

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Two winter regional meetings are rescheduled

Please note: Two of the winter regional meetings for delegates have been rescheduled. The revised meeting schedule is listed below.

Ohio Conference will hold online winter meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. Four regional meetings are planned:



- Tuesday, Feb. 2 — Wayne County/Holmes County
- Thursday, Feb. 4 — West Central/Southwest Ohio
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 — Northeast Ohio
- Thursday, Feb. 11 — Northwest Ohio

All meetings will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Login information will be shared later.

Missional conference to focus on the rural church

Pastor and author Brad Roth will be the featured speaker for Ohio Conference’s 2021 missional conference on March 4 and 5. The theme of this online event will be “Come and See! The Mission of the Church in God’s Country.”

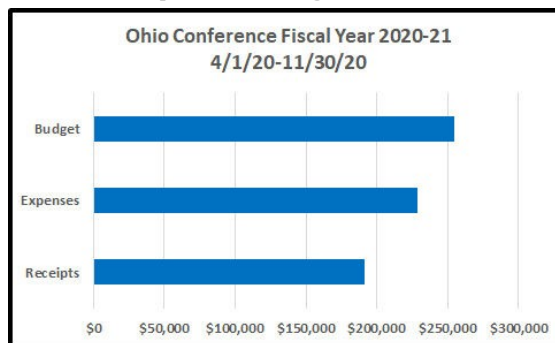
Please see the enclosed brochure for more information. To register online, go to <https://bit.ly/2021MissionalConference>.

Giving to Conference drops during November

Giving to Ohio Conference dropped in November, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Receipts for November totaled just \$17,320, including

\$11,956 in giving from congregations. In contrast, receipts for October totaled \$32,631, including \$30,700 in giving from congregations.



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.

Prayer perspective

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is hosting two online prayer hour gatherings on Jan. 15 and 16 for Mennonite church members from around the world to pray together. Both gatherings will include a chance for participants to separate into smaller language-based rooms to pray together. To learn more, see <https://bit.ly/2021MWCPrayer>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Expenses for November totaled \$31,680. As a result, the Conference had a deficit of \$14,360 for the month. As of the end of November, the year-to-date deficit was \$36,862. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2021.

‘Thriving together’ is conference theme

ELKHART, Indiana — Offering church leaders space to “be” while learning how to thrive as leaders and congregations in the midst of the unprecedented disruption of COVID-19 will be the focus of [Pastors and Leaders 2021](#), an annual conference of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana. The event, which will be held online for the first time, will run from 7 p.m. EST on March 1 to 2 p.m. EST on March 4.

“Thriving Together” is the theme of this year’s conference. Event planners want to give pastors and other leaders the opportunity to “get away” and recharge in the midst of a difficult and demanding time, says Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, Ph.D., AMBS dean of Lifelong Learning and a member of the planning committee.

This year, thanks to funding from the Lilly Endowment, AMBS is offering participants mini-grants for non-registration expenses that will help remove barriers to full participation (e.g. childcare, technology needs). To learn more, see <https://bit.ly/2021PastorsLeaders>.

AMBS offers worship materials to congregations

Recognizing the toll that COVID-19 has had on pastors and worship planners over the last eight months, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is offering several elements of a worship service for congregational use.

Included are a call to worship and a prayer, as well as videos containing a scripture presentation, songs and a sermon featuring the story of Jesus in the temple as a boy (Luke 2:41-52). These elements would fit particularly well on Jan. 3, 2021, for those who are following the narrative lectionary. However, the message of the sermon is broadly focused on the topic of faith formation, so it could easily be used at another time. Go to <https://bit.ly/2021EpiphanyResources> to download these resources.

Call for immigration reform renewed

A note from the Immigration Resource Team: The Evangelical Immigration Table soon will be introducing a series of policy recommendations for the new Congress and new presidential administration. These recommendations will be guided by biblical principles, but one core element of those proposals will be renewing a call for an earned legalization process for undocumented immigrants based on the principle of restitution, creating a process that would both keep families together and facilitate family reunification while also honoring the law. See <https://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com/restitution> for details. You are invited to add your name to this call now.

Self-care perspective

“*Wise Well-Being Practices*” is the title of a recent guest post by Matt Bloom on April Yamasaki’s blog, “When You Work for the Church.” Bloom is director of the [Flourishing in Ministry Project](#) and a professor at Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame. In his article, Bloom examines how the pandemic has made ministry harder and gives suggestions for what to do about it. See his advice at <https://bit.ly/WiseWell-Being>.

Leadership perspective

The Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning at Hesston College will host a special online Weekend College event for pastors, congregational leaders and conference leaders on Feb. 20. The event is titled “What If They Don’t Come Back? Pastoring through COVID.” Event attendance is open to all. Those interested in attending can register online at www.hesston.edu/weekendcollege.

Perspective deadlines

Jan. 5 for Jan. 7 issue
Jan. 19 for Jan. 21 issue
