

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Growing Disciples, Part 1 — The Explosion

Sometimes growth takes a while, but patience can pay off. That's been the experience at Valley View Mennonite Church in Spartansburg, Pennsylvania. In the latest episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, Lucas Johnson and Robb Esh, pastoral team members at Valley View Mennonite, talk about the growth of Missional Discipleship Groups in their area of Pennsylvania. The 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 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 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>.

Weekend College expands biblical literacy

Interested in expanding your congregation’s biblical literacy? Hesston College faculty member Nick Ladd would love to come to your congregation to present a Weekend College course, “The Bible as Story.” This weekend-long resourcing event focuses on

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.

Report perspective

Reports for the Ohio Conference Annual Report Book are due this month. If you have been asked to submit a report for the Annual Report Book, please send it to Judy King at ohmc@zoominternet.net by **Monday, Dec. 16.**

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

helping congregations to put Bible stories together as one big story, expanding biblical literacy and understanding.

Nick Ladd formerly served as a member of the pastoral team at Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan. To learn more about Hesston's Weekend College program, see <http://bit.ly/HesstonWeekendCollege>.

Service Adventure seeks leaders, participants

Please share these announcements from Mennonite Mission Network with your congregation:

Thinking of pastoral ministry? Be a Service Adventure leader! Live in a unit house with a small group of youth and offer support as they serve and live in Christian community. Age: 24+; term: 2 years. For more information, contact LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net.

Experience the town of Jesus, meet its people, learn their language, join and experience local churches, and explore the rich and varied culture of Israel. Apply to join the Nazareth Village Youth Venture team at www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve. Age 18+; term: 2-3 weeks.

Churches support radio ministry in Argentina

For several years Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron and Pike Mennonite Church in Elida have been supporting a radio ministry which reaches out to the Indigenous population in the Chaco region of Argentina. To learn more about this ministry, which is also supported by Mennonite Mission Network, see <http://bit.ly/ChacoRadioMinistry>.

Sent Conference 2020 coming to Philadelphia

Save the date! Mennonite Mission Network is planning another conference focusing on church planting. The Sent Conference 2020 will take place April 24–26 in Philadelphia at the Philadelphia Praise Center. Visit <http://www.MennoniteMission.net/SentNetwork> to learn more about the Sent Network.

Conference to consider faith and digital culture

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is hosting “Shaping Faith in a Digital Culture” March 2-5.

This conference will be a time for faith leaders to think theologically about living, worshiping and playing in digital spaces.

Presenter [Karen-Marie Yust](#), author of *Real Kids, Real Faith*, is professor of Christian education at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She will join AMBS faculty members to explore practical ways both to participate in and challenge digital culture.

To learn more about this conference, please see <http://bit.ly/ShapingFaith2020>.

Prayer perspective

Please pray for the thousands of immigrants seeking asylum who are in detention centers in numerous places around the country.

— Dan King, Immigration Resource Team member

Advent perspective

Throughout Advent, bloggers for *The Mennonite* will write reflections on the upcoming Sunday's Lectionary text. These reflections are archived at themennonite.org/advent. To receive these reflections, sign up for the [TMail](#) e-newsletter at <https://themennonite.org/t-mail/> or follow *The Mennonite* on [Facebook](#).

Writing perspective

The December issue of *The Parish Paper*, which is included with this issue of *Perspective*, explores the ways that writing can facilitate ministry and community engagement. Topics discussed in this issue including journaling, mission statements, memos of understanding, program histories, and invitations for community members to express themselves through writing.

Perspective deadlines

Dec. 16 for Dec. 19 issue

Jan. 6 for Jan. 9 issue
