

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Pastors and congregations — Ohio Conference needs your help!

For a variety of reasons, the number of men and women who are graduating from seminaries and pursuing pastoral ministry positions has been decreasing. This trend has resulted in fewer candidates for pastoral openings throughout the Ohio Conference.

The Leadership Development Resource Team is currently exploring both new and traditional ways of identifying those whom God may be calling into pastoral ministry. There was a time in the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition when pastors were called from within their congregations. Even when these individuals were not called to serve in their home congregation, many churches still played an important role in identifying, mentoring, and sending out pastoral leaders.

Over the next six months we are inviting each of our congregations to try to identify two or three individuals who they believe have the gifts for pastoral ministry. These persons might be a high school youth, or an adult of any age. There are programs available, both traditional and non-traditional, for people of all ages to explore and test their call to ministry. Please contact one of the members of the Leadership Development Resource Team (listed below) with the names of the people you have been able to identify.

Leadership Development Resource Team

Rebecca Kauffman, Pastor, Bethel Mennonite Church,

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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.

Worship perspective

The November issue of *The Parish Paper* focuses on the topic of building relationships in livestream worship. Author Dana Horrell attempts to answer the question, “If worship is relational, what can be done to build relationships in livestream worship?”

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Enrollment is open for The Corinthian Plan

It's time to think about health insurance for the coming year. Open enrollment for The Corinthian Plan, Mennonite Church USA-sponsored health coverage, is Nov. 1–Dec. 31 for a Jan. 1, 2021, start date. The goal of [The Corinthian Plan](#) is to provide health care access for as large a group of pastors and church workers in Mennonite Church USA as possible. For more information, please contact the regional Corinthian Plan advocate for congregations in the Ohio Conference, Joe Christophel. You may contact him at 574-361-2984 or joechristophel@gmail.com.

Together in Worship offers worship resources

Are you looking for Anabaptist worship resources? Together in Worship (togetherinworship.net) is a new website containing a wide variety of free worship resources. A partnership with CommonWord, Together in Worship is a collection of free Anabaptist digital worship materials. More than 1,500 resources are available so far.

Resource categories include words for worship, music, video, visual art, and teaching. Together in Worship is also a platform for individuals and communities to create and contribute resources. Submissions are welcome. See <https://togetherinworship.net/Content/tiw-submissions> for details.

MMN webinar to share vision for the future

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) is hosting a webinar with MMN Executive Director Mike Sherrill on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m.

The webinar will focus on the theme “Adapting to the pandemic and innovating for the future.” Participants will hear how MMN is swiftly adapting to current circumstances, and they will get updates on MMN’s current work and learn about the organization’s vision to prepare for an unfolding future.

This webinar will take place on the Zoom videoconferencing platform. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/Nov17MMNWebinar>.

Journey helps individuals explore ministry

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program.

Now is the time to nudge someone to grow into a new ministry. This program from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary supports learners as they explore spiritual leadership in their local churches and communities and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry through online study and meetings with a dedicated mentor. Apply for Winter 2021 by Dec. 15 and save \$100! For details, see ams.edu/journey.



Prayer perspective

A prayer request from Dan King of the Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team: Please continue to pray for the millions of immigrants in our country. In addition to the ongoing challenges they face under current U.S. immigration policies, as a group they are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Please keep Ohio Conference congregations, pastors and related organizations in your prayers. The November-December issue of *Prayer Prompter* is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Local perspective

Inlet Mennonite Church in Wauseon has called Sarah Short of Central Mennonite Church to serve on Inlet’s pastoral team beginning Nov. 1. Also on the pastoral team is Gary Stuckey, who has been serving Inlet as an interim pastor along with his wife, Sandy.

Perspective deadlines

Nov. 16 for Nov. 19 issue
Nov. 30 for Dec. 3 issue
