

# Perspective



[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: 330-453-0150 Email: [ohioevangel@gmail.com](mailto:ohioevangel@gmail.com)

## ***A time for prayer***

We find ourselves in a time of great divisiveness, both in America and in many places around the world. We find ourselves in a time where the United States and Iran are on the brink of war. This is a time for us Christians to unite and pray for peace: *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”* (Ephesians 6:12).



May we pray that the rhetoric and the tensions between the U.S. and Iran decrease. May we pray for a change not only in the thinking and actions of the leaders of both countries but mostly for a change of hearts. May we continue to look to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, the only one who can bring true and lasting peace.

— Dick Barrett, Conference Minister

## ***Immigration Resource Team seeks your input***

Dear Ohio Conference Pastors and Delegates:

It is now almost 10 months since we passed a resolution on immigration at our 2019 Annual Conference Assembly. Since then, our Team has been given the mandate to “...investigate, evaluate, and help congregations implement the resolution.” Toward this goal, we are asking for a few minutes of your time to complete a brief survey.

We have heard some encouraging reports at the fall gathering meetings from congregations who have taken concrete steps to act on the resolution. However, believing there are more stories to be told, we want to get a more comprehensive view of these activities throughout the Conference.

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***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.***

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## ***Parish Paper perspective***

**“Repurpose Worship Space, Don’t Rebuild”** is the theme of the January issue of *The Parish Paper*, which is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

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## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Please use this link to complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/KmJtE3hQQ7E88WZAA>.

This survey is very brief and should take no more than 3-4 minutes to complete. We ask that you complete it by Friday, Jan. 17.

Thanks for helping us!

— Dan King, for the Team

### **Emmanuel Mennonite holds closing service**

Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Monclova, Ohio, has closed. A main outreach of the congregation was to the men and women of Bittersweet Farms who live with autism.

The Emmanuel congregation held its final worship service on Sunday, Dec. 29. Pastor Reid Short, the long-time pastor at Emmanuel, delivered the final message at the closing worship service. He served at Emmanuel from the fall of 1996 until the congregation's closing.

### **Register now for spiritual direction event**

**Last call for registrations:** Ohio Conference is offering a spiritual direction event for pastors Feb. 4 at Camp Luz in Kidron. The Conference is encouraging all pastors to have a spiritual director, and this event will introduce the concept of spiritual direction.

Led by Janice Hershberger, Randy Murray, and Christine Nafziger, attendees will learn about spiritual direction while also experiencing how spiritual direction functions.

If you plan to participate in this event, register at <http://bit.ly/2020SpiritualDirectionEvent> by **Jan. 14**. For more details, please see the event flier: <http://bit.ly/2020SpiritualDirectionFlier>.

### **Registration is open for ACA**

Registration is now open for the 2020 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA), which will be held Saturday, March 7, at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. The theme of the 2020 ACA will be "Hearts of Wisdom," based on Psalm 90:12.

The registration deadline for ACA is **Feb. 14**. The cost to register is \$30 for those who register by Feb. 14, and \$45 thereafter. There is an additional fee for lunch.

If you have not already received registration forms from your congregation, you may find them online at <http://bit.ly/2020ACAInfo>. **Please note:** The lodging list has been updated. If you are planning to reserve a hotel room, please use the updated lodging list, which is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Online registration is available at <http://bit.ly/OCACA2020>. If you register by mail, send your registration form and fee to Judy King, Ohio Conference, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636.

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### **Service perspective**

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**W**ant to utilize your skills while learning about another culture? Walk together in mission with our partners around the world through an international service term. Explore opportunities at [www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve).

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**W**hat will you do after high school? Be informed about your options! Come visit a current service unit during the Service Adventure preview weekend, Feb. 20-23, 2020. Contact Susan Nisly for more information: [SusanN@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:SusanN@MennoniteMission.net).

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### **Writer's perspective**

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**T**he Mennonite Inc. invites your original submissions for the March 2020 issue focusing on the theme "the mystery and power of prayer." Submissions are due to [Editor@TheMennonite.org](mailto:Editor@TheMennonite.org) no later than Jan. 31. For more information about this theme, see <http://bit.ly/TheMennoniteMarch2020>.

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### **Perspective deadlines**

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Jan. 21 for Jan. 23 issue

Feb. 3 for Feb. 6 issue

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**Perspective** Jan. 9, 2020