

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Register for pastors' meeting by Jan. 11

Berlin Mennonite Church will host a meeting for Ohio Conference pastors Jan. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All credentialed leaders of the Ohio Conference are encouraged to attend.

There is no registration fee for this meeting, but lunch will be provided on a donation basis. Registrations are due **Jan. 11**. To register, contact Judy King at the Ohio Conference office at ohmc@zoominternet.net or 330-857-5421.

For pastors who would like to stay overnight in Berlin either Wednesday night, Jan. 17, or Thursday night, Jan. 18, Comfort Suites in Berlin is offering a special room rate of \$69.99 plus tax. To take advantage of this offer, call 330-893-7400 and ask for a room under *Ohio Conference January Meeting*.

Deficit increases slightly during November

The Ohio Conference's deficit increased slightly during November, according to figures provided by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for the month totaled \$27,886, including \$24,237 in congregational giving. Total expenses for the month were \$28,559, resulting in a -\$673 operating balance for the month. At the end of November, the Conference's year-to-date operating balance for 2017-18 was -\$13,892. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2018.

Ohio Conference Cast: A Day in the Life of Ralph

One of the main tasks of an Ohio Conference regional pastor is to serve as a pastor to pastors, but what does that phrase actually mean? And what else does the job entail? In this episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, co-hosts Thomas Dunn and Bill Seymour talk with Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford about his work with Ohio Conference — the tasks, the travel, the challenges, and the rewards.

You can listen to this podcast on [iTunes](#) (search for "Ohio Conference Cast") or find it on the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts.

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.

Event perspective

Online registration is now open for the 2018 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) on March 9-10 and the Gathered and Sent Missional Conference on March 8-9. To register online for ACA, go to <http://bit.ly/2018ACA>. To register online for the missional conference, go to <http://bit.ly/2018MissionalConference>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

SLT to focus on brokenness, thriving

Proclaiming God incarnate even in brokenness – within themselves, in their congregations and neighborhoods, and nationally – is no small task for pastors. Eastern Mennonite Seminary’s [2018 School for Leadership Training](#) (SLT) participants will explore themes of thriving and succeeding in ministry even in the context of so much reason to lose heart.

The Jan. 15-17 training event, titled “Broken Vessels, Thriving Pastors,” will feature [keynote speakers](#) Iris de León-Hartshorn, The Reverend Meredith McNabb, and an alumni panel. Seminars will feature a Charlottesville, Virginia, pastor who confronted the “Unite the Right” rally in August, a personal leadership coach, and various EMS faculty. For more information, visit <http://www.emu.edu/seminary/slt/>.

Pastors and leaders to focus on hope

ELKHART, Indiana (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) — In a time when many people are experiencing anxiety, trauma and upheaval, how can church leaders sustain hope among the people they serve, even when they might struggle with fear, hopelessness and exhaustion themselves?

[Pastors and Leaders 2018](#) — an annual leadership conference formerly called Pastors Week — aims to help participants explore how “fear of the Lord” prepares them to live confidently and speak courageously at this moment in history, as well as to ground themselves in Christian practices that keep faith and hope alive. The event, on the theme “For Such a Time as This,” will run from 7 p.m. on **Feb. 26** through 12:30 p.m. on **March 1** on the campus of [Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary](#) (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana. For more details, see <http://bit.ly/2018AMBSLeaders>.

The Mennonite solicits submissions

In February 2018, *The Mennonite* magazine will celebrate its 20th anniversary in its current form as the official publication of Mennonite Church USA, and *The Mennonite* wants to hear from you. Send your memories of *The Mennonite*: reflections on your favorite stories, authors that have been important or reasons you’ve relied on this publication. You can send your short reflections (200 words or less) to Editor@TheMennonite.org. Responses received by Jan. 1 may be included in the February 2018 issue of the magazine.

The Mennonite, Inc. also welcomes your original submissions and contributions for its March 2018 print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on spiritual resilience. Submissions are due by Jan. 20 to Editor@TheMennonite.org. You can read a full description of the March 2018 theme here:

<http://bit.ly/TheMennoniteSpiritualResilience>.

Giving perspective

Do you have a credit card through Everence? If so, your purchases can benefit the Ohio Conference. Everence donates 1.5 percent of the transaction total of each purchase made with a MyNeighbor credit card to the charitable organization of your choice. Donations are distributed each January and are based on the card holder’s choice of “Neighbor” as of **Dec. 31**. See <https://www.everence.com/myneighbor> for details.

Prayer perspective

This issue of *Perspective* includes prayer requests for January from Mennonite Education Agency.

Perspective deadlines

Jan. 2 for Jan. 4

Jan. 15 for Jan. 18
