

Conference Calendar

JUN

24-25 New Pastor Orientation, Wayne County and Holmes County

29-30 Ohio Youth Event, Bluffton University

29-30 Family Camp Weekend, Camp Luz

JUL

1 Ohio Youth Event, Bluffton University

1 Family Camp Weekend, Camp Luz

AUG

3-4 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, Central Christian School, Kidron

10-12 Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz

SEPT

12 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Martins Mennonite, Orrville

21-23 Ohio Mennonite Women's Retreat, Camp Luz

OCT

15-16 Women in Ministry Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge, Loudonville

19-20 Adriel Benefit Auction, Adriel Campus, West Liberty

NOV

7 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Berlin Mennonite

9-11 Youth Retreat, Camp Luz

JAN '13

9 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Bethel Mennonite, West Liberty

MAR

8-9 Annual Conference Assembly, Central Christian School, Kidron

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
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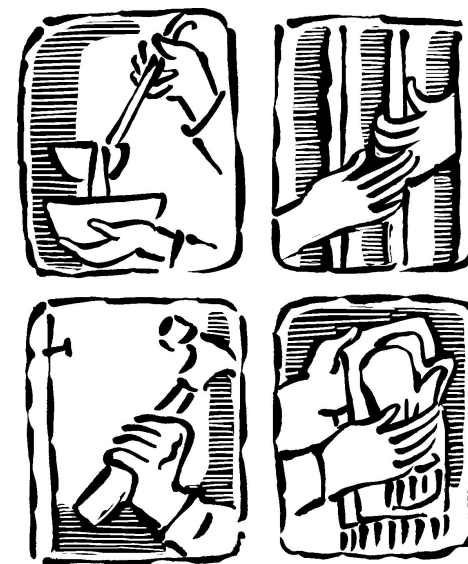


Grants to benefit local ministries

Is your congregation looking for ways to fund a ministry that impacts your community? This summer the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team is accepting proposals for grants to benefit local ministries.

At the 2012 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA), the Stewardship Ministry Team explained that the Ohio Conference has accumulated surplus funds above and beyond the funds designated for reserve funds, the loan fund and the funds needed to support the Five-Year Increased Staffing Plan. These surplus funds have accumulated from years in which the Conference ended the fiscal year with a surplus.

The Stewardship Ministry Team recommended at ACA that the Conference make 20 percent of these funds available for ministry incentives. Delegates affirmed this recommendation and gave suggestions for ways these funds could be used.



The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) will be deciding how to use these surplus funds. The MDT is now accepting proposals from Ohio Conference congregations that

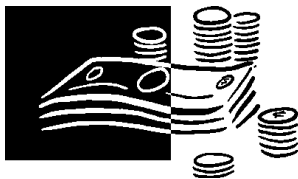
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Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

Grants

Continued from page 1

would like to request funds for mission projects. The deadline to submit a grant proposal is **Aug. 22**. Congregations may apply online or through the mail.



To apply online or to download a printed copy of the grant request form, go to www.ohiomennoniteconference.org and click on "Grants."

Each grant request must include the following information:

- Contact information
- Project name

- Participating congregation(s)
- Requested amount
- Project description
- Funding details, including other funding streams, potential or committed

See the July/August issue of *Ohio Mennonite Evangel* for more information about the grant program.

Scholarships are available for Damascus Road Training

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team is encouraging Conference congregations to participate in a Damascus Road Antiracism Analysis Training. This three-day event will be hosted by Bluffton University Aug. 13-15.

To enable congregations to participate in this training event, Ohio Conference will provide up to 15 scholarships for members of Ohio Conference congregations. The scholarships will cover the \$200 reg-

istration fee for participants. The fee covers the cost of coffee, snacks and training materials. **Please note that participants still will need to pay other food and lodging costs.** If your congregation is interested in receiving one or more scholarships, please contact Judy King at the Ohio Conference office at (330) 857-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net.

Congregations are encouraged to send teams of 2-4 persons to the

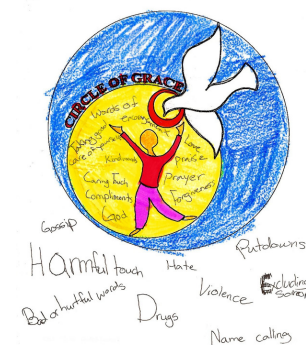
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The goal: Making our churches safe places for all ages

Making our places of worship safe for people of all ages, especially children, should be a priority for all Ohio Conference congregations.

Information about child protection and abuse prevention can be found on the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org. To find links to resources about abuse prevention, go to "Resource Teams" and choose "Child Protection." Included are links to resources from Mennonite Central Committee and Dove's Nest. Also available are sample policies and forms used at Martins Mennonite Church in Orrville.

How has your congregation worked at the issue of abuse prevention? The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team would like to gather examples of best practices in this important area of congregational life.



Circle of Grace, available from Dove's Nest, is a Christian safe environment curriculum that helps to form and educate children and youth about the value of positive relationships with God and others. This curriculum is available to Mennonite Church USA congregations at no cost. A link to the Dove's Nest website can be found on the Ohio Conference website.

To share your congregation's best practices, contact Sherah-Leigh Gerber, Coordinator of Volunteers, at shergerber@gmail.com.

Damascus Road

Continued from page 2

training so that they can implement what they learn in their home congregations.

The purpose of this training is to lay the foundation for the long-term work of dismantling racism. The

name "Damascus Road" refers to the process of transformation that Saul experienced on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-31). To register for this event, go to www.bluffton.edu/damascus.