

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: 330-453-0150 Email: ohioevangel@gmail.com

Leadership development opportunities available

Ohio Conference has two opportunities for leadership enrichment and development beginning in September. The first, a **Thriving in Ministry** cohort, is for pastors who are already serving in a congregation. It will run from September 2021 to April 2022 and will focus on the well-being of pastors, effective practices in ministry, and leadership development. A description of the program and the schedule are included with this issue of *Perspective*.

The other opportunity is AMBS's **Journey Missional Leadership Development Program**, designed for those in a congregation who might be exploring a call to pastoral ministry or have just begun pastoral ministry with minimal ministerial education. The three-year program is completed mostly online, but it also includes two weekend learning retreats each year and the assignment of a mentor to walk alongside the participant. For more details, see the flier included with this issue of *Perspective*. **Ohio Conference offers scholarships to participants.**

If you or anyone from your congregation might have an interest in either of these programs, please contact Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com or (937) 935-2549.

MDT to award Ministry Grants

Ministry Grants are back! **Aug. 6** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT). The MDT is accepting proposals from Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. The MDT has **\$19,630** available for grants in 2020.

Since 2012 the MDT has awarded grants each summer, providing funds for a wide variety of projects and mission initiatives. Please note that this is a one-time grant. Grant monies are not intended to be used for staffing. Grant proposals are due by **Aug 6, 2021**. The Ministry Development Team will consider all grant proposals at its **Aug. 24** meeting.

More information and an online application are on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>. A copy of the grant form 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.

Gathering perspective

The next All-Ohio Conference Pastor Gathering will be Thursday, Aug. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Upper Sandusky Community Library. Pastors, if you still need to RSVP, you can do so by sending an email message to Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Delegates, have you registered for MennoCon21?

Less than three weeks remain until the start of MennoCon21, the Mennonite Church USA convention. MennoCon21 will be a hybrid event, with both an in-person gathering July 6-10 in Cincinnati and an online option.

The denomination's biennial delegate assembly will take place online on Saturday, July 10, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Please note that all delegates must be registered for MennoCon21, either for the in-person or online option. To learn more or to register, go to <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration>.

Giving to Conference drops in May

Giving to the Ohio Conference was significantly lower in May than in April, according to figures provided by Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Receipts for May totaled just \$20,720, compared to \$35,960 in April. Giving from congregations totaled \$20,481, down somewhat from the \$23,264 received in April. However, giving from individuals dropped to \$200 for the month, compared with the \$12,657 received in April.

Expenses for May totaled \$27,719, resulting in a deficit of \$6,999 for the month. Even so, as of the end of May, the Conference had an operating surplus of \$5,415 for the year to date. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2022.

MCC offers virtual tour of borderlands

Mennonite Central Committee is offering a Virtual Borderlands Learning Tour June 28-July 2. Sessions will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. each day.

This virtual learning tour is designed to engage participants with the reality of immigration from a different perspective. The Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team is encouraging everyone to consider participating in this learning tour. See <http://bit.ly/VirtualBorderlandsLearningTour> for details.

Open Arms fundraiser set for July 17

Save the date! Open Arms Hispanic Ministries is sponsoring a Summer Fiesta Picnic on Saturday, July 17, at 4 p.m. at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, located at 7843 Smucker Road, Smithville. After more than a year of COVID-related restrictions, we will enjoy a safe, enjoyable time in Oak Grove's beautiful picnic area. Activities include live music, a program at 5 p.m., and a boxed meal, with free-will offering. Menu choices include a chicken-bacon wrap or vegetarian cranberry-pecan tossed salad, both with chips, salsa, cookies and drinks. Please **RSVP by Tuesday, July 13**, with meal choice and number in attendance to 330-765-9955 or kara@openarmshispanicministry.org. For more info, call the above number or 614-546-8090. An event flier is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Ministry perspective

Anabaptist World has published an article about women in ministry in the Ohio Conference. You can read it at <http://bit.ly/AWorldWomeninMinistry>.

Immigration perspective

The Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team is encouraging everyone in the Ohio Conference to support the work of La Casa de Maria y Marta, a ministry of San Antonio Mennonite Church which serves immigrants seeking asylum. Please see <http://bit.ly/MariayMarta> for more information.

MDS perspective

The June edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS). In the current issue: MDS and the Brethren Church formalize a partnership of caring, the last houses in the Land of Hope are dedicated, bringing to completion a three-year effort, and youth across the U.S. are packing their bags to embark on MDS Summer Youth programs. Read this issue: <https://conta.cc/3gsx0PZ>.

Perspective deadlines

June 29 for July 1 issue

July 13 for July 15 issue
