

# OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

*News & Views of Ohio Conference*

JUL/AUG 2020



ohiomennoniteconference.org

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Editorial
- 4 Conference minister musings
- 6 Involving young adults in ministry
- 7 Financial report
- 8 Engaging immigration: some action steps
- 9 MCC centennial celebration  
Ministry Grants  
Women in Leadership  
Retreat
- 10 About people
- 12 Back page briefings

*'Race, Church and Change' is webinar theme*

## MC USA leadership encourages discussion

Save the date: Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) is planning a second webinar on the theme "Race, Church and Change." This webinar is scheduled for July 23 at 6:30 p.m. EDT on both Zoom and Facebook Live. To register for this webinar, please go to <https://bit.ly/RaceChurchandChange2>.

The first "Race, Church and Change" webinar took place on Thursday, June 25, and featured a discussion about the impact of racism on the church and meaningful approaches for dismantling racism. Panelists included Glen Guyton, Felipe Hinojosa, Sue



The webinar "Race, Church and Change, Part 2" will feature a panel of speakers including (clockwise, from top left) Iris de León-Hartshorn (moderator), Glen Guyton, Felipe Hinojosa, Tobin Miller Shearer, Erica Littlewolf and Sue Park-Hur.

Park-Hur, Erica Littlewolf and Tobin Miller Shearer. Iris de León-Hartshorn served as moderator, and viewers were encouraged to submit questions for the panel. Even be-

Continued on page 3

## Called to make disciples, even in a pandemic

**COVID-19 has changed our daily lives in many ways, but even so, God is still at work in the world.**

And despite the challenges of living through a pandemic, the Ohio Conference Missional Resource Team is encouraging people to keep participating in God's mission. "We still want to be a missional people," said Missional Re-

source Team member Jacob Dodson, the pastor of Wooster Mennonite Church.

The Missional Resource Team is encouraging Ohio Conference congregations to participate in the Missional Discipleship Initiative (MDI). During this past year, nine Ohio Conference congrega-



tions took part in this program. The next MDI training cycle starts Sept. 1, and interested groups can sign up at [MennoniteMission.net/MDI](https://MennoniteMission.net/MDI).

Continued on page 3

## EDITORIAL

# In this together?

**“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” — 1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)**

Over the past few months, as COVID-19 has been upending the usual order all around the world, I have found myself musing about how we all are interconnected.

In the spring, as state governments shut down much of the economy due to the pandemic, we frequently heard and read about “essential” workers. Gradually, I realized that quite a few of the people whose jobs were deemed “essential” were individuals that our society tends to value less, at least when it comes to pay. And in a time of pandemic, suddenly these workers were being asked to put themselves at higher risk for becoming ill, while others, some of whom have a much higher rate of pay, were able to work from home.

For the record, I almost always work from home, and I greatly appreciate the flexibility this arrangement affords me, but I do recognize it as a privilege not everyone has. The pandemic has highlighted for me the many ways that we as a society are dependent upon each other. So much in my life is dependent on the work of other people. I think most of the rest of us would have to say the same. So how do we honor that interconnectedness and care for others so that all can thrive?

Each September Mennonite World Conference (MWC) encourages congregations to observe Peace Sunday, and this year MWC is focusing on the theme “When one member suffers, all members suffer: Peace as accompaniment and solidarity.”\*

Writing about this theme, Andrew Suderman, the MWC peace commission secretary, says, “One thing that COVID-19 has high-

lighted in the past few months, however, is how we are all intrinsically bound. And this is a reality that those who are oppressed and exploited could have already told us. Put simply, what we do affects others. What others do affects us. For better or for worse, we are inextricably bound. We only need to see how COVID-19 has spread to understand this reality.”

We truly are all interconnected. I encourage all Ohio Conference congregations to wrestle with the question of how our actions affect others and how we can accompany others in their time of suffering.

— ahl

\*MWC suggests that congregations observe Peace Sunday on Sept. 20, 2020. To find worship planning materials for a Peace Sunday worship service, go to <https://bit.ly/2020MWCPeaceSunday>.

**VOL. LXXIV, NO. 4**

**JUL/AUG 2020**

Editor: Ann H. Leaman

*Ohio Mennonite Evangel* is published six times per year by the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636, telephone (330) 857-5421.

