Amish Awareness Conference

Planning Guide



Planning Guide for Hosting an

Amish Awareness Conference

With Your Church

Mission to Amish People

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Greenwich, OH 44837

(419) 962-1515

Mission to Amish People:

MapMinistry.org

Step Out Of The Boat Conference:

StepOutOfTheBoat.org

Beyond Measure Market:

BeyondMeasureMarket.com

Index

Page 5..... Top Five Reasons to Attend or Host an Amish Awareness Conference

Page 6..... About Us

Page 7.....What We Believe

Page 8..... Committee Members

Page 8..... Purpose and Vision

Page 9..... Teaching Sessions

Page 9..... Bonus Sessions

Page 10.....Eating and Break Times

Page 10..... Handling of Finances

Page 11..... Speakers and Traveling Expenses

Page 11..... Resource and Display Tables

Page 112-13..... Hosting Church Responsibility

Page 14..... MAP Responsibility

Page 15..... Sample Schedule

Top Five Reasons to Attend or Host an Amish Awareness Conference

1. The Amish People: Explore Amish history, culture, and beliefs, including the effects of legalism. What has shaped the Amish into who they are today? How do they maintain a distinct culture within the broader society? What are the differences between Amish and Mennonites? These and many other questions will be addressed.

2. Evangelism: Discover why sharing the gospel with the Amish matters and how you can reach out to Amish families in your area. Learn about opportunities to serve in a mission field right in our own backyards.

3. Panel Discussions: Hear from former Amish and non-Amish participants as they share experiences, answer questions, and learn from one another.

4. New Friends: Meet authors and connect with people from diverse cultural backgrounds and across the United States. Find fellowship with others who share your questions, concerns, and desire to minister to people affected by man-made religious systems.

5. Testimonies: Hear from people who have left the Amish culture and are now serving Jesus Christ and their country. Many paid a high price for taking a stand for Christ, including excommunication and shunning by their families and churches. You'll also hear from people who have found creative ways to minister to their Amish friends and communities.

About Us

Our rallying cry is “unto the furtherance of the gospel.” Evangelist R. A. Torrey said, “My one ambition in life is to win as many souls as possible. It is the most worthwhile thing in life.”

The purpose of this conference is to unite believers around the truth of God’s Word and encourage us to labor together to reach the Amish with the gospel. Every Christian is called to go in the power of the Holy Spirit, clearly present the gospel, and invite people to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

God has placed a desire in the hearts of Christians across America to share the gospel with the Amish. As we recognize the urgency of this work, our heartfelt prayer is that this conference will help local churches better understand Amish beliefs and culture and become equipped to minister in their communities. Each of us has a sphere of influence. May God use these two days in Savannah, Ohio, to strengthen and expand that influence for His glory.

Will you begin praying today about joining us? If you cannot attend, please share this opportunity with your pastor or Sunday school class. We also need prayer partners who will earnestly ask God to prepare hearts, guide each session, and do a mighty work throughout the conference.

The conference will feature revival preaching, uplifting singing, and testimonies from former Amish believers. Each day will also include Amish Awareness sessions taught by men of God who have left the Amish and are faithfully serving the Lord today.

This conference is built around.

TRUTH: We will tell you the Truth and Give you the Truth at this Conference

FRIENDSHIP: We will equip you to have a greater friendship with the Amish

EVANGELISM: We will teach you from the Bible how to get the Gospel to our precious people.

What We Believe

1. We believe the whole Bible, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, as the verbally inspired and infallible Word of God. (II Tim 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Psalm 12:6-7)
2. We believe Jesus Christ was born of Mary the virgin. (Matt 1:18-25)
3. We believe Jesus Christ died for our sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. (Rom 5:6-10; I Peter 2:24)
4. We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the grave the third day according to the Scriptures. (Mark 16:1-18)
5. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great High Priest and that He makes intercession for us. (Rom 8:34)
6. We believe that a person has to trust Jesus by faith alone and receive the gift of God, which is eternal life through Jesus, in order to go to heaven. (Rom 6:23; Acts 16:30-31; Eph 2:8-9)
7. We believe in baptism by immersion. (Rom 6:3-5; Acts 8:38-39)
8. We believe that Christians should be separated from worldly and sinful practices, to a life totally dedicated to Christ. (II Cor. 6:14-18)
9. We believe in the rapture of the saved. Jesus will come and receive His Bride unto Himself. (II Thes 4:13-17; I Cor 15:51-53)
10. We believe in the second coming of Christ, when Christ will come, in person, bodily, and visibly to establish His Kingdom on the earth. (Zec 14:4; Rev. 5:9-14)
11. WE STAND: for the verbally inspired Word of God, the Trinity, the deity of Christ, His blood atonement, salvation by faith, separation from the world, soul winning and the pre-millennial return of Christ.

