

OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

MAR/APR 2019



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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'From Jerusalem to Antioch' is theme of 2019 Assembly

Delegates approve immigration resolution

Delegates overwhelmingly affirmed a resolution on immigration at the 2019 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) of the Ohio Conference. Those gathered at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron March 8-9 numbered 204, including delegates from 38 congregations.

Ninety-five percent of the delegates affirmed the immigration resolution, which calls for individuals to become better informed about the issues surrounding immigration, as well as encouraging steps for congregations to take regarding this issue. (The text of the resolution is on page 3.) Vote totals were as follows: yes — 134; no — 4; abstain — 3.

The immigration resolution was developed by an Immigration Resource Team, which included Dan King, Ministry Development Team member; Mara Weaver Boshart, Zion Mennonite Church; Hannah Troyer, Summit Mennonite Church; Kelsey Troyer, Oak Grove



Immigration Resource Team members presented a resolution to Annual Conference Assembly delegates. Team members included (left to right) Kelsey Troyer, Hannah Troyer, Mara Weaver Boshart, Dan King, and Alysa Short (not pictured).

Mennonite Church (Smithville); and Alysa Short, Ohio Conference coordinator of volunteers.

SPENDING PLAN APPROVED

Delegates unanimously approved a spending plan for the 2019-20 fiscal year. The plan calls for spending totaling \$371,100. While introducing the spending plan, Stewardship Ministry Co-chair Dean Falb noted that the Conference has not needed to transfer any money from capital funds during the 2018-19 fiscal year, even though such transfers were proposed in

the spending plan. A copy of the 2019-20 spending plan is posted on the "Assembly Documents" page of the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/ACADocuments>.

RELEASE OF CONGREGATIONS

Regional Pastors Cliff Brubaker and Ralph Reinford led the delegates in a litany of lament and blessing for congregations which have closed or chosen to leave the Ohio Conference. During 2018, both Berean Fellowship in Youngstown and Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church in

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Conference focuses on building relationships

Just prior to Annual Conference Assembly, the Ohio Conference held the 2019 Missional Conference at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron March 7-8. Eighty-eight people participated in this event.

The theme of the conference was "From Jerusalem to Antioch: Legacy Churches Anchoring Missional Communities." Featured speakers were Sally Schreiner Youngquist of Evanston, Illinois, one of the founders of Living Water Community Church in Chicago; and Steve North, the pastor of LifeLine Toledo, a church plant in Toledo.

Sally Schreiner Youngquist talked about the years-long process of planting a church in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. Years before Living Water ever began meeting as a church, members from Reba Place Fellowship began moving into the neighborhood and spent time getting to know the people there. From there small groups devel-



Paula Snyder Belousek poses a question to (left to right) Steve North, Matthew Peterson, and Sally Schreiner Youngquist during a panel discussion. To see more missional conference photos, go to <http://bit.ly/2019MissionalConfPhotos>.

oped, and then the Living Water church group began meeting in a rented space before finally purchasing its own building. Along the way there was consistent support from the Reba Place congregation.

Steve North described his calling to plant a different kind of church, and shared some of the difficulties he and his family have encountered along the way. He said that discipleship is not a class or a once-and-done task, but more of a lifetime

journey. North focused on the importance of relationships in building community, and he asserted that all relationships are missional relationships.

In addition to presentations by the speakers, the conference included panel discussions and time for participants to discuss questions in small groups.

Each missional conference participant received a copy of the book *Missional. Monastic. Mainline.* by Elaine A. Heath and Larry Duggins. ■

Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Moderator: Bob Sauder — sauderbob2@gmail.com
Assistant Moderator: Paula Snyder Belousek — pastor@salem-mennonite.com
Credentialing Ministry Chair: Verle Brubaker — pastor@maple-grove-mennonite.org
Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair: Mel Hathaway — smcpastor@embarqmail.com
Stewardship Ministry Chair: Dean Falb — dejan@zoominternet.net
Conference Minister: Dick Barrett — ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com
Regional Pastor: Ralph Reinford — ralphreinford@gmail.com
Regional Pastor: Cliff Brubaker — cliffbru7@gmail.com
Administrative Secretary: Judy King — ohmc@zoominternet.net
Finance Coordinator: Stan Helmuth — cboh1@zoominternet.net
Conference Editor: Ann Leaman — ohioevangel@gmail.com
Coordinator of Volunteers: Alys Short — alysashort@gmail.com

