

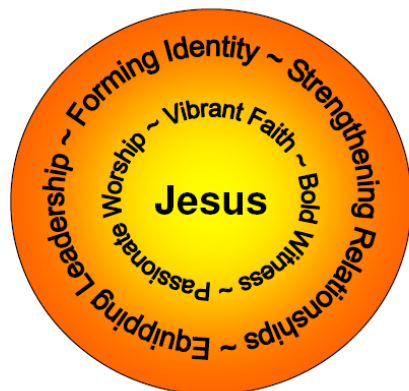
Worship is one of our core values

Worship is an important part of the identity of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, as is evident from the Ohio Conference Mission Statement:

We believe that Jesus Christ is at the center of who we are and all we do as the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

The mission of Ohio Conference is to be a people and congregations dedicated to worship of, faith in, and witness for Jesus Christ. Our passionate worship flows from our confession of God as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. We have a vibrant faith in God as Lord of all. Through our bold witness others will accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and will build peace with all humankind.

Therefore, the primary purpose as a conference is to cultivate healthy congregations through the equipping of leaders in the areas of worship, faith and witness. The leaders to equip are not only pastors, but church committee members, worship leaders, teachers, etc.



The Conference builds on the Anabaptist Mennonite perspective to form Conference identity. The Conference will help each congregation clarify its own identity to meet the needs of its community.

The Conference will strengthen relationships between churches within the Conference, providing networking and resourcing possibilities between churches with similar circumstances and needs. The Conference will also strengthen relationships with church-wide agencies and institutions as well as with community agencies that share Conference beliefs and mission.

Ohio Conference bulletin inserts are published six times per year by Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA.
For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
Ann Leaman, editor: ohioevangel@earthlink.net



Workshops to focus on worship

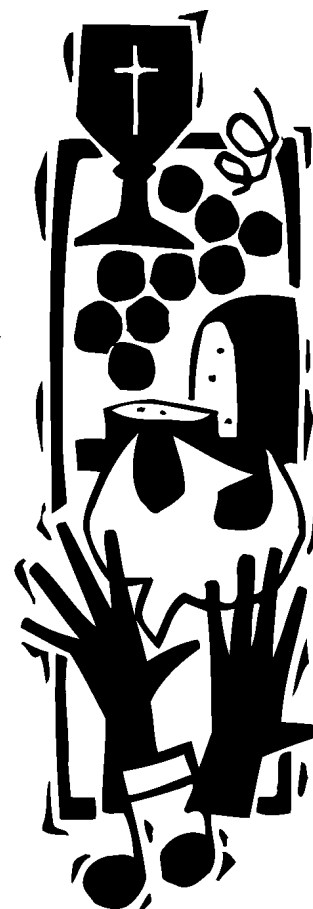
Why do we show up for worship week after week?

What difference does worship make for individuals and congregations?

How can we plan our worship so that it is truly God-centered?

If you are part of the team planning and leading worship for your congregation, you may have considered questions such as these. And you may be seeking an opportunity to connect with others who plan worship for their congregations.

This year Ohio Conference is making a con-



certed effort to equip local leaders as they guide their congregations in the area of worship.

Several workshops focusing on worship have been planned for local leaders. One workshop, led by Michael Zehr, a senior consultant for Design Group International, took place March 26 at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold. Two other training events for people in Ohio Conference will be offered this spring and summer, on May 7 and on July 22-23. Read on for more details about these events, and take the opportunity to participate!

*Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations*

Centering worship on God

Ohio Conference is providing an opportunity on **May 7** for persons who give leadership to worship in your congregations to connect and share ideas with other such leaders at a one-day worship event at Walnut Creek Mennonite Church. The day's events will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Michael Zehr, a senior consultant with Design Group International, will



offer the keynote addresses around the question, "What does it mean to have God at the center of our worship?"

Attendees will choose two interactive seminars designed to increase their worship skills. Seminar topics include the following:



- Drama in Worship
- Building the Music Team
- The Craft of Worship Song-writing
- Faith Like a Child

The three worship sessions will be led by a choir from Lee Heights Community Church, members of the MYF from the Oak Grove (Smithville) Mennonite Church and Kevin Himes from Longenecker Mennonite Church.

Cost for the workshop (including lunch) is \$40 for individuals, \$35 per person for teams of two to three, and \$25 per person for teams of four or more. The registration deadline for this workshop is **Friday, April 29**. See the Conference website for a registration form: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org.

Planning the worship service

Berlin Mennonite Church and the Ohio Conference are pleased to offer "The Art of Worship Planning," a two-day workshop featuring speaker Marlene Kropf, July 22-23. This event will take place at the Walnut Creek Mennonite Church Fellowship Building, 2619 County Road 144, Sugarcreek, Ohio.

Friday evening's session, titled "Why Worship?" will focus on the role of worship, our expectations, and what makes worship unique. The session will take place from 7 to 8:15 p.m.

Saturday's events will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will include breakfast, brunch and two workshop sessions. These sessions will focus on the topic, "How Can I Become A Better Worship Leader?" These two sessions will examine the nuts and bolts of worship planning and leading and will explore ways to make worship fresh and relevant.

Speaker Marlene Kropf has been a professor at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., since 1984, teaching in the areas of worship and spiritual formation. She was a member of the worship committee for the group that produced *Hymnal: A Worship Book, Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*. She also co-



authored the book *Preparing Sunday Dinner: A Collaborative Approach to Worship and Preaching*.

The registration cost for this event is \$10 per person. This fee includes the Friday and Saturday sessions, a resource packet, breakfast and brunch. Registration forms are due to the Ohio Conference Office by July 11, 2011. A registration form can be found in the "News Feed" section of the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org.

For more information about this event, please contact Inga Troyer at (330) 674-4670 or vitroyer@holmescounty.net.