

Embodied Worship, Faith and Witness

Strengthening congregations to promote worship, faith and witness is one of the primary aims of Conference work. Through equipping and supporting pastors and congregational leaders, more gifts are released for witness to the community.

Support for this work enables ministry teams to respond to congregational needs and cultural concerns in areas such as military recruitment, immigration and human trafficking. Hispanic ministries, youth ministry resourcing, a Conference-wide youth event, and church planting with a Vietnamese group and in Strasburg are additional projects supported by the Conference.

Spending for Embodied Worship, Faith and Witness includes these items:

- Office/travel for meetings

- Prayer Ministry Team
- Retreats and seminars
- Resource Team expenses
- Mennonite Mission Leaders Conference
- Coordinator of Volunteers salary and benefits
- Ministry Development Team ministry support, including Hispanic and new ministries
- Youth Initiative Ministries
- Pastoral Scholarship Fund
- Reserve for new ministries
- 10 percent of the Regional Pastors' salaries and benefits

Subtotal: \$63,494 (12.25%)



Ohio Youth Event 2012
June 29-July 1
Elufften University

The Ohio Youth Event is just one example of the many programs sponsored by Ohio Conference.

Denominational Support

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Spending for Denominational Support includes these items:

- Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership Support

- Delegates to General Assembly
- 10 percent of Conference Minister salary and benefits

Subtotal: \$57,831 (11.15%)

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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the

Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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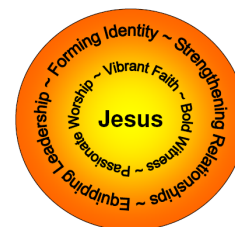
Narrative Spending Plan explains how Conference funds are used

The primary purpose of the Ohio Conference is to cultivate healthy congregations through the equipping of leaders in the areas of worship, faith and witness. But how do the funds given by congregations enable the Conference to work? To help answer this question, the Ohio Conference Stewardship Commission has developed a Narrative Spending Plan which explains how the money spent assists the Conference in achieving its purpose. For 2012-2013, the Conference plans to spend a total of **\$518,225**.

The Narrative Spending Plan includes

five focus areas:

- Empowering Pastors and Congregations
 - Equipping Conference Ministries
 - Embodied Worship, Faith and Witness
 - Stewardship Education
 - Denominational Support
- To learn more about each of these focus areas, see pages 2-4.



Empowering Pastors and Congregations

The majority of Regional Pastor time goes towards the support of the pastors of our 77 congregations. In addition to bestowing and maintaining credentials, the Conference offers a variety of specialized retreats

(i.e. couples in ministry, women in ministry) as well as resourcing events.

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Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

Empowering Pastors and Congregations

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Regional Pastors facilitate regular pastor peer meeting times, as well as offering support to pastors in crisis. For the congregations, Regional Pastors oversee the pastoral search process and are available to elder groups as well as for congregational discernment or crisis.

Mentoring newly credentialed leaders and providing financial support for ministry interns are just some of the ways the Conference nurtures and supports persons exploring a call to ministry.

Support for these ministries helps to maintain healthy pastors and relationships between pastoral leaders and congregations so that all of us can be about the work of the Kingdom.

Spending for Empowering Pastors and Congregations includes these



One of the Regional Pastors' many tasks is working with pastors during the credentialing process. Above, Regional Pastor Matt Hamsher preaches at the ordination service of Patrick and Christine Nafziger.

items:

- Office/travel for credentialing interviews and meetings
- Pastoral assessment requirements for new pastoral candidates
- Retreats and seminars
- Ministry Inquiry Program opportunities for college students
- 60 percent of the Regional Pastors' salaries and benefits
- 20 percent of Conference Minister salary and benefits

Subtotal: \$118,095 (22.78%)

Stewardship Education

The work of equipping people to be faithful stewards of time, money and talent has been a primary task of the Stewardship Ministry. This group also provides fiscal accountability for Conference work. A series of events over the past two years (including Stewardship University and the Revitalization seminar) are some of the resources that the ministry has overseen. Support for this ministry allows

for low-cost events as well as allowing for additional resourcing for pastors and lay leaders.

Spending for Stewardship Education includes these items:

- Office/travel for meetings
- Financial review of Conference books
- Seminars and workshops for stewardship education

Subtotal: \$1,250 (.24%)

Equipping Conference Ministries

Administrative support for the work of Conference is essential for maximizing the volunteer time and financial resources of the Conference. Records are kept of official actions as well as credentials. Conference-wide publications which promote the available resources as well as network the congregations help to foster understanding and community.

Cluster meetings and Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) are important events that assist us in getting to know each other and conducting the work that we do together which cannot be done apart.

Support for these ministries ensures the efficiency of the Conference work, allowing volunteers to engage their passions and to promote projects of congregations.

Spending for Equipping Conference Ministries includes these items:

- Office/travel for meetings for both administrative and pastoral staff
- Theological Resource Team
- Gifts Discernment Committee



Many connections are made at Annual Conference Assembly.

meetings

- Kidron Office – general expenses
- Kidron Office – equipment expenses
- Kidron Office – maintenance expenses
- Printing expenses
- Resource Library expenses for new materials
- Publicity expense
- Annual Conference Assembly expenses (and receipts)
- Administrative salaries and benefits (Administrative Assistant, Conference Editor, Conference Finance Coordinator)
- 30 percent of the Regional Pastors' salaries and benefits
- 70 percent of Conference Minister salary and benefits
- Staff honoraria

Subtotal: \$277,555 (53.54%)

Denominational Support

Conference provides the link between congregations and the national denominational structure. The resources and connection that this provides are valuable to the Conference and to member congregations.

Support of this work releases the gifts of ministry at a national level. It also demonstrates our commitment to firstfruits stewardship and the witness of Mennonites through the work of Mennonite Mission Network and the Executive Leadership.

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