



OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

NOV-DEC 2019



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Local congregations pack 175 immigrant detainee care kits

**By Jennifer Steiner
MCC Great Lakes**
On Oct. 2, area congregations gathered at Orrville Mennonite Church to learn about the current situation for border detainees and to work together on a tangible response. In a little over an hour, volunteers had packed 175 immigration detainee care kits to provide much-needed supplies for those being released from border detention.



Jennifer Shue brought her three young daughters, Veena (age 9), Sommer (age 11) and Harper (age 13), to volunteer at the kit packing event at Orrville Mennonite Church Oct. 2. "I want my girls to have a bigger world view beyond Wayne County and know that we all can help no matter how great or small," said Shue.

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Small groups begin to multiply

Wind of the Spirit enlivens MDI

**By Laurie Oswald Robinson
Mennonite Mission Network
NEWTON, Kansas
(Mennonite Mission Network) — After coming up empty-handed on volunteers for disciple groups within his congregation last fall, Pastor Robert**

Esh at Valley View Mennonite Church in Spartansburg, Pennsylvania, couldn't help but feel down-hearted about his vision-casting.

No matter how hard he campaigned, no one wanted to



risk forming a "missional disciple group" (MDG), he said. These three-person, same-

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RESOURCE CORNER

Advent guide for families is online

**By Ann Leaman
Resource Advocate**

Anabaptist Faith Formation and Mennonite Church USA are offering a free, downloadable guide for family worship during Advent written by Elsie Rempel.

This resource, titled *Waiting and Wondering*, is designed for parents to use at home with their children. With this free worship

guide, families can create a space to notice important questions and bring them to God. For six weeks from Advent through Epiphany, this little booklet will guide families through the scriptures, prayers and activities that help them “wait and wonder” together in faith. To download a copy of this resource, go to <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home/>.



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AMBS Journey program develops leaders

When God calls someone to ministry, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Ohio Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for pastors and other congregational leaders who are called without



specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to pastoral ministry. The early application deadline for Winter 2020 is **Dec. 16**. For more information, visit www.ambs.edu/journey or contact Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com or at 937-935-2549. ■

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Immigrant detainee care kits

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Volunteers assembled the kits at Orrville Mennonite with supplies that were all donated or purchased with money raised by local congregations through Open Arms Hispanic Ministries. The items, ranging from socks and sweatpants to towels and shampoo to notebooks and shoelaces, were all sorted and packed into backpacks.

When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they transition into life outside the detention center.

The kits are being collected for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), who is partnering with the South Texas Response Team, a group of local pastors working with various local partners to distribute kits to people as they leave detention and are taken to bus stations or airports to reconnect with their families.

Volunteers ranged in age from young children through retirees and included several area junior and senior high youth groups. Once the kits were all assembled and loaded into the box truck, the volunteers surrounded the truck and lifted a prayer of blessing for the kits and those who will receive them.

Jennifer Shue brought her three young daughters, Harper (age 13), Sommer (age 11) and Veena (age 9), to volunteer with the kit packing event. "I want my girls to have a bigger



world view beyond Wayne County and know that we all can help no matter how great or small," said Shue. "Physically putting all the items in the backpack and then putting the backpacks on and walking them through the church and out to the truck was very moving for me to see and be a part of."

For nearly 100 years, MCC has been walking alongside and offering relief to those who are hungry, without clothing or water. Today MCC is actively working to support people who are seeking a safer, better life for themselves and their families by migrating to the U.S.

For more information about the immigration detainee care kits,

visit mcc.org/immigrationkit. The MCC Material Resources Center at MCC Connections in Kidron is serving as a drop-off point for completed kits.

A list of kit contents can be found here: mcc.org/media/resources/8815.

MCC also urges people to take action by advocating to your members of Congress to welcome those seeking asylum in the U.S. and to focus any federal spending related to asylum seekers on meeting humanitarian needs and addressing the root causes of migration rather than on detention, deterrence and enforcement. More information is available at mcc.org/immigration. ■

Top photo: Volunteers included several area youth groups who brought lots of energy and enthusiasm to the kit packing event. Levi Amstutz (left) and Ethan Ross (right), from Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron, work on assembling backpacks with much-needed supplies. Bottom photo: Volunteers from area churches work together to pack items for the immigration detainee care kits. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild dignity for people as they transition into life outside the detention center.

