

# Perspective



Ohio Conference  
of Mennonite  
Church USA

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

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## **Cliff Brubaker accepts additional assignment**

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team has invited Interim Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker to work with the Conference on a full-time basis, beginning Sept. 18. Since April he has been serving as regional pastor on a half-time basis.



This additional half-time assignment will have two areas of focus:

- Working with the continuing process of the Ohio Conference Year of Covenant
- Identifying and implementing ways to build and/or rebuild trust between congregations and the Conference, congregations and other congregations, and pastors with other pastors

This additional half-time position is an interim position and will extend through April 1, 2017. Cliff's half-time interim position as regional pastor in the western part of the Conference also extends through that date. More information about this assignment will be forthcoming.

Funding for this additional half-time position will come from the money which had been designated for George O'Reilly's position as Year of Covenant Facilitator. (Those funds are coming from the Conference's Capacity Building Fund rather than the 2016-17 spending plan.) George O'Reilly has begun a full-time position at First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, and he is continuing as a consultant for the Year of Covenant on a limited basis.

## **All are invited to Fall Mission Events**

Ohio Conference will hold regional Fall Mission Events during October and November.

Everyone in Ohio Conference is invited to attend the Fall Mission Event at one of three locations:

- Oct. 11 — Jubilee Mennonite Church in Bellefontaine
- Oct. 20 — Central Mennonite Church in Archbold
- Nov. 3 — Berlin Mennonite Church

Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last about an hour and a half.

***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.***

## **Retreat perspective**

**“Life in the Parsonage”** will be the theme of the 2016 Ohio Conference Retreat for Pastors' Wives. This weekend will include stories of life in the parsonage from several pastors' wives in the Ohio Conference, as well as time for worship, singing, crafts, games and free time. This retreat will be held at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio, Nov. 11-13. Please see the enclosed retreat brochure for details and a registration form.

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

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

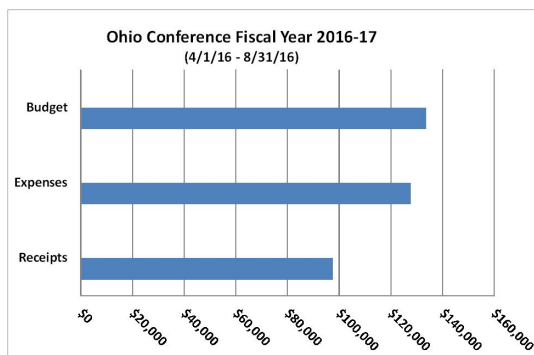
The meetings will include time for brief presentations and group discussion. The first part of the meeting will focus on what has happened so far in the Ohio Conference Year of Mission. Participants will be encouraged to talk about how they see God at work in their congregations. The second part of the meeting will have a “looking forward” focus, getting people ready for the March 2017 missional training event with Alan and Debra Hirsch.

In addition to the mission emphasis, each meeting will include a brief time of reporting from the Ohio Conference Leadership Team. This last portion of the meeting is especially important for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly, but all participants are invited to stay for the business portion of the meeting.

A flier with information about the Fall Mission Events is included in this issue of *Perspective*.

### **Deficit increases slightly in August**

Ohio Conference’s financial deficit increased slightly during August. Receipts for the month totaled \$26,465, including \$26,182 in congregational giving. Expenses for the month were \$27,540, resulting in a net income of -\$1,075 for the month.



For the first five months of the fiscal year, receipts have totaled \$97,518, and expenses have totaled \$127,635, resulting in an operating balance of -\$30,117.

So far, giving to the Conference in 2016-17 is significantly less than during 2015-16. By the end of August 2015, the Conference had received \$124,164, compared with the \$97,518 received during the first five months of 2016-17. Even so, because of cuts in the spending plan, the deficit is not as great as it was at this time last year. At the end of August 2015, the Conference’s operating balance was -\$77,229.

### **Retreat registration deadline extended**

The registration deadline for the Ohio Conference Youth Worker Retreat has been extended until **Friday, Sept. 16**. The retreat will take place 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*.

Registration cost for the retreat is just \$35 per person for members of Ohio Conference congregations and \$50 per person for non-Ohio Conference participants. To register, go to [bit.ly/2016OCYouthWorkerRetreat](http://bit.ly/2016OCYouthWorkerRetreat).

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### **Prayer perspective**

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Naomi Engle, co-pastor of West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon, is scheduled for surgery Thursday, Sept. 15, at 2 p.m. in Toledo. The primary purpose of the surgery is to remove two tumors on her brain. The surgery may be a lengthy one, depending how things proceed. Doctors expect she will be in ICU for a day, and perhaps several more days in regular care as she recovers. It will take about a week to get pathology reports back.

Please keep Naomi in your prayers. You may access updates about Naomi on the CaringBridge website: <https://www.caringbridge.org/>. Search for Naomi Engle. You will be asked to create a CaringBridge account, but doing so simply requires an email address and a password. You can also then click the “follow” box in the upper right side of the page and you will automatically receive email notifications when something new has been posted.

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### **Leaders’ perspective**

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All credentialed leaders planning to attend the Year of Covenant Meeting Sept. 28 should contact Judy King at [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net) or 330-857-5421 **no later than next Wednesday, Sept. 21**.

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### **Perspective deadlines**

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Oct. 3 for Oct. 6  
Oct. 17 for Oct. 20