Committee Members

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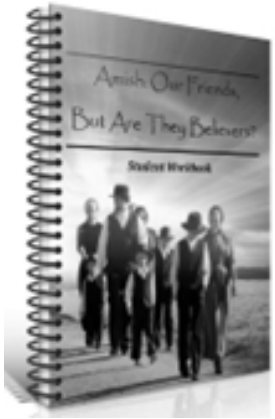
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Purpose and Vision



The heart and goal of every Amish Awareness Conference, whether at home or abroad, is to go through the 150-page book "Amish: Our Friends, But Are They Believers?"

This book is broken up into eight sessions and is taught over a two day period. The next page shows an outline of each session and how much time is allotted.

Teaching Sessions

Friday Evening

Session 1: Anabaptist Movement (60 min)

Saturday

Session 2: Amish Culture (40 min)

Session 3: Beliefs & Practices I (40 min)

Session 4: Beliefs & Practices II (40 min)

Session 5: Legalism & Leaving (40 min)

Session 6: Evangelism Is Necessary (40 min)

Session 7: Do's & Don'ts, Stumbling Blocks (40 min)

Session 8: Mission to Amish People ministry (30 min)

Optional Sunday Morning

Upon request, we may also be available to stay through Sunday morning to help, teach, and preach before concluding the conference.

Bonus Sessions

Former Amish Testimonies: Have two former Amish share their testimonies throughout the course of the conference. (15 minutes)

Discussion Panel: If enough former Amish people are available, we have set up a panel discussion up front.

Worship: Start each day with worship. A single song after each meal and break gets people into the sanctuary.

Sermon: Optional (35 min)

What Others Are Doing: Have at least two people share how they are reaching out to the Amish in their area. (15 min)

Eating and Break Times

BREAKFAST:
Begin Saturday morning with a light breakfast of donuts, tea, coffee, and orange juice.

LUNCH:
Serve lunches cafeteria-style, keeping them light if dinner is also planned. The menu might include chili, vegetable soup, pickled beets, pickles, and tapioca pudding. You might also consider serving haystacks—an Amish favorite. Allow 60-75 minutes for lunch.

DINNER:
Serve dinner on the first day only. A suggested menu includes all-you-can-eat chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles, corn, bread with peanut butter spread, and pie. Allow 75 minutes for dinner.

BREAKS:

Schedule at least two 20-minute breaks.

Handling of Finances

(Income and Expenses)

In most cases, the host church does not require registration for attendees from outside its congregation. If registration is needed, we are happy to assist with planning and coordination.

If a registration fee is charged, we prefer that the host church manage all conference income and expenses rather than process them through MAP Ministry. Registration details, including any fees and deadlines, should be clearly communicated in advance. The host church and MAP Ministry should also agree beforehand on how any remaining funds or unpaid expenses will be handled.

Speakers and Traveling Expenses

MAP Ministry does not charge a fee to present an Amish Awareness Conference. We appreciate lodging provided by the host church, whether with a church family or in a motel. A love offering to help cover travel and meal expenses is also appreciated but never required.

MAP Ministry is responsible for covering expenses for its own speakers. The host church is responsible for expenses associated with any speakers or participants from outside MAP Ministry.

Our desire is to be a blessing and equip the church to reach its Amish community. Finances should never prevent a church from hosting a conference.

Resource and Display Tables

MAP Ministry requires one 8-foot table for its ministry display, plus three 8-foot tables or four 6-foot tables for resource sales. Additional tables should be arranged for any other approved ministry displays. If Wi-Fi is available, we prefer access to it for processing credit card payments.

We also offer a 150-page, fill-in-the-blanks student workbook for purchase and recommend one copy per couple. The workbook helps attendees follow along during the sessions, take notes, and review what they've learned after the conference.

