

# Perspective



Ohio Conference  
of Mennonite  
Church USA

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

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## ***MMN offers missional training for congregations***

Is your congregation interested in learning more about what it means to be missional? Ohio Conference is partnering with Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) to offer the Missional Discipleship Initiative to Conference churches beginning this fall.

Marvin Lorenzana, the director for discipleship initiatives at MMN, coordinates the Missional Discipleship Initiative (MDI). “Our goal is to help leaders engage the missional church conversation while also experimenting with hands-on discipleship tools such as Missional Discipleship Groups (MDGs) for eight months,” he said. “The final goal is that you learn to contextualize what the Missional Discipleship Initiative has to offer to your reality in Ohio Conference. Also, the biweekly virtual huddle allows implementing leaders to engage the conversation while offering support and encouragement to one another.”

- MDI is focused on renewal in local congregations through small group discipleship.
- The main resource used in MDI is *Lifeshapes* by Mike Breen (3DM Publishing).
- MDI will be contextualized to meet the missional goals of Ohio Conference.
- The following topics will be highlighted in MDI groups: missional habits/practices, missional experimentation in the local congregation, and engaging third places.
- One or two MDI cohorts will launch on Oct. 1 in Ohio Conference (one in western Ohio and a potential one in the east).
- MDI cohorts will meet online every two weeks for an hour and 15 minutes for a total of eight months with a possible extension to one year.
- Enrollment is open until July 31. **If your congregation would like to participate, contact Marvin Lorenzana at [MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net) or (540) 209-1450.**

To learn more about MDI, see the introductory videos on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OhioConfMDI>.

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***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.***

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## ***Relief sale perspective***

***T***he Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale will take place Aug. 4-5 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster. See <http://www.ohiomccreliefsale.org> for a schedule and more details.

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## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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## **Ohio Conference Cast features Orlando podcasts**

Last week, the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Orlando was a busy time full of discussion, workshops and worship. But for one person, Bill Seymour, host of the Ohio Conference Cast, the week was even busier. In between all the other convention activities, Bill and several co-hosts interviewed people participating in the convention as part of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast series.

During the convention, Bill and his co-hosts recorded four podcasts. Here is a recap of the topics:

- Who are the Dones, and why do we care?
- Delegates reflect on first sessions
- Doctrine of Discovery, or “Hey! It’s Ted Swartz!”
- Young adults share their reflections

You can find all of these podcast episodes on [iTunes](#) (search for “Ohio Conference Cast”) or find them on the Ohio Conference website: [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts).

## **Apply for grants by Aug. 9**

Have you been thinking about applying for an Ohio Conference ministry grant? There’s still time! Aug. 9 is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT). The MDT is accepting proposals from Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has **\$24,992** available for grants.

You may either submit an online application or mail a printed application form to Ohio Conference, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636. The MDT will consider all grant proposals at its Aug. 23 meeting.

To apply online or to download a grant application, go to <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>. A listing of the grants approved in 2016 is included at the bottom of the page.

## **Executive director sought for Ohio MCC Activity Center**

The board of the Ohio MCC Activity Center of Kidron, Ohio, is searching for a full-time executive director to assume responsibilities on Dec. 1, 2017. The director’s responsibilities largely entail giving direction to the MCC Connections Thrift Shop, which has three additional full-time paid staff and more than 300 active volunteers. The candidate must show a capacity for administering staff and volunteers and for overseeing the finances of the operation. The search committee is looking for a candidate who has an “MCC mindset” and actively supports the worldwide mission of Mennonite Central Committee. Inquiries and resumes may be directed to Larry Augsburger at [ljaugsburger@embarqmail.com](mailto:ljaugsburger@embarqmail.com) or 330-600-7090, or 5159 Kidron Road, Apple Creek OH 44606. Resumes must be submitted by **July 31, 2017**.

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## **Resource perspective**

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### **Calling all Anabaptists:**

Central Plains Mennonite Conference has a gift for you. Central Plains Mennonite Conference has gathered a wide variety of resources for people interested in faith formation and teaching people of all ages on its Anabaptist Faith Formation website: <http://www.anabaptistfaithformation.org/>.

All resources on the website are free to use. The site has downloadable resources for working with children and parents, youth and adults, as well as recommendations for resources from other sites. Also included are downloadable resources related to Bible study and prayer practices.

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## **Perspective deadlines**

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July 24 for July 27  
Aug. 7 for Aug. 10

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