

# OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

MAY/JUNE 2021



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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## Leadership Team affirms women in ministry

Several months ago, the Ohio Conference Leadership Development Resource Team surveyed pastors and leaders of Ohio Conference congregations about attitudes regarding women in ministry. The team has shared their findings with the Ohio Conference Leadership Team. Below is a response from the Leadership Team:

**The Leadership Team has gratefully received the work of the Leadership Development Resource Team's Summary of Women in Ministry Survey and commends it to our member congregations and our delegate body.**

**The Leadership Team strongly affirms the leadership of women in all areas of congregational and Conference life, including that of a lead or solo pastor. This affirmation aligns with the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, which serves as the guide for our common teaching, practice and life together.**

The Leadership Team commits to work with the Leadership Development Re-



source Team to implement the recommendations outlined in this report, including the development of women for pastoral leadership from our member congregations as well as actively recruiting women from outside of the Conference to fill open pastoral positions. However, if

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## Retreat to focus on equipping youth workers

**Coming Oct. 15-17, 2021: Ohio Conference is excited to announce its next youth worker retreat — Equipped for the Journey: The who, what and how for youth leaders. This event will be held at Camp Luz in Kidron.**

Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church

USA, will be leading the retreat.

Participants will be challenged to settle into who God is calling them to be as leaders and to allow discipleship to equip and call them to be mentors of others.

They also will be challenged to take time to see God's



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## Where are you going next on your journey?

**Are you paying attention to what the Spirit is saying to you and calling you to do for the next stage of your life?**

The special guest for [the most recent episode of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast](#), Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, would encourage everyone to consider that question.

Jewel Gingerich Longenecker is dean of lifelong learning at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana. In this episode, she shares some of her faith journey with podcast hosts Corben Weaver

Boshart and Ramon Lianez. They also discuss the many ways that people can pursue theological education through AMBS, especially the seminary's Journey program.

Ramon is currently participating in the Journey program. Listen to this podcast to hear what he has to say about the experience.

Journey is a program for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. Ohio Conference is one of three conferences which partners

**The Ohio  
Conference  
Cast**



with hosts Corben Weaver Boshart and Ramon Lianez

with AMBS for the Journey program. For more information, visit

[www.amsb.edu/journey](http://www.amsb.edu/journey).

You can listen to this podcast on [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#) or find it on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>. ■

## Workshop recordings are online

Ohio Conference held a series of free online workshops during March and April. Topics ranged from conflict resolution to evangelism to caring for God's creation.

If you missed these workshops, don't worry. You can watch recordings of these meetings on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/ACAWorkshops>. ■



### Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

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# Women in ministry

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there is to be tangible change in the numbers of women serving as pastoral leaders, it will require not only the leadership of the Conference but also the active participation of congregations.

The ongoing shortage of pastoral leaders necessitates that congregations take an active role in developing and calling forth the gifts of both women and men to serve our churches. We acknowledge that far too often women have not received the same attention or investment in their development, and we urge churches to actively identify women who have the gifts and capabilities to serve the church.

We encourage congregations to consider the following:

- To review with your leadership team the



results of the survey and to discuss what, if any, barriers might exist in the congregation for female leaders.

- To conduct a Bible study or Sunday school class that biblically affirms the gifts of women for pastoral ministry.

- To regularly preach sermons that highlight women in the Bible.
- To consider women in the congregation who have capabilities and gifts for pastoral minis-

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*“If there is to be tangible change in the numbers of women serving as pastoral leaders, it will require not only the leadership of the Conference but also the active participation of congregations.”*

# Equipped for the Journey

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blessings during their journey. The retreat also will include times of worship, fellowship, team building and resourcing from other youth workers.

This retreat is designed for both youth pastors and volunteer youth workers.

**We strongly encourage your congregation to GIFT this retreat to your youth workers.** The cost of the retreat is only \$125 per person for Ohio Conference congregations due to the generous underwriting of the Ohio Conference Ministry Development

Team. In addition, a group discount is available. If three people from your congregation register, the fourth will attend at no additional cost.

For more information, including the retreat schedule, please see the [retreat brochure](#). We hope that you will prayerfully consider equipping your youth workers with this weekend away for learning and encouragement.

