

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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

Online prayer meeting set for July 7

Unite for the Search: Online Meetings for Prayer. Please join us as we unite in prayer for the search for a new conference minister. Using the GoToMeeting Web conferencing program, we'll connect on Saturday, July 7, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please use the information below for logging in to the online meeting:

Prayer Time - Conference Minister Search

Saturday, July 7, 2018 — 10 a.m.-11 a.m. EDT

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/352707165>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3112

Access Code: 352-707-165

Apply for ministry grants by Aug. 6

Is your congregation looking for ways to fund a ministry that impacts your community? **Aug. 6** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT). The MDT is accepting proposals from Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has \$24,282 available for grants.

Please note that this is a one-time grant, and grant monies are not intended to be used for staffing. You may either submit an online application or mail a printed application form to Ohio Conference, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636. The MDT will consider all grant proposals at its Aug. 23 meeting. To apply online, go to <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>.

Ohio Conference Cast: Mystics, misfits and longing for a deep encounter with God

What is a mystic? Ohio Conference Cast hosts Bill Seymour and Thomas Dunn explore this question and more with Christiana Peterson, a member of Midway Mennonite Church and the author of the new Herald Press book titled *Mystics and Misfits: Meeting God Through St. Francis and Other Unlikely Saints*.

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.

Musical perspective

The new worship and song collection for Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada will be called *Voices Together*. The new hymnal will be available in fall 2020 in a variety of formats. Read the full news release from MennoMedia at <http://bit.ly/MennoMediaVoicesTogether>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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“Being a mystic in my definition is ... longing for a deep encounter with God,” says Christiana. During the podcast, she talks with Bill and Thomas about the book, which deals with her family’s experience at Plow Creek, a Mennonite intentional community and farm in Illinois. She describes the book as part memoir, part saint biography, and part letters to the mystics, such as St. Francis.

Listen to this episode to find out whether reading Wendell Berry books and communal farming really go together. You’ll also hear Christiana talk about what happened to the Plow Creek community and hear her thoughts about living a life of simplicity.

Mystics and Misfits is available from [MennoMedia](#) and [Amazon](#). To learn more about Christiana Peterson, see her website: [Christiananpeterson.com](#).

You can listen to this podcast on iTunes or on the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts.

Conference operating deficit continues

Ohio Conference’s expenses were greater than receipts during May, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Expenses for the month were \$27,878, while receipts totaled just \$21,455, resulting in an operating balance of -\$6,423 for the month. For the first two months of the fiscal year, the Conference’s operating balance stands at -\$18,111.

New pastor orientation set for Aug. 12-13

Ohio Conference will hold a new pastor orientation Aug. 12-13. Pastors who are new to the Ohio Conference are invited to attend this overnight event free of charge. Spouses are also invited. Lodging will be at the Cobblestone Hotel & Suites in Orrville. Participants will visit the Ohio Conference office in Kidron and other organizations related to the Conference, such as Camp Luz, Everence, Central Christian School, and MCC Connections. To participate in this orientation, contact Judy King at 330-857-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net by **July 2**.

Fall retreat planned for pastors’ wives

Ohio Conference will hold a Pastors’ Wives Retreat Nov. 2-4 at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. Cost of this retreat will be \$115 per person.

The Steiner Family Charitable Fund has made five fully paid scholarships available for those who need financial assistance in order to attend this retreat. Please contact the Ohio Conference at 330-875-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net if you are interested in a scholarship. The scholarships will be given to the first five women to express need.

See the enclosed [retreat brochure/registration form](#) for more details. Please register by **Friday, Oct. 12**.

MC USA perspective

Mennonite Church USA has released a study guide, “Pathways,” to invite church-wide engagement in the denomination’s two-year Journey Forward process. The “Pathways” study guide, available online at <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/pathways-study-guide/>, invites congregations and groups across Mennonite Church USA to engage in studying Scripture, singing, praying, storytelling, exploring Anabaptist history and values, and discussing how they see God working in their lives.

The “Pathways” study guide is a way for groups to participate in the Journey Forward church-wide renewal process that will highlight how God is working in the lives of people and congregations across MC USA. To learn more about “Pathways,” see the full news release at <http://bit.ly/MCUSAPathways>.

Perspective deadlines

July 9 for July 12 issue

July 23 for July 26 issue
