

## Ohio Mennonite Women (OMW) Annual Report 2016

Mission of Ohio Mennonite Women: to minister to the women by resourcing women's groups and individual women as we nurture our life in Christ, study the Bible, utilize our gifts, hear each other and engage in mission and service. Vision: to promote woman-to-woman links locally and globally, through mission and fellowship, within our churches and to work together towards this mission. OMW sponsored/assisted with four events in 2016.

The *OMW Breakfast* was held at Zion Mennonite Church on March 12, 2016, during the Annual Conference Assembly. Erin Dye, chaplain at Adriel School, spoke on the theme, "Truly seeing 'The Least of These.'" She challenged the attendees with the familiar passage in Matthew 25, on being a church that is accepting of the community around it, and asking how we model this within our own church walls. Can we see the hurting people the way Jesus sees them, and how do we interact with them as a church? How do we replicate nurturing that comes so easily to us that it doesn't require a second thought? OMW Board Members hosted this event, and 31 women were in attendance.

The *Day of Inspiration* was scheduled for Saturday, April 9, with Janice Hershberger as speaker. The event was canceled due to unforeseen winter weather. This event has been rescheduled to April 8, 2017, at Crown Hill Mennonite Church. Janice Hershberger will be the speaker at this event. Special thanks to Crown Hill Mennonite Church women who did much preparation for this event.

*Girls' Jamboree:* Aug. 12-14, 2016 - Camp Luz. The speaker was Annette Steiner, and Shannon Grimes led the worship time. Christi Michaels and Hannah Otto were program assistants. The theme was "*Fearless in our Faith*," based on Isaiah 41:10. Twenty girls, grades 3-8, and five adult sponsors were in attendance. Other activities included campfire, worship, games, crafts, and swimming in the new Camp Luz pool!

*Women's Retreat:* Camp Luz, Sept. 16-18, 2016. The theme was "Sharing Your Story," and sisters Kim Leichty and Vicki Esh were the speakers. They shared some of their life stories and challenged the women to think about their own stories, and how sharing them might open connections with other women. The importance of hearing the "whole" story, understanding background, cultural elements and listening to all sides of stories, were challenges, and Biblical stories were shared during the presentations. Music was led by Andrea Kauffman, and the program assistant was Roxie Ramseyer. Fifty-two women were in attendance during the weekend. The workshops included "*Know your story, grow your story*" led by Rhoda Steiner and "*Do your loved ones know what you want?*" by Bonnie Burnside. Offering was gathered to support OMW and OMW-sponsored projects.

OMW supports Adriel School, Camp Luz, Sunshine Foundation, Mennonite Women USA, Nafzigers in Nepal with Mennonite Mission Network, Bridge of Hope School – Liberia, and The Well and the Sutters in Thailand. Special thanks to all the churches which support our missionaries and programs.

Current OMW Board includes Co-chairs: Willie Stoltzfus and Roxanne Kauffman; Treasurer: Melanie Miller; Day of Inspiration Coordinators: Myrna Ramseyer and Angela Steiner. We are blessed to have had a board that worked well together and was willing to serve, despite many vacancies this past year. Edna Troyer and Barbara Taylor completed their terms in September 2016.

**Seeking board members! Vice Chair: vacant; Secretary: vacant; Jamboree/Retreat Coordinator: vacant; Day of Inspiration Coordinator: vacant.** Please consider serving.

Submitted by Co-Chairs, Willie Stoltzfus — [stoltzfus.willie@gmail.com](mailto:stoltzfus.willie@gmail.com)  
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