To register for the retreat, please go to <http://bit.ly/2021YouthWorkerRetreat>. ■



Glen Guyton, the executive director of Mennonite Church USA, will be the speaker for the youth worker retreat at Camp Luz. He is the author of *IDEAL ME: Discovering Your Call in a Cluttered World* and *Reawakened: How Your Congregation Can Spark Lasting Change*.

CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

# Love God, love others, make disciples

By Dick Barrett  
Conference Minister

**Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. — Romans 13:8**

Over the past year or so, Ohio Conference’s Leadership Team, with affirmation from both our pastors and delegates at regional gatherings, has developed a new mission statement to guide us as a conference over the next several years: *The Mission of Ohio Conference is to gather, equip and send our congregations by the power of the Holy Spirit to live out God’s Greatest Commandments (Mark 12:29-31) and Jesus’ Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).* To put it in layman’s terms, “The mission and purpose of Ohio Conference is to Gather, Equip and Send our congregations to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.”

As I have spent some time recently reflecting on that for which all Christians are called to do — Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ — it seems to me that there is a progression in that triad. We need to first love God. And we can’t love God until we realize how much God loves us and what exactly he has done for us in the sacrifice of His own Son, Jesus Christ. It is only when we come to love

God because He first loved us that we can truly love others. When I say “others,” I mean those people who we are closest to, our fellow sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ, those who we disagree with, and even our enemies. And we can’t make disciples of Jesus until we love others in the same way He loves others.

There seems to be a strong connection between our love for others, especially for fellow Christians, and unity in the church. God commands both. In Jesus’ great priestly prayer found in John 17 he also connects love for others and unity, saying the world will know how much God loves his people when they are brought together in complete unity (John 17:23). Although Jesus prayed for unity, and as often as we sing the song “They’ll know we are Christians by our love,” that unity is not what the world knows of the church today.

Francis Chan, in his most recent book titled *Until Unity*, writes, “Christians are currently the most divided faith group on earth, and there isn’t a close second ... we have thousands of denominations and ministries, each believing their theology or methodology is superior. The saddest part of this is that our Savior was crucified to end our divisions, commands us to be united, and says we will impact the world when we become one.”



As a conference of Mennonite churches in Ohio and the surrounding states we face a difficult year ahead as we try to answer questions about what it means to be Mennonite today and our future affiliation with Mennonite Church USA (MC USA). The reality is that we have many congregational members and pastors who have very little affinity with who they believe they are in Christ and where they believe MC USA is at today. On the other end of the spectrum, we have some congregational members and pastors who have a strong sense of affinity with MC USA.

As conference minister, I see my most important ministry being the ministry of reconciliation. Actually, I see it as the most important ministry of all Christians (2 Corinthians 5). What does Ohio Conference need to do to stay united and reconciled to one another in Christ? First and foremost, we

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“As conference minister, I see my most important ministry being the ministry of reconciliation. Actually, I see it as the most important ministry of all Christians.”

# Women in ministry

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**try/congregational leadership and to actively work at developing those gifts by providing opportunities and mentoring.**

- **To regularly provide opportunities for women within and outside the congregation to preach. This is particularly important if the primary pastor in the congregation is a male. Pulpits continue to be seen as the place of pastoral power in many churches, and to provide opportunities for women to preach enlarges the vision of who are bearers of the word.**

We encourage leaders and pastors of our churches to prayerfully reflect on the results of this survey and to consider how the above suggestions might be implemented in your individual congregation as well as taking part in the wider Conference initiatives based on this survey. As a Conference we are committed to ensuring that women continue to be represented on all of our leadership and ministry teams, as well as in speaking roles at Conference gatherings. When the gifts of all our members, regardless of their gender, are affirmed and called forth, we honor Christ Jesus and participate in creating communities that reflect Christ's reign.

