

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Ohio Conference Cast: The search is on

In the latest episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, hosts Bill Seymour and Thomas Dunn discuss the search for a new half-time conference minister with Jeff Hochstetler, a member of the search committee. Jeff describes the type of person the search committee is seeking and talks about some of the expectations for this position.

Since this episode of Ohio Conference Cast is the first after Thomas' return to Ohio after several months in Goshen, Indiana, Bill and Jeff also ask Thomas to tell listeners a bit about what he has been doing over the last few months.

You can find this episode on iTunes (search for "Ohio Conference Cast") or find it on the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts.

Conference deficit grows during October

For the second month in a row, expenses outpaced receipts for the Ohio Conference during October, according to figures provided by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for the month totaled \$24,691, including \$21,360 in congregational giving. Total expenses for the month were \$26,391, resulting in a -\$1,700 operating balance for the month. At the end of October, the Conference's year-to-date operating balance for 2017-18 was -\$13,220. The Conference fiscal year ends on March 31, 2018.

Advent At Home guide is for families

This issue of *Perspective* includes a set of bulletin announcements to share with your congregation. These announcements are promoting the Advent At Home worship guide written by Elsie Rempel and distributed by Central Plains conference and www.AnabaptistFaithFormation.org.

This resource, titled *Yes! Let it Be!*, is designed for parents to use at home with their children. For use between Dec. 3 and Jan. 6, the worship guide includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together. The

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

Twenty-five couples took part in the Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat at Mohican State Park on Nov. 10-12. Resource speakers for the weekend were James Lapp and Miriam Book, and Tim Shue led music. The weekend also included a chance for couples to enjoy the outdoors in the state park during free time. See <http://bit.ly/2017Pastor-SpouseRetreat> for photos from the weekend.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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guide follows the texts and themes of the worship materials in *Leader*.

Laypersons encouraged to participate in Healthy Boundaries training

The Ohio Conference Credentialing Ministry is encouraging all congregations to send a layperson to the Healthy Boundaries training being held by the Conference. Attendance is mandatory for all credentialed persons.

The Credentialing Ministry would like to stress that in all congregations which have a Pastor Congregation Relations Committee, at least one representative from that group should attend the Healthy Boundaries training.

Friday, Nov. 24, is the deadline to register for the Healthy Boundaries training on Dec. 9 at SpringHaven Counseling Center in Dundee, Ohio. The training will last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This training will also be offered Jan. 13 at First Mennonite Church in Bluffton and April 21 in the Archbold area.

The registration cost for this training is \$25 per person. This fee covers the cost of the training, books and lunch. Any pastor or congregation who has difficulty in paying that amount should contact Andy Stoner, Credentialing Ministry chair, at astoner45@gmail.com or 937-450-4482.

The deadline to register for the Dec. 9 training is **Friday, Nov. 24**. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/HealthyBoundariesDec9>.

To register for the Jan. 13 training, go to <http://bit.ly/HealthyBoundariesJan13>. To register for the April 21 training, go to <http://bit.ly/HealthyBoundariesApril21>.

Doctrine of Discovery programs come to Bluffton

BLUFFTON, Ohio – Erica Littlewolf, coordinator of the Indigenous Visioning Center for Mennonite Central Committee (Central States), will bring two programs to Bluffton University on Nov. 28.

Littlewolf will present “Doctrine of Discovery: A Living History” during Forum at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. During the presentation, Littlewolf, who is Northern Cheyenne, will explain how the 15th century Christian doctrine continues to shape United States policies toward Native Americans.

At 7 p.m. in Marbeck Center’s Kreider Room, Littlewolf and Karin Kaufman Wall, peace and justice education coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee (Central States), will present “The Loss of Turtle Island,” a participatory learning experience. This exercise depicts the historic relationship between European settlers – including Mennonites – and the Indigenous nations, the original inhabitants of the land we now call the United States of America.

Prayer perspective

Please add this prayer request in your church bulletin:

The Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA is currently searching for a half-time conference minister. Pray for guidance for the search committee and the Conference Leadership in the filling of this position. Pray for applicants to respond to this urgent need. Applications are due Nov. 30. For more information, see the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OHConferenceMinister>.

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Please intercede for the congregations, and especially their search committees, who are looking for pastors: Peace Mennonite, Elyria; Friendship Mennonite, Cleveland (Bedford Heights); and Bethel Mennonite, West Liberty. And remember Regional Pastors Ralph Reinford and Cliff Brubaker as they provide support for the searching process.

Missional perspective

Meghan Good and Marvin Lorenzana will be the featured speakers at *Gathered and Sent*, the missional conference at Bluffton University March 8-9, 2018, immediately prior to Annual Conference Assembly. See the enclosed flier for more information.

Perspective deadlines

Dec. 4 for Dec. 7

Dec. 18 for Dec. 21