All material for publication should be submitted to the editor at 5854 Sunland St. NE, Louisville OH 44641, or via telephone: 330-453-0150, or e-mail: [ohioevangel@gmail.com](mailto:ohioevangel@gmail.com), one month prior to desired publication date.

*Ohio Mennonite Evangel* is distributed to all households of Ohio Conference congregations, other interested individuals and church agencies.

Send subscription information and email address changes to the editor at [ohioevangel@gmail.com](mailto:ohioevangel@gmail.com).

## Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Moderator: Lynn Miller — [lynnjaymiller@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjaymiller@gmail.com)  
Assistant Moderator: Paula Snyder Belousek — [pastor@salemmennonite.com](mailto:pastor@salemmennonite.com)  
Credentialing Ministry Chair: Vickie Yoder — [rev.vickieyoder@gmail.com](mailto:rev.vickieyoder@gmail.com)  
Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair: Alvis Pettker — [pastor.alvis.pettker@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.alvis.pettker@gmail.com)  
Stewardship Ministry Chair: Dean Falb — [dejan@zoominternet.net](mailto:dejan@zoominternet.net)  
Conference Minister: Dick Barrett — [ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com](mailto:ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com)  
Regional Pastor: Ralph Reinford — [ralphreinford@gmail.com](mailto:ralphreinford@gmail.com)  
Regional Pastor: Tony Doehrmann — [ocrpwest@gmail.com](mailto:ocrpwest@gmail.com)  
Administrative Secretary: Judy King — [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net)  
Finance Coordinator: Stan Helmuth — [cboh1@zoominternet.net](mailto:cboh1@zoominternet.net)  
Conference Editor: Ann Leaman — [ohioevangel@gmail.com](mailto:ohioevangel@gmail.com)  
Coordinator of Volunteers: Alysia Short — [alysashort@gmail.com](mailto:alysashort@gmail.com)

# 'Race, Church and Change'

Continued from page 1

fore the webinar concluded, viewers were asking for a follow-up discussion. If you missed the first webinar, you can watch a recording at <http://mennoniteusa.org/leadership-development/webinars>.

"Race, Church, and Change, Part 2" will feature the same panelists. They will be discussing a number of follow-up questions, such as the following:

- What roles do racial healing and reconciliation play in being anti-racist?

- How do we begin a conversation about white supremacy?
- What would it look like for MC USA congregations to practice racial reparations?

# Making disciples

Continued from page 1

## WHAT IS THE MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP INITIATIVE (MDI)?

MDI is an initiative launched by Marvin Lorenzana and Mennonite Mission Network to help local congregations engage intentional relational discipling and leadership development. MDI provides coaching and tools that have proven to be effective and highly transferable. One of these tools is a virtual Learning Circle or Huddle and the other is Missional Discipleship Groups.

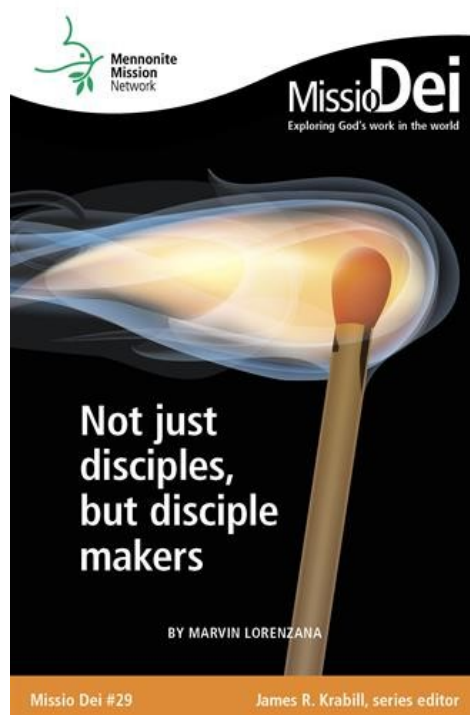
## VIRTUAL LEARNING CIRCLE (MDI COHORT)

- Online coaching for a group of three to five leaders (usually pastors) for a period of nine months.

- Meet twice a month with the purpose of learning missional church theory and practice.
- The MDI coach monitors, encourages, and further equips the implementing leaders.

## MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (MDGS)

- Meet once a week to learn how to walk together as disciples of Jesus
- Provide the context in which discipleship takes place in an intentional and relational way
- Focus on accountability, Scripture reading, and prayer



Marvin Lorenzana of Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) describes the Missional Discipleship Initiative in a booklet titled "Not just disciples, but disciple makers," which is part of MMN's *Missio Dei* series. This booklet raises important questions about the difference between being disciples of Jesus and being Jesus' disciple makers. To download a copy, go to <http://bit.ly/MMNDisciple-Makers>.

- Call participants to pray for others and engage in mission in their own context

Continued on page 5

CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

# Fighting the wrong battles with the wrong weapons

By Dick Barrett  
Conference Minister

**If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. — 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)**

**“Unfortunately, much of the division, divisiveness and polarities have seeped into the Church.”**

Over the past several months we have witnessed several African American people die at the hands of mostly white police officers. As a former police officer, I must say that the videos of the incidents, especially the death of George Floyd, both sicken and greatly sadden me. The incidents are evidence of little progress in race and police-community relations in America over the past 100 years. In many places the response has been almost as tragic with protests in several cities that started as peaceful but predictably turned violent. We witnessed a collective mentality of people of all colors destroying property, stealing, committing arson, attacking police officers, and some officers responding in a like manner.

These events come on the heels of more than a decade of people in America becoming

more and more divided, divisive and polarized on just about every issue one can think of. We are even fighting over whether or not one should wear a mask to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. More important than the issues themselves, whether large or small, all the divisiveness has caused us to turn against other human beings, other human beings who also have been created in the image of God. I have heard people ask this question (or something similar): “Shouldn’t America be better than this?”

Unfortunately, much of the division, divisiveness and polarities have seeped into the Church. All of this has made me ask, “Are we fighting the wrong battles with the wrong weapons?” The apostle Paul said, “Our battle is not against other human beings. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world” (Ephesians 6:12). As the Church we need to be careful that we are not being drawn into the battles and fighting with the same weapons that the world is using.

Recently in my daily devotional reading I came across a quote from Howard Snyder from his book *The Community of the King*, which I think captures well the



role of the Church in relation to the nation of America, and/or any other earthly nation: “The church is not to be understood primarily as a means to the end of transforming society. This would be to trample over the uniqueness and infinite worth to God of the Christian community. Besides, the amazing and profound fact is that the Church most transforms society when it is itself growing and being perfected in the love of Christ. In fact when the Church is taken merely as a means to transform society, very little is accomplished. For in that case the uniqueness of the Church is denied and we enter the battle on the same terms as secular and godless forces. We assume the battle for right and justice can be won by force, by technique, by doing. It can’t! These

Continued on page 5

# Making disciples

Continued from page 3

## FIVE KEY QUESTIONS

Below are five key questions that are used in missional discipleship group meetings each week.

- Where have you seen God at work this week?
- What did you hear God say to you this week during your prayer time?
- What have you learned from the assigned Scripture reading this week?
- How have you shared the love of Jesus with others this week?
- Where have you fallen short this week?

## EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN MDGS

- Meet once a week (for 8-12 months)
- Show vulnerability

- Make sure discipleship is taking place
- Ensure and protect confidentiality

- Facilitators participate in a monthly resourcing meeting

## EXPECTATIONS FOR PASTORS PARTICIPATING IN MDI

- Meet twice a month online for a virtual huddle with your cohort of pastors (for nine months)
- Organize monthly meeting with facilitators of MDGs in your church
- Participate weekly in an MDG

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

If you have any questions or may be interested in participat-



ing in MDI, please contact Jacob Dodson at [pastor@woostermennonite.org](mailto:pastor@woostermennonite.org). The next MDI cycle begins Sept. 1. To sign up, visit [MennoniteMission.net/MDI](http://MennoniteMission.net/MDI).

*Note: For more information about Missional Discipleship Groups, see these articles:*

<https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/2019/07/when-disciples-make-disciples>

<https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/2019/11/wind-of-the-spirit-enlivens-mdi>

The Ohio Conference Cast podcast also includes several episodes about Missional Discipleship Groups. You can find podcasts on the Ohio Conference website at <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.



# Musings

Continued from page 4

very clearly are not the weapons of Christian warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20). Truly Christian transformation of culture comes through Christ-like sacrificial love, community and being."

