

OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

MAY/JUNE 2017



ohiomennoniteconference.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Editorial
Ervin Stutzman
meetings in Ohio
- 5 About people
- 8 Back page
briefings

Worship is formation—formation is worship

By Ellen Nussbaum

Members of Oak Grove Mennonite Church (Smithville) and Sonnenberg Mennonite Church (Kidron), having discovered a common interest in exploring training and resources for leading congregational worship, came together to plan a Worship Resourcing Seminar. It was held on Saturday, May 6, at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church. Sixty-three participants gathered from 16 different Ohio Mennonite congregations. Participants included youth, young adults and adults, pastors and lay leaders, some experienced worship planners and others who wanted to receive prac-



Participants in the scripture reading and drama workshop dramatize a reading from Genesis about Joseph meeting with his brothers.

tical training, resources and theological teaching in order to better explore and learn about Spirit-filled congregational worship.

Resource person Rachel Miller Jacobs, assistant professor of congregational formation at Anabaptist Mennonite Bib-

Continued on page 3

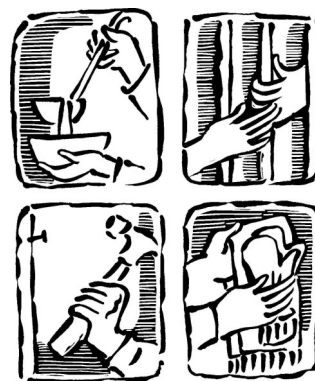
Grant program to benefit local ministries

Is your congregation looking for ways to fund a ministry that impacts your community? Consider applying for a grant from the Ohio Conference.

For the sixth year in a row, the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) is accepting grant pro-

posals from Ohio Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has **\$24,992** available for grants.

In light of the current Gathered and Sent initiative within the Ohio Conference, the Ministry Development Team will give preference to proposals that are particularly



Continued on page 4

EDITORIAL

Vision for the future



What is your vision for the church? Our denomination already has a vision statement, "Vision: Healing & Hope," which states "God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world."

I believe that if we were asked, most of us would say that we truly want to have God's healing and hope flow through us to the world. But have healing and hope really been our focus?

This summer at the Mennonite Church USA convention, delegates (and others) are invited to participate in something called the

Future Church Summit, which has been described by its planners as a denomination-wide conversation to dream together, reset priorities, and engage one another in answering an important question: "How will we follow Jesus as Anabaptists in the 21st century?" I look forward to hearing the results of this conversation.

— ahl

VOL. LXXI, NO. 3

MAY/JUNE 2017

Editor: Ann H. Leaman

Ohio Mennonite Evangel (USPS 404-500) is published six times per year by the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636, telephone (330) 857-5421.

All material for publication should be submitted to the editor at 5854 Sunland St. NE, Louisville OH 44641, or via telephone: (330) 453-0150, or e-mail: ohioevangel@gmail.com, one month prior to desired publication date.

Ohio Mennonite Evangel is distributed to all households of Ohio Conference congregations, other interested individuals and church agencies.

Send subscription information and address changes to the editor at ohioevangel@gmail.com.

Ervin Stutzman to hold meetings in Ohio

Ervin Stutzman, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, will be traveling through Ohio in June, and Ohio Conference has set up two meetings for delegates, pastors and other interested persons to meet with him. Those attending will hear him share about the upcoming MC USA convention in Orlando and the Future Church Summit*, which will take place at the convention. There also will be a time for Ervin to answer questions from those gathered.

The two meetings will be held in early June:

- June 8 — Salem Mennonite Church in Elida, 7-8:30 p.m.
- June 9 — Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ervin Stutzman previously held similar "town hall" meetings with delegates and other interested persons in Ohio Conference during June 2014.

*To learn more about the Future Church Summit, see <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/future-church-summit/>. ■



Ervin Stutzman

Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Moderator: Bob Sauder — sauderbob2@gmail.com
Assistant Moderator: Thomas Dunn — thomas@crownhillmennonite.com
Credentialing Ministry Chair: Andy Stoner — rpandy@juno.com
Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair: Mel Hathaway — smcpastor@embarqmail.com
Stewardship Ministry Co-Chair: Melanie Miller — mgfmiller@gmail.com
Stewardship Ministry Co-Chair: Ruth Kauffman — rkauffman@fm-bank.com
Regional Pastor: Ralph Reinford — ralphreinford@gmail.com
Regional Pastor: Cliff Brubaker — cliffbru7@gmail.com
Administrative Secretary: Judy King — ohmc@zoominternet.net
Finance Coordinator: Stan Helmuth — cboh1@zoominternet.net
Conference Editor: Ann Leaman — ohioevangel@gmail.com
Coordinator of Volunteers: Alysa Short — alysashort@gmail.com

Worship

Continued from page 1

lical Seminary, challenged us to think about how *Worship is Formation and Formation is Worship*. This one-day seminar also had workshops focusing on the art of worship leading, leading music with song and instruments, letting the Word come alive in scripture reading and drama, and the use of visual art, digital arts, multimedia and technology in worship.