"When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs."

CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

Thankful for the incarnation!

We are entering into the special time of year when we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanksgiving was originally a religious holiday in which people paused to give thanks to God for the blessings of the harvest. Thanksgiving is followed by the beginning of Advent as Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, our American consumer-driven society has hijacked both of these holidays, causing them to lose their true meaning. Thanksgiving is now a day that we celebrate with family, watch football, eat lots of food, and get ready to start shopping on Black Friday. Very rarely do we pause to reflect on what we are really thankful for.

Christmas, too, has lost its true meaning in much of our country. Christmas has become a day in which we buy and exchange gifts for one another. Very rarely do we pause and reflect on what the gift of Jesus Christ really means for both us and the world. What is the gift of the incarnation? The writer of the gospel of John tells us,

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14a). Eugene Peterson, in his translation *The Message*, writes, “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”

However, after his death, resurrection and ascension back into heaven, the human physical Jesus is no longer with us. What does the incarnation mean for us Christians today? Because of Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension, every believer has the opportunity to experience the incarnation within. Recently I was speaking with some other Mennonites from around the country, discussing some of the unique characteristics that the original Anabaptists and Mennonites held in common. We talked about the importance of discipleship, believer’s baptism, the emphasis on peace, nonviolence and nonresistance. One of the beliefs of the early Anabaptists and Mennonites that we don’t seem to talk much about anymore is the need to be “born again.” In the verses preceding John 1:14, the gospel writer tells us, “to all who did receive him, who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13). In the New Living Transla-



tion we read these words from the apostle Paul, “And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself” (Ephesians 4:10 NLT).

Because of the physical incarnation of Jesus, through his death, resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon believers, we all have the opportunity to experience the spiritual incarnation, filling the entire world with Jesus. When I think about all the things that I am thankful to God for, I am most thankful for the incarnation, first in Jesus, then in me.

My prayer for all of us in Ohio Conference this Thanksgiving and Christmas season is that we may pause in the busyness of the season and reflect on their true meaning. May we all be thankful for the incarnation! ■

“Because of Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension, every believer has the opportunity to experience the incarnation within.”

Missional Discipleship Groups

Continued from page 1



Left to right: Joel Vega, Darrin Snyder Belousek, and Eric Beidenharn meet Sept. 18 for their weekly missional discipleship group (MDG) that is supported by Salem Mennonite Church in Elida, Ohio. Photo by Awilda Ortiz.

gender groups are being created within the [Missional Discipleship Initiative](#) (MDI), a program of Mennonite Mission Network. MDGs meet weekly for eight months to pray, share personal accountability, and read Scripture with an aim of multiplying into new groups.

This call for group formation felt too intimidating, said Esh, pastor for 21 years at Valley View, a congregation of the Ohio Conference. Invitees feared not being mature enough to facilitate a group, unable to navigate the oft-misunderstood idea of the Great Commission, and not finding the time.

Finally, however, three groups took the plunge: Two formed in Valley View and one was facilitated by his friend, Cory Turben. Turben is part of a Reformed congregation in nearby Clymer, New York.

What happened next was nothing short of a Holy Spirit move-

ment, Esh said. As participants shared about how their group experience made sharing their lives in Christ a relationship-builder rather than a bothersome spiritual chore, a blaze of interest spread for MDI's launch day this October.

As a result, the number of MDGs in Valley View has jumped from two to six, and there are more than 15 small discipling groups spreading throughout northwestern Pennsylvania and southern New York state. Esh is praying that many more encounters like the one Turben had last year will unfold in the coming months.

"About halfway through the last year, Cory, the facilitator of his group that met every Thursday evening at a local restaurant, had an encounter with a server," Esh said. "After several months, a server said to him, 'What are you guys doing every

week?' Cory said, 'Pull up a chair and sit down, and I will tell you.' ... They struck up a relationship. One day during lunch, Cory led him into a relationship with Christ."