Resolution on Immigration

BACKGROUND

As we consider the multifaceted and complex issue of Immigration, we wish to discern and follow the guidance of Scripture and the Holy Spirit. As the Body of Christ, we are called to offer a particular witness to the world, including the government. It is for the sake of the Body, its witness, and the unity for which it must strive, that we offer this resolution. The purpose of this resolution is not to convince, to draw dividing lines, nor to solidify political affiliations. This resolution is meant as an invitation to this part of the Church—Ohio Mennonite Conference—to work at finding a Third Way, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, on an issue that divides the culture around us. This is an opportunity to ask ourselves how we will be distinct from the hatred and polarization that surrounds us. This is an opportunity to ask how Christ holds us together and calls us to extend his Kingdom.

We believe that any discussion of immigration should include, at minimum, these truths: human beings as created in God's image, the biblical call to compassionate and just treatment of "foreigners" (Lev. 19:33-34), the specific teachings of Jesus (Matt. 25:35-40), and the world-wide nature of the Body of Christ (Eph. 2:19). Our Confession of Faith states that "the church knows no geographical boundaries and needs no violence for its protection." While Scripture commands us to respect and pray for those in authority, it also calls us to give our ultimate allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord, above "any human authority." (*Confession of Faith*, Article 23)

See also these Scriptures: Acts 11:1-18; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Gal. 3:26-28; Mark 3:33-35; Deut. 10:19; Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:19; Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Cor. 5:20; Jer. 29:7; Rev. 11:15; Deut. 27:19; Exod. 22:21, 23:9; Ezk. 22:7

RESOLUTION

Individual component:

As delegates to Ohio Mennonite Conference, we commit ourselves to become better informed on the issues surrounding immigration, with a willingness to consider a variety of perspectives. Regardless of our own national origin, we will seek to reach out and build relationships with our neighbors, rooted in Christ's love and compassion.

Congregational component:

As members of Ohio Mennonite Conference congregations, we will encourage our churches: a) to become better informed on immigration issues, b) to promote healthy dialogue in group settings, and c) to pray for the Spirit's leading in seeking to minister to the needs of immigrants within our congregations and our communities. We call on our churches to take the risks involved in obeying Christ's call to "welcome the stranger." We recognize the benefits of doing so, such as the richness of multi-cultural diversity, the revitalization of our congregations, and opportunities for missional outreach. We will seek to understand the underlying causes of immigration and consider how we might help improve economic and humanitarian conditions in countries of origins in order to reduce the pressure to emigrate. In addition, we will encourage our churches and individual members to contact their elected officials at local, state, and national levels to express our views on immigration.

Note: For sample letters which may be sent to elected officials, please see the Ohio Conference website: <https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/resources/immigration>. The website also has a list of resources related to immigration.

Want to learn more? Listen to the Ohio Conference Cast podcasts titled "Immigration — Welcoming the Stranger" and "Immigration — Welcoming the Stranger, Part II." All podcasts can be found at <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

"As delegates to Ohio Mennonite Conference, we commit ourselves to become better informed on the issues surrounding immigration..."

CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

A new church for a new day

By Dick Barrett
Conference Minister

***“And who knows but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this?”—
Esther 4:14(b) NIV***

Those words from Mordecai to Queen Esther in the Old Testament should resonate with all of us Christians in New Testament times. All of us have come to the royal position we find ourselves in, sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters in Christ, for the exact period of time in history that God has placed us.

A couple of weeks ago we celebrated our 50th anniversary as Ohio Conference of the Mennonite Church at our Annual Conference Assembly in Kidron. The truth is that we have been around in different names as a conference of Mennonite churches throughout Ohio for more like 150 years. While it is good to celebrate one's history, whether it be personally, family, or as a church, we need to focus on what God has called us to do during this particular time. As with every other period of time in the 2,000-year history of the church, this is a unique time.

When I came to the Mennonite Church more than 20 years

ago, it was operating out of what many churches were operating out of at that time, a mind-set that has been referred to as the attractional model of church, or “build it and they will come.” Little did I know that was near the end of a time in American church history where church was still one of the dominant institutions of our society, where many had a positive image of the church, and even if not attending a church at the time, many were raised in the church.