Jacobs helped us consider how worship and Christian formation are related to each other and what difference it makes when we plan and lead worship from a stance of Christian formation.

In the morning session Jacobs considered three layers in Christian formation: individual, communal and God's reign (universal). She explored the types of worship habits which help form us. (See <http://bit.ly/WorshipHabits> for a list of the worship habits Rachel Miller Jacobs described.)

If the point of worship is to form us to be ambassadors of Christ, then what we as "worship folk" need to orient ourselves toward is what will shape our and others' thinking, feeling, and acting toward God's overarching project of reconciling the world to himself.

In the afternoon session Jacobs helped us consider forming worship that forms. While there are many ways to worship God, she suggested three general movements of worship that are all responses to God's love and grace.

The first movement is a transforming encounter with the



living God. Unless we have encountered God, we haven't worshiped. Worship planners and leaders need to plan and lead worship that doesn't put barriers on people encountering God, but encourages, enables, and supports them in that encounter.

The second movement is honest engagement with self and community. This means being present in worship as we truly are, warts and all, individually and corporately. God wants to meet us as our whole selves — good and bad, body and spirit brought as honestly, transparently, and authentically as we can.

The third movement of worship is lively empowerment for faithful response. Worship is not just for us: for our pleasure, our comfort, our education, or our formation. Worship prepares us for what God is already doing in the world, a pledge of allegiance to God which spills out into all of our relationships (family, work, community), into the ways we spend our time, our money and our effort, and into the ways we worship.

Jacobs emphasized that a balanced biblical and theological diet for congregational worship doesn't happen without planning. She suggested three practices for a good worship diet: 1) keep records and review them; 2) let structures, themes and images of worship shape our worship words; 3) use a diverse worship planning group so that planners represent the broadest possible range of our congregations (age, gender, taste, ethnic or cultural identity and Christian maturity).

She encouraged training and mentoring worship leaders of various kinds. Worship is not about perfection, or restricting worship planning to the experts. We need to use our relationship networks, as well as gifts in the congregation, to invite others to join in worship planning and leading. She also encouraged us to invite children and youth to lead the congregation in worship. Begin working with them early and help them build the skills they will need to be effective, joyful worship leaders. This takes time, but

Karen Steiner and Crystal Martin, leaders of the Visual Art in Worship Workshop, talk about how they created a visual display based on II Corinthians 5:16, which focuses on transformation in Christ. To see more photos of the Worship Resourcing Seminar, go to <http://bit.ly/WorshipSeminarPhotos>.

“Worship planners and leaders need to plan and lead worship that doesn’t put barriers on people encountering God, but encourages, enables, and supports them in that encounter.”

Continued on page 4

Grant program

Continued from page 1

“The Ministry Development Team will give preference to proposals that are particularly mission-oriented.”

mission-oriented. Priority also will be given to projects that are new initiatives or projects that could not be carried out without the grant funding.

The MDT will use the following criteria in reviewing the applications:

Does this proposal fit with the Conference priorities of worship, faith and witness?

- Our passionate worship flows from our confession of God as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.
- We have a vibrant faith in God as Lord of all, who is at work reconciling the world.
- Through our bold witness others will accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and will build peace with all humankind.



Is this proposal a collaborative effort among Ohio

Does this project respond to the priorities identified by Ministry Development Team?

- Start-up ministries/ new initiatives
- Community outreach
- Revitalization of a congregation
- Church planting
- Implementing the Purposeful Plan
- Focus on children or youth ministry
- Resources for marriages and/or parenting
- Missional coaching

Conference congregations and/or related organizations?

Please note that this is a one-time grant. Grant monies are not intended to be used for staffing.

Grant proposals are due by **Aug. 9, 2017**. More information and an online application are on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>. If you prefer, you may download a grant form and mail it to the Ohio Conference office.

The Ministry Development Team will consider all grant proposals at its Aug. 23 meeting. ■

Worship

Continued from page 3

“We need to join others in worshiping in new or unfamiliar ways as an expression of our love for them and our desire to join in God’s work of reconciliation.”



Rachel Miller Jacobs

what we are really doing is tending to our own spiritual formation as we mentor others. This kind of focus makes a difference in how we think about our own work and how we think about theirs.

Evaluation of worship planning and leading is also an important element in worship formation. Asking questions of congregational members, such as what helped you in worship and what hindered you in worship, will help us corporately broaden our capacity to tolerate things that are not our favorites, for the sake of shaping our connections to our brothers and sisters either in the congregation or in the wider church. We need to join others in worshiping in new or unfamiliar ways as an expression of our love for

them and our desire to join in God’s work of reconciliation.