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team

Terry Shue, moderator  
Paula Snyder Belousek, assistant moderator

Vickie Yoder, Credentialing Ministry chair  
Alvis Pettker, Gifts Discernment Ministry chair  
Andrew Blount, Stewardship Ministry chair  
Dick Barrett, conference minister

*Editor's note: Eighty-five pastors and leaders from 27 congregations responded to the Leadership Development Resource Team's survey regarding women in ministry.*

*Many respondents expressed strong support for women to serve in leadership, both in general and specifically as pastors.*

*To read the Leadership Development Resource Team's summary report, including their general observations, conclusions, and suggestions for moving forward, go to the Ohio Conference website:*

<http://bit.ly/WomeninMinistrySurvey>. ■

# Musings

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need to recognize how important love and unity are in the eyes of God. Loving others the way God loves us and unity do not come easily. In fact, on our own they are impossible for us to achieve. They are made possible only through the work of the Holy Spirit, which means that prayer needs to be

a primary focus for us as a Conference in the year ahead.

Francis Chan makes the claim in his book *Until Unity* that our common mission is supposed to lead us towards unity. If that is indeed the case, then my suggestion is that in addition to prayer we focus on the three parts of our new mission state-

ment: Loving God, Loving Others and Making Disciples of Jesus. In the words of the Apostle Paul, let us remember that as Christians there is only one debt that remains outstanding, "the continuing debt to love one another."

With the Love of Christ,  
Dick Barrett ■

# Missional festival is canceled

*Engaging Mission 2022: A missional festival for all ages, which was scheduled for June 24-26, 2022, has been canceled. Ohio Conference will continue to assess its objectives and goals regarding this festival and other missional events. We encourage*



you to make plans now to join us for our next missional con-

ference, which will be held in March of 2022. More details will be available this fall. ■

# Pastor-Spouse Retreat planned for fall

Ohio Conference will hold a Pastor-Spouse Retreat Nov. 12-14 at the Mills Park Hotel in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

The theme of this event will be "Live and Laugh." Pastors and their spouses are invited to find the joy in the everyday through laughter and stories. The weekend will include a show by comedian Shawn Reynolds, as well as free time and times for peer-led discussion and worship.

The registration cost is only \$240 per couple, thanks to underwriting from the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team, as well as sponsors including Everence, Hummel Group, Lehman's, Mennonite Mutual, Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville and Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty.

Due to the size of the venue, a limited number of rooms are



available for this event.

To register, go to <http://bit.ly/2021Pastor-Spouse>. ■

## RESOURCE CORNER

### Hymnal-related resources are online

**By Ann Leaman**  
**Ohio Conference**  
**Resource Advocate**

This month I would like to highlight a resource from MennoMedia. The publisher has created a special website with information about the new hymnal *Voices Together*. Found at <http://voicestogetherhymnal.org>, the website offers a guide for introducing *Voices Together* to your congregation. In addition, this

website has a wide variety of resources related to the new hymnal, including teaching videos of the songs, indexes, essays, stories about particular songs, and copyright information.

Speaking of copyright information, MennoMedia has assembled a comprehensive resource to answer all of your copyright questions. Up-to-date information, downloadable pdfs,



and specifics about the *Voices Together* audio recordings and projection edition can all be found at <http://bit.ly/MennoMediaCopyrightAnswers>. ■

# MDS shower trailer ‘restoring dignity and hope’ for homeless individuals in Colorado

From the generous hands of the Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Hartville, Ohio, a shower trailer traveled to Denver, Colorado, where it will help homeless people restore a sense of dignity in their lives.

Volunteers from the church built and used the shower trailer in 2012 when they helped Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) rebuild a church in Alabama. When they realized the trailer was sitting unused, they decided to donate it to MDS.

“We thought someone else would need it more than we did,” explained church member Dan Dutcher. “So we put on new tires and fixed the brakes.”

While MDS did not need the shower trailer in its vehicle fleet at this time, MDS regional operations coordinator Jeff Koller knew of an organization that did: Showers for All, a non-profit organization on the outskirts of Denver, Colorado, which provides laundry and shower services to those who are otherwise unable to access them due to homelessness or poverty.



“I knew that shower availability is always a concern in this ministry,” said Koller.

Another church member volunteered to tow the trailer — which houses four shower rooms, a washer and a dryer — to Colorado. It arrived in mid-February into the hands of Kellen Berrigan, chief operating officer of Showers for All.

“Our mission is to empower the journey away from homelessness and poverty by restoring dignity and hope,” said Berrigan. “We believe showers are a great way to start that journey.”

The shower trailer, which will now help homeless people in the Denver metro area, arrives at a time when it’s badly needed, Berrigan added.

