

OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Grants will support a variety of projects

Conference awards eight grants

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) has awarded eight grants totaling \$21,614 to Ohio Conference congregations and Conference-related groups. The Ministry Development Team approved the grants at its Aug. 1 meeting in Upper Sandusky.

Funding for these grants comes from surplus funds that had accumulated during years in which the Confer-

ence ended its fiscal year with a surplus.

The following ministries received grants:

CONNEXUS

The MDT approved a grant for Connexus, a developing conflict management center for Holmes and Wayne coun-

ties. The people developing this group see the need for more resources in Holmes and Wayne counties for resolving conflicts using skills such as mediation, arbitration and facilitation. Individuals from Kidron Mennonite Church, Berlin Mennonite Church and Wooster Men-

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Fall meetings to focus on mission

How have you seen God at work in your congregation during the Ohio Conference Year of Mission? This fall members of all Ohio Conference congregations are invited to gather together at Fall Mission Events to share stories of how their churches are engaging in God's mission in their local communities.

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

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EDITORIAL

Be still and know...

Recently my husband and I spent a week on vacation in Alberta, Canada, visiting the Canadian Rockies. While the scenery was awe-inspiring, I later realized that one of the best things about our week away was something that seemed like an annoyance at first: Our hotel had a very low-speed Internet connection.

We did have Internet access, but websites took a long time to load, and I quickly realized that many news websites have a Canadian version which, understandably, isn't as focused

on U.S. events. The result was that I could find out the latest news about U.S. matters, but I had to be very persistent. Usually, after a few minutes, I decided not to bother.

By the end of the week, I realized that I felt a lot better not paying such close attention to the blow-by-blow accounts of the U.S. presidential campaign with all its insults, insinuations, and so on. Instead of focusing on the struggle for political power, I was out hiking, enjoying the impressive scenery and coming in con-

tact with people from many other countries who were also there to explore that part of God's creation.

My vacation reminded me of the wisdom found in Psalm 46:10: "He says, 'Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.'" It's easy for me to get caught up in the whirlwind of news about current events. But I need to prioritize quiet time away as well. God is still at work in the world; I need to be tuned in to Him and focusing on that.

RESOURCE CORNER

MMN has new mission bank teaching tools

**By Lois Bontrager
Ohio Conference
Resource Advocate**

Has your congregation used the mission banks available from Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) with the children in your congregation?

Introducing MMN's newest mission bank teaching tools — *Joining God's team in Congo*. These materials will

help you teach your children and congregation about mission in Congo, and can be used a number of ways and are easy to adapt to fit your congregation's needs:

- Children's Sunday school class mission project
- A congregational mission and stewardship project

To request these materials, email LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net or call toll-free 1-866-866-2872, ext. 23022.

In addition, mission bank teaching tools featuring mission projects in a variety of other countries are available from the MMN website. To download any of these resources, go to <http://bit.ly/MissionBanksMMN>. ■

Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

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nonite Church have been involved in the development of Connexus. The grant from Ohio Conference will be used toward the costs of mediation grants for volunteers, educational services and training for the public, and publicity and marketing.

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES

Lighthouse Ministries of Canton received a grant toward the purchase of a peace curriculum and team-building curriculum for use in an after-school program. The after-school program serves second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-graders in the Light-



house's neighborhood in southeast Canton. A special feature of the peace and team-building training will be the incorporation of a special piece of artwork: a table on the Lighthouse's outdoor patio with a tabletop made from handguns. This artwork will make a swords-into-plowshares statement to the community.

In the grant application, Lighthouse Director Darin Nissley explained, "A little over three years ago a young man was murdered in front of our office. Since that time we have sought to make some sort of statement against violence in this place. His body ended up lying in front of the patio where the



table will be placed. Last year we raised the support to put a peace garden in place with a patio at the center. The idea being that eventually the picnic table on the patio would be replaced with the gun table."

MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING RENOVATION — HUBER MENNONITE

Huber Mennonite Church in New Carlisle received a grant toward the costs of renovating a 40' x60' steel building which the church purchased from a neighboring car dealership. The goal is to create a space which can be used throughout the year as a multi-purpose space. The plan is for the building to be used for church activities centered on outreach, as well as providing a space for use by the community, either for free or for a nominal charge.

WELCOME AREA — SALEM MENNONITE (WALDRON, MICH.)

Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan, received a

grant toward the cost of creating a welcome area in the congregation's new worship facility. The building plans for the facility call for a large foyer/gathering area just inside the main entrance and a multipurpose worship area. Grant funds will go toward creating a coffee house-style atmosphere in part of the gathering area. The intention is to make this area a place for meeting people informally, as well as to create a safe place for discussing questions and difficulties.

