

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Leaders meet for relationship building, discussion

On Feb. 12, 27 credentialed ministers from across Ohio Conference gathered together at the Upper Sandusky Public Library once again for relationship building and discussion about the possibility of creating a covenant of the Conference's core beliefs/values and practices. The meeting was a follow-up to their meeting on Nov. 8, 2018.

It was a good day of fellowship, discussion and discernment. The practice of gathering together as credentialed ministers a couple of times a year is part of the *Gathered* half of Conference's *Gathered and Sent* initiative. The Gathered Resource Team consists of Conference Minister Dick Barrett, Regional Pastors Cliff Brubaker and Ralph Reinford, Thomas Dunn, Bill Seymour, Dan Hooley and Marilyn Grasse-Brubaker.

Due to inclement weather many from the northwest part of the state were unable to attend the Feb. 12 meeting. On Feb. 19 Dick Barrett and Cliff Brubaker met with nine of the credentialed ministers from that area at Shalom Ministries in Archbold as part of their monthly pastor peer gathering.

To see photos from this meeting, go to <http://bit.ly/Feb12Meeting>.

Berlin to host Healthy Congregations Workshop

Berlin Mennonite Church will host a Healthy Congregations Workshop April 4-5. Bill Blank, associate director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, will lead the workshop.

This workshop is designed for pastors, church staff, lay leaders and congregation members. Participants will learn how they can influence the health of their congregations, and how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community.

The registration fee includes a course manual and lunch. The fee is \$40 per person or \$60 per couple (with a shared manual) for all those registering by **March 17**. After that date, the registration fee increases to \$50 per person or \$80 per couple. A brochure with registration form is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

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.

Faith formation perspective

The Gathering Place, a virtual space where Anabaptist faith formation leaders can gather, learn, share and grow, is getting a new start with new resources and several upcoming webinars for Mennonite Church USA faith formation leaders. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2019GatheringPlace>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Missional conference coming to Ohio May 9-11

Sentralized, a missional conference featuring several of the speakers that Ohio Conference has hosted recently, such as Alan and Deb Hirsch, along with many others, is coming this spring to Middletown, Ohio (between Dayton and Cincinnati). This event will take place Thursday, May 9, though Saturday, May 11. Most of the teaching and discussion time will occur Thursday and Friday. You can find details at www.Kingswell.us/sentralized. There is a discounted rate of \$69 per person for groups of five or more if we register by this Friday, March 1. If you are quite sure you would like to attend, please email Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com **today, Feb. 28.**

EMU choirs to tour in Ohio

Eastern Mennonite University's University Choir and Emulate Chamber Ensemble will be performing in Ohio and Indiana during their March spring break tour.

Four performances are planned in Ohio:

Sunday, March 3

- Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Hartville, Ohio, 10:30 a.m.
- Walnut Hills Retirement Community, Walnut Creek, Ohio, 4 p.m.
- Berlin Mennonite Church, Berlin, Ohio, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 5

- Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio, 7 p.m.

For more information about the tour, see <http://bit.ly/2019EMUChoirTour>.

'Love Crosses Borders' planned for summer

Love is the greatest of all virtues. But what does love look like in times of cynicism and polarization?

Mennonite Men is organizing "Love Crosses Borders," an immersion experience with immigrants which will take place this summer. From July 28 to August 3 Mennonite Men will journey to Georgia and connect with Casa Alterna, a hospitality house devoted to faithful acts of mercy and justice alongside its first-wave immigrant neighbors, mostly from Guatemala. The cost is \$345 plus transportation. A flier with more information and a registration form are included with this issue of *Perspective*.

EMU to offer cross-cultural tours

Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) is offering several Alumni and Friends Cross-Cultural Tours. These trips promise to be life-changing in many ways and are open to alumni, former and current parents of EMU students, and friends of EMU. You won't find this kind of trip with your typical travel agent. Trip destinations include Cuba, Israel and Palestine, and South Africa, among others. Trip information is available on the EMU website: <http://bit.ly/EMUAlumniTrips>. For additional details, call 540-432-4206 or email at alumni@emu.edu.

ACA prayer perspective

Ohio Conference invites you to cover its upcoming Missional Conference and Annual Conference Assembly on March 7-9 in prayer. Please pray for the organizers as they finalize details, the speakers leading the missional conference, Bob Sauder as he moderates the business sessions, and all those that have a part in the events. May the Lord's Spirit be present.

Lent perspective

Goshen College is providing daily online devotions during Lent focusing on the theme "Blessed Hunger, Holy Feast." You can sign up to receive these devotions via email: <https://www.goshen.edu/devotions>.

Perspective inserts

The March-April issue of *Prayer Prompter* and the March issue *Prayer Vine* are included with this issue of *Perspective*. Also included are bulletin announcements from Mennonite Church USA.

Perspective deadlines

March 11 for March 14 issue

March 25 for March 28 issue
