

# OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

MAY/JUNE 2019



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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## Laughter, tears and truth-telling at SENT 2019

By Travis Duerksen

**ENGLEWOOD, Colorado (Mennonite Mission Network) — More than 80 church leaders from across the country came together for SENT 2019 at Beloved Community Mennonite Church on April 26-28 in Englewood, Colorado.**

The SENT conference, now in its fourth year, is a peace church conference hosted by Mennonite Mission Network that helps connect, inspire, and equip church leaders to seed new churches, as well as



Alex Dye, associate pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty, addresses the SENT 2019 gathering in Englewood, Colorado. Photo by Karla Minter.

reinvigorate legacy congregations.

Alex Dye, associate pastor of Oak Grove Mennonite

Church in West Liberty, was an active participant at SENT 2019. He addressed the en-

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## Therapy dog assists in ministry

By Vickie Yoder

*In this essay, Vickie Yoder, a recently retired chaplain, describes the way that Shadow, a therapy dog, has helped in her ministry.*

Shadow became a certified therapy dog in 2013. He takes his visitation responsibilities quite seriously. When he puts on his vest, he is

ready to bring joy and smiles to those he comes in contact with.

Shadow is also part of the Madison County Response Team. He responds to crises in many different environments, such as homes, schools, libraries, funerals, nursing homes, assisted living

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Shadow ready for service



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Editor: Ann H. Leaman

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## EDITORIAL

# In the image of God

It's been more than two months since the 2019 Missional Conference at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, but I'm still pondering something I heard from Steve North, one of the speakers at that event.

Steve North talked a lot about how he felt called to leave his conventional church and start a new church plant in Toledo.

He emphasized building relationships, and said that

all relationships are missional relationships.

But the thing that really struck me was his emphasis on how we view others. When talking about building community and ministering to others, he said, "We affirm the Imago Dei [image of God] in every person." (See Genesis 1:26, in which God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness....")

He continued by saying that each person has dignity and

human potential, and each person needs a voice, even those who are normally shunned by society.

In the months since I attended the missional conference, I have thought again and again about Steve's words. I'm not sure I am very good at affirming the Imago Dei in every person I meet. I'm working on it, though. How about you?

— ahl

## Pastor-Spouse Retreat to be held Nov. 15-17

Ohio Conference will hold a Pastor-Spouse Retreat Nov. 15-17 at the Mills Park Hotel in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The theme of the retreat will be "Rest. Rejuvenate. Re-connect."

Because of the number of rooms available at this venue, the retreat is limited to

the first 22 couples who register. To avoid being placed on the waiting list, register for this retreat soon.

For more information, please see the retreat brochure at <http://bit.ly/2019RetreatBrochure>.



To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/2019Pastor-SpouseRetreat>. ■

## Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Moderator: Vacancy

Assistant Moderator: Paula Snyder Belousek — [pastor@salemmennonite.com](mailto:pastor@salemmennonite.com)

Credentialing Ministry Chair: Verle Brubaker — [pastorverle@justswamp.com](mailto:pastorverle@justswamp.com)

Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair: Mel Hathaway — [smcpastor@embarqmail.com](mailto:smcpastor@embarqmail.com)

Stewardship Ministry Chair: Dean Falb — [dejan@zoominternet.net](mailto:dejan@zoominternet.net)

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Regional Pastor: Cliff Brubaker — [cliffbru7@gmail.com](mailto:cliffbru7@gmail.com)

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Coordinator of Volunteers: Alys Short — [alysashort@gmail.com](mailto:alysashort@gmail.com)

# Shadow

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Shadow visits with Alvin and Edna Kaufman, members of Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City.

facilities and hospitals. He has been instrumental in helping grieving children work through the death of their friends, one by suicide and the other due to an auto accident. He assists doctors and staff in the hospital, reminding them there is a rainbow following a storm.