That is not the situation in the American church today. Church is not one of the dominant institutions in our society — people in the church could argue that this is good and/or bad. Many more people have not been raised in the church, and there is a much more negative image of the institutional church. Many people see the more traditional churches today as being “judgmental,” “exclusive,” and not very Jesus-like. Many people outside the church today would say they have an interest in seeking and finding Jesus, but they are deeply suspicious that they can find him in traditional churches today.

The good news is that although the attractional, “build it and they will come,” model of church might have worked during most of 20th century America, it is not the original model of church designed by God that



we find in the New Testament. The New Testament model of church has never been about a building but about the people who make up the body of Christ in a particular setting. The New Testament model of church has never been about “build it and they will come,” but about God's people going out, inviting others into the Kingdom of God, and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Some of Jesus' final words to his disciples are recorded in the Gospel of John, after his resurrection and before his ascension. He said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21).

My prayer is that as a conference of Mennonite churches in Ohio and the surrounding area in the 21st century we may embrace Jesus' calling and sending to be his body, sisters and brothers in Christ (a royal position indeed) for such a time as this. ■

“The New Testament model of church has never been about a building but about the people who make up the body of Christ in a particular setting.”



ACA photos (clockwise, from top left): Jacob Dodson leads a workshop session; Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Glen Guyton addresses the delegate session; Eldon King talks about memories of the Ohio Conference from the past 50 years while David Tijerina (left) and Moderator Bob Sauder listen. Photos by Bryan Leaman. To see more photos and an ACA video summary, go to <http://bit.ly/ACAvideophotos>. For a podcast with reflections from several ACA participants, go to <http://bit.ly/OHConfCastACA2019>.

Orrville closed. Kidron Mennonite Church, New Mercies Community Church in Burton, and Jubilee Mennonite Church in Bellefontaine have chosen to leave the Ohio Conference. Prior to the litany, Karla Kauffman from Jubilee Mennonite read a statement from the congregation, noting that Jubilee has chosen to affiliate with the Central District Conference.

CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS

In addition to taking care of business, the delegates also took time to celebrate the Ohio Conference. Because this gathering was the 50th Annual Conference Assembly, the busi-

ness sessions included times to reflect on the past 50 years of the Conference. Moderator Bob Sauder had two retired pastors, Eldon King and David Tijerina, share memories of their time with the Ohio Conference. They also reflected on the changes that have taken place in the Conference over the past 50 years.

Each delegate session also included an ACA celebration time, which included a trivia competition. Delegates were seated in groups around tables, and each table group worked together as a team to answer questions about a variety of topics. In the process, the dele-

gates learned more about Conference Minister Dick Barrett, Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Glen Guyton, Ohio Conference history, and the reports found in the annual report book. Matt Weaver, associate pastor at Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker, led this trivia competition.

MISSIONAL STORIES SHARED

Delegates also heard stories of how God is at work in the Ohio Conference. Darwin Hartman, pastor of Pike Mennonite Church in Elida, told about the addiction ministry

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ACA photos: At left, the praise team from Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster leads singing during the Saturday morning worship service. At right, Jeff Hochstetler presents a pottery vessel containing written blessings to Conference Minister Dick Barrett.



ACA participants were invited to write blessings for both Dick Barrett and MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton. Photos by Bryan Leaman. To see more photos and an ACA video summary, go to <http://bit.ly/ACAvideophotos>.

group which is meeting at Pike. Ryan Nafziger, associate pastor at Tedrow Mennonite Church, described the congregation's homework table program. Haroldo Nunes, executive director of Open Arms Hispanic Ministries, told delegates about a bilingual marriage enrichment retreat. Joel Shenk, pastor of Toledo Mennonite Church, described how Toledo Mennonite has become involved in "Forging Peace," a program which includes the use of blacksmithing to repurpose guns into garden tools.

