

# Perspective



[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

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## ***Ralph Reinford to have surgery Dec. 7***

Please remember Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford with your prayers as he will be having hernia surgery at the Cleveland Clinic on Dec. 7. He will be taking time off of work for at least two weeks, and his travel will be limited for the month of December. Please call Judy King at the Conference office (330-857-5421) for questions. In the event of an emergency, call Interim Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker (517-398-2172.)

In addition to praying for Ralph Reinford, we invite you to pray for the health needs of several other Ohio Conference members:

- Please continue to pray for Naomi Engle, associate pastor at West Clinton Mennonite Church, as she continues chemotherapy and radiation treatment after surgery to remove brain tumors.
- Ohio Conference Moderator Bob Sauder is recovering from hip replacement surgery which took place Nov. 10. Please remember him in prayer as he heals.
- Please pray for continued healing for Mark Short, husband of Ohio Conference Coordinator of Volunteers Alysa Short, as he recovers from a severe injury to his foot.

## ***Ohio Conference Cast: What happens at the CLC?***

Twice a year representatives from each conference in Mennonite Church USA meet as the Constituency Leaders Council, also known as the CLC. But what actually happens when this group of about 70 people gets together? In the latest episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, hosts Thomas Dunn and Bill Seymour talk to Ohio Conference Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford about the latest CLC meeting, and they even hear about how one of Ohio Conference's representatives, Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg, was able to address the CLC about hopes for the future of the church. Schrock-Ringenberg is one of four co-authors of a paper titled "An Appeal for Healing and Hope for the Future of Mennonite Church USA from a Small Group of Younger Leaders." Go to <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCastCLC> to hear this episode.

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***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.***

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## ***Pastor perspective***

***E***mily Hedrick, pastor of Lima Mennonite Church, was featured in a recent issue of *The Lima News*. Take a look: <http://bit.ly/LimaNewsEmilyHedrick>.

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## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

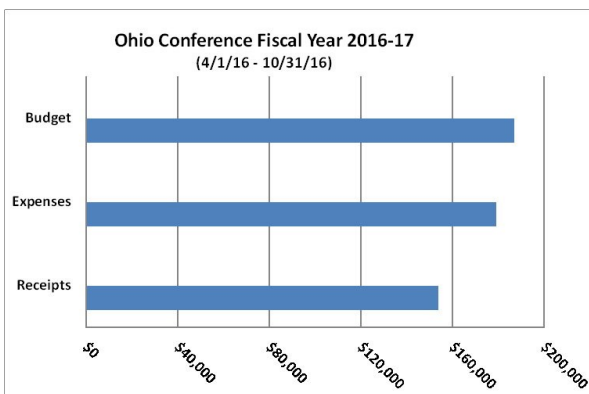
- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Thomas and Bill would like to hear from you. What topics would you like to know more about? Send an email to [ohioconferencecast@gmail.com](mailto:ohioconferencecast@gmail.com) with your suggestions for future episodes of the Ohio Conference Cast.

### **Conference deficit increases during October**

Ohio Conference's financial deficit increased during the month of October, according to figures provided by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for the month were \$24,732, including \$24,617 in giving from congregations. Expenses for the month totaled \$29,266, resulting in a net income of -\$4,534 for October.

For the first seven months of the fiscal year, receipts have totaled \$153,727, and expenses have totaled \$179,255, resulting in an operating balance of -\$25,528.



### **Men's Retreat to focus on sharing faith**

Church consultant J. David Eshleman will be the speaker at the annual Men's Retreat at Camp Luz in Kidron March 31-April 2.

During the weekend, David Eshleman will focus on material from his newest book, *Share the Irresistible Story of Jesus*. In the preface to the book, Eshleman states that his purpose is "to motivate Christians and churches to make the Great Commission the compelling passion of their lives and churches." For more information, see <http://www.camluz.com/Men's%20Retreat.htm>.

### **Bluffton to present Christmas choral concert**

BLUFFTON, Ohio — Bluffton University's Camerata Singers and University Chorale will headline "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," the university's Christmas choral concert, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in Yoder Recital Hall.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens. They are available online at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu> or in person at the Marbeck Center information desk.

The program is designed around a historical structure of scripture readings and Christmas carols. The readings, taken from prophetic writings about the Messiah's coming and from the Christmas story, are interspersed with various Christmas pieces. Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music, and Jonathan Wey, visiting conductor, will conduct the Camerata Singers, a select chamber choir, and the University Chorale, a 56-member mixed ensemble.

## **Parish Paper perspective**

The December issue of *The Parish Paper* addresses the question, "Can We Wait for God's Spark?" The author, C. Jeff Woods, makes the following observation at the beginning of his essay: "God sparks innovations, but only on God's terms, and those terms usually involve disruption." The December issue is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

## **Announcement perspective**

Mennonite Church USA has prepared several bulletin announcements for use during December. They are included with this issue of *Perspective*. We invite you to use these announcements for one or more Sundays in your congregational bulletin or newsletter as you see fit.

## **Perspective deadlines**

Dec. 12 for Dec. 15  
Jan. 2 for Jan. 5