As a chaplain, I often find that patients are phobic and don't want to talk with a religious person; however, if I have Shadow with me, it is rare that he is not invited into the room. Shadow brings acceptance and respect to the individual being visited. He is often a bridge for

people, allowing them to open up about their own stories and journeys, often involving a pet.

Animals can play a role in the lives of humans. The human-animal relationship helps provide physical, psychological, and physiological benefits to the wellness of humans. The bond that people have with their animals is unique and strengthened by the relationship and time that they share together, benefiting the well-being of both participants.

I have witnessed Shadow calming an autistic child, defusing an outburst. I have seen him bring

a class of young men to talk to one another, breaking the grieving silence. He has brought tears to our aging population because he reminds them of days gone by.

Shadow is an 85-lb. bundle of joy that wants to show others that he can make a difference in offering unconditional love.

Shadow's handler is Vickie Yoder, interim associate pastor at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. Vickie is a recently retired chaplain, having served in Columbus, Ohio. You may contact Vickie and Shadow at [vdyoder102726@gmail.com](mailto:vdyoder102726@gmail.com). ■

***“As a chaplain, I often find that patients are phobic and don't want to talk with a religious person; however, if I have Shadow with me, it is rare that he is not invited into the room.”***



CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

## The Good News people

**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” — Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)**

Jesus began his ministry here on earth by reading the words from above, quoting the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1ff). Returning the scroll to the attendant, Jesus then said, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” The Good News, prophesied hundreds of years earlier by Isaiah, was fulfilled in Jesus’ coming. Then Jesus spent three years teaching and demonstrating what the Good News is all about. The Good News is about God’s reign, here on earth and in heaven. But there is a difference between the two in the time frame in which we find ourselves — the time frame between Jesus’ first coming and his second coming. The difference between God’s reign in heaven and the time when Jesus returns to unite the two is utter, total and complete. God’s reign here on earth today is fitful, partial and mysterious. God’s reign is where we witness such things as reconciliation, justice, wholeness, shalom, and beauty.

Jesus ushered in the Good News of God’s reign, also referred to as the Kingdom of God. After his death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus passed the responsibility of sharing the Good News in both proclamation (words) and demonstration (actions) to his followers. Jesus promised his first followers that the same power he had to proclaim the Good News would come upon them on the day of Pentecost. That same power that came upon Jesus’ first followers on the day of Pentecost is also available to his followers today through the Holy Spirit.

Here in the 21st century the church in America has really taken a hit. Although the church was once seen as one of the foundations of society and culture, such is no longer the case. At best, the church is looked upon by those from the outside with much skepticism. At worst, it is seen as hypocritical, judgmental and irrelevant. Why? Have we lost the sense of being the Good News people? Have we so narrowed the Good News to a set of beliefs, correct doctrine, and proper behavior that we have taken the Good out of the Good News? In doing so have we limited the Holy Spirit and the power of God to transform lives, feed the hungry, heal the sick, release the prisoners and set the oppressed free?

We have spent the past several years talking about being “missional” but what is our



primary mission as God’s people today? David Bosch (1929-1992), considered by many to be the seminal missiologist/theologian, said our primary mission as Christians is “to alert everyone to the universal reign of God through Christ.” We alert or proclaim the universal reign of God through Christ in words and actions. We proclaim through evangelism, testimony, witnessing, explaining, and worship. We demonstrate through acts of kindness, healing, conflict resolution, community development, social justice, and peacemaking. We proclaim “our God reigns” and show others what God’s reign looks like, in our relationships with one another, our marriages, how we treat those who are poor, oppressed and imprisoned, and we proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. We live our lives as those who have been poor, blind, imprisoned, or oppressed but set free. We live our entire lives as “the Good News people.” ■

**“That same power that came upon Jesus’ first followers on the day of Pentecost is also available to his followers today through the Holy Spirit.”**

# SENT 2019

Continued from page 1



More than 80 people participated in Mennonite Mission Network's SENT 2019 peace church conference in Englewood, Colorado. Photo by Travis Duerksen.

tire conference, describing the missional work happening at Oak Grove. He also related stories about the Missional Discipleship Initiative (MDI) to a group interested in learning more about MDI. A number of Ohio Conference congregations are currently participating in MDI. (To learn more about MDI, see <http://bit.ly/MDIQuestions>.)