DELEGATES WORSHIP

In addition to business, delegates also spent time in worship at nearby Sonnenberg Mennonite Church. Speakers for the worship services were Sally Schreiner Youngquist and Steve North, who were also the presenters for the 2019 Missional Conference. At the Friday evening worship service, Sally Schreiner Youngquist focused on the Parable of the Mustard Seed. The worship service also included an installation service

for Conference Minister Dick Barrett. Following the Friday night worship service, delegates were invited to a reception for Dick Barrett and Glen Guyton, the new executive director of Mennonite Church USA. At the Saturday morning worship service Steve North talked about living with God's presence, basing his sermon on II Samuel 6:1-15.

In other business, the delegates:

- Welcomed pastors from the Akron Swahili Community Church;

- Approved several wording changes to the Ohio Conference Constitution, mainly related to changes in job titles;

- Attended workshops on a variety of topics;

- Approved the minutes of the 2018 ACA;

- Were introduced to pastors with new assignments in the Ohio Conference;

- Affirmed the personnel slate presented by the Gifts Discern-

ment Ministry (see pages 7-10 for more information about these volunteers);

- Heard a brief overview of what is happening in Mennonite Church USA from Executive Director Glen Guyton;

- Heard a report from Jacob Dodson, pastor of Wooster Mennonite Church, about the "Sent" initiative, which is encouraging missional activity in the Conference and developing opportunities for missional education;

- Heard a report from Conference Minister Dick Barrett about the "Gathered" initiative, which has focused having pastors meet together for discussion and studying scripture together;

- Heard from Sue Short and Jamie Rye about the upcoming Pastor-Spouse Retreat;

- Heard a report from Karla Minter of Mennonite Mission Network;

- Celebrated communion. ■

Volunteers accept Conference positions

Members of Ohio Conference congregations who volunteer their time play a vital role in Conference life. Without the help of numerous volunteers, many of the programs and functions of the Ohio Conference could not take place.

Much of the work of Ohio Conference is done by the Leadership Team, the Ministry Development Team, the Credentialing Ministry, the Stewardship Ministry and the Gifts Discernment Ministry. Delegates at Annual Conference Assembly affirmed the following individuals for service:

Assistant Moderator

Name: Paula Snyder Belousek

Home congregation:

Salem Mennonite Church, Elida
Occupation: Pastor
Previous service:



Chair of the Conference Minister Search Committee, served on the Missional Planning Team, representing Ohio Conference at Constituency Leaders Council. Service Adventure Leader with spouse, Darrin (MMN) in Raleigh, North Carolina, 2008-2010; associate pastor at Prairie St. Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Indiana (IN-MI Conference)

Family information: Spouse: Darrin Snyder Belousek; elementary school age son; two daughters with Jesus. For 2018-19, 18-year-old Chinese exchange student.

Goals: Support Dick in his work as conference minister, to work with Ministry Development Team to develop and implement resources related to faith, worship and witness that will strengthen our life together as well as individual congregations.

Hobbies/special interests:

Learning about different cultures and countries, a good cup of tea, reading, trying new food, walking with my family, telling and listening to good stories.

Credentialing Ministry Chair

Name: Verle Brubaker

Home congregation:

Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Hartville
Occupation: Transitional pastor



Previous service: I have pastored churches across the country from Oregon to Maryland since 1973. These congregations have been in the Brethren in Christ church for the first 24 years and the Mennonite Church for the last 21 years. I have served on the ministerial committee and the credentialing committee for the Franconia Mennonite Church prior to moving to my present assignment at Maple Grove.

Family information: I have been married 45 years and have two adult sons and one grandson.

Goals: I would hope to assist in the recruitment, encouragement, and support of pastors for the Ohio Conference.

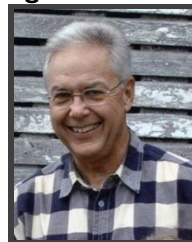
Hobbies/special interests: I read widely, primarily in theology and science fiction. I enjoy playing golf and following soccer.

