

Conference Calendar

DEC

10 Leadership Team Meeting

JAN

9 Ministry Development Team Meeting via GoToMeeting

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

31 High School Youth Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

FEB

1-2 High School Youth Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

4 Spiritual Direction Event, Camp Luz, Kidron

14-16 Jr. High Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

MAR

7 Annual Conference Assembly, Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City

20-21 Mother-Daughter Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

APR

3-5 Men's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

24-25 Father-Son Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

MAY

2 MCC Great Lakes Centennial Celebration Picnic, Gerber Building, Kidron

JUN

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

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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
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Ohio Conference Cast series looks at small group discipleship

Growing disciples one group at a time

Sometimes growth takes a while, but patience can pay off. That's been the experience at Valley View Mennonite Church in Spartansburg, Pennsylvania. The latest episode of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast begins with Lucas Johnson and Robb Esh, pastoral team members at Valley View Mennonite, talking about the growth of Missional Discipleship Groups in their part of Pennsylvania. **These small groups now include people from many different churches in the area.**

Lucas Johnson, who describes himself as the "number one fanboy" of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast, is the host for this episode of the podcast, the first in a series. Later in the episode, Lucas talks with Dave



Schwabenbauer and Robert Cummings, two men who participate in Missional Discipleship Groups.

Reflecting on how the groups have developed over the past few years, Lucas says, "We've got quite an explosion happening here with the [Missional Discipleship] Initiative in the Spartansburg-Corry area." But that "explosion" didn't happen right away. In fact, Robb has some advice

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*Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations*

Missional Discipleship Groups Continued from page 1

for people interested in starting Missional Discipleship Groups in their own areas. **“I would just say to be patient.... If it mirrors my experience in any way, it’s going to take a little while [for the movement to begin growing].”**

Listen to this episode of the Ohio Conference Cast to hear why Lucas and Robb find Missional Discipleship Groups to be so helpful in growing new disciples of Jesus.

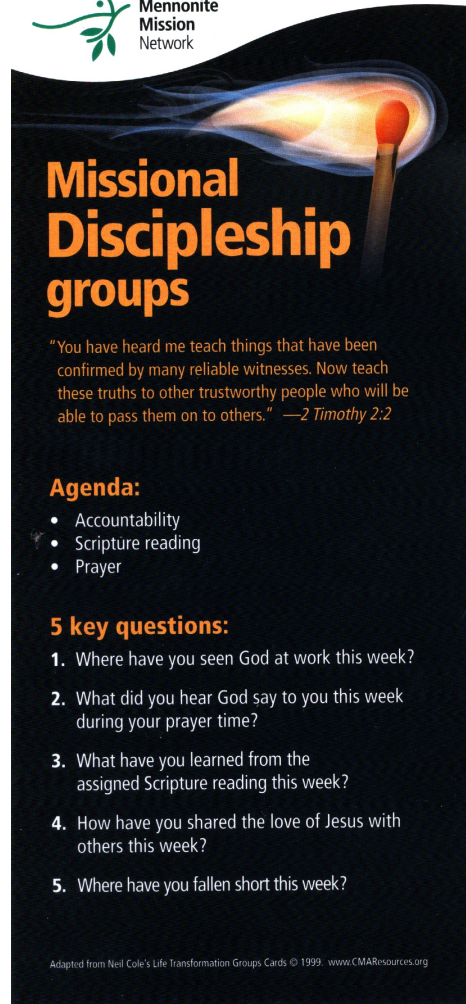
You can listen to this podcast on [iTunes](#) (search for “Ohio Conference Cast”) or find it on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

Mennonite Mission Network provides coaching for this program. Want to learn more about Missional Discipleship Groups? See these articles online:

<http://bit.ly/WindoftheSpirit>

<http://bit.ly/DisciplesMakeDisciples>

<http://bit.ly/YourInvitationToMakeDisciples>



Missional Discipleship groups

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.” —2 Timothy 2:2

Agenda:

- Accountability
- Scripture reading
- Prayer

5 key questions:

1. Where have you seen God at work this week?
2. What did you hear God say to you this week during your prayer time?
3. What have you learned from the assigned Scripture reading this week?
4. How have you shared the love of Jesus with others this week?
5. Where have you fallen short this week?

Adapted from Neil Cole's Life Transformation Groups Cards © 1999 - www.CMAResources.org

When the members of Missional Discipleship Groups meet together each week, they take time to answer the five questions shown above.

Looking for new pastoral leaders

Are you feeling called to pastoral leadership? Pastor, is there someone in your congregation that God is calling you to mentor? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s **Journey Missional Leadership Development Program** offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support that can be used to help individuals explore their calling to pastoral ministry.

Ohio Conference is offering financial assistance to those who are



interested in participating in this three-year program. If the individual and the sponsoring congregation are willing to pay one third each, Ohio Conference will pay the final third. **Also, save \$100 when you sign up for the Winter 2020 cohort by Dec. 16!** To learn more and register, go to <http://bit.ly/AMBSJourney> or contact Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohio-conferenceminister@gmail.com.

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.