

THE MENNO SIMONS CENTRE

4000 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6R 2L3

email: mennosimonscentre@gmail.com

www.mennosimonscentre.com

(604) 224-5202

Dear Prospective Resident,

Thank you for your interest in the prospect of living in Christian community at the Menno Simons Centre! The opportunity for shared communal life is a tremendous privilege that we welcome you to explore with us. Please take the time to read and consider the Menno Simons Centre as a place to live, grow and contribute during your university studies.

The Menno Simons Centre, formerly a Catholic Convent, is a student residence located 4 kms from UBC and Regent College in the residential area of Point Grey. This residence is operated by a not-for-profit society founded on Anabaptist ideals and seeks to provide a supportive community for Christian University and College students.

Living in the Centre is defined by shared life together and the pursuit of Jesus Christ as a community. In this environment, spiritual growth as an individual and as a corporate body, are a part of daily life. The Centre strives to be a place where Christians engage one another and their university studies, with a particular emphasis on Anabaptist practice and thought. Shared life together includes meals, school studies, music, tears, laughter, play, struggle, learning, prayer, Bible studies, dialogue, and much more, including the gifts you have to bring.

As with any healthy community, there are standards of living you should be aware of and be ready to put into practice. When living at the Centre, students commit to more than a rent payment and receive in return, more than a dorm where they lay their heads:

- As a way to care for the facility and those we live with, we share in the weekly tasks of cleaning and maintaining the Centre.
- It's an expectation that residents will joyfully commit one evening per week to participate in the community meal provided.
- Our commitment to community also gifts us with the opportunity of Centre retreats in the early part of both Fall and Winter terms in which participation is non-negotiable.
- To create a hospitable space for the Summer residents to come, so you will be expected to work two hours in cleaning and projects on Saturday, March 31, 2011.
- Residents experience a smaller, more intimate group with their RAs and residents of the same sex. Your participation in a bi-monthly meeting is expected.

- Further, the use of alcohol, tobacco, harmful drugs and involvement in behaviour detrimental to Christian community are not permitted on the MSC premises.

The MSC Full Value Contract has further details about these standards of living and is available on our website for your reading convenience.

The Centre has small individual rooms furnished with a bed, desk, closet and bookshelf. Many also have a sink. There are two fully-furnished kitchens for student use. In addition, there is a large dining room, a study lounge, a small chapel, a recreation lounge, coin-laundry facilities and a bike storage room. If you do not have your own phone, there is one common phone that is provided for local calls free of charge. A bus stop is located one block from the Centre and it takes about 10 minutes to take the bus to UBC. Residents can also bike to campus in about 15 minutes.

We have set up a cable-modem based wireless 802.11g/n network for Internet access throughout the Centre and all student rooms. If you do not already have your own wireless adaptor you may be able to borrow one, subject to availability. If you wish to use the shared Internet connection you will be expected to sign an Appropriate Use Policy. If you would prefer your own dedicated high-speed connection, you have the option of providing your own.

One final note about the building – the Centre is occasionally used for worship, workshops and recreation by non-residents. The Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship meets in the Centre's chapel on Sunday mornings and warmly welcomes you to participate in their worship services and share in their monthly potluck lunches.

Your application should be submitted with a \$50.00 application fee which is non-refundable EXCEPT in the event that you are not accepted to the educational institution you applied to. Applications are reviewed beginning in March, and every month thereafter, after which you will be notified of your status. If accepted, a non-refundable \$250 damage/holding deposit is required to secure your room. Exact details of all residence fees are found on the application form; two cheques must be provided at the beginning of the fall semester (one current, one post-dated for the Winter Term). If you move out in the middle of the academic year (Sept-April), you will forfeit either the remainder of that prepaid semester's rent or your holding/damage deposit (whichever is greater).

Please fill out the following two pages of the application form and mail your completed application form and the \$50 application fee to us as soon as possible. We are excited about the possibility of living with you and learning from you next year. Thank you for your interest, and if you have any questions about the Centre or would like a tour, please feel free to e-mail us at any time.

Sincerely,

Benjamin & Morgan Tipton - Residence Coordinators, Menno Simons Centre

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APPLICATION FORM: 2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

A) Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Permanent Address (if different from above): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthdate: (mm/dd/yy) _____ Gender (M/F): _____

Religious Congregation (and Denomination, if known) :

How did you hear about us?

Institution you will attend: _____

Faculty/Major: _____ Program Year: _____

Medical/Physical disabilities we need to be aware of: _____

Emergency Contact person and number: _____

Accommodation Requested*:

A small room: \$1,638/semester, only 2 available

B normal room: \$1,827/per semester

C large room: \$1,932/per semester, only 5 available

* Subject to availability. All fees indicate a four-month semester and are due in the first week of each semester. Upon acceptance, a \$250.00 damage/holding deposit is required by July 1, 2011.

B) Character References

1) Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Telephone: _____ Address: _____

2) Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Telephone: _____ Address: _____

For the following sections C & D, please write your responses in approximately 200-350 words on two separate pages in a word document.

C) Page One: Statement of Character

On one page, please take the time and space to write to us about the following:

- 1) Describe your personal character.
- 2) Share with us a bit about your spiritual journey.
- 3) Please share your hobbies and interests with us.
- 4) Share what you have done since high school (if you are not currently attending).

D) Page Two: Statement of Purpose

- 1) Why are you choosing to attend the University or College you have decided upon?
- 2) What are your future vocational goals and interests?
- 3) Please write a paragraph describing why you desire to live in the Menno Simons Centre and how you see yourself benefiting from and contributing to the community here.
- 4) Staying at the Menno Simons Centre involves living in close proximity with others. In addition, there are community meals, retreats and shared cleaning tasks in which you will be expected to participate. The community atmosphere is great to live in, but it depends on the involvement of all residents. By applying to the Menno Simons Centre, you are committing yourself to participation in these community-building activities. Since the Menno Simons Centre is an intentional Christian community house, we expect you to participate in the weekly common meal, bi-monthly RA groups and MSC retreats in the Fall and Winter terms. Are you prepared to commit to these expectations and make shifts in your schedule accordingly?

In signing the following, I acknowledge that I have accurately answered all of the questions and I consent to the Menno Simons Centre contacting the character references named in this application. I am also including a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee.

Signature: _____ Date: _____