

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

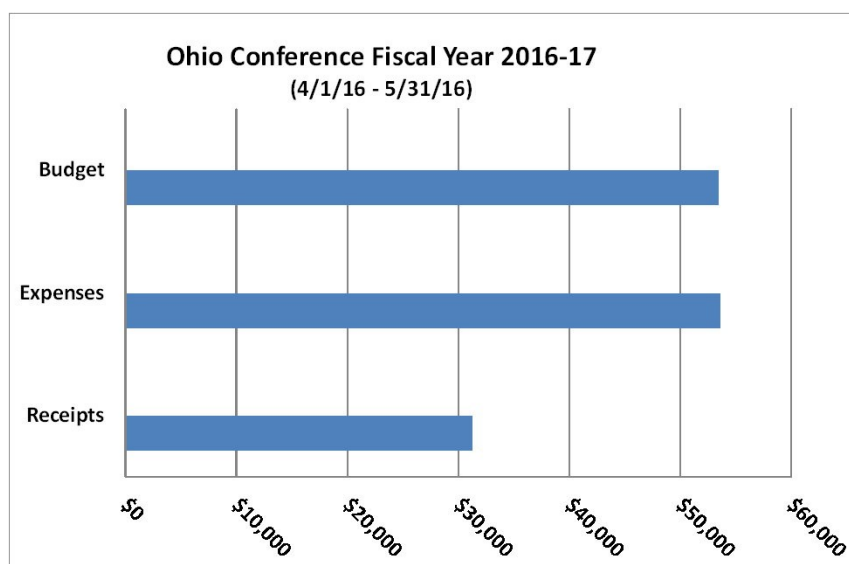
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Time remains to apply for ministry grants

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.ohiomennoniteconference.org. Click on "Resources" and then click on "Ministry Grants."

Conference's deficit continues in May

Ohio Conference expenses were higher than giving during May, according to figures provided by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Expenses for the month were \$27,408, while receipts totaled just \$20,406, resulting in an operating balance of -\$7,002 for the month. That shortfall, combined with the deficit from April, resulted in an operating balance of -\$22,402 for the first two months of the 2016-17 fiscal year.



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.

Change perspective

George O'Reilly will continue to serve Ohio Conference as Year of Covenant Facilitator, but he will be reducing the amount of time dedicated to this task. He discusses this change and the reasons for it in the latest installment of his newsletter, *Grapevine*.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
- Church chairperson
- Youth sponsor(s)
- Delegates
- Duplicate for other church leaders

Youth Worker Retreat coming this 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*. Check future issues of *Perspective* for more details about this retreat.

Course to focus on streamlining Bible study

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) is offering an online short course titled "Make 4 Hours Count: How to Streamline Bible Study for Ministry." Dr. Mary H. Schertz, AMBS professor of New Testament, will teach this six-week non-credit course, which will run from Oct. 26 to Dec. 7.

This course is for pastors, Bible study teachers, and other church leaders who have some education, experience, and background in Bible. Other interested students would be advised to first take an introductory Bible course or comparable seminary study. The problem the course addresses is how to fit preparation of a biblical text that one wishes to use in ministry — a sermon, teaching a class, or other use — into a full, real life with its interruptions, short windows of opportunity, and many demands.

The cost for this short course is \$200 for those registering by Oct. 5, and \$250 for those registering after that date. To learn more or to register, go to <http://bit.ly/AMBSShortCourses>.

Adult Bible curriculum begins new cycle

HARRISONBURG, Va., and KITCHENER, Ont. — *Adult Bible Study (ABS)*, MennoMedia's premier faith formation curriculum for adults, begins a new six-year cycle this fall of studying the whole Bible.

The outlines for weekly lessons, based on eight biblical themes, were developed by the Committee on the Uniform Series, an ecumenical group of Christian educators and publishers in which MennoMedia participates. Anabaptist pastors, teachers, and lay leaders in Canada and the United States write the study materials. *ABS Online* offers "just in time" commentary that relates the Bible studies to current events in the church and in the world. *Estudios Biblicos para Adultos*, a Spanish-language version of *ABS*, is also available.

"The themes provide a helpful way to see connections between the Old and New Testaments," commented James E. Horsch, *ABS* editor emeritus. "We are particularly excited about a New Testament unit featuring women who were called to minister." Horsch served as chair of the Committee on the Uniform Series during the development of the 2016–22 study cycle.

More information about *ABS* and *EBA* is available at www.MennoMedia.org/abs or 1-800-245-7894.

Prayer perspective

This issue of *Perspective* includes prayer requests from Mennonite Education Agency and the July-August issue of *Prayer Prompter*, which is compiled by Ohio Conference Prayer Coordinator Dana Short. Please remember Ohio Conference congregations, pastors, staff and related ministries in your prayers.

MWC perspective

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is re-launching its prayer network. The MWC Prayer Network first began as a way to share prayer requests in preparation for the MWC Assembly PA 2015. MWC plans to send email messages with prayer requests every two months. There also may be additional email messages when an urgent need arises. To learn more about the prayer network or to sign up, go to <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/prayernetwork>.

Perspective deadlines

July 5 for July 7 issue
July 18 for July 21 issue
