

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: (330) 453-0150 Email: ohioevangel@gmail.com

What does being 'missional' mean?

This year in Ohio Conference the word "missional" is being used a lot. In the latest episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, hosts Bill Seymour and Thomas Dunn interview Jacob Dodson, pastor of Wooster Mennonite Church, to discuss what being missional actually means and what the implications could be for our individual congregations and for Ohio Conference. You can find this podcast on the Ohio Conference website at <http://bit.ly/OCCastBeingMissional>. All episodes of the Ohio Conference Cast are on the Ohio Conference website (<http://ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts>) and on iTunes.

Registration is open for missional conference

"Who is my Neighbor?" is the theme for the upcoming Ohio Conference Missional Conference with Alan and Debra Hirsch. This two-day event will take place March 23-24, 2017, at Kidron Mennonite Church immediately prior to Annual Conference Assembly.



This missional conference will focus on a variety of topics:

- Inviting all people in so they feel that they have a place to just be and feel loved
- Leading with embrace rather than theology
- Respecting high standards while extending grace
- Engaging third places
- Christ and the Gospel as core for mission and church life

Alan and Debra Hirsch have led churches in both Australia and Los Angeles. A well-known mission strategist and speaker, Alan Hirsch is the founder of Forge Mission Training Network, 100 Movements and Future Travelers. He is the author of *The Forgotten Ways*, as well as numerous other books.

Debra Hirsch is a speaker, church leader and writer and a member of the Forge America national team. With Alan Hirsch she co-authored the book *Untamed: Reactivating a Missional Form of Discipleship*. Her most recent book is titled *Redeeming Sex: Naked Conversations about Sexuality and Spirituality*.

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.

Meeting perspective

A third Year of Covenant Meeting for Pastors will take place on Thursday, Jan. 12. The location has yet to be determined. Check future issues of *Perspective* for more details about this meeting.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Cost for this event will be \$40 for Ohio Conference members attending Annual Conference Assembly, \$55 for other Ohio Conference members, and \$85 for non-Ohio Conference members. Participants ages 30 and younger will receive a half-price discount on the cost of registration.

A brochure and a flier with details about this event are included with this issue of *Perspective*. Online registration for this event is now open. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/2017MissionalConferenceRegistration>.

Grant supports event in Toledo

In August the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team awarded a grant to Toledo Mennonite Church and several partnering organizations to help sponsor a Guns into Garden Tools Event in Toledo. That event took place Oct. 29 at the University Church in Toledo. To see a video featuring this event, go to <http://bit.ly/GunsintoGardenToolsToledo>.

Online Advent devotions to begin Nov. 21

GOSHEN, Ind. — As churches prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, Goshen College offers an online spiritual resource to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent, even in the midst of busy schedules and hectic lives.

Beginning Nov. 21 and culminating on Christmas Day, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on lectionary Scripture passages. Many writers will reflect on the Advent theme: "The Holy Way: Walking in the Way of God's Heart," taken from Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada worship resources. These devotions will be online at <https://www.goshen.edu/devotions>.

Camp Luz to host Mother-Daughter Retreat

Camp Luz is hosting a Mother-Daughter Retreat Jan. 20-21. Rhoda Steiner will be speaking on the topic "Radical Faith from a Resting Place." Visit www.camppluz.com for more information and registration forms.

Bluffton to present Messiah

BLUFFTON, Ohio—Bluffton University will present its 121st performance of Handel's *Messiah* at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in Founders Hall. The event is free and open to the public; a freewill offering will be taken.

Webinar to focus on racial justice

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will be offering a webinar titled "Changing the Way the Church Views Racism" on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Drew Hart, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology at Messiah College, will provide concrete practices for churches committed to journeying toward solidarity with the oppressed and committed to racial justice. See <http://bit.ly/AMBSWebinars> for more information.

Memorial perspective

Paul Oliver King, 94, a former interim pastor for two Ohio Conference congregations, died Oct. 29 in his home at Walnut Hills Retirement Community, Walnut Creek.

He was born on Dec. 21, 1921, to Elizabeth Augsburg King and Edward King in Elida. Paul was committed to following Christ and was a lifelong member of the Mennonite Church. He served with the Mennonite Central Committee in various assignments throughout the U.S. and in Italy.

He served as pastor in the Mennonite Church for more than 35 years, with churches in Illinois, and after retirement, in Ohio. He served as interim pastor at Berlin Mennonite Church and Martins Creek Mennonite Church.

Memorial services were held Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. at Martins Creek Mennonite Church, Millersburg. A full obituary is online: <http://bit.ly/PaulOKing>.

Perspective insert

This issue of *Perspective* includes a list of deadlines for *Perspective* and *Ohio Mennonite Evangel* for 2017.

Perspective deadlines

Nov. 28 for Dec. 1
Dec. 12 for Dec. 15