The weekend conference also included blues-influenced worship, small group seminars, and an introduction to the SENT Network, a six-month education course for church planters that will be released in the fall. (To learn more about the SENT Network, see <http://bit.ly/MMNSentNetwork>.)

"It's good to see that Mennonite Church USA, through Men-

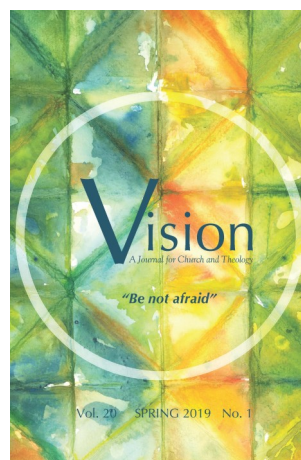
nonite Mission Network is taking seriously the call to plant churches," said Clyde Kratz, executive conference minister for Virginia Mennonite conference. "[The Church's] future is bright. And that brightness comes from planting these first-generation churches, and supporting them." ■

## Newest issue of *Vision* deals with fear

A new issue of *Vision* has been released! The Spring 2019 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — on the theme "Be not afraid" — is now available for free online. The authors of the essays reflect on resources within the Christian tradition to help us cope with, and even overcome, our fears. You can download this issue at

[press.palni.org/ojs/index.php/vision](http://press.palni.org/ojs/index.php/vision).

*Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* is published semiannually by the Institute of Mennonite Studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana, and the Centre for Faith and Life at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, Manitoba. ■



## RESOURCE CORNER

# New Mennonite Mission Network booklet focuses on making disciples

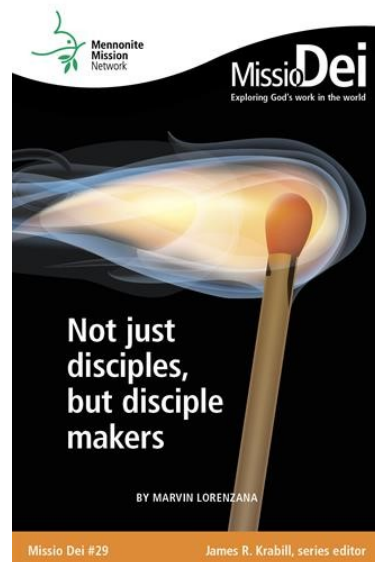
By Ann Leaman

Marvin Lorenzana is the author of the newest booklet in Mennonite Mission Network's *Missio Dei* series titled *Not just disciples but disciple makers*. The director for discipleship initiatives at Mennonite Mission Network, Marvin Lorenzana was one of the speakers at Ohio Conference's 2018 Annual Conference Assembly and 2018 Gathered and Sent Missional Conference.

"Biblical discipleship," he says, "is only complete when a faithful disciple of Jesus learns — in an intentional and relational way — how to make another faithful disciple of Jesus" (p. 3).

This booklet raises important questions about the difference between being disciples of Jesus and being Jesus' disciple makers. To get copies of this booklet, go to <http://bit.ly/MMNDiscipleMakers>.

Ohio Conference Editor Ann Leaman has agreed to serve as the Ohio Conference Resource Advocate. The role of the Resource Advocate is to be aware of the latest resources from the various Mennonite Church USA groups and to find creative ways to make these resources useful to pastors and lay leaders in congregations.

