

# Perspective



Ohio Conference  
of Mennonite  
Church USA

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

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## **Reduced rate still available for retreat**

Last call for registrations: Interested in attending the Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat Nov. 10-12 at Mohican State Park? Thanks to underwriting from generous sponsors, up to 25 couples can attend at the discounted rate of \$210 for the entire weekend. Coordinator of Volunteers Alysa Short reports that there are still spaces available at the discounted rate. Anyone who still would like to register should do so by **Friday, Oct. 6**. See the enclosed retreat brochure for a retreat registration form.

## **Fall meetings planned for delegates**

This fall Ohio Conference will hold four regional cluster meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. Each meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and last about an hour and a half. Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

- Oct. 17 – Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker
- Oct. 24 – Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty
- Oct. 26 – Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron
- Oct. 31 – Beech Mennonite Church in Louisville

## **Congregations invited to regional hymn sings**

HARRISONBURG, Virginia — The Mennonite Worship and Song Committee, working under the name Resonate Team, has invited congregations to hold a “Great Day of Singing” this fall and has scheduled a series of 10 regional hymn sings.

Two of these regional events will be held in Ohio:

Oct. 8, 9:30 a.m. — Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville, Ohio, led by project director and general editor Bradley Kauffman

Oct. 22, 4 p.m. — Yoder Hall, Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio, Swiss Community Historical Society, led by project director and general editor Bradley Kauffman

“We want to bring Mennonites together around some new songs and worship resources while opening up a space for worshipers to reflect on God’s gift of song,” said Bradley Kauffman, general

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*Perspective: 1) The interrelation 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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## **Prayer perspective**

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**P**astor peer groups are an important source of direct support for pastors, and subsequently indirect support for congregations. Please pray for traveling safety as pastor peer groups resume their regular meetings following the summer break. Pray for our regional pastors, Cliff Brubaker and Ralph Reinford, as they facilitate this important time of learning and fellowship for pastors.

— Dan Hooley, Ohio Conference Prayer Coordinator

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

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- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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editor. “We also see these events as good ways to share excitement for the new hymnal coming in 2020.”

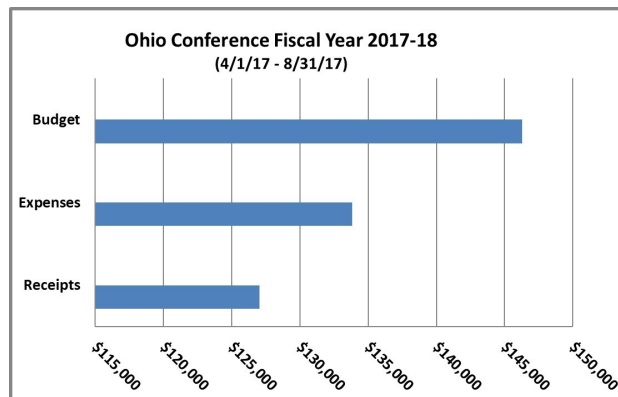
These events will draw from a new 16-page sampler designed for the denomination-wide Great Day of Singing (Sunday, Oct. 22), as well as other songs and worship resources. Congregations may download their own copies at [MennoMedia.org/Resonate](http://MennoMedia.org/Resonate). In addition to the 16-page sampler, links to selected accompaniments, tutorial videos, and an image inspired by the Psalms are available for free download. A survey for congregational feedback on the sampler is also available there.

An offering to support the project will be received at most of these events as well. Individuals can also give online at [www.HymnalProject606.com](http://www.HymnalProject606.com).

## Conference deficit shrinks in August

Giving to Ohio Conference in August increased from the previous month, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Receipts for the month totaled \$29,034, including \$24,211 in congregational giving. In contrast, giving during July totaled just \$19,041.



Expenses for the month of August were \$25,243, resulting in an operating surplus of \$3,791 for the month. That surplus reduced the Conference’s year-to-date deficit. As of the end of August, the operating balance for the year was -\$6,803.

## AMBS pastor gathering moves to new date

**Save the date! AMBS Pastors and Leaders 2018: Feb. 26 – March 1** (formerly Pastors Week; please also note the later dates for 2018). “For Such a Time as This” will feature teachers and preachers from the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary community. In the midst of chaotic times, God calls you to the crucial work of helping to form the people of God. We will explore how “fear of the Lord” uniquely prepares us to live confidently and to speak courageously in this moment in history. Taking our cues from Scripture and the experiences of the global church, we will delve into Christian practices that reliably nurture, sustain and animate faith in difficult times. We’ll learn fresh ways we can share and lead such practices in our congregations, homes and other spheres of influence. See [www.ambs.edu/lifelong-learning/pastors-and-leaders](http://www.ambs.edu/lifelong-learning/pastors-and-leaders) for details.

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## Staffing perspective

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The Ohio Conference Leadership Team has approved a job description for a half-time conference minister for the Conference and sent the job description to the search committee. Search committee members include John Rohrer, LaVonne Hartman, Robb Esh, Paula Snyder Belousek and Jeff Hochstetler.

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## Missional perspective

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What might be holding us back from adopting a missional mindset? Read Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg’s blog post, “[Top five reasons we really don’t want to be missional,](#)” to consider this question further.

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## Training perspective

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You are invited to attend the one-day workshop Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches on Oct. 21 in Indianapolis, Ind. This workshop will focus on the biblical basis for conflict transformation, styles of responding to conflict, communication skills necessary to resolve conflict peacefully, strategies to prevent destructive conflict in churches, and a model for working at congregational decision-making in a win-win manner. See <http://bit.ly/LMPCCConflict> for details.

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## Perspective deadlines

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Oct. 2 for Oct. 5  
Oct. 16 for Oct. 19

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