

# Perspective



Ohio Conference  
of Mennonite  
Church USA

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

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

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## ***Thanks to all who participated in ACA***

Many thanks to all who participated in Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) March 8-9 at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron. Special thanks go to Salem Mennonite Church, to Sonnenberg Mennonite Church for hosting worship, and to the ACA Planning Committee, workshop leaders, and all those who helped to plan and lead the worship services.

Two hundred four people participated in ACA, including 162 delegates from 38 congregations. Eighty-eight people attended the 2019 Missional Conference with Sally Schreiner Youngquist and Steve North March 7-8 at Salem Mennonite.

## ***ACA photos now online, video coming soon***

Photos from ACA and the 2019 Missional Conference are posted on the Ohio Conference website and the Conference Facebook page. To view ACA photos, go to <http://bit.ly/ACAvideophotos>. To view missional conference photos, go to <http://bit.ly/2019MissionalConfPhotos>.

A brief video summary of ACA is in process. It should be available by the end of this week. It will be posted on Facebook and on the Conference website at <http://bit.ly/ACAvideophotos>.

## ***ACA Wrap-up podcast focuses on celebration, immigration, missional living***

In this episode of Ohio Conference Cast (<http://bit.ly/OHConfCastACA2019>), hosts Bill Seymour and Thomas Dunn take a break from podcasting. Instead, the podcast's number one fan, Lucas Johnson of Valley View Mennonite Church in Spartansburg, Pa., takes a look back at the 2019 Missional Conference and Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) with three other ACA participants: Kevin Himes, pastor of Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron; Sue Short, collaborative minister at Zion Mennonite Church; and Danae King of Orrville Mennonite Church.

The group reflects on the celebration of 50 years of Annual Conference Assembly, the immigration resolution adopted by delegates, and their takeaways from the missional conference which preceded ACA.

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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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## ***Gratitude perspective***

As the 2018-19 Ohio Conference year comes to a close, we would like to thank three members of the Ohio Conference Leadership Team who are finishing their terms of service: Thomas Dunn, assistant moderator; Melanie Miller, Stewardship Ministry co-chair; and Andy Stoner, Credentialing Ministry chair. Thank you for your service and dedication to the Ohio Conference!

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

- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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## **Immigration resolution, resources are available**

At ACA delegates approved a resolution on immigration, with 95 percent of delegates voting for the resolution. Copies of the resolution and a list of immigration resources are included with this issue of *Perspective*, as well as a listing of contact information for elected officials.

## **Giving outpaces expenses during February**

For the third month in a row, giving to the Ohio Conference outpaced expenses. According to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth, total receipts for the month were \$37,455, including \$37,082 in congregational giving. Expenses totaled just \$26,367, resulting in an operating surplus of \$11,088 for the month. That surplus boosted the year-to-date operating balance to \$32,783. Thank you to all who contributed! The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2019.

## **Register now for Healthy Congregations Workshop**

Berlin Mennonite Church will host a Healthy Congregations Workshop April 4-5. Workshop 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.

Time is running out to receive the best registration price for this workshop. 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 fee increases to \$50 per person or \$80 per couple. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/April5HealthyCongregations>.

## **Bluffton peace lecture to tell story of MJ Sharp**

BLUFFTON, Ohio — John E. Sharp will present “Changing the World One Life at a Time: The MJ Sharp Story” at 11 a.m. on March 26 in Yoder Recital Hall at Bluffton University.

Sharp will reflect on the life of his son MJ Sharp who died in his prime as a peacebuilder in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On March 12, 2017, while on a mission to investigate the sources of violence in the Kasai Central Province, MJ and a UN colleague were abducted and murdered for unknown reasons. In his Keeney Peace Lecture, John Sharp will speak as a parent, asking what it means to love enemies and to leave vengeance to God.

John E. Sharp recently retired from teaching history and Bible at Hesston College and now writes, speaks and leads tours for TourMagination to Western Europe, Poland and Central Asia.

## **The Mennonite seeks submissions for May**

The Mennonite Inc. invites your original submissions for the May 2019 print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on the theme “God So Loved the Whole World.” Submissions are due to [Editor@TheMennonite.org](mailto:Editor@TheMennonite.org) no later than April 4. For more details, please see <http://bit.ly/TheMennoniteMay2019>.

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## **Celebration perspective**

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**T**edrow Mennonite Church will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, March 31, 2019. Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a noon potluck meal to follow. Help us tell the story! Please send photos, memories and testimonies of how Tedrow Mennonite Church has impacted your life to [doug@tedrowmennonite.org](mailto:doug@tedrowmennonite.org).

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## **Technology perspective**

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**T**he March issue of *The Parish Paper* explores the use of media technology in worship and gives suggestions for using technology well, as well as providing a list of related resources. The March issue is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

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## **Missional perspective**

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**P**articipants in the 2019 Missional Conference received a copy of the book *Missional. Monastic. Mainline.* by Elaine A. Heath and Larry Duggins. The Ohio Conference has several extra copies available for \$18 each, including shipping. If you would like a copy, please contact Judy King at [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net) or 330-857-5421.

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## **Perspective deadlines**

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March 25 for March 28 issue

April 8 for April 11 issue

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