“Homelessness has seen a dramatic increase over the past year as more individuals are forced into poverty with the loss of jobs and housing due to COVID-19,” he said. “Clean bodies and clothes not only provide an emotionally rejuvenating experience for those who get to enjoy them regularly, but also provide a critical public health service and improve positive outcomes for those seeking employment.” ■

A shower trailer originally used during a rebuilding project for Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) has found a new purpose in Colorado.

*“Our mission is to empower the journey away from homelessness and poverty by restoring dignity and hope.”*

*— Kellen Berrigan*

# Giving is more than an expression of gratitude

By Beryl Jantzi  
Director of Stewardship  
Education, Everence

*No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed. — Deuteronomy 16:16*

*He has filled the hungry with good things; And sent away the rich empty-handed. — Luke 1:53*

One of the biblical images used to teach generosity is that of hands. Empty hands. And the message is don't come before God empty-handed.

Giving is an expression of gratitude, but it's also a statement of feeling indebted, in a good way. If you've received someone else's grace and generosity, you should respond in kind. Today we call it "passing it forward."

In the Old Testament, people were taught about giving back to God for all kinds of reasons and occasions.

One of the reasons giving by Christians in the U.S. is only about 2.8% is because it isn't being taught in our churches like it was taught by the prophets, the apostles and even Jesus!

As a result, giving is viewed as an optional Christian practice within many of our churches. I would agree that it's a voluntary act, but is it truly optional according to scripture? I would say, "No!"

Besides the **lack of teaching**, here are four more reasons some self-professing Christians give little or nothing to the work of the church.



## 1. People are in transition and it's not a good time.

People may say they've just started a new job, or moved to a new city, or had a baby, or are caring for aging parents ... These are reminiscent of the excuses Jesus heard when recent converts were invited to follow him (Luke 14:15-24).

Is it ever a good time to begin a new commitment? It reminds me of the quote, "When is the best time to plant a tree? Answer: 40 years ago! When is the second-best time? Now!"

Giving to the local congregations is an investment in the mission and ministry of the church. If you haven't done so before, start now!

## 2. It's a difficult time financially.

We need to tread lightly with this excuse because many do struggle financially through no fault of their own.

But we also read in scripture that what matters is not the

amount given but the spirit with which the act of giving takes place.

Widows are often the heroes of scripture. Widows were typically on the fringe of society and typically the most generous and trusting in spite of their circumstances (1 Kings 17:7-16; Mark 12:41-44).

To begin a practice of generosity is to test God in the present and to trust God with the future. Yes, I said test God. The only place in scripture where we are challenged to test God is in the matter of generosity (Malachi 3:10). Giving something is better than arriving empty-handed.

## 3. Lack of connection and involvement.

People give where they are wanted, needed and invited to be involved for who they are. This is especially true for Millennials (23-38-year-olds).

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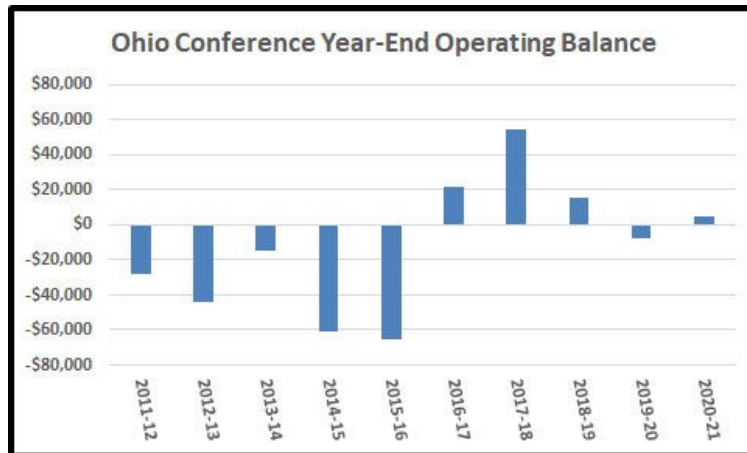


# Conference ends 2020-21 fiscal year in the black

The Ohio Conference has ended the 2020-21 fiscal year in the black, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. On March 31, 2021, the Conference finished the 2020-21 fiscal year with an operating surplus of \$4,944.

