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THE MUSTARD SEED SESSIONS

Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty and Reed Jones received a grant toward some of the costs of a musical project called “The Mustard Seed Sessions: Disproportionate Hymnody.” The project involves creating a CD of hymns designed to raise funds for Adriel School’s Spiritual Development Program.

For “The Mustard Seed Sessions” Reed Jones has chosen, arranged and recorded hymns for solo guitar. The CD has original artwork created by Todd Buschur, who is also a part of the Oak Grove congregation. All proceeds from the sale of the CD will be donated to Adriel School’s Spiritual Development Program.

In addition, Reed Jones would like to present some of this music to other Ohio Conference congregations. “I



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envision this happening within the context of worship services at Ohio Conference churches as a reminder of the nature of God’s kingdom and to foster an attitude of worship by rethinking traditional hymnody and using it to connect our experience to God,” he said.

IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS FOR OHIO CONFERENCE PASTORS

The Ohio Conference Credentialing Ministry received a grant which will allow the Credentialing Ministry to present four regional in-service workshops for pastors. These workshops will offer continuing education on the topic of pornography and cyber-sex addiction. The workshops will include information on how to get help for this type of addiction.

Andrew Stoner, who will be the resource person for these workshops, has led workshops at Mennonite Church USA conventions on this topic and brings both the perspectives of a counselor and a pastor.



Conference awards six grants

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) has awarded six grants totaling \$23,479.30 to Ohio Conference congregations and Conference-related groups. The MDT approved the grants at its Aug. 25 meeting at Wooster Mennonite Church.

Funding for these grants comes from surplus funds that had accumulated during years in which the Conference ended its fiscal year with a surplus.

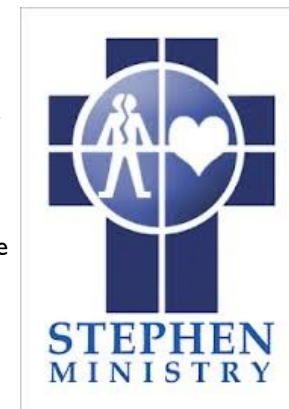
The following ministries received grants:

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Kidron Mennonite Church received a grant toward the costs of beginning a Stephen Ministry program in the congregation. Congregations using the Stephen Series equip and empower lay caregivers — called Stephen Ministers — to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who

are hurting. Congregations from a wide variety of Christian denominations use the Stephen Series.

Grant money from the Ohio Conference will help provide some of the funding for up to four individuals from Kidron Mennonite to attend a one-week leaders’ training course. Those leaders will then give 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training to lay volunteers. At the end of the 50 hours of training, the volunteers who choose to become Stephen Ministers will be commissioned.



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Stephen Ministers are matched with care receivers, who are individuals in need of one-to-one Christian care. These individuals may be from the congregation or the surrounding community.

TUTOR MENTORING PROJECT

Toledo Mennonite Church and Toledo Campus Ministry received a grant for support of a new Tutor Mentor Project, which will be incorporated into the tutoring program at Toledo Mennonite. TMC Tutoring has served at-risk early elementary students ages 6-9 since 2001. The program provides after-school tutoring for at-risk students attending public elementary schools in the church's neighborhood.

TMC Tutoring involves teen volunteers ages 14-18 who staff the program as tutors. The Tutor Mentor Project will use the grant from Ohio Conference to partner with the Toledo Campus Ministry's internship program during the 2014-15 school year. A Toledo Campus Ministry intern will create and implement a structure for mentoring teens involved in the tutoring program. The work of the intern will form the foundation for ongoing development of the tutoring program in future years.

Toledo Campus Ministry is an inter-

denominational Christian ministry and student organization which operates on the campus of the University of Toledo.

Planners of the Tutor Mentor Program envision that having an intern whose primary task is to mentor teenaged tutors will give teens a better experience volunteering at the program. In addition, the Tutor Mentoring Project will support teens as they develop their skills in working with children and as they become more responsible volunteers.

LISTENING FOR GRACE

An independent committee of individuals from six Ohio Conference congregations in northwest Ohio received a grant toward some of the costs associated with bringing the play *Listening for Grace* by Ted and Company to Archbold, Ohio. The play will be performed Oct. 11 at Archbold High School.

Listening for Grace follows the story of a widowed father whose son has just come out as gay. Through his relationships with his son, an estranged cousin, people in his church and a pastor who deals with issues of sexuality in the Bible, the main character is challenged by many different viewpoints and experiences.

Organizers of this event are hoping that the performance can be a cata-

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lyst for loving discussion. They are hoping to have follow-up meetings to provide a place for sharing and listening. In their grant application, they noted, "Most of our congregations have worked at this within our own churches, but this would give opportunity for a sharing and discernment time with a broader cross-section of people."

BEGA KWA BEGA (SHOULDER 2 SHOULDER)

Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville received a grant for a project in Kenya with the International Impact College of the Christian Church International. The Christian Church International is an associate member of Mennonite World Conference.

In addition to Oak Grove, other Ohio Conference congregations involved in this effort include Crown Hill, Smithville, Lee Heights Community and Sonnenberg.

The board of directors of the International Impact College, in partnership with Christian Church International Presiding Bishop Joseph Kamiri, have invited Oak Grove Men-

nonite to partner with them in completing a building to provide space for the International Impact College.

To date, the International Impact College has operated in rented facilities. The Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder 2 Shoulder) project includes plans for a permanent facility to provide two classrooms, a library and office space for the college on the campus of Day Spring Academy in Juja, Kenya.

The project includes raising funds for building supplies and local labor, as well as supporting five teams of three workers to travel to Kenya to develop relationships with local workers



and their church communities. The teams will be under the direction of a volunteer coordinating couple from

Oak Grove. The goal is to have three teams from Oak Grove and two partnership teams from other churches.

This project builds on the personal relationships developed by Oak Grove Pastor Doug Zehr, who has been participating as an adjunct faculty member in the Christian Church International leadership training institute on a nearly annual basis.

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