

MCC offers virtual borderlands tour



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.

Micah 6:8

Continued on page 2

love. But the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:12-13).

Being the “quiet in the land” is not evidence of humility, just as being loud and boisterous is not undisputable evidence that one is not humble. True humility is acknowledging that we may be wrong on just about anything, that it is not our knowledge

that saves us, but our faith in God who is the all-knowing, perfectly just, merciful and humble one who being God, *made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!* (Philippians 2:7-8)

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The rest of Micah 6:8

By Dick Barrett
Conference Minister

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8 (NIV)

I have now been a part of the Mennonite Church for almost 25 years. Many things attracted me to the Mennonite Church: the emphasis on Scripture, discipleship which calls for following Jesus in every area of our lives, the 1995 *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, the strong sense of community, pot-luck meals, the peace position (even though I was a police officer at the time), and the

humility of the church leaders at every level, just to name some.

A lot has happened in our culture and in our church over that time. A focus on issues and agendas has caused us to

become more and more polarized. I have a hard time watching any news-cast anymore because they all seem to present it from one side or another. Whatever happened to neutral or unbiased reporting?

Sadly, I don't see things being that different in the church. I turn to the reporting of news and the sharing of thoughts, ideas

and initiatives, and I feel that same sense of polarization, even though I must confess I do like reading

Continued on page 2

do justice
love
kindness
walk humbly
with your God
MICAH 6:8

Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

Ministry Grants fund local projects

Is your congregation looking for a way to fund a ministry that impacts your community? Consider applying for a grant from the Ohio Conference.

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) is accepting grant proposals from Ohio Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has **\$19,630** available for grants.

Since 2012 the MDT has awarded grants each summer, providing funds for a wide variety of projects and mission initiatives.

The MDT will use several criteria in reviewing the applications:

— Does this proposal fit with the Conference priorities of Loving God, Loving Others, and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ?

— Does this project respond to the priorities identified by Ministry Development Team?

- Start-up ministries/new initiatives
- Community outreach
- Church planting

- Focus on children or youth ministry that includes an outreach component
- Missional coaching
- Peacemaking education/action
- