

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Issues to consider before meeting in person

As the State of Ohio introduces plans to slowly open up once more after weeks of stay-at-home orders, congregations have many things to consider before re-opening their church buildings and returning to in-person worship services.

As your congregation's leaders discuss plans for returning to meeting in person, here are two articles outlining issues to consider:

- "Twenty-four questions your church should answer before people return" by Ken Braddy Jr. — <https://bit.ly/24QuestionsToAnswer>
- "Twelve considerations as you prepare to reopen your church doors" by Madalyn Metzger of Everence — <https://bit.ly/12ConsiderationsAsYouPrepare>

Podcast hosts to conclude their work

After more than three years and dozens of podcast episodes, Thomas Dunn and Bill Seymour have decided to resign as hosts of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast.

The Ohio Conference Cast began in the fall of 2016 with a goal creating another avenue for people to learn about happenings within the Ohio Conference. Since that time, Bill and Thomas have shared conversations with a wide variety of guests. They have interviewed people from Ohio Conference congregations about local missions, as well as talking with Ohio Conference staff members and interviewing people from the wider church, such as Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Glen Guyton, Ted Swartz of Ted and Co., and Alan and Debra Hirsch.

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team and Ministry Development Team have greatly appreciated Thomas and Bill's leadership as hosts for the Ohio Conference Cast, and we thank them for all the hours they have volunteered, as well as the humor they have shared with all of us. We also would like to thank Norm Sohar, who has faithfully volunteered as sound engineer for the podcast series.

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.

Habit perspective

“Yes, Congregations Can Learn New Habits” is the theme of the May issue of *The Parish Paper*. In this issue, writer Dana Horrell discusses how new habits are formed and takes a look at the role of disruption and the role of other people in forming new habits. The May issue of *The Parish Paper* is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Bill and Thomas are planning to release one final podcast episode to reflect on their time as hosts. The future of the podcast series is not certain at this time, although the Leadership Team and Ministry Development Team are open to continuing if new hosts can be found. Would you like to hear previous podcast episodes? You can find them at <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

2020 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale goes online

Due to the uncertainty COVID-19 has brought to our lives, the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Board has decided to hold an **online auction only** rather than a physical event and auction this year.

Plans are to still offer items from the quilt and wood auctions, as well as silent auction items, kids auction items and many other items. To give quilters, crafters and craftsmen additional time, the relief sale board has moved back the dates of the event from the traditional first weekend in August.

The 2019 sale also included an online auction, so many things are already in place to hold an online auction. There will be “Buy It Now” items available to buy from Sept. 14 to 24, as well as the online auction from Sept. 26 to Oct. 3. Details are still being worked out and will be updated as information is available.

For more information, see the [news release](#) from the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Board included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Webinar’s focus to be ‘radical aloneness’

How can church leaders respond to the challenges of the current pandemic and the resultant “radical aloneness” that afflicts many of us? Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is planning a webinar exploring these questions, *Social Distancing, Not Social Isolation*, on Thursday, May 14, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Central Time.

Participants will learn how church leaders can reach out to people in a spirit of compassion and help them overcome potential loneliness. The fee is \$30, payable via Pay Pal at the time of registration. For more information or to register, go to <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4589092>.

MDS approves additional funds for COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund

Lititz, PA — Faced with a large number of requests for assistance from U.S. churches for the COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund, the Board of Directors of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) have approved an additional \$250,000 to help meet the high demand.

The COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund is a joint effort of MDS, Everence and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. With this additional funding, MDS has put in a total of \$600,000.

To date, 80 grants have been approved totaling more than \$371,000. To learn more or to contribute to the Congregational Relief fund: <https://mds.mennonite.net/covid-19-donations>.

MMN perspective

The Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) board of directors has appointed Michael J. Sherrill, Ph. D., as the organization’s next executive director. Dr. Sherrill is an ordained educator, scholar, administrator, and leader with 25 years of global experience. Dr. Sherrill has been the director of Asia and Middle East for Mennonite Mission Network since 2017. See the MMN news release for more information: <https://bit.ly/MichaelSherrillMMN>.

Tech perspective

Mennonite Church USA has released a new video series, [Technology Best Practices for Service](#), that offers best practices for holding virtual meetings and worship services, as well as effective technology tools for working from home. Created by Crystal Washington, a technology strategist and certified futurist, this series is broken into short videos that offer tips and suggestions for navigating today’s leading video conferencing and sharing platforms for virtual ministry. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/MCUSATechnology>.

Perspective deadlines

May 18 for May 21 issue

June 1 for June 4 issue