This year, Turben's new friend will be a facilitator of a new MDG. The power of this relational and replication model of sharing the gospel is why Marvin Lorenzana, Mission Network's director of Mission Initiatives, said he is striving to grow MDI, in its sixth cycle this year.

"Congregations often experience a holy disconnect between gathered worship and equipping our laity to share the God of that worship outside the church in their everyday lives," Lorenzana said. "MDI brings mission activity back to the bus drivers, schoolteachers and homemakers."

"As participants shared about how their group experience made sharing their lives in Christ a relationship-builder rather than a bothersome spiritual chore, a blaze of interest spread for MDI's launch day this October."

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Missional Discipleship Groups

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“Though people are at different junctures in their faith journey, they all are hungry for connection.”

He explained that MDI trains coaches to train MDG facilitators, such as Turben. That’s done through the resourcing of three levels. Many MDG facilitators who guide small groups often train to become coaches; thus, the leadership development aspect of the program multiplies and bears new fruit as well.

BONDING FRIENDSHIPS AS MUCH AS MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

Serving as coaches are Esh and Paula Snyder Belousek, pastor of Salem Mennonite Church, another Ohio Conference congregation, in Elida, Ohio, which has several groups set to begin meeting. They said that for the past several years, Ohio Conference has encouraged MDI engagement, and many pastors are on board.

A joyful surprise for Esh and Snyder Belousek is MDGs’ way

of forging intimate trust among individuals. Though people are at different junctures in their faith journey, they all are hungry for connection.

“We live in a culture where people are lonely and disconnected and are hungry for real and vulnerable Spirit-led places to connect,” Snyder Belousek said. “MDGs create vehicles for it. In our Western culture, people are nurtured to be self-reliant We are socialized to believe that someone else’s need is bigger than mine. The small-group setting gives people permission to be helped as well as to help.”

Mutual accountability is fostered with these weekly questions: Where have you seen God at work in your life? What is the Lord saying to you through your prayers and Scripture reading? How have you personally shared the love of

Jesus? Where do you feel you have fallen short?

WAVES COULD BE COMING

Esh said there has not been a total “sea change” yet in the region in terms of the multiplication of disciples. Yet, the rise in the numbers of groups may be an indication of the “waves” to come.

“Cory is an amazing guy,” Esh said. “His vision within a few years is that 1,000 people in our communities here will be involved in small groups This does feel like the wind of the Spirit is blowing, and I have no idea where it will carry me. But what a ride.”

For more information about MDI, or to apply for a group to join the October launch, contact Marvin Lorenzana at MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net, or call 574-523-3019 or 540-209-1450. ■

Camp Luz to host spiritual direction event



Ohio Conference will be offering a day-long event to intro-

duce the concept of spiritual direction to pastors on Feb. 4 at Camp Luz in Kidron.

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>. ■

Tony Doehrmann is new regional pastor

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team and the Ministry Development Team are pleased to announce the appointment of Tony Doehrmann as the new regional pastor covering the western half of Ohio Conference. He began his work with the Conference on Oct. 1.

Tony served as pastor of Jubilee Mennonite Church in Bellefontaine from 2008 until the end of 2017. During that time, he also served as a chaplain of the local hospital, a clergy representative of the Logan County Critical Incident Stress Management Team and a hospice volunteer.

Tony is a graduate of Hesston College's Pastoral Ministries

program and has also participated in spiritual direction training at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Prior to experiencing his call to pastoral ministry, he worked in manufacturing and administration at Sauder Woodworking Company in Archbold for 20 years. Tony was a member of Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker where he served as an elder, church chair and in several other positions.

Those who know Tony best describe him as a great listener who is able to help individuals and groups discern the Holy Spirit's leading. Since ending his



Tony Doehrmann

time at Jubilee Mennonite Church, he and his wife, Rhonda, have built a new home and moved to Pettisville to be closer to their grandchildren. ■

Credentialed pastors meet in Upper Sandusky

Forty of Ohio Conference's credentialed ministers gathered Sept. 12 at the Upper Sandusky Public Library as part of the Conference's continued *Gathered and Sent* initiative. It was a day of dwelling in God's Word (Ephesians 5:1-21), reflecting on the Conference's Identity Statement released by the Leadership Team in April, fellowship and looking forward to what lies ahead for the Conference. Bruce Breckbill from the Everence office in Kidron shared about both his and Everence's passion for serving churches in Ohio Conference, especially pastors and helping them stay healthy.