PLAYGROUND SET — SALEM MENNONITE (WOOSTER)

Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster received a grant toward the cost of a new playground set for the church. The congregation has a strong outreach to immigrant Hispanic families, many of whom have young children.

MENNOMEDIA — PROJECT 606

MennoMedia received a grant toward the costs of Project 606, which is the development

Huber Mennonite Church in New Carlisle received grant funds toward the renovation of a steel building to make it into a multi-purpose space for use by the congregation and the community.

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.

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. ■



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of a new hymnal for congregations in Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. For more information about this project, see www.heraldpress.com/HymnalProject.

GUNS INTO GARDEN TOOLS

Toledo Mennonite Church, in partnership with RAW Tools, University Church and several other Toledo-area organizations, has received a grant toward the cost of holding a Guns into Garden Tools Event in Toledo Oct. 29-30. RAW Tools is a grassroots non-profit organization from Colorado affiliated with the Mennonite



Church. Inspired by Isaiah 2:4, they take guns and blacksmith them into garden tools. See <http://rawtools.org> for more information about this organization.

MISSIONARY COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT — FIVE WAYNE COUNTY CHURCHES

A network of five churches in Wayne County has received a grant toward the cost of working with consultant JR Rozko. The network of churches includes Chestnut

Ridge Mennonite, Crown Hill Mennonite, Martins Mennonite, Orrville Mennonite and Salem Mennonite of Wooster. The pastors of these five churches meet together weekly, and the congregations have been working together at a variety of ministries, such as a joint youth group, vacation Bible school, marriage enrichment nights, among others. The grant funds will allow consultant JR Rozko to work with the congregations to develop ideas about how to increase their missionary competencies in their local setting. ■

ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

Matt Weaver was licensed for ministry and installed as associate pastor at Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker on July 24. Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker led the licensing and installation ceremony.

Lee Martin, pastor of Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia, shared the sermon, "Building with Care on the One Foundation." Matt and his wife, Lori, attended Mt. Clinton while in seminary. Lee used I Corinthians 3:5-17 as a text, and gave Matt gifts that paralleled two images from that passage: growing plants (a set of gardening tools) and a builder (a large antique wooden plane) to remind Matt that God makes the plants grow, and

Sean Swanson was licensed for Christian ministry and installed as pastor of First Mennonite Church in Canton on Sunday, Sept. 28.

Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford led the licensing and installation ceremonies. He also preached the sermon, titled "A New Chapter," based on Ephesians 4.

Sean is a graduate of Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana. He and his wife, Ally, are living in Canton, and she is working at Aultman Hospital. ■



Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker (right) led the licensing ceremony for Matt Weaver at Lockport Mennonite Church. Also pictured is Matt's wife, Lori (at left).

God shapes the church and those who serve it.

Lonnie Yoder, professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, brought greetings and affirmation from the seminary. He noted that Matt's skills in working with people had been on

display in Matt's last year of seminary when he served as president of the student body. Matt utilized his gifts in planning and leading worship as he led the Young Adult Praise Band. ■



Sean Swanson, and his wife, Ally, are living in Canton, Ohio. Sean was licensed and installed as pastor of First Mennonite Church in Canton on Sunday, Aug. 28.

Murray Krabill

Murray Krabill, 93, former pastor at Gilead Mennonite Church in Mt. Gilead, died on July 15. Murray was the first pastor at Gilead, helping to

form and shape this new congregation, which was made up of young farm couples beginning a new church plant following

World War II. He served at Gilead for 40 years as a bivocational pastor until his retirement.

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His wife, Alta, died only two weeks earlier, on July 3. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer David and Mary Ann Roth Krabill, and two brothers, Russell and Maurice Krabill.

He is survived by his six children and their spouses, Dr.

Ruby Payne (Tee Bowman) of Corpus Christi, Texas, Chet (Grace) Krabill of Mt. Gilead, Sharon (Stan) Swarzendruber of Hesston, Kan., John (Debra) Krabill of Fredericktown, Wesley (Susie) Krabill of West Liberty, and Ruth (Scott) Weirch of Denver, Colo.; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren;

and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

A funeral service was held Monday, July 18, at Gilead Mennonite Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Mennonite Central Committee. To see a full obituary, go to <http://bit.ly/MurrayKrabillObituary>. ■

Everence



KIDRON, Ohio – Bruce and Anne Hummel have been named recipients of the Regional Journey Award from the Everence offices in Northeast Ohio. This award recognizes the Hummels, of Millersburg, as models of Christian stewardship through their use of time, talents and lifestyle choices.

Created in 2001, the Journey Award highlights what people of faith are doing as stewards of their God-given gifts.

The Hummels have helped numerous church-related organizations, including Berlin Mennonite Church, Central Christian School, International Guest House in Washington, D.C., and Camp Luz. They have also helped many individuals in the community maximize their charitable interests.

