

# Perspective



[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

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## **Online spiritual direction retreat set for Feb. 16**

Ohio Conference will hold “The Joy of Rest,” a spiritual direction retreat for pastors, on Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

Led by pastor, teacher and spiritual director Dan Schrock, this retreat will focus on spiritual practices, including sabbath. The registration fee for this event is \$15. For more information, please see the event flier included with this issue of *Perspective*. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/TheJoyofRest>.

## **Four winter delegate meetings planned**

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

- Tuesday, Jan. 26 — Northeast Ohio
- Thursday, Jan. 28 — Northwest Ohio
- Tuesday, Feb. 2 — Wayne County/Holmes County
- Thursday, Feb. 4 — West Central/Southwest Ohio



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

## **Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday is Jan. 24**

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) invites all Anabaptist congregations to celebrate Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday on Jan. 24, 2021. Each year MWC provides worship planning resources for use on Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday. Worship materials for 2021 were prepared by Asian church leaders on the theme “Following Jesus across barriers,” based on the texts Isaiah 55:1-6, Psalm 27, John 4:1-42 and Philippians 2:1-11. This theme is also the theme of the upcoming MWC Assembly scheduled for 2022. A copy of these worship materials is included with this issue of *Perspective*.



***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.***

## **Report perspective**

**R**eports for the Ohio Conference Annual Report Book are due this month. If you have been asked to submit a report for the Annual Report Book, please send it to Judy King at [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net) by **Friday, Dec. 18.**

## **Please distribute Perspective copies to:**

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

## **MCC podcast tells stories of migration**

Check out the new “On the Move – En Movimiento” podcast from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) that uses storytelling to challenge current narratives of migration. In the first episode, Ron Byler, recently retired executive director for MCC U.S., reflects on his January 2020 pilgrimage along the southern U.S. border. Ron drove and walked along the border wall and visited with communities on both sides of the border. He shares about the communities, the people and what this pilgrimage has meant for him. For more information and to listen to the podcast, visit [mcc.org/move-en-movimiento](http://mcc.org/move-en-movimiento).

## **Explore Anabaptist approaches to scripture**

Online through AMBS: **Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture (Feb. 10 – March 23)**. Join Loren Johns, Ph.D., to study ways in which 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture both similarly to and differently from Catholics and other Protestants. This six-week online short course from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary now includes weekly video conversations with Loren. Sign up by Jan. 13 and save \$50. See [www.ams.edu/shortcourses](http://www.ams.edu/shortcourses) for details.

## **Voices Together dedication is Dec. 13**

A reminder for music lovers: MennoMedia is holding an online dedication launch event for the new *Voices Together* hymnal on Dec. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. ET. The event will include both a time of worship and an overview of the creation process for the hymnal. Although the event is free, registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Register at <https://bit.ly/VoicesTogetherLaunch>.



## **Peace Center plans online workshops**

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) is offering two of its workshops, *Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches* and *Healthy Congregations*, online during January. Both workshops will take place on Zoom.

*Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches* will take place Jan. 16 from 8 a.m. ET to 3:30 p.m. ET. Although a normal part of life, conflict is usually seen as something negative. Workshop participants will acquire the knowledge and skills to transform conflict into a force for positive change and spiritual growth.

*Healthy Congregations* will be held Jan. 23 from 7:30 a.m. ET to 3:30 p.m. ET. Workshop participants will learn ways to minimize or prevent destructive conflict, manage negative reactivity, and help their church stay focused on its true mission and purpose.

Groups can save up to \$50 per person, compared to the regular individual rate, when they register all together by the discount deadline. Please see <https://lmpeacecenter.org> for details.

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## **Grant perspective**

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Pastor Wellness Grants reminder: Ohio Conference is encouraging all Ohio Conference congregations to provide their pastors with an extra Sunday off. The Conference is offering all congregations a \$250 grant for this purpose. Please see <https://bit.ly/PastorWellnessGrant> for details. All congregations that choose to pick up the cost themselves are asked to contact Administrative Assistant Judy King at [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net) and let her know which Sunday they were able to give their pastor off.

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## **Prayer perspective**

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Ohio Conference invites you to remember its Gifts Discernment Ministry Team in your prayers. Composed of 11 members, the team is currently working on finding volunteers to fill vacancies for the next Conference year. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as they continue their work.

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## **Perspective inserts**

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Included with this issue of *Perspective* are bulletin announcements for December from Mennonite Mission Network and the December issue of *The Parish Paper*.

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## **Perspective deadlines**

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Dec. 14 for Dec. 17 issue  
Jan. 5 for Jan. 7 issue

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