events.

* **Conferences** in various parts of the country on themes such as discipleship, lifestyle, spirituality, peace and community.

* An extensive **website** with articles, training courses, news, discussion forums and a comprehensive links section.

* **Study groups** in various locations for those wanting to meet with others to explore areas of common interest.

* **Resources** – books, videos, speakers for events, resource houses, links with other Anabaptist-oriented groups, etc.

* **Friendship** with fellow pilgrims following Jesus in a world where new expressions of church and mission are vital.