“Bruce and Anne are an inspiration to the entire faith community,” said Jim Frado, Managing Director for Everence in Northeast Ohio. “Their commitment to serving the needs of

people and supporting Christ-centered organizations is a tremendous blessing. Their ministry has made a significant positive impact, both locally and beyond.”

Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches. To learn more, visit www.everence.com or call (800) 348-7468. ■

Two students from Ohio Conference congregations in northeast Ohio have received Everence college scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year.

This year’s scholarship recipients are Madeline Troyer and Anna Ressler.

Madeline Troyer of Millersburg attends Berlin Mennonite Church. She



received a \$750 scholarship to pursue a degree at Messiah College.

Anna Ressler of Apple Creek attends Sonnenberg Mennonite Church. She received a \$750 scholarship to pursue a degree at Eastern Mennonite University.



These students are among 42 recipients of Everence college

scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year. The scholarship program encourages young people to explore the integration of faith and finances while helping them on their educational journeys.

Recipients were chosen based on academics, leadership, community involvement and responses to an essay question. Visit everence.com for a complete list of scholarship recipients and their photos. ■

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KIDRON, Ohio – Everence Financial has hired Kelly J. Troyer as church relations and charitable services representative.



Troyer is part of the Everence team based in Kidron and will be helping individuals, organizations and congregations in Northeast Ohio plan for philanthropic goals that integrate their faith and values. She also

will provide stewardship education resources and help connect church members to other Everence services. Kelly will serve as an associate to David Miller in helping to facilitate charitable services.

Before transitioning to her new role, Troyer served as client services manager for the Everence advisory team based in Kidron.

A native of Mount Eaton, Ohio, Troyer has a background in accounting, administration and information management. Her education includes Stark Tech-

nical College.

“We’re excited that Kelly has responded to the call to serve as our church relations and charitable services representative,” said Jim Frado, Managing Director for Everence in Northeast Ohio. “Kelly has a great appreciation for the church and generosity. Her strong interpersonal gifts coupled with her desire to serve congregations and individuals will strengthen our mission to help our members blend their faith and values with their financial and charitable decisions.” ■

Fall Mission Events

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

The meetings will include time for brief presentations and group discussion. The first part of each 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.



Share Your Stories

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. To see a promotional flier for the Fall Mission Events or to see other Year of Mission resources, visit the Ohio Conference website:

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org. ■

Retreat for Pastors' Wives set for Nov. 11-13

“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.

Registration is due Oct. 28. Visit the Ohio Conference website to download the retreat brochure and registration form: <http://bit.ly/2016PWRetreat>. ■

Conference Calendar

SEPT

28 Year of Covenant Meeting for Pastors, Maple Grove Mennonite, Hartville

30 Youth Worker Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

OCT

1 Youth Worker Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

11 Fall Mission Event, Jubilee Mennonite, Bellefontaine

20 Fall Mission Event, Central Mennonite, Archbold

29 Missional Essentials Seminar, Berlin Mennonite

NOV

3 Fall Mission Event, Berlin Mennonite

11-13 Retreat for Pastors' Wives, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin

MAR

23-24 Missional Conference with Alan and Debra Hirsch, Kidron Mennonite

24-25 Annual Conference Assembly, Central Christian School, Kidron

distributed bimonthly?

Ohio Conference Prayer Coordinator Dana Short compiles prayer requests for *Prayer Prompter*. If you would like to join in this prayer ministry, contact Dana at mdshort@embarqmail.com in order to receive *Prayer Prompter*.

Goshen College's new Study-Service Theology Term (SSTT)

is currently seeking 20 high school applicants for a two-week study tour in Guatemala in June 2017. Students will be provided with the opportunity to explore their understandings of Jesus' life and mission in light of contemporary challenges and their own sense of calling. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2017SSTT>.

Richard Blackburn, executive director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, will be leading "A Peacemaker's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land" Jan. 11-22, 2017. In addition to visiting pilgrimage sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Galilee, participants will visit various peacemaking ministries in the Holy Land. See <http://bit.ly/PeaceCenterPilgrimage> for more information. ■

Back page briefings...

Berlin Mennonite Church will host a one-day seminar, "Missional Essentials: Engaging God's mission where you live, work and play," on Oct. 29. The facilitators of this seminar will be Brad Brisco and Lance Ford, who were the presenters at the "Becoming Missional" training event at Central Mennonite Church in March 2016 prior to Annual Conference Assembly. Cost is

\$35 per person. Groups of five people or more from the same congregation will receive a reduced price of \$30 per person. To register, contact Berlin Mennonite Church at secretary@berlinmennonite.org or 330-893-2320. For more information, see <http://bit.ly/2016MissionalEssentials>.

Did you know that Ohio Conference has a list of prayer requests which is

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