

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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

Giving increases, but deficit remains

Giving to the Ohio Conference was higher during November than during October, but expenses still outpaced receipts during November.

According to figures provided by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth, receipts for November totaled \$28,450, compared with just \$13,169 during October. Of November's total, congregations gave \$26,386, individuals gave \$2,050, and the remaining \$14 came from interest income. Expenses for November totaled \$29,658, resulting in an operating balance of -\$1,208 for the month.

As of Nov. 30, the Conference's year-to-date operating balance stands at -\$36,576. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2019.

Ohio Conference Cast looks back at 2018

The final Ohio Conference Cast episode of 2018 includes Christmas greetings from co-hosts Bill Seymour and Thomas Dunn, as well as a look back at the previous 21 episodes from this past year. Listen to this episode to hear about their favorite podcast memories from 2018. You might even hear Paula Snyder Belousek sing part of the Ohio Conference Cast theme song. You can find this podcast on iTunes or by going to <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

Lilly Endowment grant to assist pastors

GOSHEN, Indiana – Everence, through its affiliate Mennonite Foundation, has received a second grant of \$1 million as part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders.

This additional grant is part of the second phase of the Endowment's national initiative. Everence was one of the first 37 organizations receiving grants as part of the initiative's first phase in 2015 and 2016, using the funds to establish the [Everence Pastoral Financial Assistance Program](#) for pastors within Mennonite Church USA and Conservative Mennonite Conference.

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.

ACA prayer perspective

Ohio Conference's Immigration Resource Team is meeting today, Dec. 20, to continue its work on developing a resolution to present to the delegates at Annual Conference Assembly in March. This team is composed of Dan King, Hannah Troyer, Mara Weaver Boshart, Kelsey Troyer and Alysa Short. Please pray for the Holy Spirit's direction as they work together at creating this document.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Beginning in 2019, Everence intends to expand the program to credentialed and active pastors from other Anabaptist and like-minded denominations and church networks, in addition to Mennonite Church USA and Conservative Mennonite Conference. Similar to the pilot, the expanded program will include:

- Direct financial assistance grants to help alleviate debt burdens such as educational, medical and credit card debt. Grants are available to pastors who have not previously received direct financial assistance grants as part of the program. **Please note: Pastors who benefitted from the debt reduction grant of \$5,000 in Phase I are not eligible for a second grant in Phase II.**
- Financial education events focused on topics such as retirement planning readiness, debt reduction, financial planning, clergy taxes, etc.
- Financial planning subsidies toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan.

More information about the expanded Everence Pastoral Financial Assistance Program will be available in January 2019. **Please wait until 2019 to call Everence with any questions you may have about the program.** To learn more, please see the Everence website: <http://bit.ly/Everence2ndLillyGrant>.

Camp Luz seeks program director

Camp Luz is in search of a qualified individual to serve year-round as program director. This position is critical to the ongoing mission of Camp Luz. Details and qualifications can be found in the job description included with this issue of *Perspective*. Interested candidates should send their resume and three references to Camp Director Andrew Michaels at Andrew@campluz.com no later than Jan. 2.

Pastors and Leaders 2019 at AMBS to focus on loving neighbors in tense times

How can church leaders and congregations respond to hate, intolerance and systemic racism in their communities in productive and transformative ways? What does the gospel of Jesus Christ call Christ-followers to do in situations like these?

Participants in [Pastors and Leaders 2019](#) — an annual leadership conference at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) — will explore the biblical and theological grounding of their call to get involved and will become equipped to help their congregations respond to incidences of intimidation. The event, on the theme “Loving Our Neighbors in Tense Times,” will run from 7 p.m. on Monday, **Feb. 25**, through 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, **Feb. 28**, on the AMBS campus in Elkhart, Indiana.

For more details, go to ambs.edu/pastorsandleaders. Register by **Jan. 10** for the lowest rates; final registration deadline is **Feb. 11**.

Spiritual perspective

Know a spiritual director in Ohio? Ohio Conference is developing a directory of spiritual directors. If you are a spiritual director, or know a spiritual director who is open to serving pastors and members of Ohio Conference, please contact Karla Kauffman by Jan. 21 at 937-844-7628 or karlakauffman@juno.com.

Missional perspective

Online registration is now open for Ohio Conference’s 2019 missional conference featuring Sally Schreiner Youngquist and Steve North. The conference will be held March 7-8 at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron. See the enclosed brochure for more details. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/2019MissionalConference>.

Retreat perspective

Dr. Don Bartlette will be the featured speaker at two retreats at Camp Luz in February. He will speak at both the Youth Retreat on Feb. 1-3 and the Junior High Retreat on Feb. 15-17. For more details, please see the retreat brochures included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Perspective deadlines

Jan. 7 for Jan. 10 issue

Jan. 22 for Jan. 24 issue
