

2024 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus for God's shalom.

To learn more about our work, download resources, or contribute to our programs, visit [mennonitemen.org](https://mennonitemen.org).

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**Mennonite Men**

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

## JoinTrees

*Planting trees to restore the earth*



JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support vulnerable communities.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation.

This year we funded tree planting with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to restore trees on properties destroyed by destructive fires and floods. This is part of our partnership with MDS to respond to natural disasters like these that are projected to increase with climate

change.

We continue to work with large-scale agroforestry projects in the global south for climate action and assisting vulnerable communities experiencing environmental injustice. In these settings, trees help sequester carbon, cool the planet, regenerate soils, and provide fruit and nut crops to support these communities.

For our next projects, we plan to assist seven Mennonite communities in DR Congo and Angola with a second round of planting 50,000 trees. We now need to raise \$60,000 for these projects.

Along with individual donations to make these grants, we invite carbon offset contributions from households, churches, and businesses seeking to reduce their carbon footprint and support climate action. To learn how you can participate in this campaign to restore God's Earth, visit [mennonitemen.org/jointrees](https://mennonitemen.org/jointrees).

## JoinHands

*Sharing resources for new church buildings*



JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose.

We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving "fair balance" with congregations in need.

We recently presented a \$40,000 JoinHands grant to Chin Emmanuel Church in Houston, Texas for purchasing

a church building. This young congregation founded by refugees from Myanmar fleeing ethnic and religious persecution, is now part of Western District Conference in Mennonite Church USA and flourishing with more than 200 people.

Congregations like this are prominent among new churches in Mennonite Church USA. Approximately half of all new MC USA congregations are from ethnic-racial backgrounds. This trend reflects the church's increased racial and ethnic diversity where congregational growth has been most significant.

Mennonite Men is the only Mennonite organization that makes grants to new churches for their first meeting places. We are now raising funds to make our next \$40,000 grant for a new church

## JoinMen

*Gathering men and promoting their growth*



JoinMen provides gatherings and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom.

Gatherings provide opportunities for men to join together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men's group and growth process. A full list of gathering themes we offer can be found at [mennonitemen.org/joinmen](https://mennonitemen.org/joinmen).

On a weekend in November, eleven men ages 31-55 from six different Mennonite congregations gathered at The Hermitage (Michigan) for retreat. Our time together included eating meals in silence, small group discussions, wider group reflection, prayer, deep sharing, and wandering the woods. There was also journaling, drumming, a campfire, sketching, and rituals. We are moved to witness firsthand that men in their younger years want these experiences.

Please support Mennonite Men and our efforts to join men together through retreats, workshops, book studies, and online resources. Gifts designated to JoinMen support these offerings and make it possible to reach more men who want to engage, grow, and serve in the ways of Jesus for God's shalom.

**Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus for God's shalom**