

OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

JAN/FEB 2018



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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'Gathered and Sent' to be Assembly theme

Bluffton University to host ACA

Bluffton University will host the 2018 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) of the Ohio Conference March 9-10. The theme of this year's gathering will be "Gathered and Sent," based on 1 Peter 2:9-10 and Luke 10:1-12.

Ohio Conference also will hold a missional conference at Bluffton University immediately prior to ACA, on March 8-9. See page 3 for more missional conference details.

Featured speakers during the worship services will be



Meghan Good

Meghan Good, the teaching pastor at Trinity Mennonite Church in Glendale, Ariz.; and Marvin Lorenzana, discipleship initiatives director at



Marvin Lorenzana

Mennonite Mission Network. They also will be the presenters at the missional conference preceding ACA.

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'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.

An itinerant Bible teacher and singer-songwriter from Kitchener, Ontario, Bryan Moyer

Suderman has spent more than 25 years finding creative ways to engage people of all ages in scripture. He is a teaching associate of the Church Leadership Center of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

What can followers of Jesus today learn from Jesus' approach to scripture? What if



Bryan Moyer Suderman

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EDITORIAL

Setting healthy boundaries is important for all

If you asked me to make a list of my favorite ways to spend a Saturday, sitting in a daylong meeting would not top my list (or even be on the list, for that matter). And yet, I am extremely glad that I attended a healthy boundaries training sponsored by the Ohio Conference and Central District Conference this past December.

Ohio Conference is encouraging congregations to send laypersons to this retreat as well as pastors. (See page 5 for more details.)

FaithTrust Institute has developed the healthy

boundaries training for pastors and spiritual teachers. One goal of the training is to help pastors avoid serious misconduct, but the training also emphasizes the need for boundaries that promote stress management and self-care.

In addition to input from our presenters, the training included videos of spiritual leaders talking about boundary issues, and table group discussions about those same issues.

One thing I appreciated the most about the training I attended was the opportunity to hear stories about different areas of boundary-

crossing, some that I had never considered before. For example, on the subject of gifts, one of the video clips featured a pastor talking about a congregant who wanted to give a very valuable gift — in this case, the use of a vacation home — but then also expected special consideration from the pastor in return. Discussion of such instances provided a lot of food for thought.

If you are a layperson who is asked by your congregation to attend a healthy boundaries training with your pastor, I heartily encourage you to do so. It is well worth your time.

—ahl

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). ■

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Annual Conference Assembly

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Registration for ACA will begin Friday, March 9, at noon, followed by an orientation session for new delegates at 12:30 p.m. The first business session for delegates will begin at 1 p.m. ACA will conclude at 4 p.m. on Saturday after the final business session.

In addition to business sessions and worship services, ACA will include special times for prayer, workshops, displays, and a plenary session featuring Meghan Good and Marvin Lorenzana.

On Saturday morning there will be a Mennonite Men's Breakfast and an Ohio Mennonite Women's Breakfast. The Mennonite Men's Breakfast will feature Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men coordinator, speaking on the topic "Healthy Masculinity." The Ohio Mennonite Women's Breakfast will feature Myrna Ramseyer, who will speak on the topic "Being a Kingdom Woman."

The registration fee for ACA is \$45 per person if received by **Feb. 16**, and \$60 per person



after that date. There is an additional charge for meals.

Registration forms and more information about ACA are available on the Ohio Conference website:

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/2018ACA>. ■

Conference to focus on evangelism, discipleship

Gathered and Sent, a missional conference, will precede the 2018 Annual Conference Assembly. It will take place March 8-9 at Bluffton University. Presenters will be Meghan Good,

and discipleship, and cultivate partnership and relationship.

All who are passionate about growing as disciples and those who are frustrated with the status quo of maintenance min-

ference Cast podcasts on the Ohio Conference website at <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

To view Meghan Good's Bible study series, *Rediscovering the Bible*, see Trinity Mennonite Church's website: <http://bit.ly/RediscoveringtheBible>.

Cost for this event will be as follows:

- Regular Fee (for those not attending Annual Conference Assembly) – \$45
- ACA Attendee Fee (for those attending Annual Conference Assembly) – \$25
- Young Adult Fee (for those under age 30) – \$20

Registration is due by **Feb. 16**. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/2018MissionalConference>. For more details, see the [conference brochure](#). ■

"This conference will focus on growing as a good news community. Join us as we grow in our culture of mission."

Gathered and Sent a missional conference focusing on **DISCIPLESHIP and EVANGELISM**

teaching pastor at Trinity Mennonite Church in Glendale, Arizona, and Marvin Lorenzana, discipleship initiatives director at Mennonite Mission Network.

This conference will focus on growing as a good news community. Join us as we grow in our culture of mission, receive practical training in evangelism

istry are encouraged to attend. This conference is **not** just for pastors and delegates to Annual Conference Assembly.