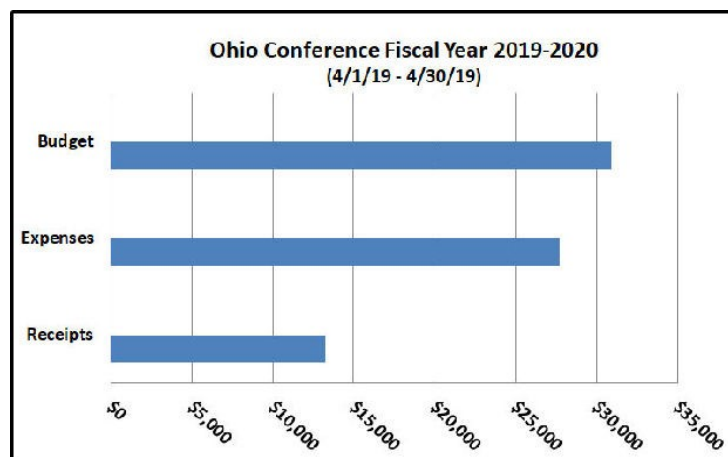


For questions about resources available from Mennonite agencies, contact Ann at [ohioevangel@gmail.com](mailto:ohioevangel@gmail.com). ■

## Conference begins 2019-20 with a deficit

Ohio Conference has begun its 2019-20 fiscal year with a deficit, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for the month of April totaled just \$13,253, including \$12,305 in giving from congregations.

Expenses for the month totaled \$27,705, resulting in an operating balance of -\$14,452 for the month. Even so, expenses were well below the amount budgeted for the month, \$30,926. ■





## MCC plans Peace Camp for young adults

Coming this summer: Peace Camp. Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes is offering a week-long Peace Camp at Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Michigan, July 21-26. This experience is for young adults ages 18-22 who are interested in learning about a biblical approach to peace and justice.

During Peace Camp, young adults will explore the theme of “Responding to Violence” through hands-on learning. The week includes a trip to Chicago with MCC partners working with gun violence prevention. Other focus topics include conflict transformation, anti-racism, bystander training and restora-



Young adults will gather for a week of exploring biblical peacemaking and learning practical skills to implement in their daily lives at the Young Adult Peace Camp at Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Michigan. (MCC photo)

tive justice. The base participant fee is \$300, and scholarships are available on a case-by-case basis. Registration is due June 1.

For more information and registration, see [http://www.mcc.org/gl\\_peace\\_camp](http://www.mcc.org/gl_peace_camp)

or contact either Jes Stoltzfus Buller (MCC Peace Education Coordinator) at [jessicabuller@mcc.org](mailto:jessicabuller@mcc.org) or Juan Pacheco (MCC Great Lakes Peace and Justice Coordinator) at [juanpacheco@mcc.org](mailto:juanpacheco@mcc.org). ■

## Anabaptist Disabilities Network offers Barrier-Free Grants for congregations

Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) is announcing a new Barrier-Free Grant program that offers financial assistance to congregations for projects that facilitate barrier-free community life.

Some examples of projects which would qualify for this grant are accessible restroom projects, classroom support persons, hearing devices, and mental health awareness events. The grant application lists many other examples of qualifying projects. You may download a



grant application at <http://bit.ly/ADNGrants>.

This grant program is one of several ways that ADN is a partner with congregations to create mutual awareness, caring, support, and accessibility education. Grants range from \$100 to \$500. Congregations may apply for only one grant per year. Applications may be

submitted at any time during the year; however, because there are limited funds available each year, ADN advises congregations to apply sooner rather than later.

For more information, please contact the ADN office at 574-343-1362, 877-214-9838 (toll free), or [adnet@adnetonline.org](mailto:adnet@adnetonline.org). ■

ABOUT PEOPLE

## Pastoral notes

The Sharon Mennonite Church congregation celebrated Jared Chase's transition from youth pastor to lead pastor on April 7. Pictured (left to right) are Sarah Chase, Marilyn Troyer, Jared Chase, KC Theiss and Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker.



Jared Chase has transitioned from youth pastor to lead pastor of Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. The Sharon congregation celebrated this transition during the April 7 worship service.

Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker brought the morning message, titled "The Makings of a Pastor," based on Philippians 3:4b-17. In his message, Cliff Brubaker used the words of Paul in Phil 3:17 and encouraged Jared to invite people to join together

in following the example of following Christ. He noted that even though it might seem a bit presumptuous, such an invitation is appropriate if it is rooted in Paul's learnings in the preceding verses — putting his own efforts firmly in perspective, keeping his focus on knowing Christ, and realizing that he had not yet reached the goal.

Search Committee Chair Marilyn Troyer and Spiritual Leadership Chair KC Theiss both spoke strong words of encouragement to Jared and affirmed his growth as a person and a leader.

The Sharon congregation continues in its search for a half-time pastor to focus on preaching and pastoral care. ■

Hardaye Ramjit was licensed for ministry at Lee Heights Community Church April 28. Pictured are Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford and Hardaye Ramjit.



On April 28 Hardaye Ramjit was licensed for ministry and installed at Lee Heights Community Church by Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford. She joins the Leadership Team with Pastor Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells.

The following Sunday, May 5, Hardaye graduated from Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford notes, "She is passionate about advocating for peace and justice issues and will be a great asset to the Ohio Conference." ■

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## ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 8

Herman F. Myers, 89, of Wooster, passed away on Tuesday, April 16, at his home with his family by his side. Herman was ordained as a pastor in the Ohio and Eastern Conference Mennonite Church in 1957. He served as a long-time pastor or associate pastor of several Ohio Conference congregations during his ministry, which spanned some 70 years.

He served in numerous leadership positions of Ohio Conference including moderator, Executive Committee, Evangelism Commission and Leadership Commission. He also served the Conference as an interim regional pastor for several years.

He is survived by his children, Doris (Paul) Zimmerly, Linda Myers, Velma (Richard) Shetler, and twin sons, James and John Myers. Along with his children he is survived by his grandchildren, David Zimmerly, Jason (Samira) Zimmerly, Joilyn (Caleb) Waidelich, Elijah LaVern Shetler, and Dan (Cara) Boney, who has been like a grandson to him; and great grandchildren, Treyton, Jaxton, Coleman, Logan, Kaidyn, and Abel. He is also survived by his five brothers, Robert, John, Walter, Daniel and Kenneth.

Herman was preceded in death by Melba, his wife of 51 years, and by his parents, Ivan and Dorothy Myers; a baby sister, Dorothy; his stepmother, Lillian



Baylie Myers; one brother, Arthur Ivan Myers of Cambridge, Pennsylvania; and an infant-great granddaughter, Annabelle Grace Waidelich.

A funeral service was held Saturday, April 20, at Kidron Mennonite Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Kidron Mennonite Church, Box 232, Kidron OH 44636. ■

## Ohio Conference Leadership Team

Ohio Conference Moderator Robert "Bob" Sauder, 74, passed away on Tuesday, April 9, at Community Hospitals and Wellness Center, Montpelier. He was a resident of Pioneer, Ohio.

Bob was born January 24, 1945, in Wauseon, Ohio, the son of the late Roy E. and Selma F. (Gautsche) Sauder. He was a 1963 graduate of Pettisville High School. Bob was a lifelong learner, continuing his education at Hesston College and Goshen College. He obtained a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Montana at Missoula. Bob received his specialist degree from the University of Toledo.

He married Pamela J. Ruffer on June 10, 1972, in Tedrow, Ohio.

Bob served as the athletic director and taught high school Spanish and math at Millcreek-West Unity Schools, retiring in 1997. He coached various levels of basketball and track. He previously taught at Fayette and North Central High Schools.

He was a leader and patriarch of Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan, where he served in several capacities, most recently in building the new church. Bob was an OSHAA Basketball and Track official. He worked at Sauder Village in maintenance and as an interpreter. He was a volunteer at Shalom Counseling and Meditation Center and Sarah's Friends. He served as the construction manager for Fulton County Habitat for Humanity.



Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Pamela Sauder of Pioneer; two daughters, Mary Sauder of Pioneer and Kelly (Jim) Neff of Goshen, Indiana; six grandchildren, Chase Tyler, Morgan Tyler, Colby Tyler, Brayden Tyler, Mason Neff and Maddie Neff; two sisters, Joan (Sam) Ozuzu of The Villages, Florida and Eloise (Mav) Yoder of Archbold; four brothers,

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## ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 9

Duane (Nedra) Sauder of Archbold, John (Lois) Sauder of Bloomington, Indiana, Wendell (Veronica) Sauder of Goessel, Kansas and Neil (David) Sauder of Wichita, Kansas; and brother-in-law, Oren Horst of Birmingham, Alabama.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Connor Neff; and three sisters, Virginia Frank, Arlene Horst, and Infant Ruth Sauder.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 13, 2019, at Salem

Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be made to Salem Mennonite Church-Building Fund, Sauder Village, Fulton County Habitat for Humanity, or the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA. ■

## Mennonite Education Agency

Mennonite Education Agency — In April Thomas Stuckey of West Unity, a member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, was appointed interim executive director of Mennonite Education Agency (MEA). He is expected to serve for approximately a six-month period, with possibly a longer tenure while a search for a new executive director takes place.

Stuckey says he is “looking forward to building on the collaborative work and vision that is being developed by MEA and its partners, the Mennonite Higher Education Agency, the Mennonite Schools Council, the Hispanic Ministries Programs and Peace Academic Center.”

Stuckey has served as a member of the MEA board since 2014 and was a member of the church/school relations committee that developed the updated relationships between MEA and the Mennonite schools of higher learning.

Stuckey is chairing the vision/mission/values task force that is helping focus the purpose of MEA in order to help Mennonite schools and educational programs flourish. MEA Board Chair Dick Thomas says, “All

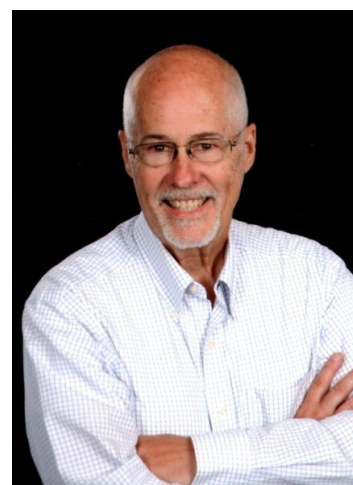
these involvements as well as his experiences in higher education administration, board service of a K-12 school and commitment to the new directions of MEA uniquely qualify him for this position.”

Stuckey says he will immediately focus on implementing the new strategic plan and will “spend significant time building bidirectional communication between the schools and the church.”

“My time serving as the interim executive director of MEA will build on the good work that Carlos Romero and others have already begun with the changed focus of MEA from governance to serving as a community organizer for Mennonite schools and educational programs,” he says.

Stuckey is a graduate of Goshen (Indiana) College, has a Ph.D. in college administration from Bowling Green (Ohio) University and most recently studied strategic perspectives in non-profit management at Harvard Business School. He also has a master’s degree in education from Bowling Green University.

He served as president of Northwest Community College



in Archbold, Ohio, from 2007 until he retired in June 2018. In addition to numerous administrative posts, Stuckey has served as a professor or teacher at Iowa Mennonite School, the Mennonite Collaborative MBA through Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, Goshen College and Bluffton (Ohio) University and others, including currently teaching at Defiance (Ohio) College. He has also served as a member and president of the Millcreek-West Unity local school board in West Unity, Ohio, from 1998 to 2005. He currently serves on the board of Mercy College of Ohio,

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## ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 10

which is part of the Mercy Health System. Earlier Stuckey served as vice president for finance and business services at Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio.

Stuckey has served as president of the four-county Shalom Board of Northwest Ohio and the Defiance 2010 Economic Development Team. He is actively involved at Zion Mennonite Church. He has served as

chair of the congregation and currently serves as chair of the stewardship ministry team. Stuckey and his wife, Bonnie, live in West Unity, Ohio, and are the parents of two adult sons with two daughters-in-law and four grandsons. ■

## Bluffton University

BLUFFTON, Ohio — Lilyana Yoder of West Liberty is participating in a Bluffton University cross-cultural experience in Israel and Palestine during the month of May.