Regarding the question, "Shouldn't America be better than this?" my answer is, "I'm not sure." What I am sure of is that God expects the Church to be better than any secular

nation and to fight our battles with different weapons — with the love, grace, mercy and peace of God the Father and Jesus Christ our King. ■



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

# Involving young adults in ministry

**How is your congregation ministering to youth and young adults? How are you involving these young people in ministry? Ohio Conference's Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team has been encouraging Ohio Conference congregations to share their stories of how they are relating to youth and young adults.**

In this issue of *Ohio Mennonite Evangel*, we check in with Matthew Reed, pastor of Beech Mennonite Church in Louisville, who has served as mentor for several student ministry interns. Before becoming a pastor, Matt worked as a staffer for the organization Young Life and also spent three years as a middle school history teacher. He has served several congregations as pastor, and began his pastorate at Beech Mennonite in the summer of 2017.

Since 2013 Matt has volunteered with Revive, an interdenominational Christian student group at Kent State University at Stark in Jackson Township, where his wife, Janet, serves as a member of the nursing faculty. Janet is also the faculty adviser for Revive.

**Q:** One thing the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team has been talking about is how we not only just program for youth and young adults, but actually get them integrated into the

whole congregation. Do you have any thoughts about the difference between doing ministry for youth and young adults and involving them in ministry?

**A:** To some extent we do [need to minister to youth]. They're younger so we need to instruct them and that sounds like teaching Sunday school or youth group, but then I think it's also important that we should always be looking for ways we can integrate them into the greater church. Actually, I think Beech does a pretty good job, apart from me. [For example, in worship services] when we've had them help with

things like giving offerings, scripture readings, and with the music and the Praise Team. Those things I think we should always be looking for.

One thing I would say that maybe goes along with that: We need to think about what's meaningful to them, and recognize that in some ways we have to hand our churches over to them over time....We have to be willing to sort of change and adapt to let them carry on the church to their generation....I think it's just taking the time to listen to them. So it's not just us teaching them, but it's us learning from them as well. That posture.

**Q:** How did it develop that you became open to mentoring young people who might think, "Hey, I'd like to see what ministry is like?"

**A:** Well, it sort of helped that we have an open door [with a Christian student group at Kent State University at Stark]. Janet is the faculty advisor for Revive, the Christian group at Kent Stark. We have had a relationship with those people for the past five years. Actually, I was going to Revive even before she became the faculty advisor. I've been involved since I first moved here in 2013. So we have the relationships with the

people. The first ministry intern I had was while I was at East Nishmillen [Church of the

Brethren]. I think I sort of initiated with that person because he was considering ministry. It was a positive experience, and we gave him a little scholarship, so it's kind of a way to help. And he's the one who was a couple of years older than Brendan [another student ministry intern], who then expressed interest to me.

**Q:** So how are youth and young adults being disciplined into leadership at Beech?

**A:** For ministry interns, I have them come and observe and get a sense of this is what it looks like. And then give them an opportunity, whether it's teach-

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**"It's not just us teaching them, but it's us learning from them as well. That posture."**

Continued on page 7

# Young adults

Continued from page 6

ing a Sunday school class or giving a sermon. For these interns, I would walk them through beforehand. And then after they did it, we would do a little evaluation about what went good and what they can work on. So, letting them observe would be the first step, then give them instruction on how it's normally done or the proper way to plan, kind of walking them through with their planning and then evaluate after they do it.

**Q:** What have you learned from your experiences in mentoring young adults?

**A:** I've kind of learned to have reasonable expectations. When I first [worked with a ministry intern] maybe I had a little bit higher expectations of what I thought they could do. I had to see this as more me and the

church investing in them. And we're giving to them rather than [focusing on] what we're getting out of it....Not just for your church or what your church is getting out of it, but you're giving to the greater church because it may be that what they learn from our church they make take somewhere else.

**Q:** Is there anything else you'd like to say on topic of youth and young adults in the congregation?

**A:** I would just like to re-emphasize how important it is that we listen. It's not just what we're giving to them, but also how we're listening to them. That should be a priority of every church, because it is important in the world in which we live, it's a struggle for young people. There are a lot more

pressures that they face than we did 20 or 30 years ago, coming into adulthood.