To learn more about Meghan Good, listen to the Ohio Conference Cast podcast episode featuring an interview with Meghan: ["Missional Conference Preview with Meghan Good."](#) You can find all the Ohio Con-

The Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat included times for worship, as well as input from James Lapp and Miriam Book.

Pastor-Spouse Retreat offers time away for couples



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.

To see more retreat photos, go to <http://bit.ly/2017Pastor-SpouseRetreat>.

‘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?’

‘Reading the Bible with Jesus’

Continued from page 1

today’s Christians not only sought to imitate how Jesus lived and how he treated people, but also how he read and interpreted scripture? Participants in the “Reading the Bible with Jesus” workshop will explore these and other questions.

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.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, Bryan Moyer Suderman will visit Summit Mennonite Church in Barberton, taking part in the morning worship service beginning at 9:30 a.m. After the worship service, he will perform a community concert for all ages. A potluck meal will follow the concert.

Congregations partnering in this effort to bring Bryan Moyer Suderman to Ohio include Martins Mennonite in Orrville, Sum-

mit Mennonite in Barberton, and Sonnenberg Mennonite and Salem Mennonite in Kidron. Organizers also received a ministry grant from the Ohio Conference to help fund these events.

To learn more about Bryan Moyer Suderman’s approach to teaching about scripture, see the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary website: <http://bit.ly/ReadingBibleWithJesus>. More information about Bryan Moyer Suderman is also available on his website: www.smalltallministries.com. ■

Promoting healthy boundaries in our churches

Pastors and church leaders are called to the sacred trust of serving and nurturing others, but it can be a challenge to fulfill this calling in a culture that celebrates the absence of limits and boundaries. Without boundaries, trust can be destroyed.

To deal with this serious issue, Ohio Conference is providing healthy boundaries training for all credentialed persons in the Conference. Laypersons from each congregation are also encouraged to attend.

Healthy boundaries training has several goals:

- To increase awareness of the need for healthy boundaries in the clergy-congregant relationship
- To provide clergy and lay leaders with guidelines for appropriate boundaries and self-care
- To illustrate strategies to sustain a safe, healthy church
- To define boundaries and why they are important

The training is being offered three times during 2017-18. The first training session took place Dec. 9 at SpringHaven Counseling Center in Dundee. Two training events will be held in 2018:

- Feb. 24, 2018 — First Mennonite Church in Bluffton
- April 21, 2018 — Shalom Counseling and Mediation Center in Archbold

The training will last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at each location.

Attendance at this training is mandatory for continued credentialing in the Ohio Conference.

The Ohio Conference Credentialing Ministry is encouraging each congregation to send a layperson to the training along with their pastors to share the experience. Congregations generally want healthy pastors and want to find ways to help that happen, and this training will provide guidelines for achieving that goal. In addition, training a second person will raise the awareness of the congregation's leadership about ways that eve-

ryone, and particularly pastors, can practice healthy boundary maintenance. Congregations are encouraged to send someone who is part of the group to whom the pastor is accountable.

Presenters will be Jon Bohley and Laurel Neufeld Weaver. Jon Bohley, the clinical director at SpringHaven Counseling Center, is a licensed professional clinical counselor. Laurel Neufeld Weaver is a licensed independent social worker and director of Creating Hope Counseling in Bluffton, Ohio. The curriculum they will be presenting has been developed by the [FaithTrust Institute](#).

Ohio Conference is presenting these training events in conjunction with the Central District Conference.

The registration cost for this training is \$25 per person.

To register for the Feb. 24 training, go to <http://bit.ly/HealthyBoundariesFeb24>.

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

“Congregations are encouraged to send someone who is part of the group to whom the pastor is accountable.”

Cliff Brubaker to move to half-time status

**By Bob Sauder
Ohio Conference Moderator**

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 de-

sires 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. ■

Bluffton student develops social justice curriculum

Bluffton University student Emily Short displays some of the props she used when sharing her social justice worship curriculum with campers at Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Michigan.



By Cara Echols

BLUFFTON, Ohio – Emily Short wears many hats. A bible and theology major with three minors (psychology, sociology, and peace and conflict studies) at Bluffton University, she recently used her knowledge in all of those areas along with a desire for social change to create an innovative summer camp curriculum.

A senior from Archbold, Ohio, Short constructed the worship curriculum titled “Ordinary People; Extraordinary God – Empowered by God to set God’s People Free.” While the main theme focused on God’s works through imperfect people, Short also used a social justice lens to explore the accomplishment of God’s purpose.

“The underlying message was God’s purpose is kind of social justice-oriented and is about living in community with one another, liberating the oppressed people and working toward a greater harmony within humanity,” said Short.

She began developing her curriculum in the Methods of Biblical Interpretations class under the instruction of Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, assistant professor of religion.

“At that point in the semester, I wanted nothing more than to escape the stress of school and go to camp,” said Short. With summer camp on her mind, she used the course assignment to create a curriculum that would explore varying methods of interpretation while remaining practical for camp.