In comparison, the Conference finished the 2019-20 fiscal year with a deficit of \$7,484. Over the past decade, the Conference has ended its fiscal year with a surplus four times and a deficit six times. (See the accompanying chart for details.)

Receipts and expenses for the month of March were fairly balanced, resulting in an operating surplus of just \$58 for the month.



In 2020-21, giving from congregations totaled \$285,083, while individuals gave \$52,370. Our thanks go out to all congregations and individuals who contributed to the Ohio Conference during this past fiscal year!

### GIVING IS STRONG DURING APRIL

Ohio Conference has begun the 2021-22 fiscal year on a positive

note. Receipts for April totaled \$35,960, including \$12,657 in donations from individuals. Expenses for the month totaled \$23,546, resulting in a surplus of \$12,414 for the month. The Ohio Conference fiscal year runs from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. ■

## Giving

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We need to involve new attendees in our community life and leadership teams. We need to make room for them at the communion table, as well as the tables where decisions are made.

### 4. Institutional and leadership mistrust.

If people don't know their leaders beyond seeing them behind a pulpit, they are less likely to give. If the church or any institution is not transparent about

how money is used, it becomes a barrier to generosity. People vote with their wallets, and this has never been truer than now.

All of these obstacles to generosity can be addressed and overcome. It will require a greater openness to confronting the subject of generosity than is often present in many of our churches.

The Apostle Paul frequently wrote about giving for the greater good of the whole, and

because it's good for the soul of the giver (Romans 15:23-24, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-20).

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts! — Psalm 96:8*

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. — 1 Timothy 6:17 ■*

## ABOUT PEOPLE

# Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

ELKHART, Indiana (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) — **Danae King** of Orrville, Ohio, graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), Elkhart, Indiana, on May 1, 2021, with a graduate certificate in theological studies.

King, who completed part of her seminary coursework at a distance, previously earned a bachelor of arts in integrated social studies from Bluffton (Ohio) University. She is exploring options for work in, or in service of, the church. King's home congregation is Orrville Mennonite Church, a congregation of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA. Her mother is **Judy King** of Dalton, Ohio.

Twenty-one graduates were honored during the May 1 commencement service, which was held in the seminary's Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount with limited attendance to follow

Elkhart County COVID-19 safety guidelines. The event was also livestreamed; a recording is available at [ambs.edu/commencement](https://ambs.edu/commencement).

**Cyneatha Millsaps** of Elkhart — a 2008 AMBS graduate who serves as executive director of Mennonite Women USA, co-pastor of Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart, and chair of the Board of Directors of the new Tolson Center for Community Excellence in Elkhart — gave the commencement address.

The graduating class comprised 13 men and eight women from seven countries — Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ethiopia, France, India and the United States — on five continents. Eight of the graduates completed at least part of their seminary studies at a distance through the Master of Divinity Connect program or the Graduate Certificate.



**Danae King**

Eleven of the graduates are serving in pastoral ministry roles or are seeking pastoral assignments; three are discerning future options for ministry, mission or service work; four plan to be involved with education or research; two are engaged in social work; two plan to pursue further studies or training; and one is serving a church agency. ■

## EMU

**Sarah Ressler** of Sonneberg Mennonite Church in Kidron was one of five education students from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) who were chosen to attend the 2021 Teachers of Promise Institute, which was held virtually on March 20. The annual event provides professional development, mentor discussions, and networking opportunities for

100 of the best and brightest pre-service teachers in Virginia.

The honorees “exemplify strong potential for impacting students in the classroom, high academic standing, commitment to the teaching profession, and embody EMU’s teacher education mission to ‘teach boldly in a changing world through an ethic of care and critical reflec-

tion,’” said program director and professor of education Cathy Smeltzer Erb. “This is a delightful group of honorees. I am confident that these future teachers will positively influence the lives of each student in their classrooms as they create and advocate for just and equitable learning environments.” ■

## ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 10

Seven students from Ohio Conference congregations earned degrees this spring from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The university held a virtual commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 9, and each graduate was able to participate in one of three in-person “walking ceremonies” on Saturday, May 1.

