

The Beachy Amish Mennonites

A photograph of two young women sitting on a grassy field. The woman on the left is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and a white headband, with her head resting on the shoulder of the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and is looking directly at the camera. The background shows a wooden fence and green foliage.

Cory A. Anderson
June 9th, 2007

**A Reflection
of Place and
People**

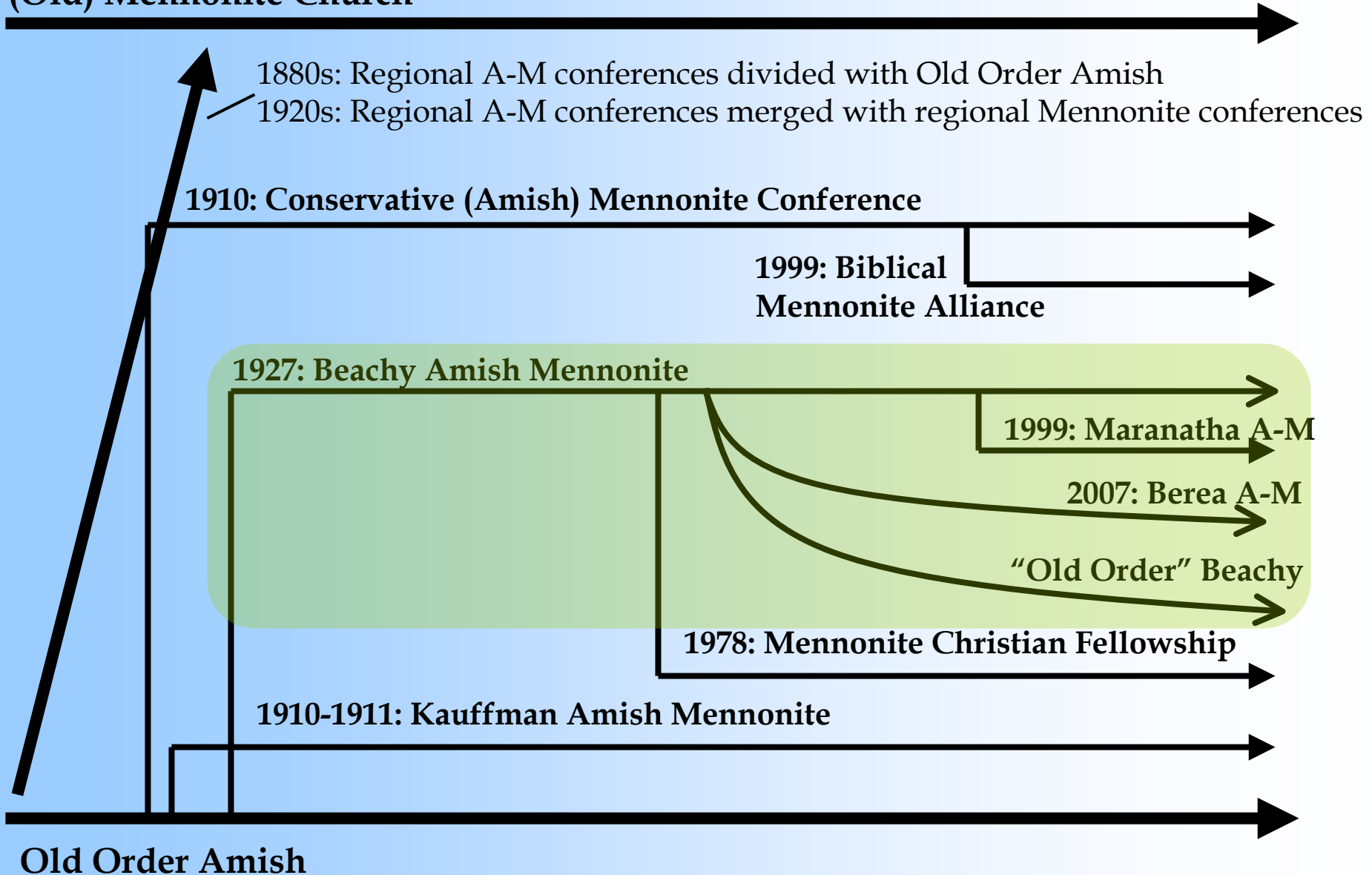
Outline

- Overview of Amish Mennonites
- Beachy Amish Mennonites
- Distribution of Beachy Churches
- Diffusion of Beachy Congregations in the South
- Geographic Trends in the South

Background: A Beachy church in Virginia

Amish Mennonite Movements

(Old) Mennonite Church



Growth and Development

Background: Young adult staff at Faith Mission Home, a volunteer service unit



Missions

Evangelization by Colonization
Amish Mennonite Aid
Missions Interest Committee

Organization

Church affiliation criteria
Ministers' Meetings
Calvary Messenger

Young People

Youth Fellowship Meetings
Calvary Bible School
Volunteer Units

A Constituency of Many Colors

Wearing solids helps remind Beachys of their Old Order Amish heritage, while the colors remind them of their current variety of practice.