Several of the pastors shared about some of the exciting things that are happening in Conference, including the Missional Discipleship Initiative,

which now has about 12 Ohio Conference churches participating. Several pastors from Conference are also participating in the SENT church planting cohort sponsored by Mennonite Mission Network. They also heard about a church planting conversation planned for Oct. 15. (See page 11 for more about this conversation.) The Missional Planning Team also shared about the *Engaging Mission* intergenerational family event planned for June 26-28, 2020, at Bluffton University.

Dick Barrett shared about the Conference's participation in the Journey Missional Leadership Development program sponsored by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Ohio Conference now has three pairs of mentors/mentees participating in the three-year edu-



cational opportunity designed to raise up leaders and pastors from within our churches.

Time was spent giving thanks to Cliff Brubaker for his years of service as regional pastor and blessing him for his continued pastoral ministry at Zion Mennonite Church and as he explores the ministry of spiritual direction. Bruce Breckbill and the Kidron Everence office provided a cake. ■

At a meeting on Sept. 12, credentialed pastors gave thanks to Cliff Brubaker as he completed his work as regional pastor for the western part of the state. They marked the occasion with cake provided by Everence. Photo by Sue Short.

Border learning tour highlights immigration struggles

The reception area at Casa Alitas in Tucson, Arizona, includes play items for children. This shelter is sponsored by Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona. Photo by Joyce Hall.



tarian parole, which allows them to stay in the country legally until their asylum request is processed. At the height of the crisis, Casa Alitas was receiving about 240 migrants per day; more recently with the push to keep asylum seekers in Mexico, they have only been offering hospitality to about 30 individuals each day.

Those arriving at Casa Alitas are given a clean room to sleep in and access to showers and food as well as opportunities for relaxation and play. They also visit the clothing shop to select two sets of clothing and receive assistance with travel arrangements. Additionally, they also receive travel bags with items to sustain them as they travel to their new homes, where a family member or sponsor will meet them. Some of the detention kits that Mennonite Central Committee has collected were sent to Casa Alitas; perhaps some of the items provided by Ohio Conference congregations were available to Casa Alitas guests.

With the aid of an interpreter, we heard the stories of some of the families who were present at the shelter. This included Orlando, his wife, Bethsaida, and their 3-year-old daughter. When they were first asked as to why they had come to the United States from Guatemala, Orlando told us it was to seek a better life. However, as the conversation unfolded, it was

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“...as the conversation unfolded, it was clear that a ‘better life’ meant freedom from fear and violence.”

**By Paula Snyder Belousek
Ohio Conference
Assistant Moderator**

At our last Annual Conference Assembly, Ohio Conference delegates passed an Immigration Resolution, and one of the components challenges members of the Conference to become better informed about the issues surrounding immigration. In response, I took the opportunity to travel to Tucson, Arizona, with other Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) leaders following the recent Constituency Leaders Council meetings in Phoenix in mid-

October. Twenty-two people from across MC USA participated in a day and a half learning tour that focused on ministries and organizations in the Tucson area that serve immigrants.

Our first stop was [Casa Alitas](#), a bright, colorful and welcoming shelter sponsored by Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona. Many of those served at the shelter are parents, children, and pregnant women from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. They have been processed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and granted humani-

Immigration

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clear that a “better life” meant freedom from fear and violence. Orlando said he resisted paying money to the gangs to protect his business, and in retaliation was shot five times. As he was recovering in the hospital, he received a call telling him not to return home. It was then that this young family made the decision to flee for safety, particularly for the sake of their young daughter. Despite these trials, Orlando shared the goodness of God. It is their faith that has sustained them, and they trust God to care for them now. Orlando told us, “The important thing is to give yourself to God.” He went on to say that he wanted people to know that they were not here to do harm, but they only want to work and contribute. We then prayed for this young family, asking God’s blessing and protection as they prepared for life in Nebraska.

