

# Conference Calendar

## JUNE

24-26 Latino Families Encounter, Camp Luz, Kidron

## AUG

I Ministry Development Team Meeting, Upper Sandusky Library

5-6 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, Wayne County Fairgrounds

12-14 Girls' Jamboree, Camp Luz, Kidron

## SEPT

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

30 Youth Worker Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

## OCT

I Youth Worker Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

## NOV

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

## MAR

10-11 Annual Conference Assembly, Location TBA

## Youth Worker Retreat planned for fall

Youth pastors and youth sponsors, please save these dates: Ohio Conference is sponsoring a Youth Worker Retreat Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Camp Luz in Kidron. Featured speakers will be Dr. Randy Keeler,

associate professor of religion at Bluffton University; and Brent Lacey, author of the book *Rural Youth Ministry: Thrive Where You're Planted*. More details about this retreat will be sent to all Ohio Conference congregations soon.

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](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

Ann Leaman, editor: [ohioevangel@gmail.com](mailto:ohioevangel@gmail.com)



## Credentialed leaders meet at Sharon



Credentialed leaders spent time in table group discussion during the Year of Covenant Meeting held May 11 at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City.

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

Continued on page 2

Supporting  
healthy, growing  
congregations

## Covenant Continued from page 1

as executive conference director of Central Plains Mennonite Conference and is moderator-elect of Mennonite Church USA. 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 at <http://bit.ly/OCYearofCovenant> for more photos from the meeting.

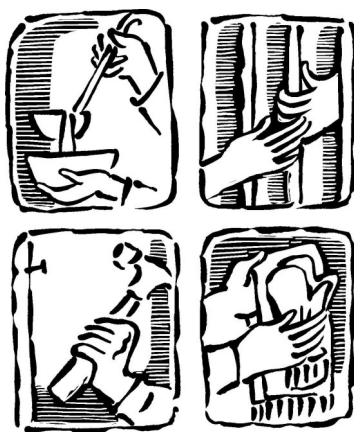


Speaker David Boshart talks to credentialed leaders at the May 11 Year of Covenant Meeting in Plain City.

## Time remains to apply for grants

Is your congregation looking for ways to fund a local ministry? Consider applying for a grant from the Ohio Conference. **July 18** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT).

For the fifth year in a row, the MDT is accepting proposals from Ohio Conference congregations and related



organizations for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has \$21,614 available for grants. **So far only one grant application has been submitted.**

To apply online or to learn more about the grant process, go to the Ohio Conference website at

[www.ohiomenoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomenoniteconference.org). Click on “Resources” and then click on “Ministry Grants.”

## Love is a verb: spiritual practices resource explores MC USA convention theme

Mennonite Church USA —The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board staff has released a year-long spiritual practices resource that explores the 2017 convention theme *Love is a Verb* through the lens of Richard Foster’s six spiritual streams.

The resource is intended for use by delegates, youth groups, presenters, planners and other convention attendees from July 2016 through June 2017. Leo Hartshorn of Portland, Oregon, is the author; he also wrote the six-week discernment guide leading up to the Delegate Assembly in Kansas City in 2015.

“I am particularly excited about this resource in that it provides a wide range of spiritual practices for a diverse constituency that has the potential for deepening our spiritual lives as a faith community at a crucial juncture in our corporate history,” said Hartshorn, a retired Anabaptist minister, peacemaker, poet, songwriter, musician and artist who attends Portland Mennonite Church. Hartshorn has a

doctorate with a focus on Anabaptist preaching from Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Theological Seminary.

The resource is designed to span the year leading up to the Mennonite Church USA convention in Orlando, Florida (July 4–8, 2017), with monthly

themes and suggested weekly practices beginning in July 2016 and ending in June 2017. The first six months focus on the theme of love found in 1 John. The second six months delve more deeply into the theme of love in each of the six spiritual streams — contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, evangelical and incarnation — exploring how each stream reflects the spiritual diversity present with Mennonite Church USA.

To download a copy of this resource, go to [mennoniteusa.org/resource/love-is-a-verb-spiritual-practices-resource](http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/love-is-a-verb-spiritual-practices-resource). This resource also will be available in Spanish soon.

