

In 2008, a "contour church" was built near the Menno Simons monument at Het Fliet in Witmarsum. This was an initiative of the former Mennonite Monuments Foundation in Friesland. It is based on the shape and perimeter of the 'Minne Simens old preaching house', the church that stood here. (See picture above).

The enclosed church has been replaced by an 'open church'. Wind and weather, spirit and faith, have free rein here.

Rev. Gerke van Hiele reports the following about this:

"... Not only is Witmarsum a place of pilgrimage, it has even more become an open space for reflection and inspiration in the vastness of the Frisian countryside.... And for many, this new church is a good starting place to reflect on the meaning of the Mennonite tradition. The church is part of a meditative route through Menno's homeland along three key moments of the tradition. This route starts at the Koepelkerk in Witmarsum, the place where Menno once closed the door behind him, leaving the Catholic church in 1536. This moment marks the Anabaptist movement as a renewal movement. Next, the old hidden church of Pingjum represents a history of persecution and division. Mennonites became "quiet in the land". Finally, the open and multicoloured contour church reminds us of our mission to look for a contemporary design for our congregational life, wherever we may live in the world ... In the past, foreign tourists arrived at this place with high expectations, but they went home somewhat disappointed. Now, in addition to the monument, there is a stylish open church that points to the contours of the Anabaptist way of being church and community. The framework is there. It is up to us to continue to build in confidence on an authentic practice of faith and life..."

The contour church is freely accessible year-round. No appointment needed.

Address:

It Fliet 1 - Witmarsum

GPS coordinates: 53.09918, 5.48187