

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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

Four rooms remain for Pastor-Spouse Retreat

Registrations are coming in quickly for Ohio Conference's 2019 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, which will be held Nov. 15-17 at the Mills Park Hotel in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Because of the limited number of rooms available at the venue, there are just **four** more rooms available for this retreat.



For more information about the retreat, please see the retreat brochure at <http://bit.ly/2019RetreatBrochure>. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/2019Pastor-SpouseRetreat>.

Flood cleanup continues, volunteers requested

The West Liberty community has been dealing with the aftermath of flooding following a storm on May 16. Several inches of rain fell over several hours, flooding the basements of numerous homes.

Members of Oak Grove Mennonite Church have been part of the cleanup effort. Much has been accomplished, but the work is ongoing. Tim Siegenthaler reports that the Emergency Management Agency of Logan County has a list of 40 homes which were affected by the storm, and he has had reports of several more.

Volunteers from other Ohio Conference congregations would be very welcome in helping to complete the cleanup. "We appreciate any help," Siegenthaler said. Especially needed are people with experience in cleaning and sanitizing basements after drywall has been removed. A work day is planned on this Saturday, June 1. If you are available to assist, please text Tim Siegenthaler at 937-844-3609.

For more updates on this cleanup effort, see <https://www.facebook.com/wlfloodrelief/>. To see a news report about the flood, go to <http://bit.ly/WestLibertyFlooding>.

Please forward this information to the Mennonite Disaster Service representative in your congregation.

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.

Perspective inserts

This issue of Perspective includes the June issue of Prayer Vine from Mennonite Mission Network and the June issue of The Parish Paper.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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EMS to offer remote one-day spiritual retreats

Through a grant from the Lilly Foundation, Eastern Mennonite Seminary is offering pastors one-day spiritual retreats that can be done at a location of the pastor's choosing. A flier with more information is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Jane Peifer, facilitator for these retreats, reports that she is limiting each retreat group to 10 persons, **and the first retreat date on June 13 is full**. Currently, there are three openings for each of the other retreat dates (Aug. 22, Oct. 17 and Dec. 12). She said, "Because this is an 'experiment' — I would like pastors for whom this offering is attractive, and something they would like to do — to write to me and register their interest. If interest is high enough, I will discern whether I can offer more days." You may contact her at jhooberpeifer@gmail.com.

Duke Divinity School awards leadership grants

Each year Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, awards up to 20 Reflective Leadership Grants.

The Reflective Leadership Grant program offers lay and ordained Christian leaders up to \$15,000 to step away from their current work to reflect on accomplishments, broaden perspectives and discern next steps.

In 2018 **Joel Shenk, pastor of Toledo Mennonite Church**, received a Reflective Leadership Grant. His area of focus was nurturing community partnerships and cultivating peace by turning guns into garden tools through blacksmithing.

Applications for the 2019 Reflective Leadership Grants will be accepted until July 14, 2019, at 11:59 p.m. To learn more about this grant program, see <http://bit.ly/ReflectiveLeadership>.

Share your events for the Conference Calendar

A reminder for event planners: If your congregation is planning an event and you would like members of other Ohio Conference churches to attend, please notify Ann Leaman at ohioevangel@gmail.com so that your event can be placed on the Conference Calendar on the Ohio Conference website (<https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/events/>.) To avoid scheduling events which conflict with other previously scheduled events, please check the Conference Calendar.

Walking Roots Band coming to Ohio in June

The Walking Roots Band will be performing two concerts in Ohio during June. Everence is sponsoring a summer tour of the band, which is 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>.

Identity perspective

On April 24 the Ohio Conference Leadership Team affirmed a two-page identity statement for the Ohio Conference based on the Ohio Conference Constitution, resolutions passed by the delegate body at recent Annual Conference Assemblies, and the direction of the Conference over the past several years. A copy of the identity statement is on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OCIIdentityStatement>.

Convention perspective

Step Up, a program that invites youth to be part of the Delegate Assembly, is especially important at MennoCon19 because a vote could make youth full delegates. Meet some of the youth who have participated in Step Up (including Luke Wheeler of Lockport Mennonite Church): mennoniteusa.org/youth-delegates.

Youth can still be designated as Step Up participants for MennoCon19 by having them or their sponsors email SarahC@MennoniteUSA.org. Visit convention.mennoniteusa.org/step-up-2019 for more information.

Perspective deadlines

June 10 for June 13 issue

June 24 for June 27 issue