The host church may purchase workbooks for attendees in advance, or MAP Ministry can sell them directly at the conference. If you plan to order in advance, please contact us for current pricing and to arrange quantities so workbooks are ready when attendees arrive.

Hosting Church Responsibility

The conference runs most smoothly when the host church appoints one coordinator to oversee planning and those who will be serving. This person will serve as the main contact for MAP Ministry's conference coordinator.

We also recommend assigning a leader to each of the following areas:

- Facility and conference area
- Finances and registration
- Staff and volunteers
- Food and meals
- Child Care
- Conference promotion

Facility and Conference Area

- Since registrants will be filling in blanks, tables and chairs are an added bonus, but not required.
- A place for ministry display and resource tables (four 8ft or one 8ft and four 6ft tables).
- Signs that will direct people to the registration table, restrooms and dining areas.

Finances and Registration

- Name tags for all attendees
- Provide a small section of the resource table for MAP Ministry's credit card processing equipment to accept payments for student workbooks and, if applicable, registration fees charged by the host church to help cover meals and other conference expenses.
- Appoint a conference coordinator from your church to serve as MAP Ministry's main contact and communicate regularly with our staff throughout the planning process.

Staff and Volunteers

- Clean up crew.
- Locking and unlocking doors to the building.
- A full-time sound person.
- Worship leader.
- Food preparation and servers.
- Optional: Nursery workers
- Optional: Teachers for the children's ministry, ages 5 through 12.

Meals

- Coordinate and provide all conference meals, whether prepared by church volunteers or catered.
- Provide plates, silverware and cups.

Lodging

- Find lodging for the main speakers. If housing among members of the church is available, it will help with the cost. MAP will provide you with all the names and number of speakers.
- Provide MAP with a list of motels in the area. Most who travel for the conference will be staying in motels.

Sound and Projector System

- Provide a sound system and the ability to record all sessions.
- Provide a bright projector and screen.

Promote the Conference In Your Area

- The church is responsible for advertising in your immediate area. MAP can provide all the promotional material, or the church can make their own copies. This includes 11x17 posters, bulletin inserts, and brochures.

MAP Responsibility

Registration and Ticket Sales

- (Optional) Online and offline registration/ticket sales.
- Accounting and tracking receipts.

Advertise Conference

- Post the event on our website's home page at least two months in advance.
- Promote the conference on our Facebook page.
- Send at least one promotional email to our email mailing list.
- Include a brief announcement in one of our ministry updates.

Schedule

- Speaker line up.
- Former Amish who will share their testimonies.
- Panel discussion and questions.
- Authors and displays (hosting church is encouraged to be involved in this also).

Workbooks and Resource Packets

- Each registered attendee will receive a 150-page, fill-in-the-blanks student workbook titled *Amish: Our Friends, But Are They Believers?* to help them follow along during the sessions.
- Each registrant will also receive a packet containing the conference schedule, menu, and additional resources for use during and after the conference.
- Stage Banners, Books, and Evangelism Resources

Sample Schedule

Below is a sample schedule we've been using for recent weekend Amish Awareness Conferences. This format seems to work well.

As you'll see, there are five optional sessions that depend on having former Amish participants at the conference. Our ability to bring them varies from one conference to another. Samuel, our wives, and I can cover, at minimum, two of the testimony sessions.

The panel discussion of course depends on having a group of former Amish willing to answer questions from conference attendees.

Friday Evening

- 6:30: Welcome, Worship, and Overview
- 6:50: Session One – Anabaptist Movement
- 7:00: (Optional) Testimony

Saturday

- 8:00: Name Tags, Coffee, Juices and Donuts
- 9:00: Welcome and Worship
- 9:15: Session Two – Amish Culture and Values
- 9:45: (Optional) Former Amish Testimony
- 10:00: Session Three and Four – Amish Beliefs P-1 and P-2
- 11:00: (Optional) Former Amish Testimony
- 11:30: Lunch
- 12:30: Worship
- 12:40: Session Five – Legalism and Leaving
- 1:30: (Optional) Former Amish Testimony
- 1:45: Session Six – Evangelism P-1
- 2:30: Break
- 2:50: Session Seven – Evangelism P-2
- 3:30: (Optional) Former Amish Testimony
- 3:45: MAP presentation ministry structure
- 4:15: (Optional) Panel Discussion
- 4:30: Closing: pray for the Amish community

Sunday (Optional)

- Sunday school
- Preach



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