

Perspective

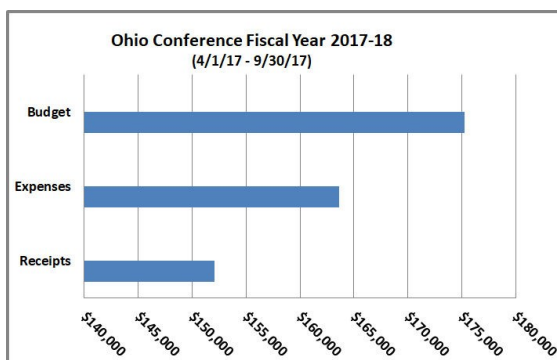


www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Conference deficit grows during September

Expenses outpaced receipts for the Ohio Conference during the month of September, according to figures provided by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for the month totaled \$25,067, including \$21,417 in congregational giving. Total expenses for the month were \$29,783, resulting in a -\$4,716 operating balance for the month. At the end of September, the Conference's year-to-date operating balance for 2017-18 was -\$11,519. The Conference fiscal year ends on March 31, 2018.



Healthy Boundaries training required for credentialed leaders

Ohio Conference is providing Healthy Boundaries training for all credentialed persons in the Conference. This training will be offered three times during 2017-18:

- Dec. 9, 2017 — SpringHaven Counseling Center, Dundee (near Mount Eaton, Ohio)
- Jan. 13, 2018 — Bluffton area (specific location yet to be confirmed)
- April 21, 2018 — Archbold area (specific location yet to be confirmed)

The training will last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at each location.

Attendance at this training is mandatory for continued credentialing in the Ohio Conference. Retired pastors are welcome to attend, but are not required to do so. Chaplains who have previously completed similar training may submit documentation of that training to the Ohio Conference Credentialing Ministry for consideration.

Perspective: 1) The inter-relation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed. 2) Point of view; capacity to view things in their relative importance.

Service perspective

LANCASTER, Pa. — You're 55 or older, and you want to put your faith into action. Wondering where to go? Visit Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) and Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC's) newly created Anabaptist Service Opportunities Portal at ASOPortal.org to discover all the short-term, international service opportunities being offered by both EMM and MCC for volunteers ages 55 and older.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
- Church chairperson
- Youth sponsor(s)
- Delegates
- Duplicate for other church leaders

The Ohio Conference Credentialing Ministry is encouraging each congregation to send a layperson to the training along with their pastors to share the experience. Congregations generally want healthy pastors and want to find ways to help that happen, and this training will provide guidelines for achieving that goal. In addition, training a second person will raise the awareness of the congregation's leadership about ways everyone, and particularly pastors, can practice healthy boundary maintenance. Congregations are encouraged to send someone who is part of the group to whom the pastor is accountable.

At the Dec. 9 training, the presenters will be Jon Bohley and Laurel Neufeld Weaver. Jon Bohley, the clinical director at SpringHaven Counseling Center, is a licensed professional clinical counselor. Laurel Neufeld Weaver is a licensed independent social worker and director of Creating Hope Counseling in Bluffton, Ohio.

Healthy Boundaries training has several goals:

- To increase awareness of the need for healthy boundaries in the clergy-congregant relationship
- To provide clergy and lay leaders with guidelines for appropriate boundaries and self-care
- To illustrate strategies to sustain a safe, healthy church
- To define boundaries and why they are important

Ohio Conference is presenting these training events in conjunction with the Central District Conference.

The registration cost for this training is \$25 per person. This fee covers the cost of the training, books and lunch. Any pastor or congregation who has difficulty in paying that amount should contact Andy Stoner, Credentialing Ministry chair, at astoner45@gmail.com or 937-450-4482.

The deadline to register for the Dec. 9 training is **Friday, Nov. 24**. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/HealthyBoundariesDec9>.

Faith and values workshop planned

Everence is sponsoring a "Faith and Values in the Marketplace" workshop on Monday, Nov. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Gardens at Homestead Furniture in Mt. Hope. Co-sponsors for this event are Mennonite Economic Development Associates and the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center.

Speakers will include Beryl Jantzi, Everence stewardship education director; Ernest Hershberger, owner of Homestead Furniture; John Schmid, founder and director of Common Ground Ministries; and Sam Yoder, president and owner of Berlin Gardens. This workshop is especially designed for business families, pastors, community leaders and key managers. Please see the enclosed flier for details.

Meeting perspective

Regional cluster meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) have begun. The first regional cluster meeting took place Oct. 17 at Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker. Three meetings remain:

- Oct. 24 – Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty
- Oct. 26 – Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron
- Oct. 31 – Beech Mennonite Church in Louisville

Each meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and last about an hour and a half.

Mental health perspective

Central Mennonite Church in Archbold will host a free seminar, "Bipolar Disorder and Families: Genetics and Mental Health," on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Staff from the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland, will be sharing research developments from studying Mennonites and the Amish.

In addition, Wauseon resident Bev Miller will share about her personal experience with bipolar disorder and talk about ways to walk with those who are depressed. Please see the enclosed flier for more information.

Perspective deadlines

Oct. 30 for Nov. 2
Nov. 13 for Nov. 16
