

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Service project to benefit trafficking victims

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at Bluffton University next week for the Gathered and Sent Missional Conference March 8-9 and Annual Conference Assembly March 9-10.

A reminder for all Annual Conference Assembly participants: This year for a service project, the Conference is collecting donations to benefit survivors of human trafficking through the services of Crime Victim Services in Lima, Ohio. They have requested a variety of items: blankets, winter scarves/gloves/hats, coats (all sizes), socks, toilet paper, and cash donations for the Human Trafficking Donation Fund. This fund is used for emergency housing costs, medical expenses, therapy, groceries, etc.

Discovery: A Comic Lament is coming to Ohio

Ted & Co. is bringing its production titled *Discovery: A Comic Lament* to Ohio this weekend for two performances. Admission is free and open to the public at both performances.

Lima Mennonite Church will host a performance of *Discovery: A Comic Lament* on Saturday, March 3, at 7 p.m. Lima Mennonite Church is located at 1318 N. Main St., Lima.

Discovery: A Comic Lament, is coming to Smithville, Ohio, on Sunday, March 4, at 4 p.m. at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, 7843 Smucker Road, Smithville. This event is sponsored by First Mennonite Church in Wadsworth, Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Summit Mennonite Church, Orrville Mennonite Church, and Crown Hill Mennonite Church.

The play, starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne and produced by Ted & Co, is about the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples. It finds unexpected humor at the crossroads of justice and land use, offering both comic and challenging glimpses into the absurdity of white settler oppression of Indigenous Peoples and the land we live on. A show about love and loss of the land, *Discovery* nudges us to question our stories with honesty and integrity.

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.

Photo perspective

Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron hosted a four-part Bible study with Bryan Moyer Suderman, "Reading the Bible with Jesus," Feb. 16-17. Fifty people participated. To see photos from the Bible study event, go to <http://bit.ly/ReadingtheBiblePhotos>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

To learn more about this production, see the Ted & Co. website: <http://www.tedandcompany.com/shows/discovery-comic-lament/>.

To hear Ted Swartz and Alison Brookins, the play's author, talk about *Discovery: A Comic Lament*, listen to the [Ohio Conference Cast podcast about the Doctrine of Discovery](#) recorded at the MC USA Convention in Orlando last summer. You can find all Ohio Conference Cast podcasts on the Ohio Conference website: <https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts/>.

Berlin Mennonite seeks music leader

[Berlin Mennonite Church](#) is looking for a music leader to lead congregational singing on Sunday mornings for worship. Applicants will be able to play an instrument, and are asked to lead congregational singing from songbooks and lead/accompany contemporary songs. Our church has several musicians who currently make up praise teams (pianists, guitar players, violin, percussion, singers).

We are looking for someone to provide a constant presence each Sunday for our musicians who play on a rotating basis. We expect five hours per week (up to eight hours weekly including travel time to rehearsals). This includes practicing on a week night for two hours, Sunday morning rehearsal from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., and the 10 a.m.-11:15 a.m. worship service. Additional time can be spent selecting and planning music. Pay is negotiable up to quarter time salary. For more information, please contact Jeff Hochstetler, Family Life Pastor, at jeff@berlinmennonite.org or at 330-893-2320.

MHF offers grants for cross-cultural study to graduate students in health care

Graduate Students in Healthcare Professions: Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) offers educational grants for Anabaptist students to learn and serve in cross-cultural mission/service settings in developing countries. The application deadline for the 2018-19 academic year is May 15, 2018. For details and an application form, see <http://mennohealth.org/SET/>, email info@mennohealth.org, or call 1-888-406-3643. A flier about this grant program is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Online course to focus on transforming conflict

Online short course: Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 11 – May 22. In this online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course, Betty Pries will introduce Anabaptist conflict transformation techniques for leading in the midst of difference and disagreement — drawing from biblical, theological and practical sources. Cost is \$200 before March 21, and \$250 after. For details, see ambs.edu/shortcourses.

Church planting perspective

“Can we give ourselves permission to see the church differently?” In the latest episode of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast, hosts Thomas Dunn and Bill Seymour talk about this question and other ideas related to church planting with Jason Rissler, a church planter based in Strasburg. Go to <https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts> to listen.

Writing perspective

The Mennonite, Inc., welcomes your original submissions for the May 2018 print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on the theme Love Across Borders. Submissions are due to Editor@TheMennonite.org no later than March 19, 2018. For more details, see <http://bit.ly/TheMennoniteMay2018>.

Perspective inserts

This issue of *Perspective* includes the March-April issue of *Prayer Prompter* and the March issue of *The Parish Paper*.

Perspective deadlines

March 12 for March 15 issue
April 2 for April 5 issue