Later in the afternoon, we gathered at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship in Tucson and heard a presentation by Alvaro Gonzalez of the [Florence Immigrant Rights Project](#), the only organization in Arizona providing free legal support to those who are at risk of deportation. Currently, there are about 6,500 adults and children detained in Arizona. However, those in detention do not have the right to receive legal representation and often come to court without lawyers. Such is the case even for children. A detainee with legal representation is two times more likely to win their asylum case. Gonzalez told us the story of [Elbia](#), who fled an



abusive relationship after trying to escape for many years. When she arrived at the U.S. border, she requested asylum and was transferred to the detention center in Eloy, Arizona. This was a deeply traumatizing experience that multiplied the pain of living in an abusive situation for so many years. However, with the assistance of the Florence Project attorneys she was able to win her asylum case and was granted the right to stay in the country.

We also heard from Brian Best, a volunteer with the [Tuc-](#)

[son Samaritans](#), a faith-based organization that provides water and food in the desert to sustain and save the lives of those who are crossing in some of the most dangerous and desolate places. Since the Clinton Administration, the official policy of the U.S. government has been “Prevention Through Deterrence,” which attempts to make the trips across the border so difficult that people will not attempt the journey. However, this policy has not stopped desperate people flee-

Top photo: Immigrants at Casa Alitas are able to select clothing from the shelter’s clothing shop. Bottom photo: Artwork created by children who have stayed at Casa Alitas. Photos by Kate Wentland. To see more photos from the immigration learning tour, see <http://bit.ly/ImmigrationLearningTour>.

“Currently, there are about 6,500 adults and children detained in Arizona. However, those in detention do not have the right to receive legal representation and often come to court without lawyers.”

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Immigration

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Rocio, an immigrant who experienced detention, shared her story with the learning tour group. Having received asylum, she now is the volunteer coordinator for the Casa Mariposa Visitation Program. Photo by Gordon Houser.



“Like those we met at Casa Alitas, Rocio gave testimony to God’s faithfulness and said that despite the challenges she faced, she grew spiritually.”

ing difficult circumstances. Instead, they are forced to travel through some of the most dangerous desert terrain. Since 1999, more than 2,000 documented deaths have occurred in the southern Arizona borderland. Best says that rather than making the journey so difficult that people lose their lives, our government needs to look at the causes of why people are leaving home and to work with home countries to find just solutions.

The following day, we worshipped with the community at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship and heard the story of Rocio, a Bolivian woman, who came to the U.S. for a job caring for an older gentleman, only to discover the work was unpaid. After her six-month tourist visa expired, she went to the airport to use the plane ticket she had been promised, only to learn it did not exist. She went to Border and Customs to report what had happened and to request an extension on her visa while she raised the money needed to return home. Instead, she was arrested, held in a cold cell block (known as the ice box) for five days and in the

course of that time unwittingly signed her own deportation order. She was then shackled and transferred to the detention center in Eloy, Arizona. She couldn’t understand why she was sent to prison when she was the victim.

Rocio eventually met someone from the Florence Immigrant Rights Project who told her that she had a good case to make for asylum. However, it would be two years before she would finally be released. During her time in detention, she heard about the [Casa Mariposa Detention Visitor Program](#) and requested a visit. Tina Schlabach, co-pastor at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, visited her, while others from the program wrote to her and accompanied her to court.

Like those we met at Casa Alitas, Rocio gave testimony to God’s faithfulness and said that despite the challenges she faced, she grew spiritually. She said, “I was in the hands of God.” As a detainee there are no rules as to how long you stay in prison. Criminals usually know how long they must serve, but those in detention have no idea. Today, Rocio has legal status in the United States, and has found a spiritual home at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship. She has also become the volunteer coordinator the Casa Mariposa Visitor Detention Program, returning each Friday to the detention center in Eloy to visit other detainees where she was held.