Stewardship Ministry Chair

Name: Dean Falb

Home congregation: Martins Mennonite Church, Orrville

Occupation: Retired banker and church treasurer



Previous service: Elder and congregation chair, Conference Ministry Development Team member, Stewardship Ministry member and co-chair

Ministry Development Team

Name: Dan King

Occupation: Retired pastor/teacher

Previous service:

Pastor at Beech Mennonite, Resolutions Committee, Ministry Development Team

Family information: Wife, Jeanette; two married sons, Matthew and Philip

Goals: To learn to know Ohio Conference congregations better, and to contribute (via serving on Ministry Development Team) to their health and growth

Hobbies/special interests:

Gardening, beekeeping, music, storytelling, birding, hiking



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Volunteers

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Ministry Development Team

Name: Joel Shenk

Home congregation: Toledo Mennonite Church

Occupation: Pastor

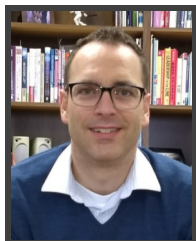
Previous

service: Member of the missional church task force, ACA table leader, Assembly participant, etc.

Family information: Wife, Emiley; two daughters, Roslyn (8) and Lizette (5)

Goals: My most immediate goal is simply to learn about how the Ministry Development Team works and where I can contribute. Beyond that, I simply want to learn more about how Conference operates and to continue to be a resource to help congregations fulfill God's missional calling.

Hobbies/special interests: Fly fishing, reading, running



Ministry Development Team (Prayer Coordinator)

Name: Dan Hooley

Home congregation: LifeBridge Community Church, Dover

Occupation: Interim pastor

Previous service: Member of Credentialing Ministry, interim chair of Credentialing Ministry, member of Ministry Development Team



Ministry Development Team

Name: Shawn Hilliard

Home congregation: Martins Mennonite, Orrville

Occupation: Pastor

Previous

service: Member of Mission Resource Team, member of Ministry Development Team

Ministry Development Team

Name: Alan Kauffman

Home congregation: Oak Grove Mennonite, West Liberty
Occupation: Farm consultant

Previous service: Member of Ministry Development Team and Gifts Discernment Ministry



Credentialing Ministry

Name: Miriam Zehr

Home congregation: Oak Grove Mennonite, Smithville
Occupation: Associate pastor of worship and education, Oak Grove Mennonite, Smithville

Previous service: Finished out a term on Credentialing Ministry Team for a member who left the Conference

Family information: Husband, Doug, lead pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite; three adult



daughters; two sons-in-law; and two grandchildren.

Goals: Provide credentialing for incoming pastors. Continue to support, encourage and resource pastors in the Conference.

Hobbies/special interests: Reading, baking (especially with yeast), travel, walking

Credentialing Ministry

Name: Doug King

Home congregation: Tedrow Mennonite Church
Occupation: Pastor

Previous

service: Weavers Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia (youth pastor, four years); Prairieview Mennonite Church, Flanagan, Illinois (pastor, eight years); I served on the Church Life Team of Illinois Mennonite Conference for three years. (The Church Life Team had similar responsibilities to the Ohio Conference Credentialing Ministry Team.)

Family information: I am married to Paula, and together we have three teenage children, Danielle (17), Megan (17) and Trevor (13).

Goals: I look forward to getting to know, support, and walk with the leaders of Ohio Conference.

Hobbies/special interests: Our family lives on a small farm where we enjoy gardening, caring for fruit trees, tending



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Volunteers

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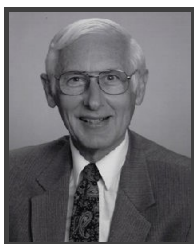
grapevines, and raising a small flock of laying hens. I am a weather watcher for the National Weather Service and upload real-time backyard weather data from a personal weather station to a number of weather websites. I also enjoy biking, birding, hiking, and spending time with and supporting my family.

Stewardship Ministry — Finance Focus

Name: Lyle Troyer

Home congregation: Peace Mennonite – Elyria

Occupation: Retired public school treasurer



Previous service: Served with MCC in South Korea (1964-1967). Active participant in Mennonite congregations (1969-1971 in Wadsworth); (1971-1996 in Archbold); (1996 to present in Elyria). Served on the board of Mennonite Men (2009-2017).

Family information: Married to Edna, a retired elementary, English, Spanish, and ESL teacher. We will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary in July. We have one son, Mark; a daughter-in-law, Laurie; and one granddaughter, Lucie, who will be 3 in June.

Goals: [1] Trust God to provide what is needed to do what He is asking us (as His servants in Ohio Conference) to do and [2] Seek His guidance about the details.

