

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Leadership Team makes statement on racial injustice

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 Guyton'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 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.

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.

Devotional perspective

MennoMedia is offering a second special issue of its daily devotional magazine, *Rejoice!*, as a free download. The special publication, titled *Rejoice! A Time Enduring*, was written, edited, and designed by individuals volunteering their time to contribute their gifts for the benefit of their communities of faith. To download a copy, go to <https://bit.ly/RejoiceATimeEnduring>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Ohio Conference Cast: Bill and Thomas reflect on their time as hosts

After more than three years, Bill Seymour and Thomas Dunn have decided to conclude their time as hosts of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast. In this episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, Bill and Thomas reflect on their time as hosts of the podcast, which began in the fall of 2016. They talk with Ohio Conference Assistant Moderator Paula Snyder Belousek and Conference Minister Dick Barrett, and they reveal some of their favorite moments from previous podcasts.

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team is seeking new hosts for the podcast. If you are interested in hosting the podcast or you have suggestions for new hosts, please contact Assistant Moderator Paula Snyder Belousek at pastor@salemmentonite.com.

You can listen to this podcast on [iTunes](#) (search for “Ohio Conference Cast”) or find it on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

MMN webinar to focus on spiritual practices

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) is offering a free webinar, “Spiritual practices for peacemakers: finding your center when you feel pulled apart.” Karla Minter, church relations representative for MMN, will lead the webinar **today, June 4**, at 7 p.m. She will invite participants to encounter or rediscover spiritual practices that create a daily rhythm to help turn despair and isolation into hope and community. See <https://bit.ly/MMNSpiritualPractices> for more information or to register.

Donut Day fundraiser to benefit MCC

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is inviting everyone to celebrate National Donut Day on June 5 by joining MCC’s social media baking party.

Due to COVID-19, many spring and summer MCC relief sales have been postponed or canceled. These events raised more than \$2.2 million last year alone. Any funds raised on National Donut Day will go to MCC’s “Where needed most” fund to help offset the income usually generated by these events. You are invited to bake your favorite donut recipe, post it to your social media pages, tag MCC or use the hashtag [#mccpeace](#) and encourage friends and family to donate to MCC. To donate, go to <https://bit.ly/DonutsforMCC>.

Mourning in time of COVID-19 is webinar topic

AMBS webinar: Mourning Our Losses Together During COVID-19: The Good News of Biblical Lament: Tuesday, June 23, 2–3 p.m. EDT. This free webinar is for those experiencing loss during this global pandemic and their caregivers. Participants will explore the three-act movement of biblical lament as a faithful response to God in both individual and corporate settings. Registration is required: ams.edu/mourningourlosses.

Giving perspective

A note from Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford: For anyone who received a ‘stimulus’ check and does not need the money, you are welcome to contribute from now up until Sept. 1 to our neighbors in Canton who do have needs. Checks can be written to First Mennonite Church (1935 Third St. SE, Canton OH 44707) or give online at cantonfirstmennonite.org/give, earmarked “Stimulus Jubilee.”

Mutual aid perspective

Mennonite World Conference has invited Anabaptist mission and service agencies to coordinate their financial response to COVID-19 hardships experienced especially by under-resourced member churches around the world. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/MWCPandemicResponse>.

Anabaptist perspective

The Mennonite Inc. invites your original submissions for the August 2020 issue focusing on the theme “Why I am an Anabaptist.” For more information about this theme, see <https://bit.ly/TheMennoniteAugust2020>. Submissions are due to Editor@TheMennonite.org no later than July 3.

Perspective deadlines

June 15 for June 18 issue

June 29 for July 2 issue