And where
on earth
can you
find such
displays...?

Distribution of Beachy Churches in N. America

In addition,
congregations or
presence in:

- Australia
- Belgium
- Ireland
- Kenya
- Paraguay
- Romania
- Ukraine

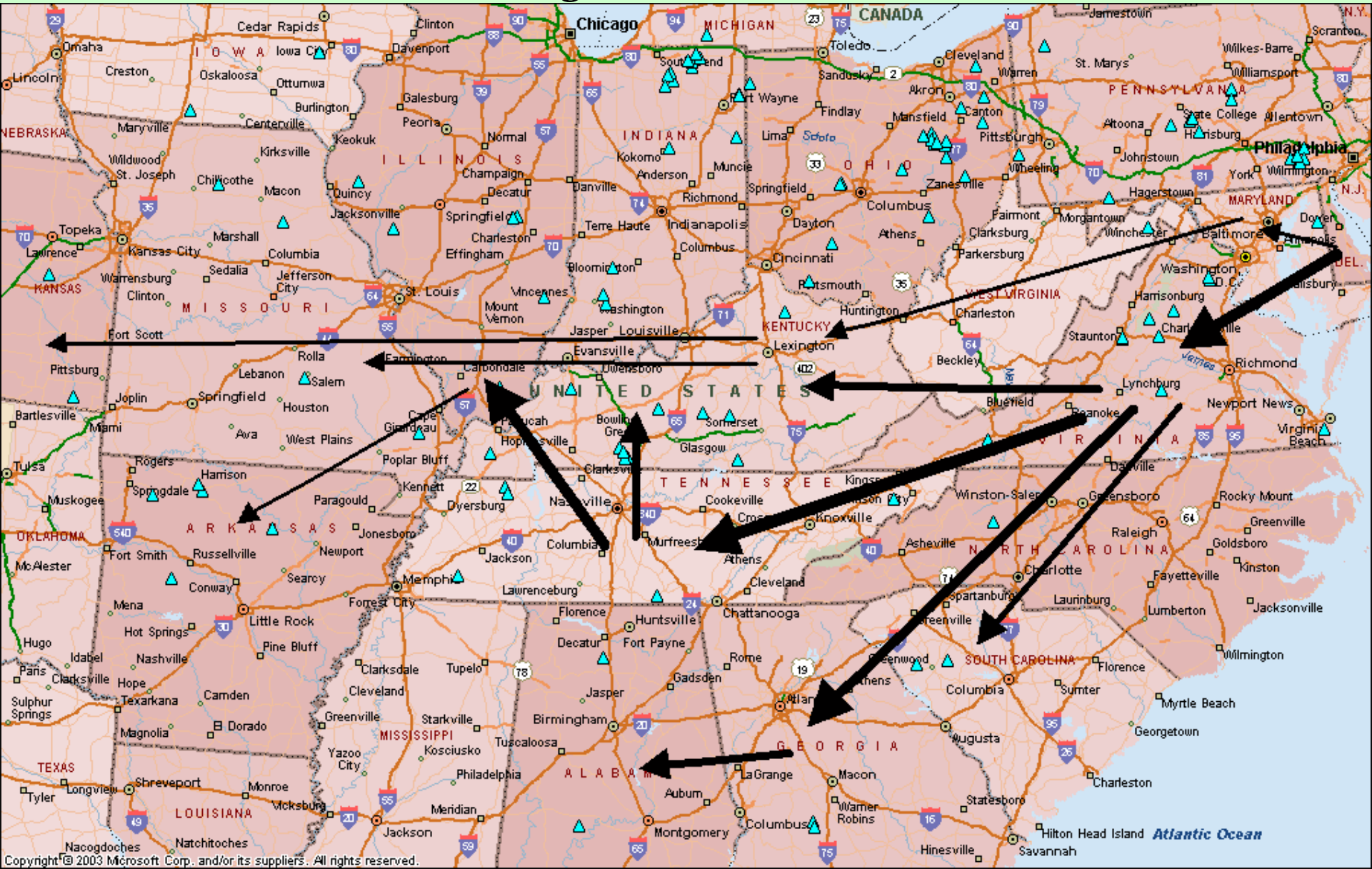


Regional Concentrations of Beachy Churches



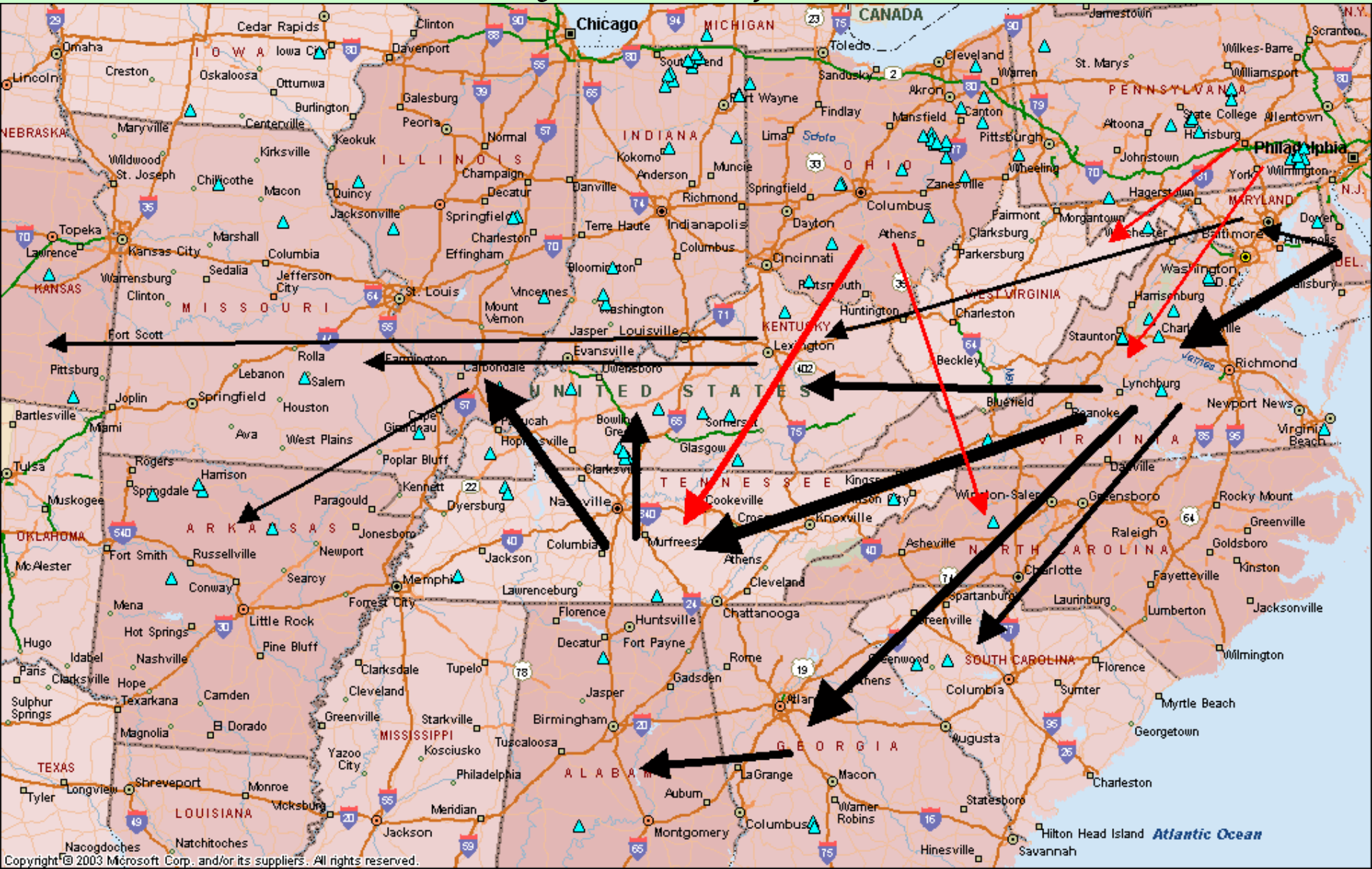
Diffusion of Beachy Churches in the US South

(Delaware to Virginia moves are O.O. Amish)



