

Do our actions bring glory to God?

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." He encourages us all to consider whether our actions bring glory to God. You can read his letter at <https://bit.ly/june15Letter>.



We want to hear from you

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Development Team is seeking stories from our Ohio Conference congregations about how they are working with youth and young adults. We would like to hear from you. What have been



Share Your Stories

your successes? How have you learned from your failures? Where is God working now? If you have a

story that you would be willing to share with the Conference, please contact Ann Leaman at ohioevangel@gmail.com.

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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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JUNE 2020

Grants to benefit local ministries

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, and the Leadership Team is encouraging Ohio Conference congregations to take this call to prayer and action seriously. (See pages 2 and 3 for a copy of this statement.)

Since 2012 the MDT has awarded grants each summer, providing funds for a wide variety of projects and mission initiatives.



The MDT will use several criteria in reviewing the applications:

— Does this proposal fit with the Conference priorities of worship, faith and witness?

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Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

Ohio Conference Leadership Team makes statement on racial injustice

June 4, 2020

As the Leadership Team of Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, we affirm the recent statement from [Mennonite Church USA on racial injustice](#) and Executive Director Glen Guy-

ton's [open letter to the denomination](#).

We lament the death of George Floyd, the latest death of an African-American person at the hands of a white police officer. We grieve the violence that has erupted in many cities across the country, and yet we acknowledge that much is the result of anger and frustration due to systemic injustice and racism against people of color that has been building for a long period of time, in fact for all of America's history.

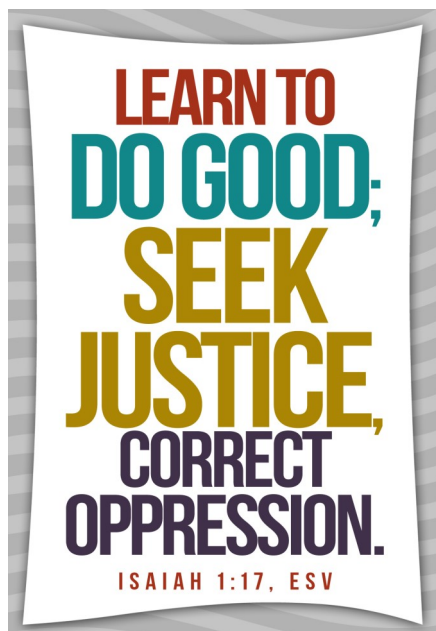
As a conference of mostly white members we are invited to come to this moment in a spirit of repentance, recognizing our failure to listen

and to take seriously the reality of racism and what it means to be African-American in America. We repent of our silence and complacency in response to injustice and systemic oppression. We desire by God's grace to listen, to learn, and to act in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

We encourage our congregations on Sunday, June 7, to pray and lament the deaths of numerous African-American men and women who have died as a result of racial violence at the hands of persons in authority, along with the most recent victim,

George Floyd, and the violence, pain and injustice that is plaguing our nation. Please also pray for our nation's leaders to make wise and compassionate decisions in the days ahead.

We also encourage our congregations to take concrete steps to not



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Leadership Team

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only make themselves more knowledgeable of the systemic racial injustice that exists in America, but to grow in relationship with those from other racial and ethnic groups and to actively examine ways in which our churches and communities are organized to exclude or subvert the gifts of people of color.

We recommend the resources that are listed at the end of [MC USA's statement on racial injustice](#). We affirm Glen Guyton's call that this is not the time to be "the quiet in the land," and that we need to stand with our black sisters and brothers in Christ.

Ohio Conference Leadership Team
Lynn Miller
Paula Snyder Belousek
Vickie Yoder
Alvis Pettker
Dean Falb
Dick Barrett
Alysa Short
Judy King

Links:

Mennonite Church USA statement on racial injustice — <https://bit.ly/MCUSAJune1Statement>

Glen Guyton's open letter to Mennonite Church USA — <https://bit.ly/GlenGuytonLetter>

Ministry Grants

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— Does this project respond to the priorities identified by Ministry Development Team?

- Racial justice
- Immigration

— Is this proposal a collaborative effort among Ohio Conference congregations and/or related organizations?

Please note that this is a one-time grant. Grant monies are not intended to be used for staffing.

Grant proposals are due by Aug. 10, 2020. More information and an online application are on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>. If you prefer, you may download a grant form and mail it to the Ohio Conference office.

The Ministry Development Team will consider all grant proposals at its Aug. 27 meeting.

In 2019, the Ministry Development Team approved nine grants. To learn more about these grants, see <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>.