

Conference Calendar

MAY

- 2 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Upper Sandusky Library
- 11 Year of Covenant Meeting, Sharon Mennonite

JUNE

- 1 Leadership Team Meeting, via GoToMeeting
- 4 Family Fun Day, Camp Luz, Kidron

AUG

- 12-14 Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz, Kidron

SEPT

- 16-18 Women's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

NOV

- 11-13 Retreat for Pastors' Wives, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin

Salem Mennonite plans celebrations

Salem Mennonite Church in Elida is celebrating 175 years as a congregation during 2016. The church has planned a series of events to celebrate not only the congregation's history but also the history of the surrounding area and Anabaptist Christian traditions.

On May 22 John Roth, professor of history at Goshen College, will be the guest speaker at Salem. He will speak during the 10:30 a.m. worship

service and during a program at 1 p.m., focusing on the Anabaptist story in the 21st Century.

Other special speakers scheduled are Alan and Eleanor Kreider on July 24 and Perry Bush on Aug. 28. In addition, the congregation will hold its 175th anniversary celebration Sept. 24-25. Go to the Ohio Conference website to see a flier with more information: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org.

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@gmail.com



Churches invited to covenant together

At the 2016 Annual Conference Assembly of the Ohio Conference, delegates discussed the Leadership Team's proposal to enter into a Year of Covenant, and all congregations have been invited to sign the covenant.

Some excerpts from the covenant document are listed here:

- We will attempt to participate fully, converse respectfully, and to the best of our abilities interact with the love and respect due to each other as sisters and brothers in Christ.
- We commit to support our pastor/s in attendance at special events and freedom from congregational responsibilities while attending.

We will as we are able give emphasis also to the Year of Mission events as the companion focus of this Covenant.

- We hope to build through our participation our own partnership with other fellowships in growing more into a Body of Christ, maturing as the Spirit leads us.

The full covenant document can be found on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/ACADocuments>.

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*Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations*

Covenant

Continued from page 1

The first Ohio Conference Year of Covenant Meeting will take place Wednesday, May 11, at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City.

“Growing Together in Spirit and Truth” will be the theme of this meeting, which is for credentialed leaders from around the Conference, including retired pastors.

They will meet together from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a day filled with times of worship, learning and discerning together.

In this first event credentialed leaders will explore how bringing together

the dynamics of

- making covenant together as God has made with us
- identifying shared values in the Confession of Faith and other understandings
- understanding our lives as those sent into God’s missional endeavor

might allow us to find both peace and empowerment in being God’s people in mission together as Ohio Conference.

Camp Luz to open new pool at Family Fun Day June 4

Camp Luz will hold a Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of activities will be available, including a 5K run, boating, carnival games, face painting, a bouncy house and snacks. In addition, the day will include the grand opening of Camp Luz’s new swimming pool with open



swimming from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The 5K run begins at 8:30 a.m., and other activities at 10 a.m.

There is a registration fee for the 5K run, but all other activities are free. Camp Luz is located at 152 Kidron Road, Orrville.

For more information, please see <http://www.camluz.com/FamilyFunDay.html>.

Year of Mission resources are online

As Ohio Conference congregations covenant together in the coming year, one of the components of this covenant is a promise to participate in the Ohio Conference Year of Mission.

During the Year of Mission in 2016-17, the Conference is encouraging members of local congregations to do mission in their own context and promote greater missional engagement in their congregations.

TRAINING EVENTS

The kickoff for the Year of Mission took place March 10-11 at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold at a two-day training session titled “Becoming Missional: Re-Learning How to Be Sent.” Eighty-nine people participated in this training session, which was led by Brad Brisco and Lance Ford of Forge America.

Year of Mission ideas also were presented during a workshop at Annual Conference Assembly titled “Fully Engaged: Mission in a Mennonite Perspective.” This workshop was led by pastors Jacob Dodson, Kevin Kanagy, and Jason Rissler.



For another training opportunity, the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team has approved granting \$2,000 to provide financial assistance for up to four people to attend Sentralized, a missional conference which is being held in Little Rock, Ark., May 5-6. Sentralized is organized by Forge America and is sponsored by a variety of Christian organizations.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

All delegates to Annual Conference Assembly received a packet of materials relating to the Ohio Conference Year of Mission. The packet includes a variety of materials, including a Year of Mission checklist, sermon starters, a list of questions to help congregations clarify their mission, and suggestions for further reading. This material also can be found on the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org.