

# Perspective



Ohio Conference  
of Mennonite  
Church USA

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

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## **Ohio Conference Leadership Team responds to MC USA Membership Guidelines report**

From the Ohio Conference Leadership Team:

On Jan. 27 the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) released a report from an advisory group suggesting possible changes to the MC USA Membership Guidelines. You can find the release and full report on MC USA's website at [www.mennoniteusa.org](http://www.mennoniteusa.org). On Jan. 29 the Ohio Conference Leadership Team met for a regularly scheduled meeting. We spent some time discussing the report. The Leadership Team's response to the report is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

## **RSVP by Feb. 7 for pastors' gathering**

The next All-Ohio Conference Pastors' Gathering will take place Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Upper Sandusky Public Library. If you plan to attend this meeting, RSVP to Judy King at [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net) or 330-857-5421 by **Friday, Feb. 7**.

The gathering will include a time of dwelling in the Word, fellowship, and sharing about what is going on in Conference and in our congregations. This gathering will also include some time talking about the possibility of changes to Mennonite Church USA's membership guidelines.

As with past gatherings in Upper Sandusky, pastors should bring their own lunches and coffee (if desired). Water and light refreshments will be provided during break times.

## **Have you registered for ACA yet?**

The deadline to register for Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) is approaching quickly. Have you registered yet? ACA will take place March 7 at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City.

Registrations for ACA are due **Friday, Feb. 14**. After that date, the registration fee increases from \$30 to \$45 per person. To register online, go to <http://bit.ly/OCACA2020>.

***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.***

## **Perspective inserts**

***This issue of Perspective includes the February issue of The Parish Paper and the February issue of Prayers for Faith and Learning.***

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

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

## **Congregation's ministry focuses on healing trauma**

The Jan. 23 issue of *Perspective* included a reflection by Dan King about the experience he and his wife, Jeanette, had when they volunteered with San Antonio Mennonite Church's ministry to immigrants. (To read Dan's reflection, see <http://bit.ly/SanAntonioService>.)

In 2019, San Antonio Mennonite Church received a Traditioned Innovation Award from Duke Divinity School for the congregation's work toward healing the trauma experienced by immigrants. To learn more about San Antonio Mennonite's ministry, please read the feature article on the Duke Divinity's Faith and Leadership website: <http://bit.ly/SanAntonioMennoTraumaHealing>. San Antonio Mennonite Church's website also features a video with more information and practical advice about dealing with people who have experienced trauma: <https://www.sanantoniomennonite.org/trauma-informed-christianity>.

## **Millsaps to present Forum on gun violence**

BLUFFTON, Ohio — Cyneatha Millsaps, executive director of Mennonite Women USA, will present the Forum "Gun Violence: Its Effects on Family and Community" at 11 a.m. on Feb. 11 in Yoder Recital Hall at Bluffton University. This event is free and open to the public.

Millsaps will tell about her family's experience with gun violence and describe the many risks associated with gun ownership — particularly in communities of color.

Millsaps is the executive director for Mennonite Women USA. She has served as the lead pastor of a multicultural congregation just outside of Chicago and has been a columnist for *The Mennonite*. She is a community activist and advocate, focusing on the needs of women and children in the areas of violence, education and spiritual development.

## **Learn, Pray, Join initiative looks at climate justice**

Mennonite Church USA encourages people and congregations to focus on climate justice by highlighting prayers, resources and ways to get involved in February and March. This focus is part of MC USA's "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative in partnership with Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN) and the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions (CSCS). To learn more about this focus on climate justice, go to the Mennonite Church USA website: <http://mennoniteusa.org/climatejustice/>.

## **The Mennonite seeks submissions for April issue**

The Mennonite Inc. invites your original submissions for the April 2020 issue focusing on the theme "resilient hope." Submissions are due to [Editor@TheMennonite.org](mailto:Editor@TheMennonite.org) no later than Feb. 28. For more information about this theme, see <http://bit.ly/TheMennoniteApril2020>.

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## **Service perspective**

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**C**alling all retirees, families, and adults ages 25+! Looking for a flexible service term that allows you to join the work of missional faith communities across North America? Learn more about SOOP at [www.MennoniteMission.net/serve](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/serve).

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**J**oin the staff at SADRA Conflict Transformation in their mission to teach nonviolent peer mediation and peacemaking skills in South African communities. Learn more about this and other international opportunities at [www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve).

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**L**ooking for adventure? Serve, learn and grow with Youth Venture! Locations: Spain, Colombia, Arizona, Peru, Nazareth Village, Benin. Age: 15–22; term: 2–3 weeks. The application deadline is April 1. Learn more at [www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve) or email [LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net).

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**J**oin a community. Serve others. Put your faith into action. Apply to serve with Mennonite Voluntary Service in places like Chicago; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; and Alamosa. Age: 20+; term: 1–2 years. For more info, contact [LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net).

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## **Perspective deadlines**

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Feb. 17 for Feb. 20 issue

March 2 for March 5 issue

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