

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: 330-453-0150 Email: ohioevangel@gmail.com

Conference ends December in the black

Giving to Ohio Conference in December was strong, bringing the Conference's operating balance into the black for the first time in this fiscal year.

Receipts for December totaled \$58,206, including \$43,591 in congregational giving. Giving from individuals also was strong in December. In response to a year-end appeal from Moderator Bob Sauder, individuals gave \$11,475 during December.

Expenses for the month totaled just \$26,513, resulting in a surplus of \$31,693 for the month. As a result, the Conference ended December with a year-to-date operating balance of **\$17,800**.

Thank you to all who contributed! The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2018.

Cliff Brubaker to go to half-time status

Cliff Brubaker has asked to be relieved of his involvement with the *Gathered and Sent* initiative at the end of January. He has come to realize that attempting to focus his time and energy on three jobs is more than he desires to tackle at this time. He will continue his half-time role as regional pastor for the Ohio Conference and his quarter-time position as a member of Zion Mennonite Church's newly formed pastoral team.

Words cannot express our appreciation for his invaluable efforts on our behalf over the past year and a half, giving leadership to the *Gathered and Sent* program and the listening time he spent with congregations. We look forward to experiencing his helpfulness in the regional pastor's role and wish him and Zion God's blessing in his new role on their ministry team.

— Bob Sauder, Ohio Conference moderator

Healthy Boundaries training rescheduled

Because of inclement weather, the Healthy Boundaries training scheduled for Jan. 13 in Bluffton was canceled. This training event has been rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24, at the same location, First Mennonite Church in Bluffton.

If you registered for the Jan. 13 training and cannot attend on Feb. 24, please contact Judy King, Ohio Conference administrative assistant, at ohmc@zoominternet.net or 330-857-5421.

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.

Financial perspective

Everence is expanding its efforts to help pastors take advantage of the benefits of comprehensive financial planning.

Beginning January 2018, credentialed and active pastors from any churches affiliated with Everence are eligible to receive a Pastoral Financial Plan Grant toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan. For details, see <http://bit.ly/EverenceFinancialPlanning>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

This training is mandatory for continued credentialing in the Ohio Conference. The Conference is also holding this training event April 21 at Shalom Counseling and Mediation Center in Archbold.

Online registration for the Feb. 24 training will be open through Friday, Feb. 16. To register for this training date, go to <http://bit.ly/HealthyBoundariesFeb24>.

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

Conference minister search continues

The search for a new conference minister for Ohio Conference has entered a new phase.

According to the search committee chair, John Rohrer, the committee has begun the process of interviewing candidates for this half-time position. A conference minister job description was publicized in the fall, and applications for the position were accepted through Nov. 30.

The search committee is working in consultation with Bob Sauder, Ohio Conference moderator; and Terry Shue, director of leadership development for Mennonite Church USA. Search committee members include Paula Snyder Belousek, Robb Esh, LaVonne Hartman, Jeff Hochstetler, and John Rohrer (chair).

'Reading the Bible with Jesus' coming to Ohio

Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron will host "Reading the Bible with Jesus," an inspirational four-session Bible study on the book of Mark with Bryan Moyer Suderman Feb. 16-17.

What can followers of Jesus today learn from Jesus' approach to scripture? What if today's Christians not only sought to imitate how Jesus lived and how he treated people, but also how he read and interpreted scripture?

Cost for this four-session study will be \$20, which includes the Bible classes on Friday evening and Saturday, lunch on Saturday, and snacks. The fee will be collected at the door. In order for event organizers to have an accurate count for lunch, participants must register by **Thursday, Feb. 14**. To register, contact summitmenno@sbcglobal.net. See the event brochure for more details.

Immigration workshop planned in Millersburg

Millersburg Mennonite Church will host a workshop, "Immigration Myths, Realities and Public Policy," on Saturday, Jan. 27, 1-2:30 p.m. This workshop will seek to bring clarity around immigration issues, as well as share the impact that immigration policy has on families affected by it. If you are interested in having your immigration questions answered, learning creative ways to respond or discovering how your faith intersects with this topic, please attend and join in the conversation. No preregistration is required for this workshop.

Meeting perspective

Ohio Conference will hold four winter regional cluster meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. Each meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. The following meetings have been scheduled:

- Feb. 13 — Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron
 - Feb. 15 — West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon
 - Feb. 20 — Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Hartville
 - Feb. 22 — Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City
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Marriage perspective

Prepare/Enrich: A Premarital and Marital Workshop will be held Feb. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. Led by Delores Friesen, Ph.D., this workshop prepares pastors, counselors, spiritual directors and mentors to help couples strengthen and enrich their relationships. See tinyurl.com/amb-prepare-enrich for details or to register.

Perspective deadlines

Jan. 29 for Feb. 1 issue

Feb. 12 for Feb. 15 issue
