

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Leadership Team reports on search process

After many hours spent discussing the conference minister position and a very comprehensive search process, the Search Committee and the Leadership Team are in agreement that hiring someone at a half-time capacity is not a healthy thing for any candidate or the Conference at this time.

We apologize to the Conference staff and to those of you who have counseled us from the beginning that half-time was not a good idea. The plus side is that this discussion has helped us to focus on what it is we really expect from this position and where we as a Conference hope to direct our efforts.

The Leadership Team is committed to continuing to look for ways we can adjust staff responsibilities and workloads that will allow us to create what we believe will be an effective and sustainable job description for the conference minister. At the same time, we will do our best to continue to offer our congregations the support they need and maintain the energy and momentum that the Gathered and Sent initiatives have brought to the Conference.

Thank you for your prayers and counsel, and we ask you to continue to support us in the coming months as we move forward in the process of finding a conference minister.

Ohio Conference Leadership Team
Bob Sauder, moderator
Thomas Dunn, assistant moderator
Mel Hathaway, Gifts Discernment Ministry chair
Melanie Miller, Stewardship Ministry co-chair
J. Andrew Stoner, Credentialing Ministry chair

Regional meetings have begun

Winter regional cluster meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly are taking place this month. The first meeting took place on Tuesday. Each meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Three meetings remain on the schedule:

- Feb. 15 — West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon
- Feb. 20 — Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Hartville
- Feb. 22 — Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City

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.

MC USA perspective

The MC USA Executive Board has announced that Glen Guyton will serve as the new executive director of Mennonite Church USA. He will begin a three-year term on May 1, 2018. To learn more, see <http://bit.ly/MCUSAGlenGuyton>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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ACA registration fee to rise after Feb. 16

The deadline to register for Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) is **tomorrow, Feb. 16**. Have you registered yet? ACA will take place March 9-10 at Bluffton University, and the Gathered and Sent Missional Conference will take place immediately prior to ACA on March 8-9, also at Bluffton University.

Registrations for both events are due by Feb. 16. After that date, the registration fee for ACA increases from \$45 to \$60 per person. Online registration is available for ACA at <http://bit.ly/2018ACA>. To register online for the missional conference, go to <http://bit.ly/2018MissionalConference>.

Giving is stronger during January

Ohio Conference experienced stronger-than-normal giving during January, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Total receipts for the month were \$58,189, including \$48,544 in giving from congregations. (Congregational giving also was strong in December, totaling \$43,591.)

January's receipts from congregations were the highest monthly total since December 2015, when congregations gave \$60,121.

Expenses for January totaled \$28,146, resulting in a surplus of \$30,043 for the month. As of the end of January, the Conference's year-to-date operating balance was \$47,843.

Healthcare students invited to submit essays

Healthcare Student Essay Project: Anabaptist students in all healthcare disciplines are eligible to submit an essay in connection with the Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) Annual Gathering 2018, June 22-24, 2018, at Bluffton University. Share your perspective on the theme "Stories of Healing."

This contest is open to those currently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, professional, residency, fellowship, or internship program relating to health (physical, mental, or spiritual) who also support the mission of MHF to be an interdisciplinary community of Anabaptist health professionals. Deadline is **Feb. 28, 2018**. Winners will be published in *Mennonite Health Journal* and receive free registration for the June Annual Gathering. For more information, go to www.mennohealth.org/essays or contact info@mennohealth.org.

Peacebuilding institute adds shorter courses

The Summer Peacebuilding Institute (SPI) at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, has recently added a series of three-day workshops on June 18-20, 2018. These shorter workshops are designed for individuals who want to come for trainings but are unable to take a week or more away from home or work. See the latest SPI newsletter for details: <http://bit.ly/SPI-Newsletter>.

Young perspective

Kidron Mennonite Church is sponsoring a "Growing Young" seminar on Saturday, April 14, from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. This seminar will focus on making young people a priority in your church.

Speaker Dr. David "Duffy" Robbins, professor of youth ministry at Eastern University, will share about Keychain Leadership, empathy, taking Jesus' messages seriously, and creating a warm community that draws people in.

There is no cost for the seminar. Lunch can be included upon request for a \$10 fee. See the event flier, included with this issue of *Perspective*, for details. Register by **April 9** by emailing kris@kidronmennonite.com or calling 330-857-3461.

Retreat perspective

Camp Luz has a trio of retreats coming up in April! For more information, visit www.campuz.com.

- April 6-8 — Men's Retreat with Moses Rumano
 - April 13-14 — Mother-Daughter Retreat with Julie Longacre
 - April 27-28 — Father-Son Retreat with Jim and Isaac Bartholomew
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Perspective deadlines

Feb. 26 for March 1 issue

March 12 for March 15 issue
