

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Interested in developing leaders?

Ohio Conference could use your help

How can Ohio Conference best develop pastoral leaders for today and for the future? The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) is forming a resource team to promote leadership development in our congregations. The MDT is seeking individuals, male and female, credentialed and lay leaders, who are interested in working at leadership development to serve on the team. If you are interested in serving on this resource team, please contact Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com or 937-935-2549.

Immigration Resource Team seeks your stories

From the Immigration Resource Team:

It has been eight months since Annual Conference Assembly, when delegates overwhelmingly passed a [resolution on immigration](#). That resolution contained both individual and congregational components, along with suggestions for contacting elected representatives on state and national levels. Delegates agreed to “encourage our churches....to pray for the Spirit’s leading in seeking to minister to the needs of immigrants....” Our team is eager to hear stories of how Ohio Conference churches or individuals have been reaching out to immigrants. We commend those churches who recently purchased supplies for detainee kits and were involved in assembling them at Orrville Mennonite Church on Oct. 2. A total of 175 kits were shipped to our southern border! (See Jennifer Steiner’s report for more details: <http://bit.ly/Oct2CareKitAssembly>.)

What else has been happening around the state? We would like to hear from your congregation. Please contact Coordinator of Volunteers Alysia Short alysashort@gmail.com with your news so we can spread the word about ways in which churches and individuals are sharing God’s love in tangible ways with our neighbors in need.

Also recommended: The October issue of *The Parish Paper*, which was included with the Oct. 10 issue of *Perspective*, fea-

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.

MC USA perspective

Come and meet Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church USA! On Nov. 24 Glen will visit First Mennonite Church in Bluffton and offer the sermon based on John 17:20-23. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. Later that day, at 6:30 p.m., Glen will share his vision for the denomination at a reception in First Mennonite’s fellowship hall. All are invited to attend the worship service and/or the reception.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Other church leaders
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tured an excellent article on the “Ministry of Accompaniment” with immigrants. Check it out.

Engaging Mission 2020 is for all ages

Save the date: Ohio Conference will hold a missional festival, Engaging Mission 2020, at Bluffton University June 26-28, 2020. Featured presenters will be Seth and Theresa Crissman of Virginia Mennonite Missions. (See <http://bit.ly/VMMCrissmans> for more information about the Crissmans.)

This event will be for people of all ages, including family groups. The festival will provide an introduction to missional living where participants will be challenged to create space for mission in their lives.

Register now for spiritual direction event

On Feb. 4 Ohio Conference will be offering a day-long event at Camp Luz in Kidron to introduce the concept of spiritual direction to pastors.

Spiritual direction is an opportunity to pay attention to God’s movement and stirring in one’s life. Led by Janice Hershberger, Randy Murray, and Christine Nafziger, attendees will learn about spiritual direction while also experiencing how spiritual direction functions.

Registration cost is \$25 and includes the event and lunch. Lodging and breakfast are available upon request. Please see the event flier for more details: <http://bit.ly/202SpiritualDirectionFlier>.

Spread the Peace Grants available

To encourage congregations and conferences to “spread the peace” in and beyond Mennonite Church USA, the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Mission Network has small start-up and sustaining grants available.

Funds will be given to those meeting the following criteria and as funding allows:

- To Mennonite congregations or conferences for projects based in the United States.
- For church initiatives.
- For witness, reaching out, sharing the peace.
- To recipients who will raise local matching funds from individual donors, both within and outside the congregation, to demonstrate local ownership and commitment.

Grants of \$1,000 are given as Peace and Justice Support Network funding allows. The goal is to distribute \$5,000 annually. Applications will be accepted each year from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31. You will be notified the following February as to the status of your application.

Click the link to get started: <http://bit.ly/SpreadthePeaceGrants>.

Hesston perspective

Hesston College alumni and friends across Ohio are invited to an event at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21, at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron. The church and college will host an evening of fellowship featuring a mini-concert by internationally acclaimed baritone Tony Brown, who is a Central Christian and Hesston College alumnus. A reception will follow the performance, along with a college update with President Dr. Joseph Manickam and other Hesston representatives.

Convention perspective

MennoCon21 and Mennonite World Conference Assembly scheduling conflict: MennoCon21, the upcoming Mennonite Church USA convention, will take place July 6-10, 2021, at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. This schedule overlaps with the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) assembly in Semarang, Indonesia, on July 6-11. Read more: <http://bit.ly/MennoCon21andMWC>.

Perspective deadlines

Nov. 18 for Nov. 21 issue

Dec. 2 for Dec. 5 issue
