

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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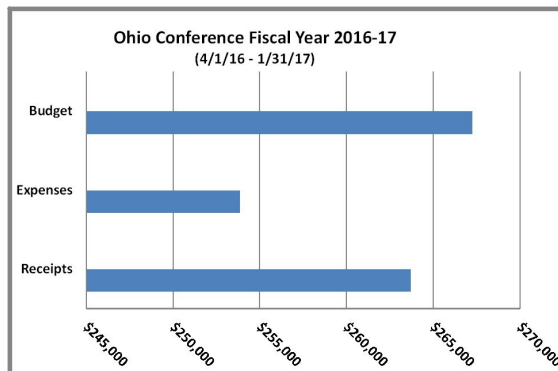
Stronger giving puts Conference in the black

Following stronger-than-normal giving during January, the Ohio Conference's operating balance is in the black for the first time during this fiscal year, according to figures supplied by Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Congregational giving in January totaled \$42,964, the largest monthly amount for this fiscal year. Total receipts for the month were \$46,729, including giving from congregations and individuals. Expenses for the month were \$22,700, resulting in a surplus of \$24,029 for the month.

As of Jan. 31, the Conference's operating balance for 2016-17 was **\$9,866**. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31.

For historical reference, the last time the Conference had a positive year-to-date operating balance was in March 2011, at the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year.



Three regional meetings scheduled

Ohio Conference has scheduled three regional meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last about an hour and a half. Locations are as follows:

- Feb. 21 — Tedrow Mennonite Church in Wauseon
- Feb. 23 — Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman
- March 7 — Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty

Podcast features Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg

During a podcast in November, Ohio Conference Cast hosts Bill Seymour and Thomas Dunn learned that one Ohio Conference pastor, Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg, had addressed the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) of Mennonite Church USA.

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

Explore what God is doing around the world through Youth Venture, a short-term service and learning program of Mennonite Mission Network. Teams of youth and adult leaders will join local ministries in Belfast, Benin, Detroit, and Perú for two to three weeks this summer. These formational experiences are geared for young people ages 14-22. Space is filling up fast, so apply today! For more information, visit <http://mennonitemission.net/YouthVenture>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Jessica spoke to the CLC as 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.](#)”

In the latest episode of Ohio Conference Cast, titled “Jessica breaks things,” Jessica talks with Thomas and Bill about that experience (which did include broken things — shards of pottery to be exact). They also discuss the ways that churches work together, and Jessica poses some questions, such as, “How do we call the denomination towards mission?” You can listen to the podcast on iTunes, or find it on the Ohio Conference website: <https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts>.

Conference seeks nominations for Step Up

This summer’s Mennonite Church USA convention will feature a new program, Step Up, aimed to get youth engaged in the discussions and work of the larger Mennonite Church. Each conference is encouraged to nominate three regular church attenders, incoming sophomores in high school and older, to be involved in this program. Youth will receive preparation for being a part of the delegate assembly and will sit at assigned tables during the delegate assembly. They will also debrief with other Step Up participants afterward. This is a unique opportunity to encourage youth interested in church leadership and in the workings of the larger church. **To nominate a youth to participate in this program, please contact Alysa Short at alysashort@gmail.com by March 1.**

Please share this announcement

A note for pastors and church offices: Ohio Conference would appreciate the following announcement being included in your bulletin or other means of communication through the week of Feb. 26. Thank you for encouraging your members to attend this unique missional learning opportunity.

Ohio Conference invites you to participate in our upcoming missional event featuring Alan and Debra Hirsch on March 23-24 at Kidron Mennonite Church. Alan and Debra, renowned speakers on the topic of the missional church, will be leading this two-day conference focusing on the topic of “Who Is My Neighbor?” Young adults are especially encouraged to attend and will receive half off of the registration price. Please visit ohiomennoniteconference.org for more information and to register.

Pastors invited to seminar at Laurelville

Allegheny Mennonite Conference invites interested pastors to participate in their Minister’s Spring Seminar April 24-27 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania. Presenter Nancy Heisey of Eastern Mennonite Seminary will lead a study of biblical responses to wealth and poverty. See the enclosed brochure for more information.

Registration perspective

The deadline to register for Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) is fast approaching. Have you registered yet? Registrations for both ACA and the Missional Conference with Alan and Debra Hirsch are due by **March 3**. After that date, the registration fee for ACA increases from \$30 to \$45 per person. Go to the Ohio Conference website at www.ohiomennoniteconference.org for links to online registration for both events.

Photo perspective

Thirty-nine people representing 29 congregations participated in the Year of Covenant Meeting for Pastors on Feb. 2 at Toledo Mennonite Church. Pastors met in groups for discussion, led by Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker. See the Ohio Conference website for photos from that meeting: <http://bit.ly/YofCPhotos>.

OMW perspective

Ohio Mennonite Women will hold their Spring Day of Inspiration Saturday, April 8, at Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman. See the announcement on the Ohio Conference website for details: <http://bit.ly/2017OMWInspiration>.

Perspective deadlines

March 6 for March 9
March 27 for March 30