One other thing maybe I would say: I would encourage you to look [to young adults] beyond your church. For us, I have appreciated this Revive group. And we have Christians from all over the greater Stark County and Summit County areas who go to Kent Stark. If there's a local college, that's a great place to connect. And again, whether or not it'll help your church, it's just this idea of investing in [something] bigger than your church. I think it's just too easy sometimes to think about only our church and not thinking how we serve a greater [range of people]....So again, if there's a college nearby, I encourage any church to consider how you can minister them, whether it's Christian or secular. ■

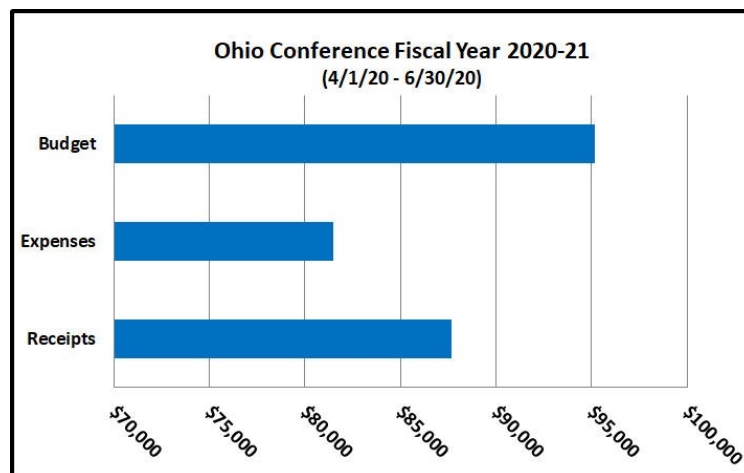
*“If there's a local college, that's a great place to connect. And again, whether or not it'll help your church, it's just this idea of investing in [something] bigger than your church.”*

## Giving to Conference increases during June

Ohio Conference's financial picture improved during June, with much stronger giving from congregations than in May, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Congregational giving in June totaled \$43,884, compared with just \$11,964 during May. During June total income from all sources was \$44,772, and expenses for the month totaled \$28,855, resulting a surplus of \$15,917 for the month.

That surplus was more than enough to put the Conference's



year-to-date operating balance back into positive territory. As of the end of June, the Confer-

ence's operating balance was \$6,187. The Conference's fiscal year ends March 31, 2021. ■

# Engaging immigration: Action steps you can take

A few thoughts from the Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team:

Are you aware that a significant number of immigrants living in Ohio (and the rest of this country) face a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 because of their work in meat processing plants and other factories? Don't forget to **pray** for them.

There's plenty of time left this summer for **reading**. Here is a must-read: [Enrique's Journey](#) by Sonia Nazario. The book tells the gripping story of a young man from Honduras facing seemingly insurmountable odds to locate his mother in the USA after 10 years of separation. Although this book was written 14 years ago, the story continues to repeat itself for thousands of Central American youth.

As we ask ourselves how we might help improve the lives of immigrants, consider the following observations from the author: "In the US, many immigration experts have concluded that the only effective strategy for change is to bolster the economies of immigrant-sending countries.... Forgiving foreign debt would allow more of their country's resources to go into development. Implementing U.S. trade policies that give a strong preference to goods from immigrant-sending countries would help spur growth in certain industries, such as textiles, that employ (many women in Central America). Others believe the United

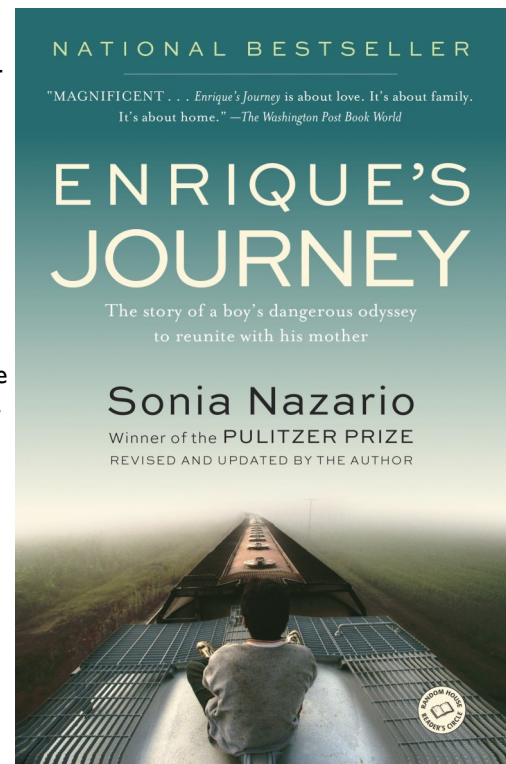
States, notoriously stingy among industrialized nations in per capita gifts of foreign aid, should boost donations. Individuals... can support nongovernmental organizations that encourage job-creating small businesses or improve the availability of education....

