



What Shapes Us:

Understanding Our Anabaptist & Pietist Roots

Every church is shaped by a story. Ours is rooted in two important movements in Christian history: **Anabaptism** and **Pietism**. Though they began centuries ago, they still shape how we follow Jesus today.

ANABAPTISM

Faith Lived Out

Anabaptism began in the early 1500s during the Protestant Reformation. While sharing many of the Reformers' convictions, Anabaptists believed faith should be more than belief—it should be lived out daily.

Anabaptists emphasize:

- Choosing faith personally (adult baptism)
- Following Jesus in everyday life
- Strong, committed community
- Peace and nonviolence
- The church's allegiance to Christ above political power

Despite persecution, Anabaptism has had a lasting impact. Many churches that practice adult baptism—and traditions like the Mennonite church—trace their roots to this movement.

PIETISM

Faith from the Heart

Pietism emerged in the late 1600s as a renewal movement within the church. At a time when faith had become formal and distant, Pietists called for a more personal and active relationship with God.

Pietists emphasize:

- A personal relationship with God
- Scripture applied to everyday life
- Small groups and shared spiritual growth
- A faith that leads to action and care for others

Pietism helped renew the church and influenced many movements, including Methodist, Moravian, and Brethren traditions.

HOW THIS SHAPES US

Today, we are shaped by both of these streams:

From Anabaptism: a faith that is lived—
following Jesus together in daily life.

From Pietism: a faith that is alive—personal,
growing, and expressed through action.

Influenced by these two traditions, we seek to:

Follow Jesus faithfully

Be shaped in authentic community

Be rooted in Scripture

Live out our faith every day

Join God's work of reconciliation, restoration, and peace-making in the world