

OC to hold pastor-elder retreats

The Ohio Conference invites the pastor-elder team at your church to *Practicing Right Relationship*, a retreat focusing on congregational effectiveness. The retreat will be offered in both western and eastern Ohio in February 2016 for only \$50 per participant. Lonnie Yoder, professor of pastoral care and counseling at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Va., will be the input speaker for this overnight retreat.



The pastor-elder retreat will be held Feb. 5-6 at Widewater Retreat Center in Liberty Center, Ohio, and also

Feb. 19-20 at Camp Buckeye in Beach City, Ohio. A brochure with more information is on the Ohio Conference website at <http://bit.ly/Pastor-Elder>.

If you have further questions about the pastor-elder retreat, please contact Alysa Short at alysashort@gmail.com or 419-572-1348.

Share stories of how you worship

Ohio Conference wants to hear about how you worship. We are looking for stories, photos, and videos about how your church uses songs, original skits, art, and other forms in your worship services. For more information and an example, visit the How We Worship page of the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/HowWeWorship>.



We hope this collaborative collection of worship stories can serve to inspire each other in our creative worship. Please send your worship stories to Ann Leaman at ohioevangel@earthlink.net and visit the page to see how God is moving in our churches.

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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
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OCTOBER 2015

Conference awards 11 grants

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) has awarded 11 grants totaling \$23,242.50 to Ohio Conference congregations and Conference-related groups. The MDT approved the grants at its Aug. 31 meeting in Upper Sandusky.

Funding for these grants comes from surplus funds that had accumulated during years in which the Conference ended its fiscal year with a surplus.

The following ministries received grants:

OPERATION OUTREACH

Victory Community Church in Solon is receiving funds for Operation Outreach, an effort to reach the community of Solon through outdoor gospel concerts, as well as passing out door hangers and information about Victory Community Church.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING MINISTRY

Millersburg Mennonite Church, Martins Creek Mennonite Church and Love INC of Holmes County received a grant to support a transitional housing

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Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

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ministry for individuals in the area struggling to find quality, affordable housing.

FULLY ENGAGED/FAITH WORKS SYMPOSIUM

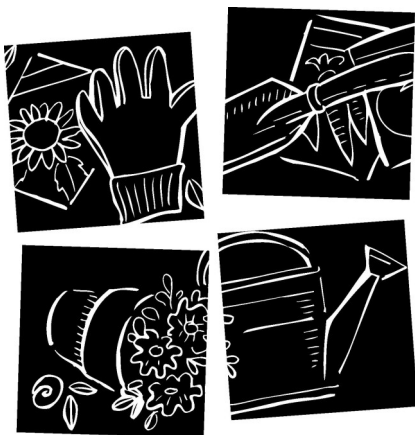
Wooster Mennonite Church received a grant toward the cost of the Fully Engaged/Faith Works Symposium, which will include a series of four seminars focused on values of the Anabaptist tradition, including peacemaking, social justice, and racial reconciliation. The goal is for these seminars to educate and inspire not only the Wooster Mennonite congregation, but also the College of Wooster community and the broader local community.

FIREWOOD GAP MINISTRY

Beaverdam Mennonite Church and Love INC of Corry, Pa. received a grant for the Firewood Gap Ministry, which will provide firewood and devotionals for individuals with wood-heated homes who need assistance. Many homes in the area are wood-heated, and some families find the cost of heating their homes to be overwhelming in a location which often experiences a large amount of lake-effect snow.

PEACE AND PLENTY GARDEN

Peace Mennonite Church in Elyria received a grant for supplies for its Peace and Plenty Garden, which includes plots for both the congregation and individual community members. Grant funds will go toward installing signs and a shade canopy tent/gathering space for the congregation's garden, with the goal of increasing community involvement in the gardening program. A variety of interpretive, instructive and inspirational signs will be included.



CREATION CARE, INSIDE AND OUT

Summit Mennonite Church received a grant toward supplies for creating a community garden at Summit Mennonite Church which can be used by

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local residents, some of whom live in a mobile home park nearby and are not permitted to have gardens at their homes. The grant funds also will be used to purchase containers for a recycling program at Summit Mennonite.

GUATEMALA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH PLANTING

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry and Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster received a grant toward the cost of travel to Guatemala to investigate the possibility of planting a church there and also to interact with students who have been supported by Open Arms and are graduating from SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary.

THE GROVE

Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty received a grant to support "The Grove," a ministry to be located at a storefront in the village of West Liberty. The storefront will be used to provide space for ministries such as grief counseling, Divorce Care, financial management, and Bible study in an easily accessible "non-churchy" location. There is also the possibility of moving the West Liberty Cares Food Pantry from outside of town to this loca-

tion. The food pantry is supported by most of the churches in the area.

SENTRALIZED CONFERENCE

Grant funds will provide support for four pastors or other leaders from Ohio Conference to attend a Sentralized Conference sponsored by Forge Network. This conference is for pastors, lay leaders and those committed to building up God's kingdom.



CHILD'S WORLD PRESCHOOL

Child's World Preschool, a ministry of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, received a grant for the purchase of children's Bibles and other educational supplies. The preschool works with the children from families of all income levels, including those who do not qualify for Head Start but are not able to afford tuition.