

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Sharon hosts Year of Covenant Meeting

Fifty people participated in the first Ohio Conference Year of Covenant Meeting, which took place May 11 at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. Credentialed leaders from around the Conference attended. The special resource speaker for the day was David Boshart of Iowa, who serves as executive conference director of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. In addition to input from David Boshart, the meeting included worship led by Alex and Erin Dye and times of discussion in table groups. See the Ohio Conference website for photos from the meeting.

MDT to accept proposals for grants

For the fifth year in a row, the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) is accepting proposals from Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. This year, the MDT has **\$21,614** available for grants.

In light of the current Year of Mission focus within Ohio Conference, the MDT will give preference to proposals that are particularly mission oriented. Priority will also be given to projects that are new initiatives or projects that could not be carried out without the grant funding. Proposals could be for projects that are local, regional, or global in scope; be creative!

Please note that this is a one-time grant. Grant monies are not intended to be used for staffing.

Grant proposals are due by **July 18, 2016**. You may either submit an online application or mail a printed application form to Ohio Conference, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636.

The Ministry Development Team will consider all grant proposals at its Aug. 1 meeting. To apply online or to learn more about the grant process, go to the Ohio Conference website at www.ohiomennoniteconference.org. Click on “Resources” and then click on “Ministry Grants.”

Social media ambassadors sought

Mennonite Church USA’s convention planning staff is developing plans for next year’s convention in Orlando. They are excited to see how God works through the “Love is a Verb” theme.

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.

Youth worker perspective

Ohio Conference is attempting to update our youth worker email address list as we anticipate our upcoming youth worker retreat on Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Camp Luz. Please send email addresses for **all** youth workers from your congregation, including any that will be beginning in the fall, to

alysashort@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help as we try to keep our records current.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

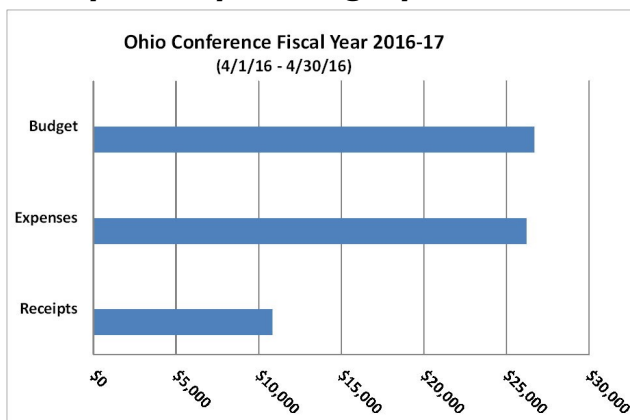
- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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To help get people excited for convention, planners are looking for volunteers to be part of a social media ambassador group. They are looking for youth and young adults who have great energy and a strong social media presence. Social media ambassadors will be asked to help leading up to convention and will receive a reduced registration fee. A document with more information is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

If you know of anyone that would fill this role well, please contact Sarah Chase at sarahc@mennoniteusa.org.

Conference receipts drop during April

Lower than hoped-for giving to Ohio Conference in April led to a deficit for the first month of the 2016-17 fiscal year, according to figures provided by Financial



Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Total receipts for the month were just \$10,834, including \$10,764 of congregational giving. That amount of congregational giving is the lowest monthly total in the past two years. Expenses for the month of April totaled \$26,233, resulting in an operating balance of -\$15,399 for the month.

Funding plans for MC USA explained

Several individuals have inquired about how Ohio Conference will be handling funds received from congregations which decide to remain part of Ohio Conference but not Mennonite Church USA. An explanation follows:

As outlined in the 2016-17 Ohio Conference Spending Plan, the Ohio Conference will send Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) 5 percent of the funds which the Conference receives from MC USA congregations, and nothing from congregations which choose not to remain a part of MC USA. The Ohio Conference Stewardship Ministry is encouraging financial support directly to MC USA for those congregations who wish to support MC USA at a higher level.

Sharing stories to be focus of Women's Retreat

"Sharing Your Story" will be the theme of the annual Women's Retreat Sept. 16-18 at Camp Luz in Kidron. Guest speakers for the weekend will be Vickie Esh and Kim Leichy.

Both full-time and part-time registration is available. All registrations are due Sept. 12. For more information, see the Camp Luz website at www.campluz.com.

Service perspective

Youth Venture is still accepting applications for the July 15-25 Los Angeles team! Partner with Mountain View Mennonite Church and ReconciliAsian as they minister to their community through vacation Bible school, a peace center, and other various services. Individuals ages 14-22 can apply by June 15 at MennoniteMission.net/Serve, or contact ArloaB@MennoniteMission.net for inquiries.

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Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 year! Opportunities to serve and live in community with others are still open in a variety of placements and locations, including teaching in Puerto Rico. Ages 20+ can apply at MennoniteMission.net/Serve, or contact NeilR@MennoniteMission.net for inquiries.

Girls' perspective

Camp Luz in Kidron will host a Girls' Jamboree Aug. 12-14. This event is intended for girls in grades 3-8. Girls will need to register as a group. The cost for this weekend retreat is \$90 per person, and there is no registration charge for adult sponsors. For a registration form, go to www.campluz.com.

Perspective deadlines

June 6 for June 9 issue
June 20 for June 23 issue