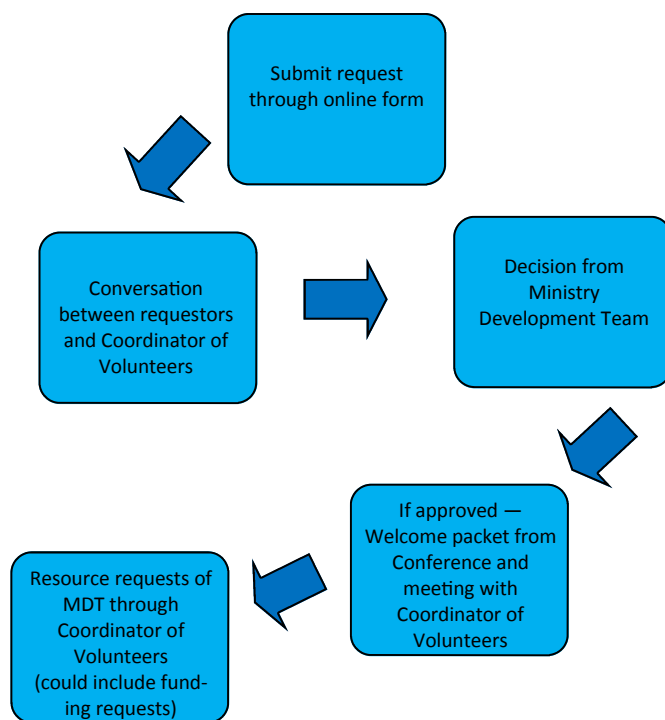


## Do you have an idea for a Resource Team?

As the Ohio Conference works to strengthen member congregations in the areas of faith, worship and witness, Resource Teams are a vital part of the process. If you see a need which could be addressed by a resource team, you are encouraged to submit your idea to the Ministry Development Team. More information about Resource Teams, in-

cluding a brief video, can be found at the Conference website: [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org). Click on the "Resource Team" tab. A request form to form a resource team can be found there as well. If you have further questions, contact Coordinator of Volunteers Sherah-Leigh Gerber at (330) 234-4444 or [shergerber@gmail.com](mailto:shergerber@gmail.com).

### Resource Team formation process



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)  
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AUGUST 2011

## MDT funding promotes faith, worship and witness efforts



Representatives of Brazo en Brazo and Open Arms were presented the Peace Mug Award at the 2011 ACA. Both these ministries are receiving funding from the Ministry Development Team.

Each year the Ohio Conference spending plan includes funds which are designated for use by the Ministry Development Team (MDT). The MDT receives requests from various ministries and Resource Teams, and must decide which requests can be funded.

For the 2011-12 fiscal year, the MDT has \$15,500 which can be spent on various ministries, including \$3,000 which is earmarked for a Youth Initiative. This spending plan was approved

by delegates at the Annual Conference Assembly in March 2011.

Much of the funds in this year's spending plan are still available. So far this year, the MDT has approved funding for two ministries which serve Hispanics, Open Arms Ministry based in Wayne County and Holmes County, and Brazo en Brazo, which is based in Allen County. See inside for other ministries and programs which have received funding from MDT in the past.

*Supporting  
healthy, growing  
congregations*

## MDT funds benefit varied programs

During 2010-11 the Ministry Development Team approved funding for a variety of programs and ministries, many of which are pictured. Those not pictured include the following:

- A \$500 grant to Lighthouse Ministries toward the cost of a training event for executive directors of faith-based nonprofit organizations.
- A grant to Central Christian School for purchase of 50 copies of *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* for faculty and staff.
- A \$500 grant to one of the congregational ministries having a display in the Ministry Fair at Annual Conference Assembly. A drawing was held to determine which participating ministry would receive the grant. Living Acts from Millersburg Mennonite Church was chosen.



Mattie Marie Mast (left, pictured with Deb Horst), led the Women in Ministry Retreat Oct. 25-26 in Mansfield.



Michael Zehr was the main presenter for "Designing God-Centered Worship." This workshop was offered at Central Mennonite

Church in Archbold and Walnut Creek Mennonite Church.



Michael Novelli was the presenter for "Shaped by the Story," a youth ministry resourcing event held at Camp Luz in September 2010. The event was planned as part of E<sup>3</sup>, (Equip, Encourage, and Empower), a training series for youth leaders.



MDT funds supported "Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches," a seminar planned by churches in the West Liberty area and held Oct. 30 at Bethel Mennonite in West Liberty.



Marlene Kropf led the "Art of Worship Planning" workshop. The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team provided some of the funding for this workshop, in partnership with Berlin Mennonite Church.

## Upcoming funding for 2011-12

So far in 2011-12 MDT has approved funding for Open Arms and Brazo en Brazo in the amount of \$3,00 each. MDT has also approved funding for a Family Systems Theory Workshop, which will take place Oct. 3 at Maple Grove Mennonite Church.

In addition, MDT has recommended that the Ohio Conference Leadership Team give \$10,000 in support of the East Ohio Church Planting Team. The Leadership Team has approved this recommendation. The money will

come from accumulated surplus funds (funds left over from previous years in which the Conference ended its fiscal year with a surplus rather than a deficit).

The church planting team, which includes support from several congregations, is planning to plant a new church in Strasburg in Tuscarawas County. Jason Rissler has been called to serve as church planter. He and his wife, Heather, and their family have moved to the Strasburg area.

## MDT seeks to cultivate healthy congregations

The Ohio Conference seeks to cultivate healthy congregations, and a critical partner in that task is the Ministry Development Team (MDT), a 20-person group including eight members affirmed by Ohio Conference delegates, as well as members of the Ohio Conference Leadership Team and staff members.

Members of the Ministry Development Team usually meet six times per year. The Team's main function is to respond to congregational needs brought by congregations, staff

and others in the focus areas of **faith, worship and witness**. As the MDT develops programs which address these focus areas, many times these programs are made possible through the work of Resource Teams. Resource Teams are temporary groups of volunteers who work at a short-term task, such as planning a workshop or developing materials for use throughout the Conference. See the back page for more information on forming Resource Teams.