Hobbies/special interests: Reading, travel, history, genealogy

Stewardship Ministry — Endowment Focus

Name: John Rohrer

Home congregation: Sharon Mennonite

Church, Plain City

Occupation: Retired professor



Previous service: Served on various committees and as Conference moderator from 2004 to 2010

Family information: Wife, Betty; three adult daughters; and six grandchildren, ages 21 to 1

Goals: To grow and manage the endowment fund according to Conference goals and maintain operating funds.

Hobbies/special interests: Gardening, reading and travel (especially for visiting grandchildren in three different states)

Stewardship Ministry — Stewardship Focus

Name: Roger Crossgrove

Home congregation: Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold

Occupation: Semi-retired dairy farmer, still farm and raise cattle

Previous service: Adult Sunday school superintendent, formation committee, two years on Ohio Conference Stewardship Ministry Team

Family information: Wife, Mabelann (married for 48 years); five children, Jill Murillo,



Janelle Hart, Jake Crossgrove, Jana Mussard, and Jodi Crossgrove; 11 grandchildren; and numerous foster children from time to time.

Goals: To keep Ohio Conference financially solid, to continue the excellent programs intact.

Hobbies/special interests: I enjoy reading, cutting strips for my wife's weaving and shredding papers for livestock. I enjoy visiting children and grandchildren and vacations.

Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: David Troyer

Home congregation: Salem Mennonite Church, Wooster

Occupation: Mail carrier

Previous service: Church elder and Sunday school teacher

Family information: I live in Fredericksburg, Ohio. I am married for 31 years to my beautiful wife, Betty, and have three kids, Ryan, 29, a graduate of Goshen College who does computer work for Western Reserve Insurance; Kelly, 28, a graduate of Cedarville University who does marketing for Mrs. Millers Noodles; and Brady, 20, a sophomore at Cornerstone University studying music and business

Goals: I hope, through Christ, to serve the conference in a way to unite us in serving Him.

Hobbies/special interests: My hobby is running the little league baseball program in Fredericksburg. I try to provide a great facility and a great experience for each kid going through the program.

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Volunteers

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Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Marilyn Rossiter

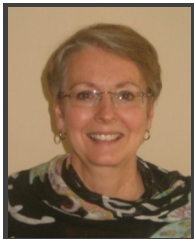
Home congregation:

Summit Mennonite Church, Barberton

Occupation:

Pastor

Previous service: Voluntary service through Mennonite Voluntary Service one year in San



Francisco, one year in Phoenix, Mennonite Mission Network peace worker in Liberia, church musician

Family information: Daughter of Ruth and the late Ivan Amstutz of Kidron. Married to Hank Rossiter, two married daughters, four grandchildren.

Goals: To assist community in Conference and between churches and to bring clarity

and practice to our role as peacemakers

Hobbies/special interests: children, flowers and music

Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Barbara Kauffman

Home congregation: Bethel Mennonite Church, West Liberty

Occupation: Retired nurse

Previous service: Member of Gifts Discernment Ministry ■

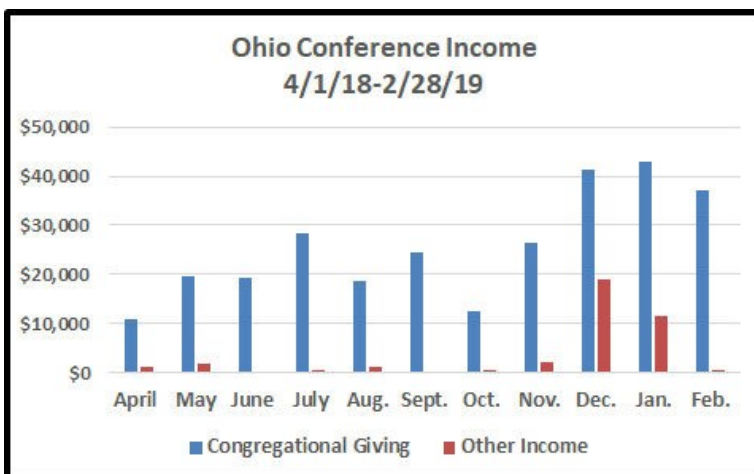
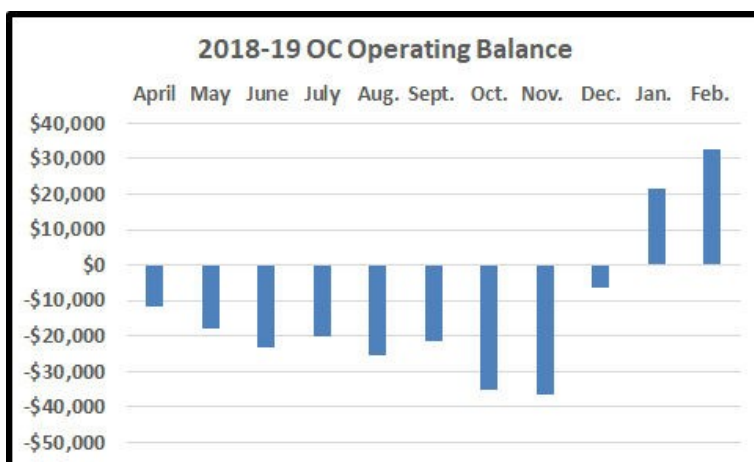
Giving outpaces expenses during February

