

# Perspective



Ohio Conference  
of Mennonite  
Church USA

[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

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## **Register for leadership retreat by Aug. 27**

Ohio Conference invites all pastors and their leadership teams to an overnight retreat Oct. 26-27 in Bellville, Ohio. Duane Beck will provide input on the topic "Leadership Matters: Finding God in the Changes." Please note that for lodging purposes, the registration deadline for this retreat is somewhat early, **Aug. 27**. For details or to register, go to <http://bit.ly/OCLeadershipRetreat2018>.

## **Giving increases during July**

Congregational giving to the Ohio Conference increased during the month of July, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Congregations gave \$28,513 to Ohio Conference during July, the highest one-month amount for this fiscal year.

Total receipts for the month were \$29,018, and expenses were \$25,640, resulting in a surplus of \$3,378 for the month. That one-month surplus improved the operating balance for the fiscal year, but the Conference is still running a deficit for 2018-19. As of the end of July, the Conference's operating balance for 2018-19 was -\$20,057.

## **Marriage Encounter coming in September**

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry and several Wayne County congregations are planning a Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter on Sept. 28-30 at the Comfort Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Berlin. Please see the enclosed flier for more information. You may also contact Raul Tadeo at 330-828-0040 or Haroldo Nunes at 330-933-9376 for more information and a registration form. Registration is due by **Sunday, Sept. 9**.

## **Podcast focuses on immigrant congregation**

Did you know that there is a growing immigrant Mennonite congregation in Akron, Ohio?

In this episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, host Thomas Dunn and his guest co-host, Hannah Troyer, find out about this congregation, which is composed of Congolese refugees who have reset-

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***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.***

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## ***Staff perspective***

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**W**elcome back, Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford! Ralph resumed his regional pastor duties Aug. 1 after a three-month leave.

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## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

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- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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bled in Akron. Helping Thomas and Hannah learn more about this congregation is Rollin Mukanza, a social services case worker at the International Institute of Akron in Akron, Ohio.

Rollin Mukanza, who is originally from Kinshasa in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, discusses his work with the International Institute of Akron, which works at the task of resettling refugees from around the world.

Rollin also explains how Ohio Conference Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford first made contact with this congregation, the Akron Swahili Community Church, and Thomas and Hannah discuss their experience visiting the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

To learn more about the International Institute of Akron, see the Institute's website at <https://www.iiakron.org>.

As is mentioned near the end of this podcast episode, the Ohio Conference is seeking someone who can serve as an English-Swahili translator so that the Conference can have more conversations with the Akron Swahili Community Church. **If you know Swahili or you know of someone who could translate, please contact Thomas Dunn at [thomas@crownhillmennonite.com](mailto:thomas@crownhillmennonite.com).**

You can listen to this podcast on [iTunes](#) (search for "Ohio Conference Cast") or find it on the Ohio Conference website: [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts).

### **Videos have tips for leading adult Bible studies**

Central Plains Mennonite Conference has produced a series of short videos with tips for leading adult Bible study groups. The series, titled "Open the Book," features presenter Keith Slater, who has worked for SIL International and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He is a member of West Union Mennonite Church in Parnell, Iowa.

The title of each video in the series refers to a phrase from Nehemiah 8, in which Ezra read the Book of the Law to the Israelites as they returned from exile.

In addition to a very brief introductory video, the series includes three videos:

- "Don't Mourn or Weep: Goals and Problems"
- "Listen Closely: Facilitating Good Discussion"
- "A Unified Purpose: Preparing to Lead"

All three videos are less than 30 minutes long. You can find links to them at [www.centralplainsmc.org/bible-study-videos](http://www.centralplainsmc.org/bible-study-videos).

Many other resources for leading adult Bible studies are available at <http://www.anabaptistfaithformation.org/adults.html>.

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### **Retreat perspective**

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**S**ave the dates: Camp Luz in Kidron has several retreats scheduled for the fall and winter:

- Nov. 9-11 — Women's Retreat with speaker Akeia Haddox-Rossiter
  - Feb. 1-3 — Youth Retreat with speaker Don Bartlette
  - Feb. 15-17 — Junior High Retreat with speaker Don Bartlette
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### **Peace perspective**

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**M**ennonite World Conference (MWC) invites all Mennonite congregations to observe World Peace Sunday on Sept. 23. The theme for the 2018 World Peace Sunday is "A Renewed Peace Church Welcomes the Stranger." MWC has developed worship planning materials for this special Sunday. To download these materials, go to [www.mwc-cmm.org/peacesunday](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/peacesunday).

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### **Perspective inserts**

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**T**his issue of *Perspective* includes the August issue of *The Parish Paper*, prayer requests from Mennonite Education Agency, and bulletin announcements for August from Mennonite Church USA.

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### **Perspective deadlines**

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Aug. 20 for Aug. 23 issue

Sept. 4 for Sept. 6 issue

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