

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: (330) 453-0150 Email: ohioevangel@gmail.com

RSVPs due for Year of Covenant Meeting

A reminder for pastors and other credentialed leaders: The first Ohio Conference Year of Covenant Meeting will take place next Wednesday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. The day will include times for worship, learning and discerning together. Please see the attached flier for details. If you plan to attend this meeting, contact Judy King at the Ohio Conference office at 330-857-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net as soon as possible.

Youth worker retreat planned

Youth pastors and youth sponsors, mark your calendars: Ohio Conference will hold a retreat for youth workers Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Camp Luz in Kidron.

Lilly grant to provide financial assistance, financial education programs for pastors

Financial assistance is available for pastors of congregations in Mennonite Church USA. At Annual Conference Assembly in March, Jim Frado of Everence and Terry Shue, director of leadership development for Mennonite Church USA, talked to delegates about a program designed to address the financial challenges facing pastors. This program, which is a three-year initiative, is made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Everence was notified in November 2015 about this \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment. Everence is one of 27 organizations receiving grant money. The program has two main goals: 1. Providing educational events for pastors and their spouses designed to improve personal financial skills; 2. Providing financial grants for credentialed pastors facing economic difficulties. Everence is working with both Mennonite Church USA and the Conservative Conference in this initiative.

Half of the funds are available as matching funds for pastors needing financial assistance. Each Lilly Pastoral Financial Assistance Fund grant will need to be matched, dollar for dollar, by congregations, conferences, individuals or other funding sources. This Lilly Endowment requirement expands the amount of money

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.

Perspective inserts

This issue of Perspective includes prayer requests from Mennonite Education Agency and the May-June issue of Prayer Prompter.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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available and the number of pastors who can be assisted. Each applicant should work with his or her congregation, district or conference leadership to help secure these funds.

Individual grants will be for a maximum of \$5,000. Of this total amount \$2,500 will come from the Lilly fund, and \$2,500 will come from matching funds. These grants can be used for debt reduction in a variety of areas, including student loan debt, retirement preparation, medical debt and other financial concerns.

To learn more about this financial assistance grant program, see Terry's Shue's blog post on the Mennonite Church USA website: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/opportunities-grants-for-pastors/>. A list of frequently asked questions about the grant program is on the denominational website as well: <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/lilly-endowment-pastoral-financial-assistance/>. The enclosed brochure also has additional information.

MCC shares resources for helping refugees

For creative and practical ideas on how to show your concern for refugees, visit Mennonite Central Committee's World Refugee Day (June 20) webpage: <http://bit.ly/RefugeeCrisis-MCC>. Look for a video, worship resources, a bulletin insert titled "7 ways to support refugees in your community and around the world," and more.

Conference to focus on faith formation

A conference for individuals concerned about faith formation is coming to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Ind., this fall. **Deep Faith: Anabaptist Faith Formation for All Ages** will be held Oct. 6-8 at the seminary.

Conference planners describe Deep Faith: Anabaptist Faith Formation for All Ages as a practical conference designed to empower Anabaptist pastors, teachers and lay leaders in the church to develop a robust understanding of life with Jesus and expand their imagination of faith formation for the 21st century.

Keynote speakers for the event include **John Roberto** of Life-longFaith Associates; **Rachel Miller Jacobs**, assistant professor of congregational formation at AMBS; and **Brian Quan**, pastor of Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church.

Early registration costs will be \$125 for adults and \$50 for students until Sept. 14. More information will be available online as planning continues; see mennoniteusa.org/deepfaith for details.

MVS still seeks volunteers for 2016-17

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. Individuals ages 20+ can apply at MennoniteMission.net/Serve, or contact NeilR@MennoniteMission.net for inquiries.

Evangelism perspective

How do new people hear about your church? The May issue of *The Parish Paper* looks at this question and discusses methods of building bridges to new people.

Retreat perspective

The annual Latino Families Encounter will take place June 24-26 at Camp Luz in Kidron.

Perspective deadlines

May 16 for May 19 issue
June 6 for June 9 issue