Rocio offered one practical way that individuals and

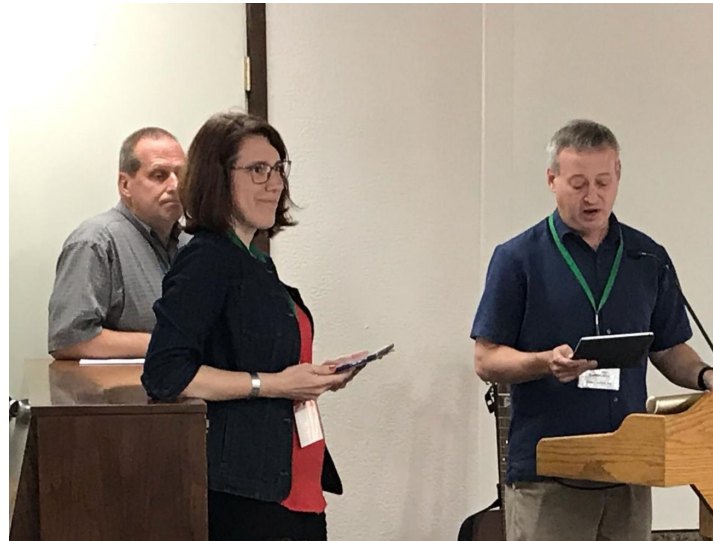
churches might support the [Casa Mariposa Visitation Program](#). They have a goal of collecting 3,000 cards in time for Christmas so that each person in the detention centers in Eloy and Florence, Arizona, receive a personal greeting. If you or your congregation are interested in hosting a card party, see these instructions from Casa Mariposa: <http://bit.ly/2019HolidayCardCampaign>.

The challenge of immigration at the southern border is complex, but as we heard first-person stories, I was touched by their deep faith in God and saw these individuals not as strangers but as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus who are suffering. As members of the same body, we share in the sufferings of one another. As our Ohio Conference Immigration Resolution urges, we cannot turn away from the circumstances that have led so many people to leave their homes nor from the dehumanization that is happening in our taxpayer-funded detention centers and through our government policies. Those we heard from urged us to not only share these stories with our faith communities, but to also uphold them in our prayers as well as find ways that we can respond, including contacting our government representatives and using our influence to change these policies that are leading to so much suffering, trauma and even death. ■

Ohio Conference leaders share at Constituency Leaders Council meeting

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.

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?



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

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>. ■

Church planting conversation begins

On Oct. 15 interested persons gathered at the Ohio Conference office for a conversation about planting new Visible Kingdom Communities. This meeting was an initial conversation about what the process of starting new church communities may look like in Ohio. Several people who could not attend in person took part in the conversation via a video conference. The conversation included three Ohio Conference staff members and 13 others. ■



Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford (left) discusses church planting with other interested individuals. Photo by Alysa Short.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

Ramon Lianez (center) was licensed for ministry Oct. 6 at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold. Also pictured are Conference Minister Dick Barrett (left) and Ramon's wife, Carmen Lianez.



Ramon Lianez was licensed for ministry and installed as co-pastor at Central Mennonite

Church in Archbold on Sunday, Oct. 6, during the morning worship service. Kirk Scott, a

friend of Ramon, read the scripture passage, Ephesians 4:1-16, and Carl Newcomer, Ramon's father-in-law, shared about Ramon's journey. Conference Minister Dick Barrett preached the morning message, "Some are Called to be Pastors," and led the licensing and installation ceremony. At noon the congregation held a celebration meal to mark the occasion.

Ramon is working on his master's degree in pastoral ministry from Ohio Christian University in Circleville and is participating in the Journey Missional Leadership Training Program at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. ■

Goshen College

During Goshen College's Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 4-6, the college honored Carolyn (Yoder) Sauder, a member of Zion Mennonite Church, with the Culture for Service Award.

The Culture for Service Awards were initiated in 1989 and are given annually to honor Goshen College graduates who have made lifelong commitments to service. Recipients distinguish themselves through commendable accounts of service and achievements at home or in their churches, colleges, communities and the larger world.

Carolyn (Yoder) Sauder '55 personifies generosity and ser-

vice, giving freely of her time, resources and talents to improve the world and everyone around her.

Formerly the executive director at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio, she continues in her 45th year there as a volunteer.