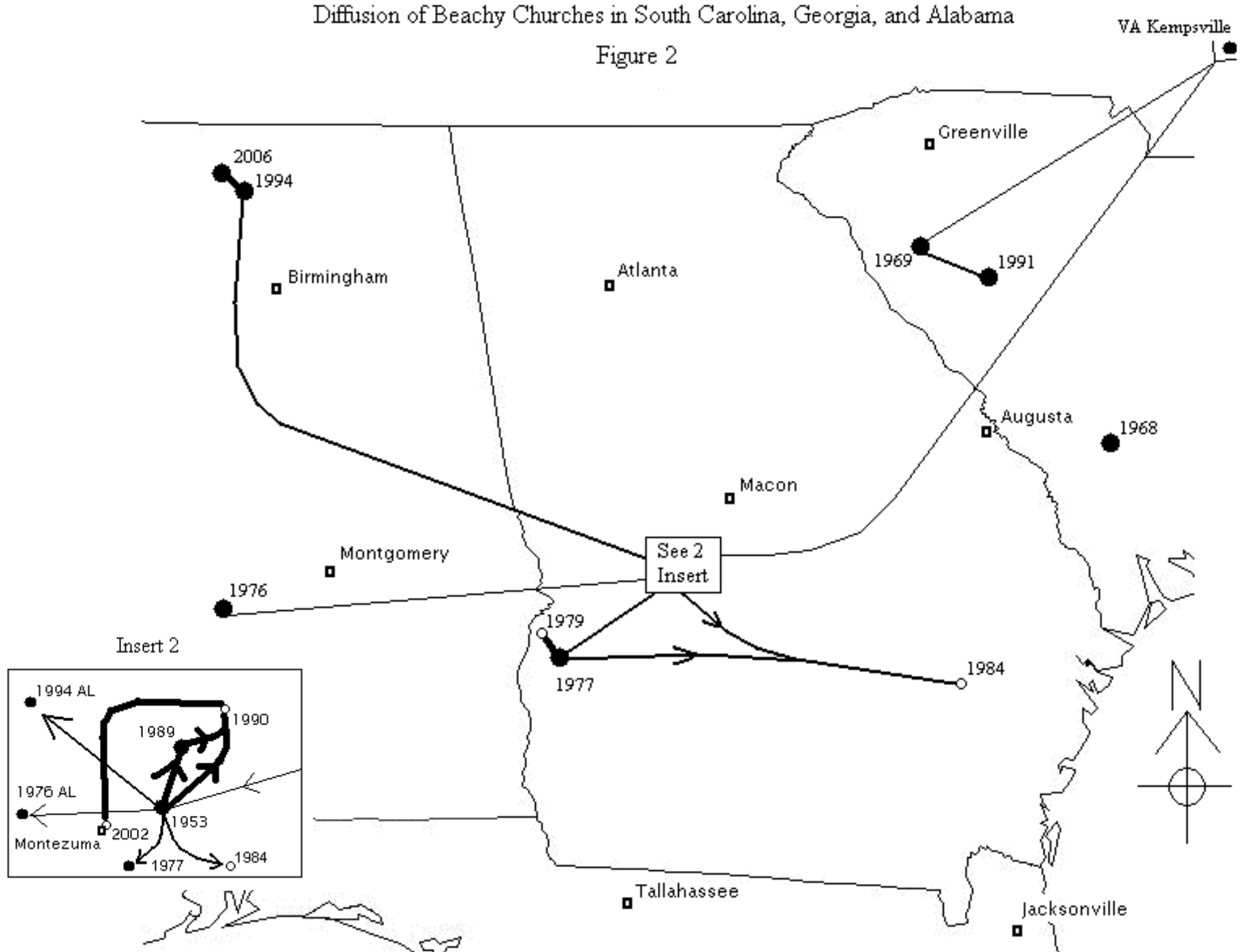
Diffusion of Beachy Churches in the US South

(Red arrows are Beachy churches from non-Southern states)