Responses from the seminar participants were very positive about both the input from Rachel Miller Jacobs and the workshops that were presented. Participants also appreciated the feast of information and having the time and space to think about worship.

This seminar was sponsored by the Sonnenberg and Oak Grove Mennonite churches with a partial grant from the Ohio Conference. ■

ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

Jeff Hochstetler was ordained for Christian ministry at Berlin Mennonite on April 30, 2017. He has served Berlin Mennonite as family life pastor since 2014.

Duane Beck, former pastor at Raleigh Mennonite in North Carolina, preached the sermon. Jeff did his internship at Raleigh Mennonite.

Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford led the ordination ceremony and anointing, and Steve Slagel of Traverse City, Michigan, gave a prayer of blessing. Pastor Myron Weaver was worship leader.

The congregation gave Jeff a basket of cards with words of affirmation. ■



Jeff Hochstetler, family life pastor at Berlin Mennonite Church, was ordained April 30 at Berlin Mennonite. Also pictured is Jeff's wife, Kelsey.

Jamie Rye was licensed and installed as pastor of Millersburg Mennonite Church on May 7, 2017. Jamie and his wife, Kelly, and their children recently moved from Toledo. They had been attending Millersburg Mennonite for several weeks before his installation as pastor.

Elder Eric Raber led as the congregation received them as members. Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford led the installation ceremony and had a blessing. The congregation responded with a litany. Jamie preached the sermon, and many people shared words of affirmation during the sharing time. ■



Jamie Rye (center) was installed as pastor of Millersburg Mennonite Church on May 7. Also pictured are Jamie's wife, Kelly, and Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford.

ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 5

Central Christian School

The Central Christian School (CCS) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the hiring of Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi as the superintendent of CCS beginning Aug. 1, upon the retirement of the current superintendent, Gene Miller.

Jantzi is a 1982 Central Christian alumnus originally from Orrville. She is married to Dan, and they have three adult sons. She received her undergraduate degree in early childhood education from Eastern Mennonite University and her master's degree in international economic development from Eastern University in Pennsylvania. Jantzi is an energetic and effective, relational leader with experience in leading with MCC in Asia. "Together with my family, I've spent 24 of the last 28

years serving internationally with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Congo, Nigeria, Indonesia and Thailand," she said. She is an experienced administrator who is ready for the opportunity and challenge of leading CCS.

Jantzi has a deep, sincere faith that is grounded in Anabaptist teaching and the example of Christ. In addition to her commitment to Anabaptist faith, she is passionate about the future of Mennonite education. "As a leader, I look to Jesus and to the scriptures for guidance. The Holy Spirit helps me interpret the scriptures together with my community of followers of Christ. I look forward to participating in the mission at Central Christian School as students learn about God through multi-



Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi

ple exposure points in classroom culture, in relationships with the adults around them, in the sense of community at the school, in chapels, classroom storytelling and devotions and times of prayer," she said. ■

Bill Detweiler

John William "Bill" Detweiler, age 87, the former longtime pastor of Kidron Mennonite Church, died April 6, 2017, after declining health. Bill was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, on Nov. 29, 1929, a twin son of the Rev. William G. and Anna (Landes) Detweiler.

Bill graduated from Smithville High School (1947), Eastern Mennonite College (1951), and Faith Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1954). When his father died suddenly in 1956, Bill and his twin, Bob, returned to Orrville from additional seminary study to assume the responsibilities of The Calvary Hour radio broad-

cast begun by their father in 1936.

Bill began his ministry at Pleasant View Mennonite Church near North Lawrence. In 1957, he began pastoral duties at Kidron Mennonite Church, where he served faithfully until retirement in 1995. After 10 years of retirement, he served as an interim pastor at Mennonite Christian Assembly, Fredericksburg, from May 2005 to June 2010.

In addition to his local parish responsibilities, Bill and his brother, Bob, became the "twin speakers" on The Calvary Hour radio broadcast until Bob's death in 1989. Bill continued

with the radio ministry until its closing in December of 2007.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth (Mast); three daughters, Dr. Dawn (Dr. Scott) Schell of Chagrin Falls, Jill (Bruce) Breckbill of Kidron and Beth (Ben) Grove of Elkhart, Indiana; eight grandchildren; and other extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, William G. and Anna; his brother, J. Robert (Bob); and his stepfather, Eli Stoltzfus.

A memorial service was held Saturday, April 15, at Kidron Mennonite Church. Memorial

Continued on page 7

ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 5

contributions can be made to Kidron Mennonite Church, Box

232, Kidron OH Ohio 44636, or to Global Disciples, 315 W.

