

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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

Leadership Team continues work on staffing

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team, with the help of Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker, has been diligently working at finding leadership for the Conference to address several needs. We are looking for leadership to guide the missional movement that has become the desired focus of the Ohio Conference. In addition, the Leadership Team is seeking to ensure that executive functions are taken care of and that the “gathered” part of the *Gathered and Sent** initiative is not neglected.

Ideas and plans are beginning to come together. We are presently working to determine what those job descriptions might look like.

I am handling the process from this point on so that we can free Cliff Brubaker to work at the “gathered” part of the *Gathered and Sent* initiative.

Our next Leadership Team meeting is Aug. 26, when we hope to firm up those plans so that we can inform you of what we have in mind.

It has been a daunting but rewarding task to this point, and our prayer is that it will continue to be rewarding for us and the Conference as we seek God’s guidance for the leadership of the Ohio Conference.

Thank you all for your past and continued prayers on our behalf.

— Bob Sauder, Conference Moderator

*For a quick review of the *Gathered and Sent* initiative, see <http://bit.ly/GatheredandSent>.

Time remains to apply for ministry grants

Last call for grant applications: **Aug. 9** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT). For the sixth year in a row, the MDT is accepting proposals from Ohio Conference congregations for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has \$24,992 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 <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>.

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.

Prayer perspective

Please remember Darwin Hartman, pastor of Pike Mennonite Church, and his family in your prayers. His daughter-in-law, Morgandy Hartman, died July 12 in Weatherford, Oklahoma, as the result of an automobile accident. Darwin and his wife, Cindy, are currently in Oklahoma with their son and grandchildren. To read Morgandy’s obituary, go to <http://bit.ly/MorgandyHartman>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Missional Discipleship Initiative still available

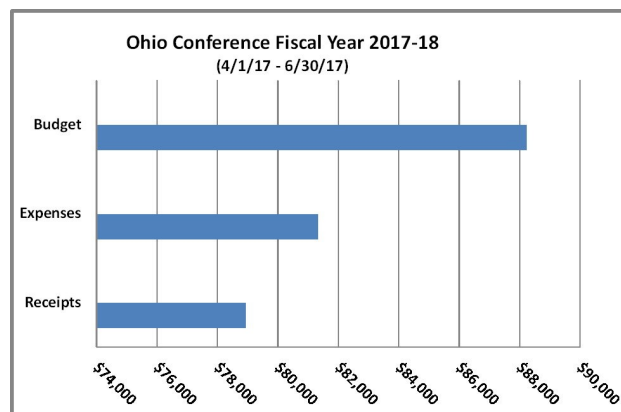
Ohio Conference is partnering with Mennonite Mission Network to offer the Missional Discipleship Initiative (MDI) to Conference congregations. This program includes both leadership development and small group discipleship training.

To learn more about MDI, check the Ohio Conference website at <http://bit.ly/OhioConfMDI> and listen to the podcast about MDI at <http://bit.ly/OCCast-MDI>. If your congregation is interested in participating in MDI, contact Marvin Lorenzana at MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net or (540) 209-1450 by **July 31**.

Conference deficit decreases slightly in June

Ohio Conference's receipts were slightly higher than expenses in June, according to figures provided by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for June totaled \$23,965, including \$20,225 in congregational giving.

Expenses for the month totaled \$23,560, resulting in a surplus of \$405 for the month. The year-to-date operating balance at the end of June was -\$2,378.



New Pastor Orientation is Sept. 10-11

Ohio Conference will hold a New Pastor Orientation Sept. 10-11. New pastors and their spouses are invited to attend this overnight event free of charge. Lodging will be in the Comfort Suites in Berlin. Participants will visit the Ohio Conference office, Camp Luz, Everence, Central Christian School and MCC Connections. See the enclosed flier for more details, including the orientation schedule. The last New Pastor Orientation took place in June 2015. Pastors, if you have not participated in the past and would like to do so this year, contact Judy King at 330-857-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net by **Aug. 10**.

Bluffton church to host inter-church dialogue

Tonight, July 27, First Mennonite Church in Bluffton will host an inter-church dialogue, "Knowing and Hearing the Stories," beginning at 7 p.m. While celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Presbyterians from the Maumee Valley Presbytery "lament the violence and division that took place between Christian sisters and brothers." They have asked to hear stories of Anabaptists and Catholics. Storytellers will include Jackie Wyse-Rhodes (Mennonite), Paul Mullet (Catholic), and Rev. Barry Murr (Presbyterian). There also will be discussion of how the splintering experienced in the Reformation continues to affect relationships today.

Peace perspective

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is encouraging congregations to celebrate Peace Sunday on Sept. 24. The theme for Peace Sunday in 2017 is "A Renewed Peace Church Builds Bridges." This theme picks up on two elements. The first builds on the [Renewal 2027](#) process which MWC has embarked on. Second, in light of the rising nationalisms around the world, which separates and polarizes one from the other, MWC is encouraging congregations to explore how, in seeking to live according to our calling of being a people of peace, we counter such tendencies and look for ways to build bridges with others.

Mennonite World Conference has developed a set of worship materials which can be used in planning a Peace Sunday worship service. To see these materials, go to <http://bit.ly/2017PeaceSunday>.

Relief Sale perspective

The 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.

Perspective deadlines

Aug. 7 for Aug. 10
Aug. 21 for Aug. 24