

Mn - SDA

## MENNONITE - SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST DIALOGUE

Mennonite-Adventist dialogue characterized by cordiality and openness  
May 28-31, 2012  
Communiqué

BIENENBERG – (APD) On May 28-31, representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist and Mennonite World Conference world leadership for a second Dialogue round in the Bienenberg training center near Basel. The talks are very open and cordial atmosphere, according to a media release from the dialogue group.

A first round of talks between the two denominations took place from June 28 to July 1, 2011 at the administrative headquarters of the World Adventist Church leadership in Silver Spring, Maryland/USA.

In the second round of dialogue in Switzerland, both sides had position papers on eschatology (teaching of the last things), hermeneutics (teaching of biblical interpretation) and on nonconformity, such as nonviolence and jubilee, presented and discussed. In addition, open questions from the first round of dialogue were discussed in depth. The Mennonite delegation commented on issues related to pacifism, salvation and obedience, personal lifestyle and occasional events such as baptism and communion. Adventists would questions the Mennonite position regarding military service, Sabbath (day of rest), contextualization of the biblical texts, Justice and Discipleship, the Role of Women, Corrective Counseling, and the Place of Ellen G. White in the Adventist Church.

According to the report, the dialogue group spent one afternoon visiting historical places that are important for both denominations in the region. The program included a visit to Tramelan in the Bernese Jura, where the first Adventist church in Europe was founded in 1867. The chapel of the Evangelical Mennonite community in Sonnenberg-Jeanguisboden was also visited. The archive of the Mennonite Conference in Switzerland is located in the basement.

At the end, a joint declaration was drawn up in which both sides presented their conclusions from the dialogue and proposed recommendations for the dissemination of the materials developed for the dialogue. Each delegation will submit this statement to the respective church governing body.

Participating from the Mennonite World Conference were: Robert Suderman (Canada); Valerie Rempel (USA); Henk Stenvers (Netherlands); Patricia Urueña (Colombia); Danisa Ndlovu (Zimbabwe) and Tom Yoder Neufeld (Canada).

Participants of the Seventh-day Adventist Church were: William Johnsson (Australia), John Graz (France), Bert Beach (USA), Denis Fortin (Canada); Peter Landless (South Africa), and Teresa Reeve (Canada).

Translated from:

[<https://www.mennonews.de/archiv/2012/06/01/mennonitisch-adventistischer-dialog-von-herzlichkeit-und-offenheit-embossed/>]