James St., Suite 202, Lancaster PA 17603. ■

Hesston College

Two students from Ohio Conference congregations were among the 149 people receiving degrees from Hesston College during its 2017 commencement on Sunday, May 14.

Christina Kauffman of West Liberty earned an associate of arts degree. Her home congregation is Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty.

Kathryn Roth of Pettisville earned an associate of arts degree. Her home congregation is West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon. ■

Goshen College

Ten students from Ohio Conference congregations were among the 241 individuals who graduated from Goshen College on Sunday, April 30. Graduates from Ohio Conference congregations are as follows:

Isaiah Breckbill, Kidron Mennonite; **David Bontrager**, Zion Mennonite in Archbold; **Anna Cullar**, Leetonia Mennonite; **Luke Graber**, Lockport Mennonite in Stryker; **Clayton Lehman**, West Clinton Mennonite in Wauseon;

Jacob Roth, West Clinton Mennonite in Wauseon; **Jordan Waidelich**, Lockport Mennonite in Stryker; **Seth Wesman**, Kidron Mennonite; **Nathan Yoder**, Zion Mennonite in Archbold; and **Molly Zook**, Summit Mennonite in Barber-ton. ■

Bluffton University

Five students from Ohio Conference congregations were among more than 230 undergraduate and graduate students who received degrees on Sunday, May 7, during the 117th Commencement ceremony at Bluffton University.

The graduates, their home

towns, majors and home congregations are as follows:

Alexander Bilen of Archbold, history, Central Mennonite Church in Archbold; **Alyssa Kauffman** of West Liberty, food and nutrition with a minor in sociology, Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty;

Trenton Long of Elida, math, Salem Mennonite Church in Elida;

Bailey Short of Archbold, food and nutrition, West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon; and **Julie Sleutz** of Kidron, food and nutrition, Kidron Mennonite Church. ■

Eastern Mennonite University

Five students from Ohio Conference congregations were among the 495 individuals who received their degrees during Eastern Mennonite University's 99th commencement ceremony in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on April 30.

The students' names are listed

here, along with their home congregations and their majors:

Isaac John Dahl of Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker, bachelor of arts in religious and intercultural studies; **Claire Elizabeth Fry** of Tedrow Mennonite Church in Wauseon, bachelor of arts in digital media;

Samuel Elliott Miller of Berlin Mennonite Church, bachelor of science in biology; **Brooks Dan Wagler** of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, master of arts in interdisciplinary studies; and **Joel Andrew Wheeler** of Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker, bachelor of arts in social work. ■

Conference Calendar

JUN

- 8 Meeting with Ervin Stutzman, Salem Mennonite Church, Elida
- 9 Meeting with Ervin Stutzman, Salem Mennonite Church, Kidron
- 14 Ohio Conference Leadership Team Meeting, Location TBA
- 16-17 Black Swamp Benefit, Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon
- 16-18 Hispanic Families Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

JUL

- 4-8 Mennonite Church USA Convention, Orlando, Florida

AUG

- 4-5 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster
- 11-12 Girls Jamboree, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 23 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Location TBA

SEPT

- 15-17 Women's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

NOV

- 10-12 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge, Perrysville

mission of Mennonite Central Committee. Inquiries and resumes may be directed to Larry Augsburg at ljburg@embarqmail.com or 330-600-7090, or 5159 Kidron Road, Apple Creek OH 44606. Resumes must be submitted by July 31, 2017.

Kris Nussbaum will be the speaker for the Girls Jamboree at Camp Luz in Kidron on Aug. 11-12. The theme of this two-day event will be "Beautiful Purpose," based on Ephesians 2:10. Girls Jamboree is for girls in grades 3-8. See the Camp Luz website for details: www.camluz.com.

Attending the 2017 Convention in Orlando?

The convention planning office has arranged discounts at Orlando-area attractions. For details, visit menlovelandomeetinginfo.com.

Anabaptist Disabilities Network has compiled a list of Anabaptist-affiliated summer camps that offer programming or accommodations for campers with disabilities. Go to <http://bit.ly/ADNCampGuide> to download a copy. ■

Back page briefings...

The board of the Ohio MCC Activity Center of Kidron, Ohio, is searching for a full-time executive director to assume responsibilities on Dec. 1, 2017. The director's responsibilities largely entail giving direction to the MCC Connections Thrift Shop, which has three additional full-

time paid staff and more than 300 active volunteers. The candidate must show a capacity for administering staff and volunteers and for overseeing the finances of the operation. The search committee is looking for a candidate who has an "MCC mindset" and actively supports the worldwide

OHIO MENNONITE
EVANGEL
News & Views of Ohio Conference

For more Ohio Conference news, visit the Ohio Conference website: ohiomennoniteconference.org