Prior to commencement, Provost Fred Kniss said, “With COVID still significantly present in our communities and Virginia guidelines for hosting gatherings still very restrictive, a virtual ceremony and these distanced walking ceremonies will allow us to celebrate our graduates and their accomplishments in the safest way possible.”

**Audrey Hershberger** of Millersburg earned a bachelor of arts degree in peacebuilding and development. Her home congregation is Berlin Mennonite Church.

**Elizabeth Kate Miller** of Pettisville earned a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish language and Hispanic studies. Her home congregation is West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon.

**Alexandra Raber** of Dalton earned a bachelor of science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. Her home congregation is Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron.

**Sarah Ressler** of Apple Creek earned a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts with elementary education licensure for

PreK-6 and special education licensure for K-12. Her home congregation is Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron.

**Matthew Troyer** of Berlin earned a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry. His home congregation is Berlin Mennonite Church.

**Tessa Waidelich** of Pettisville earned a bachelor of science degree in computer science. Her home congregation is West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon.

**Aaron Zimmerman** of Archbold earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering. His home congregation is Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold.

■

## Goshen College

Five students from Ohio Conference congregations earned bachelor’s degrees from Goshen College this spring. The Class of 2021 received their degrees during a hybrid in-person and virtual ceremony on April 25.

The following students from Ohio Conference were part of the Class of 2021:

**Gabriel Beck** of Archbold, the son of **Duane** and **Deanna Beck**, earned a degree in chemistry with a focus on secondary education. His home

congregation is Central Mennonite Church in Archbold.

**Talia Miller** of Millersburg, the daughter of **Emily** and **Maynard Miller**, earned a degree in social work with a minor in peace and justice studies. Her home congregation is Berlin Mennonite Church.

**Elizabeth Detweiler Breckbill** of Kidron, the daughter of **Bruce** and **Jill Detweiler Breckbill**, earned a degree in environmental and marine science with a minor in accounting. Her home congregation is Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron.

**Alexander Seymour** of Orrville, the son of **William** and **Allison Seymour**, earned a degree in music with a focus on secondary education. His home congregation is Orrville Mennonite Church.

**Emmalene Rupp** of Wooster, the daughter of **Tracy** and **Robert Rupp**, earned a degree in social work with minors in music and writing. Her home congregation is Wooster Mennonite Church. ■

## Conference Calendar

### JUL

- 6-10 MennoCon21, Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, as well as online
- 10 Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly, online meeting
- 17 Open Arms Fellowship Fiesta, Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville

### AUG

- 6-7 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster
- 15-16 New Pastor Orientation, Sleep Inn & Suites, Mt. Hope

### OCT

- 15-17 Youth Worker Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

### NOV

- 12-14 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mills Park Hotel, Yellow Springs

### MAR

### 2022

- 4-5 Annual Conference Assembly, location TBD

at this time last year. In order to meet this need, we need your help. Learn more at <https://mcc.org/get-involved/kits/relief>.

**Lombard Mennonite Peace Center** is offering an online workshop, "Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches," on June 3 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT. This workshop helps church leaders deal more effectively with potentially destructive conflict. Cost is \$99. To register, go to <https://lmpeacecenter.org/ticketspice>.

**After deciding to offer the Mennonite World Conference assembly in Indonesia as a hybrid in-person and online event** July 5-10, 2022, program committee members and assembly staff are exploring online opportunities. See <http://bit.ly/MWC2022Assembly> for more information.

**On May 22 Lighthouse Ministries in Canton** will hold its second Day of Giving, an online event. The Day of Giving will be a day of storytelling, student highlights, and more, with a goal of raising \$25,000. To donate, go to [cantonlighthouse.org/donate](http://cantonlighthouse.org/donate). ■

## Back page briefings...

**Open Arms Hispanic Ministries will hold a fund-raising event, the Open Arms Fellowship Fiesta, on July 17 at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville.** This event will be a boxed-lunch picnic.

**The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Board has begun planning for an in-person Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale.** The sale will be held Aug. 6-7 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds

in Wooster. The event will be under one roof in an air-conditioned building. Online bidding will be offered again for auction items.

**A note from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):** Our partners have requested 27,000 relief kits this year. But due to the pandemic, our MCC Material Resources warehouse inventory is significantly lower this year than it was

OHIO MENNONITE  
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