

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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MDT to award Ministry Grants

Ministry Grants are back! **Aug. 10** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT). The MDT is accepting proposals from Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. The MDT has \$7,000 available for grants in 2020.



This year the MDT is seeking to provide grants for projects that address racial injustice and immigration issues. Earlier this month the Ohio Conference Leadership Team released a statement about racial injustice (<https://bit.ly/OCRacialJusticeStatement>), and the Leadership Team is encouraging Ohio Conference congregations to take this call to prayer and action seriously.

Please note that this is a one-time grant, and grant monies are not intended to be used for staffing. You may either submit an online application on the Ohio Conference website at <http://bit.ly/MinistryGrants> or mail a printed application form to Ohio Conference, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636. The MDT will consider all grant proposals at its **Aug. 27** meeting. A grant application is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Conference plans fall retreat for wives of pastors

Ohio Conference will hold a retreat for pastors' wives Nov. 6-8. *Joy in the Journey: An Event for the Wives of Ohio Conference Pastors* will take place at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. Miriam Zehr, associate pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville, will be the retreat speaker.



The cost for this retreat is \$125 per person. Registration is due by Oct. 9. Please see the retreat brochure for details. Online registration is available at <http://bit.ly/OCPastorsWives>.

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.

Leader's perspective

Conference Minister Dick Barrett reflects on some of the challenges faced by congregations and their leaders in a recent letter titled "Being Jesus in the reopening of his churches." You can read it at <https://bit.ly/June15Letter>.

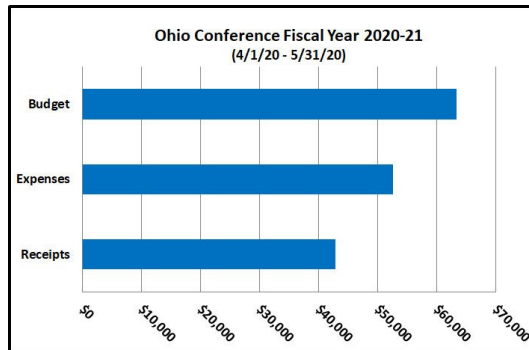
Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Conference receipts drop sharply in May

Ohio Conference experienced a sharp drop in receipts during May compared to April. Congregational giving totaled just \$11,964 in May, compared with \$28,038 in April. Total receipts for the month were \$12,444, and expenses totaled \$26,252.

As of the end of May, the Conference's year-to-date operating balance was -\$9,730.



New members join Immigration Resource Team

The Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team has added two new members from western Ohio, Megan Bettelon and Krisha Pagniano. Below they share some information about themselves and their interest in immigration:

Megan Bettelon: I've been a lifelong attendee of Huber Mennonite Church in New Carlisle. I am a social worker and currently work in a school setting. Growing up in an area with a large migrant population has led to my passion for immigration issues, and I am excited to serve on a team that is focused on welcoming immigrants into our neighborhoods and churches.



Krisha Pagniano: I have been in education for 14 years in the role of elementary teacher and now instructional coach in a district just outside of Dayton, Ohio. In this district we have a large immigrant population that we serve, which continues to grow every year. In my teaching role, I have gotten to know some of the families and have listened to their stories and perspectives. I joined the Immigration Resource Team to learn more about immigration and ways to provide for the needs of families.



The Immigration Resource Team also includes Dan King, Greg Bowman, and Coordinator of Volunteers Alysa Short. The team is working on developing discussion starters related to immigration for possible use in Sunday school classes or small groups.

Anabaptist Worship Network develops website

The Anabaptist Worship Network, which began as a group on Facebook, now has its own website at <http://anabaptistworship.net> with worship resources and information about courses and events. The Anabaptist Worship Network is dedicated to supporting worship and song leaders in making intentional, theologically grounded, and spiritually inspired choices about worship practices that respond to their local contexts.

Ecumenical perspective

Following an extended consultation, an ecumenical group of religious leaders has developed a set of guidelines for resuming in-person worship services. You can read their recommendations at <https://bit.ly/ResumingCare-FilledWorship>.

Education perspective

Mennonite colleges and universities in the United States have begun announcing plans for returning to in-person classes this fall. *The Mennonite* reports more details at <https://bit.ly/Fall2020CollegePlans>.

Peace Center perspective

For the rest of 2020 Lombard Mennonite Peace Center will hold all its scheduled training events remotely via Zoom rather than in person. Scheduled training events include *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* (Aug. 3-7), *Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches* (July 18), *Healthy Congregations* (July 21), and *Breaking Free: Finding Resilience in an Era of Collective Trauma* (July 16 and July 30). For more information, see <https://lmpeacecenter.org>.

Perspective deadlines

June 29 for July 2 issue

July 13 for July 16 issue