"Most immigrants would rather stay in their home countries with their extended families. Who wants to leave home and everything he or she knows for something foreign, not knowing if he or she will ever return?

Not many. What would ensure that more women can stay home, with their children, where they want to be?... (One Honduran woman) says, simply, 'What would it take to keep people from leaving (their homeland)? There would have to be jobs (here). Jobs that pay okay. That's it.'"

Wondering how you can make a difference? Here are some **action steps**:

- Pay a little more for fair trade coffee from Central America.
- [Donate to Mennonite Central Committee \(MCC\)](#), designating your gift for "immigration issues."
- Shop at [Ten Thousand Villages](#).



- Call your Senators and your member of the House of Representatives to voice your support for immigration reform.

*Note: At the 2019 Annual Conference Assembly of the Ohio Conference, delegates overwhelmingly passed a resolution on immigration. That resolution contained both individual and congregational components, along with suggestions for contacting elected representatives on state and national levels. Delegates agreed to pray for the Spirit's leading in seeking to minister to the needs of immigrants. To read the entire resolution, see <https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/resources/immigration>. ■*



# MCC plans centennial livestream celebration

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) will celebrate its centennial year with a virtual event on Sunday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. EDT.

MCC will be broadcasting live from Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana, the site of an important first meeting in the formation of MCC when representatives of various Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren groups met in July 1920.

This livestream event will feature a combination of live and



pre-recorded speakers and music. Please use this link to watch the event: [mcc.org/gl-centennial-livestream](https://mcc.org/gl-centennial-livestream).

The featured speaker for this event will be Sibonokuhle Ncube, director of the Brethren in Christ Compassionate and Development Services

in Zimbabwe, an MCC partner. Cyneatha Millsaps and Quinn Brenneke, co-pastors at Prairie Street and MCC alumni, will lead worship. MCC U.S. executive director Ron Byler will help share from MCC's global history, while musicians from Faith Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana, will share music.

## Apply for Ministry Grants by Aug. 10

Is your congregation thinking about applying for an Ohio Conference Ministry Grant?

**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. 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.

## Women in Leadership Retreat planned for February

Save the date: Ohio Conference will hold a Women in Leadership Retreat Feb. 5-6, 2021, at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin. The input speaker for this retreat will be Rebecca Slough, academic dean emerita and pro-

fessor emerita of worship and the arts at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Retreat planners are encouraging every Ohio Conference congregation to send at least one woman to this retreat.



## ABOUT PEOPLE

### 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. ■

### Bluffton University

Five students from Ohio Conference congregations have earned bachelor's degrees from Bluffton University in 2020. The University will hold an in-person commencement ceremony on Saturday, July 18, at Salzman Stadium.

**Emma Cobb** of Archbold earned bachelor's degrees in music and nutrition and dietetics. Cobb was the recipient of the Music Distinguished Scholar and Distinguished Performer Awards, and she graduated as a member of the C. Henry Smith Scholar Program and the 2019-20 Pi Delta Society. She is a member of Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker.

**John Hipp** of Millersburg earned a bachelor's degree in marketing. He is a member of Millersburg Mennonite Church.

**Michael Short** of Archbold earned a bachelor's degree in information technology with a business administration minor. Short was the recipient of the Information Technology Distinguished Scholar Award, and he graduated as a member of the C. Henry Smith Scholar Program. He is a member of Central Mennonite Church in Archbold.

**Ethan Zaerr** of Archbold earned bachelor's degrees in chemistry and physics with an

education studies minor. Zaerr graduated as a member of the C. Henry Smith Scholar Program. He is a member of Central Mennonite Church in Archbold.

**Rowena Zuercher** of Apple Creek earned bachelor's degrees in social work and Spanish. Zuercher was the recipient of the Spanish Distinguished Scholar Award, and she graduated as a member of the C. Henry Smith Scholar Program and the 2019-20 Pi Delta Society. She is a member of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron. ■

Continued on page 11

## ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 10

### Hesston College

Three students from Ohio Conference congregations earned degrees from Hesston College this spring. The college held an online commencement ceremony on May 23.

