Berea Mennonite Church

Mission

At Berea Mennonite Church, we desire to be Living Witnesses. We want to demonstrate with our lives that Love wins over all else by following the way of Jesus. We desire to be community. We love each other. Our relationships are our most treasured gift. We desire to worship. We want to offer our lives to God. We act in the hope of creating something beautiful and pleasing with them. We desire to learn. From the Word. From the creation. From each other.

Description

Berea Mennonite Church is a small community of believers who share Anabaptist ideas. We were the first racially integrated congregation in the Southeast in 1952 and we work hard to live up to and expand upon that legacy. The church's role in bringing the New Creation into being and as place of peacemaking is central to our identity. We read and interpret the scriptures together, share meals together, proclaim and respond to each other's messages together, and share the work and the wonder of a 9 acre farm together. We would be pleased to have you join us.

Unique Opportunities in Ministry

We have a nine acre farm with chickens, goats, sheep, and a pig (the grand-pig of Emory President James Wagner, actually).

Site Details

Outreach
We regularly receive groups to the property, including weekly groups with various disabilities and regular volunteers. We often host groups for long weekends or weeks at a time. We also host retired volunteers for weeks and months at a time through MCC.

We operate our own camps - Peace and Carrots Camps - to teach peacemaking for two weeks each summer and partner with local camp leaders for four other weeks each year. We have been actively involved in supporting both the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (farmworker justice) and Freedom University (young advocates for Dreamers and the Dream Act). We partner with a pre-school - The Language Garden - and operate a growing after-care program. We have partnered with several farmers and a compost company to steward our land well. We have also partnered with agencies aiding developmentally disabled, mentally ill, and veterans to work in our gardens. We currently run a sheep leasing ministry as well.

Meeting the Five Areas of Ministry

Administration:
You would be invited to participate in all meetings and your voice would be heard. You would have an opportunity to write as often as you like. Several of our ministries are just gaining their foothold and you could also help guide them into the future.
**Liturgy (Worship and Preaching):**
You would be invited to lead, preach, and otherwise help plan and guide worship according to your interest.
We love to have others preach. Our pastor only preaches twice each month. Others preach the other two weeks.

**Mission and Outreach:**
We are open to an intern working with any and all of the projects we do.

**Pastoral Calling and Congregational Care:**
We share the responsibility of visiting and writing notes and praying for each other. An intern can expect to be intimately involved in pastoral care to the extent desired.

**Religious Education:**
Our CE students often teach the adult classes and are always invited to design and propose special lessons for the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Mennonite Church USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location Type</td>
<td>Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Attendance</td>
<td>30-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Times</td>
<td>11 AM - Sunday Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Schedule</td>
<td>Our week includes daily rounds with the animals and work in the fields. We share breakfast every Sunday morning, followed by Sunday School and then community worship. We meet on Wednesdays for a book and movie discussion and prayer time and have another Bible study every other Thursday afternoon. We also share dinner every Thursday evening and we use that time to plan our farm work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipend?</td>
<td>No, except through the Mennonite Central Committee Summer Service program which offers a stipend for young persons of color who want to work with a local Mennonite Church. We do offer free housing to residents. Ask for more details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from Candler</td>
<td>6 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible to persons with disabilities?</td>
<td>Yes, but the upstairs of the barns are not and the terrain is uneven at best. That said, we have many volunteers who are disabled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible via public transportation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can women be ordained?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What role do women play in leadership?</td>
<td>Women have lead this church community as Elders for most of the last 15 years. The recent history of the church is really a testimony to the leadership of women who refused to let the community die.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact
www.bereamennonitechurch.org

John Wierwille, Pastoral Elder
john.wierwille@gmail.com
1088 Bouldercrest Drive SE
Decatur, GA Georgia 30316
404-944-0522