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.

Stronger-than-average giving in the past three months has helped the Conference to overcome the deficit from the first eight months of the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Thank you to all who contributed! The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2019. ■



ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

Rebecca Kauffman was installed as pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty on Sunday, Jan. 27. The installation had been planned for Jan. 20, but due to snowy weather, the service was postponed until the following week.

Doug Steiner, the Search Committee chair, was worship leader for the service. In Rebecca's message, "Called by a New Name," she invited the congregation to notice their thoughts and feelings when they encounter new things. God equips us to start new things.

Dick Barrett, Ohio Conference minister, led the installation litany. The congregation moved to the center of the room to surround Rebecca and her husband, Andrew Blount, during a time of prayer for them. A fellowship meal followed the worship service.

Previously Rebecca was pastor at Paoli Mennonite Church in Paoli, Indiana, for six years. ■



Rebecca Kauffman was installed as pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty on Sunday, Jan. 27. Conference Minister Dick Barrett (left) led the installation litany.

MC USA convention

Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells, pastor of Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland, will be one of three worship leaders at MennoCon19, the Mennonite Church USA convention, this summer.

The other two MennoCon19 worship leaders will be Chris Cox, youth pastor at Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Virginia; and Madalyn Metzger, vice president of marketing for Everence.

"I am excited to be serving with a group of Spirit-filled brothers and sisters who are not only ready to spread the Gospel but are passionate to preach about God's peace," said Pruitte-Sorrells. "I can't wait to see what God is going to do." ■

Mennonite Central Committee

Louisa Pirozzi Erb, one of the people featured in the February e-newsletter from MCC Great Lakes, is from Orrville Mennonite Church. She and her hus-

band, Pete, are completing a term with MCC SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in Kentucky. To read the article about her work with the New

Opportunity School for Women in Berea, Kentucky, go to <http://bit.ly/MCCGreatLakesAppalachia>. ■

Conference Calendar

APR

- 5-6 Healthy Congregations Workshop, Berlin Mennonite Church
- 5-7 Men's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 6-7 Pre-REVIVE Weekend with Howard and Cathy Wagler, Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, Kidron
- 12-13 Mother-Daughter Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 26-27 Father-Son Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

JUN

- 14-16 Hispanic Family Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

NOV

- 15-17 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mills Park Hotel, Yellow Springs, Ohio

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. See <http://bit.ly/LoveCrossesBordersInfo> for more information.

Utica United Methodist Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan, will host a Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders May 13-17, 2019. This training is led by staff from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Acquire contact hours for Continuing Education credits, enjoy fellowship with like-minded church leaders, and rejuvenate your ministry, all at the same time! See <http://bit.ly/2019MediationTraining> for details.

Save the date: The 2019 Everence Development Conference will take place Oct. 8-10, 2019, at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This conference is a biennial event designed to equip fundraisers, development professionals, leaders and board members with the tools they need to fund and care for their organization's mission and vision. ■

Back page briefings...

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. 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.

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>.

Mennonite Men is organizing "Love Crosses Borders," an immersion experience with immigrants which will take place this summer. From July 28 to Aug. 3 Mennonite Men will

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News & Views of Ohio Conference

For more Ohio Conference news, visit the Ohio Conference website: ohiomennoniteconference.org