**Willow Baer** earned an associate of arts degree. Her home congregation is Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville.

**Jacob Bontrager** earned an associate of general studies degree. His home congregation

is Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman.

**Jack Shingler** earned an associate of general studies degree. His home congregation is Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman. ■

### Eastern Mennonite University

Ten students from Ohio Conference congregations earned degrees from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, Virginia, this spring. EMU plans to hold its 2020 commencement ceremony sometime during the fall.

Graduates from the Ohio Conference include the following individuals:

**Miriam Beck** earned a bachelor's degree in nursing. Her home congregation is Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold.

**Elliot Bowen** earned a bachelor's degree in environmental sustainability. His home congregation is First Mennonite Church in Canton.

**Emma Hoover** earned a bachelor's degree in history and

social science with licensure in secondary education. Her home congregation is Huber Mennonite Church in New Carlisle.

**Emily Hostetler** earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a licensure in secondary education. Her home congregation is Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman.

**Kate Kauffman** earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. Her home congregation is Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold.

**Melissa Kinkaid** earned a bachelor's degree in biology. Her home congregation is Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker.

**Caroline Lehman** earned a bachelor's degree in biology.

Her home congregation is Life-Bridge Community Church in Dover.

**Anna Ressler** earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. Her home congregation is Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron.

**Hannah Wheeler** earned a bachelor's degree in environmental sustainability. Her home congregation is Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker.

**Emma Yoder** earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and history. Her home congregation is Berlin Mennonite Church.

Please note: EMU's records of church/conference affiliation rely on the accuracy of information provided by the individual students. ■

### Goshen College

Four students from Ohio Conference congregations earned bachelor's degrees from Goshen College this spring. The college held a virtual commencement service on April 26.

**Anna Marie Steiner** of West Liberty graduated with a degree in English. She is the daughter of Doug and Ellen Steiner and at-

tends Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty.

**Anna Breckbill** of Kidron graduated with a degree in film production. She is the daughter of Bruce and Jill Detweiler Breckbill and attends Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron.

**Megan Marie Graber** of Stryker graduated with a degree

in nursing. She is the daughter of Karen and Joe Graber and attends Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker.

**Jaelyn Mariah Rufenacht** of Pettisville graduated with a degree in exercise science. She is the daughter of Brad Rufenacht and attends Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold. ■

## Conference Calendar

### JUL

- 15-18 Family Camp, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 26 Mennonite Central Committee Centennial Service of Celebration, online event
- 26-29 Family Camp, Camp Luz, Kidron

### AUG

- 13 Leadership Team Meeting, via GoToMeeting
- 27 Ministry Development Team Meeting, via GoToMeeting

### SEPT

- 11-13 Women's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 26-Oct. 3 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Auction, online event

### OCT

- 10 Healthy Boundaries 201 Training, SpringHaven Counseling Center, Dundee

### NOV

- 6-8 Joy in the Journey: An Event for the Wives of Ohio Conference Pastors, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin, Ohio
- 7 Healthy Boundaries 201 Training, Salem Mennonite Church, Elida

### FEB 2021

- 5-6 Women in Leadership Retreat, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin

### MAR 2021

- 4-5 Missional Conference, Central Christian School, Kidron
- 5-6 Annual Conference Assembly, Central Christian School, Kidron

spond to their local contexts.

**Mennonite Central Committee, with support from Common-Word**, has launched a resource website addressing issues of abuse for faith communities and their members. The website includes resources on intimate partner abuse, healthy relationships, sexual violence, clergy sexual abuse, and how to offer support to survivors of abuse and assist those perpetrating harm. To access these resources, go to [abuseresponseandprevention.ca](http://abuseresponseandprevention.ca).

**Consider being an Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) participant** for the 2020-2021 MVS year. The application deadline has been extended until the end of July. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/MVS](http://MennoniteMission.net/MVS) to learn more and apply!

**Ann Graber Hershberger**, an emeritus professor of nursing at Eastern Mennonite University, has been named executive director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. She will begin her new role in October 2020. See more at <https://bit.ly/MCCLeadershipTransition>. ■

OHIO MENNONITE  
**EVANGEL**  
*News & Views of Ohio Conference*

For more Ohio Conference news, visit the Ohio Conference website: [ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://ohiomennoniteconference.org)

## Back page briefings...

**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 re-