Sauder grew up in West Liberty, Ohio, and graduated from Goshen College with a degree in education.

Sauder met her husband, Maynard, at Little Eden Mennonite Camp. As a newly married couple, they were charter members of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio, and each had a role to play in the family businesses.



Carolyn Sauder

Her father-in-law, Erie Sauder, founded Sauder Woodworking, the fifth largest residential furni-

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ture manufacturer in the nation, and Sauder Village, Ohio's largest living-history museum and Erie's focus after his retirement.

Helping to implement Erie's vision in 1976 to keep the ancestral history of Ohio alive, she helped grow Sauder Village by developing relationships with staff, educators and museum and history professionals.

Sauder took on the "people" side of making Erie's dream a reality by developing an active board of trustees and management team, helping create a business model, hiring employees, organizing volunteers and planning events. Sauder Village opened for its first summer with 42 employees, and has

grown to more than 400 employees and 400 volunteers.

In addition to her leadership at the village, Sauder's passion for music and the arts led her to help get the ball rolling, and with her husband, Maynard, she led as co-chair of the Goshen College Music Center fund drive and served on its planning committee. It is now the home of the Sauder Concert Hall.

Sauder also was on the senior advisory council for the campaign to build a new library at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (ABMS) in Elkhart. She established the Sauder Stewardship Foundation to perpetuate the spirit of generosity and make a meaningful, positive

impact on the community, nation and world. She also supports Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and other organizations that promote peace and justice in the world.

"The Christian values I learned as a youth, and that I saw demonstrated by my father and mother, have had a great impact on who I am today and how I have conducted myself," she said.

Carolyn and Maynard still live in Archbold, Ohio, and have enjoyed traveling and learning about other cultures. They are active members at Zion Mennonite Church. ■

Central hosts trilingual World Communion Service



Ohio Conference congregations from Wayne and Summit counties gathered at Central Christian School on the afternoon of Oct. 6 for a World Communion Sunday service. The worship service was a partnership

of several local Mennonite churches and the Swahili Community Church of Akron, a Congolese Mennonite congregation. The worship service was held in English, Spanish and Swahili and included prayer,



scripture, communion, and worship offerings from the Salem Mennonite dance group, Congolese Swahili choirs, and the Central Christian School Choir. ■

At left: The World Communion Sunday worship service included music by the worship team at Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster. At right: Members of the Swahili Community Church of Akron also participated in the worship service. To see an album of photos from the worship service, go to <http://bit.ly/2019WorldCommunionService>. Photos by Joel Miller.

Conference Calendar

NOV

- 5 Regional Meeting, Salem Mennonite Church, Waldron, Michigan
- 5 Ministry Development Team Meeting, via GoToMeeting
- 15-17 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mills Park Hotel, Yellow Springs, Ohio
- 21 Hesston College Alumni and Friends Concert and Reception, Salem Mennonite Church, Kidron

JAN 2020

- 17-18 The Great Winter Warm-Up (comforter-making event for Mennonite Central Committee), Salem Mennonite Church, Kidron

FEB

- 4 Spiritual Direction Event, Camp Luz, Kidron

MAR

- 7 Annual Conference Assembly, Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City

JUN

- 26-28 Engaging Mission 2020 (Missional Festival), Bluffton University, Bluffton

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>.

Introducing PeaceMail from Mennonite Church USA: PeaceMail will deliver all of MC USA's news and blogs in one weekly e-newsletter. Those who have been subscribed to the news and Menno Snapshots emails will begin receiving this e-newsletter in their place. Subscribe at mennoniteusa.org/PeaceMailSubscribe.

Join the conversation on faith and health! Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) invites any Anabaptist working or interested in any healthcare field to join MHF. Students, practitioners, retirees — you are all welcome! Write to info@mennohealth.org, call 888-406-3643 or go to www.mennohealth.org/JoinTheConversation. See the MHF flier for more information: <http://bit.ly/2019MHFFlier>. ■

Back page briefings...

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 college update with

President Dr. Joseph Manickam and other Hesston representatives, along with a reception, will follow the performance.

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.

OHIO MENNONITE
EVANGEL
News & Views of Ohio Conference

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