Yoder, along with other Bluffton students, is visiting significant biblical and historical sites and meeting with Israeli and Palestinian people. Participants

are focusing on the geography and archaeology of the region, the history of the land and its people, and current religious and political conflicts in the Middle East.

Yoder, daughter of Brian and Sherrie Yoder, is a sophomore majoring in sport management. She is a member of Oak Grove

Mennonite Church in West Liberty.

This experience will fulfill Bluffton's undergraduate cross-cultural requirement that must be completed before graduation. Students can either complete a cross-cultural experience or take six credit hours in one foreign language. ■

## Hesston College

Hesston College has hired Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg, who formerly served on the pastoral team at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, as the director for a new ministry program that will begin in development stages this spring.

The new ministry program will provide Anabaptist theology and nurture missional leadership for pastors and other church leaders in a distance-based format. It comes as a replacement to Hesston College's Pastoral Ministries program, which closed in 2014 with a commitment to the development of a new program.

Schrock-Ringenberg is a graduate of Hesston College, Goshen (Indiana) College and Anabap-

tist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, Indiana).

In addition to serving on the pastoral team at Zion Mennonite, she served the Ohio Conference as a missional consultant. She also has taken on a variety of roles for Mennonite Church USA, including convention planning and as a member of the Constituency Leadership Council (CLC). She and her husband, Shem, recently relocated to the Kansas City area where they bought a heating and cooling business and also hope to plant a church. In addition, Schrock-Ringenberg serves as a missional discipleship leader and consultant with the Fivefold Leadership Development



Assessment and the Exponential Emerging Leaders Cohort.

Schrock-Ringenberg will continue to reside in the Kansas City area, with regular teleconferencing and trips to Hesston. As the program develops and curriculum is established and approved, her role will transition from developer to instructor. ■



## Conference Calendar

### MAY

30 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Upper Sandusky Library, Upper Sandusky

### JUN

14-16 Hispanic Family Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

15 Black Swamp Benefit, Archbold High School

16-21 Sharon Mennonite Work Camp, Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City

### JUL

2-6 MennoCon 19 (Mennonite Church USA Convention), Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, Missouri

21-26 MCC Young Adult Peace Camp, Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Michigan

### AUG

2-3 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale and Auction, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster

### NOV

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

### MAR 2020

7 Annual Conference Assembly, Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City

### JUN

26-28 2020 Intergenerational Missional Festival, Bluffton University, Bluffton

[mennoniteusa.org/resources](http://mennoniteusa.org/resources). This year there is a new link to the Everence website which will help pastors and congregational representatives complete the form, which can be printed out when completed.

**Everence is sponsoring a summer tour of the Walking Roots Band**, an acoustic folk and roots music group based in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The tour will include concerts at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron on June 25 and Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker on June 26. For more information about this tour, see <http://bit.ly/WalkingRootsTour>.

**Recently the Pine Grove congregation** in Stryker, Ohio, discerned God's will that it was time to close the church after 70 years of faithful ministry in its community. A final worship service marking the closing and celebrating God's faithfulness over the 70 years will be held Sunday, June 9. Please keep the congregation and its pastors, Gary and Sandy Stuckey, in your prayers. ■

## Back page briefings...

**Mark your calendar:** The 2020 Annual Conference Assembly of the Ohio Conference will be held March 7, 2020, at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City.

**Ohio Conference is planning a 2020 Intergenerational**

**Missional Festival** to be held at Bluffton University June 26-28, 2020. This event will be for people of all ages.

**The 2019-2020 MC USA pastor salary guidelines** are now posted on the Mennonite Church USA website at <http://>

OHIO MENNONITE  
**EVANGEL**  
*News & Views of Ohio Conference*

For more Ohio Conference news, visit the Ohio Conference website:  
[ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://ohiomennoniteconference.org)