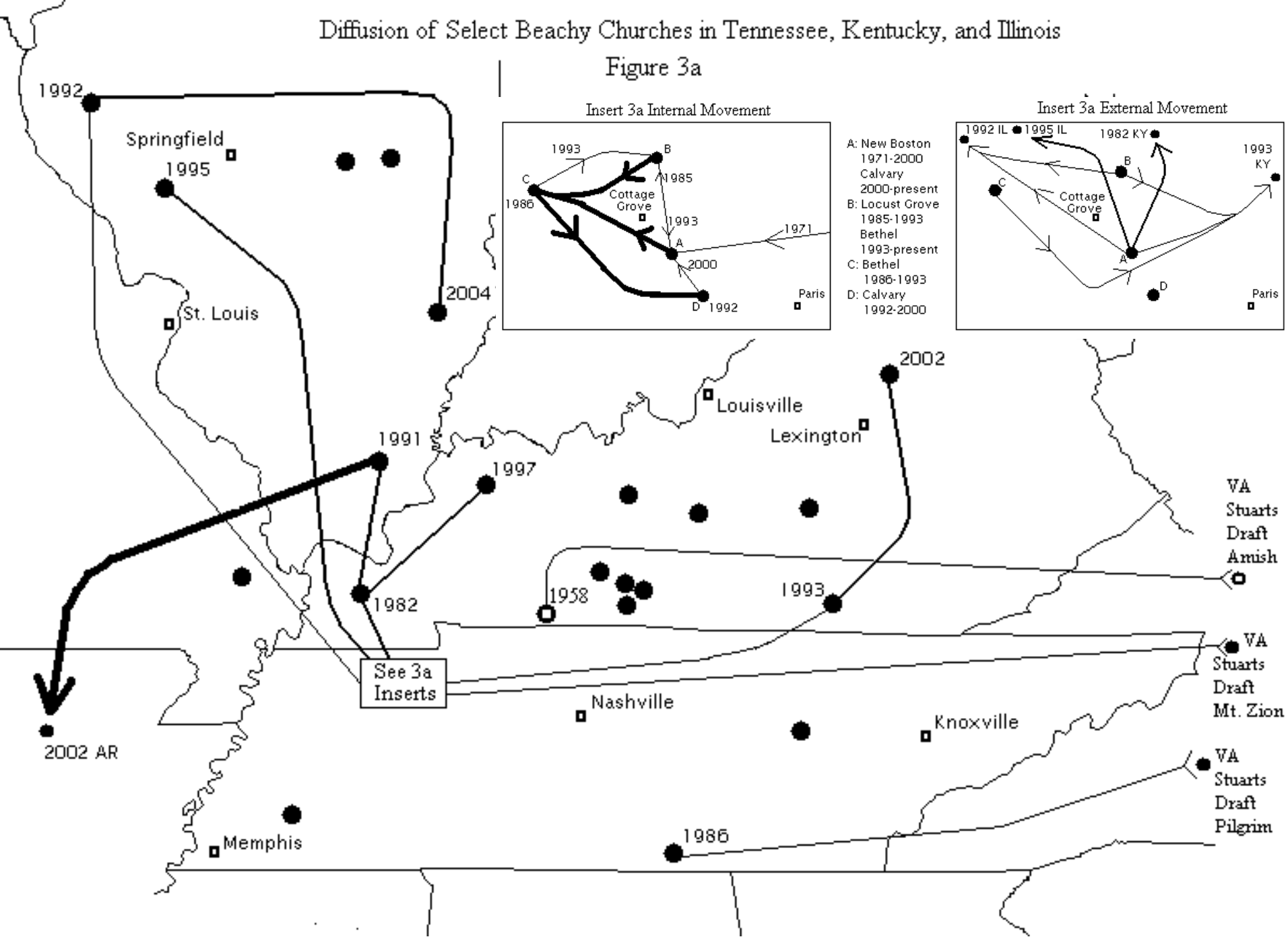
Diffusion of Beachy Churches in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama

Figure 2



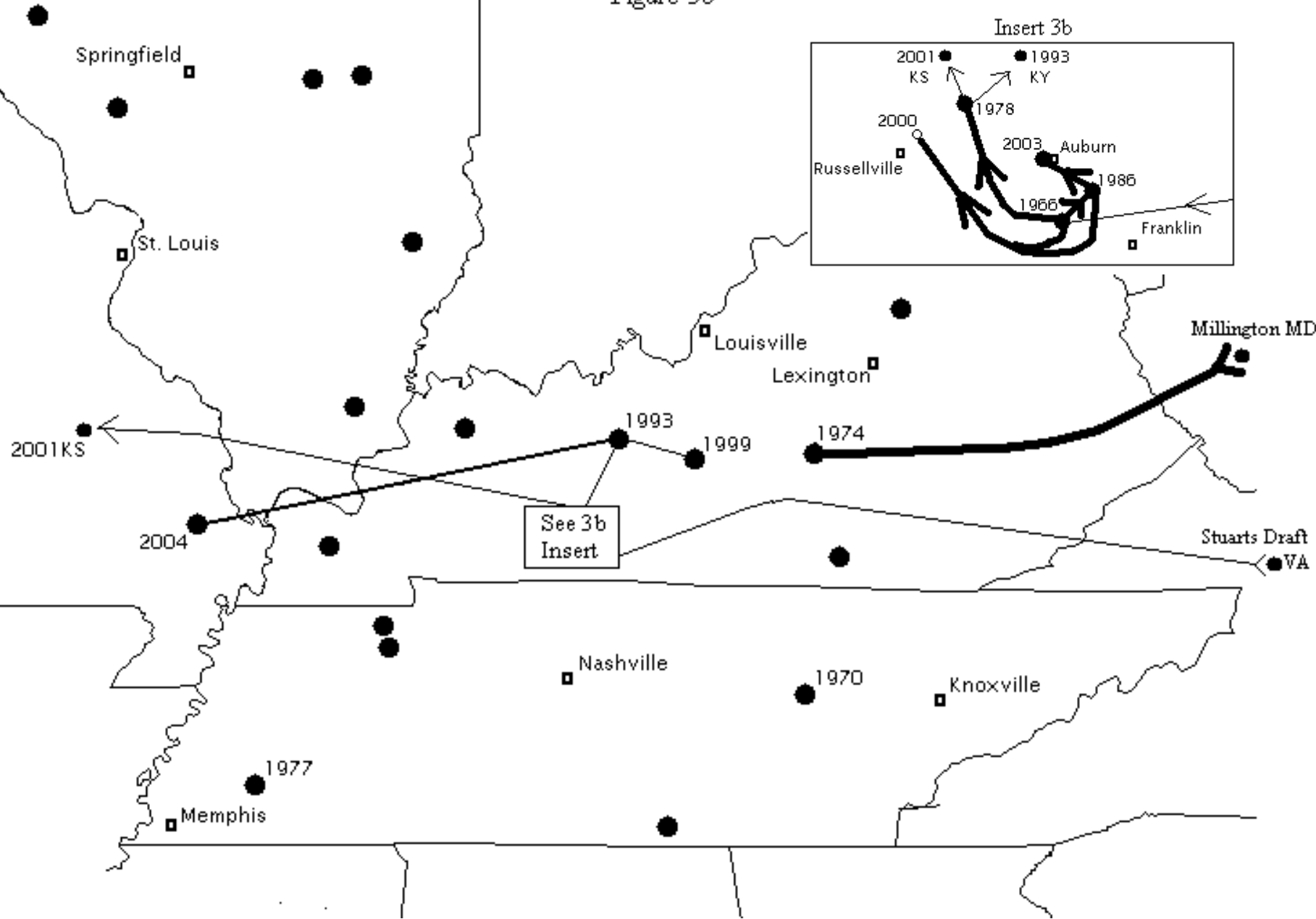
Diffusion of Select Beachy Churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois

Figure 3a



Diffusion of Select Beachy Churches in Kentucky

Figure 3b



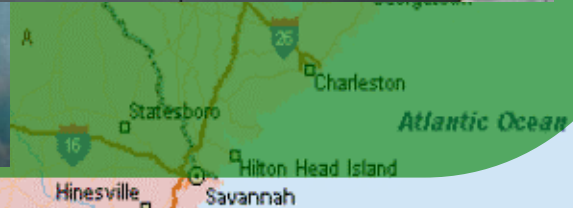
Beachys on the Move: *External Spatial Impacts*

Relocation

- Push factors for relocation: suburbanization, land prices/taxes, and militarism
- Pull factors: economic opportunity and evangelization

Impacts on the community

- Social Impacts
- Economic Impacts
- Real estate



Inter-congregational Spatial Relationships

- Elbow room: no more church hopping!
- Meeting grounds for young Beachy saplings



Further Resources

Students at Calvary Bible School, January 2007



- <http://www.BeachyAM.org/> <-Many, many resources
- Yoder, Elmer S. 1987. *The Beachy Amish Mennonite Fellowship Churches*. Hartville: Diakonia Ministries.
- Camden and Gaetz. 2006. *Mennonites in Texas*. College Station: Texas A&M U. Press

Non-scientific citation: All photos by C.A.A., friends of C.A.A., and friends of friends of C.A.A. Thanks!