

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

Sharing planned at fall regional gatherings

Ohio Conference is holding four fall regional gatherings beginning this week. These gatherings are not just for delegates from Ohio Conference but for all who would like to learn about the exciting things that are taking place in Conference and our congregations. There will be a time of fellowship and sharing. We are looking for congregations to answer three questions:



Regional Gatherings

- 1) What new thing is happening in your congregation?
- 2) Name one way in which you have been missional in your own community over the past year.
- 3) How has your congregation engaged the immigration resolution passed at ACA 2019?

Each regional gathering will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The first gathering took place at Huber Mennonite Church on Oct. 22. Locations of the other three gatherings are as follows:

- Thursday, Oct. 24 — Friendship Mennonite Church, Bedford Heights
- Tuesday, Oct. 29 — Martins Mennonite Church, Orrville
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 — Salem Mennonite Church, Waldron, Michigan

If you get one of these requests, don't reply

A note from the Ohio Conference Leadership Team: It has come to our attention that several Ohio Conference pastors have been hacked recently, supposedly sending out emails and most recently, text messages, asking for gift cards. These requests are, of course, **not** legitimate. The office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost recommends that recipients of these text messages simply block the phone number the request came from. If you are unsure about how to block a caller, you can find information online explaining the process, both for Android and iPhone users. Here is a link to some general instructions for blocking phone numbers: <http://bit.ly/HowtoBlock>.

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.

Advent perspective

Looking for additional Advent resources? Check CommonWord for possibilities, including free downloadable resources. Go to <http://bit.ly/CommonWordAdvent> to start exploring. CommonWord is a collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

CLC gets snapshots of individual conferences

Conference Minister Dick Barrett, Moderator Lynn Miller and Assistant Moderator Paula Snyder Belousek presented information about the Ohio Conference during the Oct. 17-18 meeting of Mennonite Church USA's Constituency Leaders Council in Glendale, Arizona.



Conference Moderator Lynn Miller addresses the CLC as part of the Ohio Conference report. Also pictured are Conference Minister Dick Barrett and Assistant Moderator Paula Snyder Belousek. Photo by Amy Gingerich.

Each conference and constituency group gave 10-minute presentations during the two-day meeting. Each group answered three questions:

1. What essential functions does MC USA provide to empower your ministry? 2. What relationships in MC USA do you find most supportive in the fulfillment of your mission? 3. What does your constituency fight about/experience strong disagreement over, and how does this reflect the priorities of your constituency?

Assistant Moderator Paula Snyder Belousek said, "It was great to get a brief snapshot of all the different conference and constituency groups. There is a wide diversity in how each conference lives out its mission, but it is clear that God is doing great things across the United States in the conferences and groups represented."

To learn more about the latest CLC meeting, read Paula Snyder Belousek's complete report: <http://bit.ly/CLCFall2019>.

Giving to Conference increases in September

Giving to the Ohio Conference increased during September, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Total receipts for the month were \$34,991, the highest monthly amount so far in this fiscal year.

Expenses for September totaled just \$23,520, resulting in a surplus of \$11,471 for the month. That surplus helped to reduce the Conference's running deficit. As of Sept. 31, the Conference's operating balance for 2019-20 was -\$22,958. The Conference's fiscal year ends March 31, 2020.

Join MCC's Great Winter Warm-Up

Mennonite Central Committee is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020 with a comforter-making campaign. The goal is to complete 6,500 comforters for distribution to people in need all around the world. As part of this campaign, on Jan. 17 and 18, Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron will host The Great Winter Warm-Up, a comforter-making event. All are invited to attend and participate in knotting comforters. For more information, please see <http://bit.ly/GreatWinterWarmup>.

Sanctuary perspective

Members of the National Sanctuary Collective will be in Washington, D.C., Nov. 12-14 to lobby members of Congress on behalf of 18 immigrants currently in Sanctuary at congregations across the country. Joel Miller, pastor of Columbus Mennonite Church, is asking pastors to sign a letter asking for help from our political leaders in freeing these immigrants. To read and electronically sign the letter, go to <http://bit.ly/NationalSanctuaryCollective-Letter>.

Chaplain perspective

Attention, chaplains: Join the conversation on faith and health! Chaplains are among the healthcare professionals of all disciplines who are invited to join Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF). MHF is an interdisciplinary community of Anabaptist health professionals which seeks to nurture the integration of faith and practice, to provide opportunities for dialogue on health-related issues, and to address specific needs through education, advocacy, and service. Write to info@mennohealth.org, call 888-406-3643 or go to www.mennohealth.org/JoinTheConversation.

Perspective deadlines

Nov. 4 for Nov. 7 issue

Nov. 18 for Nov. 24 issue