Serving as a camp director for Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Mich., she was able to implement the curriculum on site. She used narrative analysis, word studies and feminist criticism to interpret the biblical stories of Samson, Gideon, Esther and Hagar. Short thought carefully about the audience and worked to ensure the teachings spoke clearly of God’s love.

“I needed to make sure I was also thinking about my audience and helping them grow in their faith and not submerging them too much in a certain tradition,” she said.

Short worked specifically to “keep it camper appropriate” while still offering the students the main points of the stories. She, along with others at the camp, introduced the theme verses Micah 6:8 and Jeremiah 29:11 into dramas, children’s books, activities and skits to engage the young campers.

Short has been involved with Camp Amigo since high school and has been camp director for the past two summers. She will continue in that role during the summer of 2018. Before graduating in May, Short will complete an internship with the camp during the spring term as program associate. While there, she hopes to develop a new curriculum for the upcoming summer camp.

After graduation, Short plans to go to graduate school. Her career goal is to become a professor of theology and biblical studies. ■

“I needed to make sure I was also thinking about my audience and helping them grow in their faith...”

ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

Sue Short was installed as a member of the collaborative ministry team at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold on Sunday, Dec. 3. She was called out from the congregation for pastoral ministry during the search process.

Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker led the installation ceremony and preached the sermon. The worship service also included a short humorous skit comparing Sue's expected growth as a minister to the planting of a bulb which will bloom and grow with nourishment. In addition to Sue, the skit featured two "gardeners," Chris Liechty and Mike Zimmerman. Following



the worship service, the congregation celebrated Sue's installation with a potluck meal.

Sue has bachelor's degree in

English, and she is taking courses toward an MDiv. degree through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's online program. ■

Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker (left) led the installation of Sue Short at Zion Mennonite Church Dec. 3. Sue was called to pastoral ministry from within the congregation and has joined Zion's collaborative ministry team. She is pictured with her husband, Stan Short.

Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland celebrated the retirement of Co-pastor Robin Miller on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Robin served as a pastor at Lee Heights for 24 and a half years, beginning in 1992. Prior to his pastoral service, he was a social worker at the Cleveland Clinic.

Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells, who has served as co-pastor with Robin, is continuing her ministry at Lee Heights. ■



Robin Miller served as a pastor at Lee Heights Community Church for more than two decades, beginning in 1992.

Resource advocate

Bonnie Stuckey, a member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, is the new Ohio Conference Resource Advocate.

The role of the Resource Advocate is to be aware of the latest resources from the various

Mennonite Church USA groups and to find creative ways to make these resources useful to area conferences, pastors and lay leaders in congregations. Resource Advocates from conferences across Mennonite Church USA hold a gathering

each February with representatives from Mennonite Church USA agencies.

If you have questions about what resources are available from Mennonite Church USA agencies, please contact Bonnie at tbstuck@williams-net.com. ■

Conference Calendar

FEB

- 2-4 Mennonite Arts Weekend, Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati
- 13 Regional Cluster Meeting, Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, Kidron
- 15 Regional Cluster Meeting, West Clinton Mennonite Church, Wauseon
- 16-18 Jr. High Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 16-17 Reading the Bible with Jesus — Bible Study with Bryan Moyer Suderman, Salem Mennonite Church, Kidron
- 18 Worship Service and Community All-Ages Concert with Bryan Moyer Suderman, Summit Mennonite Church, Barberton
- 20 Regional Cluster Meeting, Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Hartsville
- 22 Regional Cluster Meeting, Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City
- 24 Healthy Boundaries Training, First Mennonite Church, Bluffton

MAR

- 8-9 Missional Conference, Bluffton University, Bluffton
- 9-10 Annual Conference Assembly, Bluffton University, Bluffton

APR

- 6-8 Men's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 21 Healthy Boundaries Training, Shalom Counseling and Mediation Center, Archbold
- 27-28 Father-Son Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

denominational organizations — representing diverse Christian communities to be selected to help establish the “Strengthening Foundations for Thriving in Ministry” program. See <http://bit.ly/EMSLillyEndowmentGrant> for details.

Online registration is now open for Camp Luz 2018 summer camps! Learn more about Camp Luz’s programs and the summer theme, “ROOTED,” on the Camp Luz website: www.camluz.com.

Do you know high-school students with gifts for leadership and ministry? !Explore, a program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, gives students in grades 10–12 the opportunity to explore ministry and theology, grow in spiritual practices and biblical engagement and listen for God’s call. The program includes a 100-hour congregational internship and a group experience (July 3–18, 2018). Apply by Feb. 15. See www.ambse.edu/explore for details. ■

Back page briefings...

Eastern Mennonite Seminary has received a grant of \$999,900 from Lilly Endowment Inc. in support of a national initiative to help clergy working in congregations thrive in their roles as pas-

toral leaders. The seminary is one of 24 organizations — including seminaries, universities, retreat centers, denominational judiciat-
ories, faith-based agencies and other interdenomina-
tional and non-

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