

1 **Progressivism and Anabaptist Divisions**

2 **The General Conference Mennonite Church**

- What became the General Conference Mennonite Church began in 1847 under the leadership of John H. Oberholtzler.
 - Oberholtzler and his followers embraced progressivism and de-emphasized Mennonite traditions.
 - The immediate cause of the split in 1847 was Oberholtzler's advocacy of written church standards.

3 **The Emergence of Old Order Groups**

- As the main body of Mennonites (often called the "Old" Mennonite Church to distinguish it from the "New" General Conference church) gradually accepted progressive ideas in the late 1800s, traditionally-minded groups split off to form what became known as the Old Order churches.
- Similar divisions occurred among the Amish, and non-Old Order Amish reunited with the Mennonites.

4 **Old Order Distinctives**

- Emphasis on the group rather than the individual
- Emphasis on humility
- Deliberate, selective change