

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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ACA delegates meet together on Zoom

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Conference held its 2021 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) virtually rather than in person. On March 6 delegates met on Zoom for business sessions and worship.



One hundred thirty-three people registered for ACA, including 122 delegates from 32 congregations. The offering at this year's ACA was given toward Ohio Conference's general fund. The total given was \$2,069, including giving from delegates during the registration process and during the ACA worship service.

Just prior to ACA, Ohio Conference held a missional conference during the evenings of March 4 and 5. The featured presenter was Brad Roth, pastor and author of *God's Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural Church*. One hundred nineteen people participated in the missional conference.

Recordings of the missional conference and ACA will be posted on the Ohio Conference website once they become available.

Membership guideline documents now on Conference website

During Annual Conference Assembly, Conference Minister Dick Barrett shared a statement regarding the membership guidelines for Mennonite Church USA. A copy of this statement is available on the Ohio Conference website, along with a copy of the membership guidelines, and other related documents. To see these documents, go to http://bit.ly/ACA_Documents.

Giving is lower during February

Giving to Ohio Conference decreased during February, but the Conference managed to stay out of deficit territory, according to figures provided by Stan Helmuth, Conference financial coordinator.

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.

Pastoral perspective

A resource for pastors: Shepherd Heart Ministry Consulting is a Mennonite/Anabaptist-connected group that provides clergy support and spiritual direction. Shepherd Heart provides clergy continued education on issues relating to emotional well-being, pastoral counseling, and congregational health. Learn more at <https://www.shepherdheartconsulting.com>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

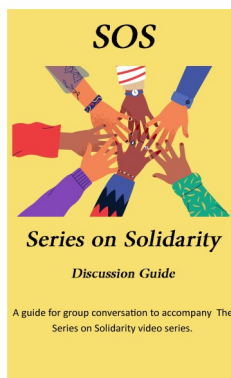
- Pastor(s)
- Church chairperson
- Youth sponsor(s)
- Delegates
- Duplicate for other church leaders

Receipts for February totaled \$15,068, a significant decrease from the amount received during January, \$48,939. Expenses for the month totaled \$30,037, resulting in a deficit of \$14,969 for February. Even so, the Conference ended the month with an operating balance of \$4,886 for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2021. We thank all congregations and individuals who contribute toward the work of the Conference.

Video series promotes discussion

A group of Ohio Conference congregations from Wayne County has joined together to create a video series focused on intercultural ministry and racial reconciliation. *Series on Solidarity* is a six-part series of videos and accompanying questions for small group discussions. The goal of this series is to facilitate understanding and to promote the equality of all people. The Ohio Conference supported this project with a ministry grant in 2020. For links to these videos and the discussion guide, see the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/SeriesonSolidarity>.



Online workshops begin this week

Ohio Conference is offering a series of online workshops beginning this week. These workshops will take place on Thursday evenings on Zoom, beginning at 7 p.m.

For information about these workshops, please go to <http://bit.ly/2021OnlineWorkshops>. Please register online at <https://bit.ly/OhioConferenceEvents> by the Monday before the workshop.

Peace center offers mediation training refresher

A note from Lombard Mennonite Peace Center: For those who have already taken our *Mediation Skills Training Institute (MSTI)*, we are pleased to offer a new one-day event: the *MSTI Refresher Course*. Sessions are available on Tuesday, May 11, and Saturday, June 12. The fee is \$99, and the event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

The full five-day version of *MSTI* is also available on May 3-7, June 21-25, Aug. 2-6, Oct. 11-15, and Nov. 15-19, 2021. The session in August will include the option for in-person attendance in the Chicago area. Registration for all events being offered by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is open now at www.LMPeaceCenter.org/ticketspice. Questions? Please consult the *MSTI* Brochure (included with this issue of *Perspective*), call 630-627-0507, or send an email to Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org.

Education perspective

Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) is continuing its search for a new executive director. The deadline to apply is March 31. For more details, please see <http://bit.ly/MEAExecDirector>.

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A number of MEA-affiliated schools are seeking staff members. Please see <http://bit.ly/MEAJobs3-21> for more information on these positions.

Conflict perspective

Online Anabaptist Short Course: **Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 14 – May 25.** Join Betty Pries, Ph.D., to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online noncredit AMBS course. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by March 17 and save \$50. See ams.edu/shortcourses.

Financial perspective

Evelin Gonzalez, a financial consultant at Everence, discusses the importance of an emergency savings fund during a pandemic: <http://bit.ly/Everence-EmergencySavings>.

Perspective deadlines

March 23 for March 25 issue
April 6 for April 8 issue
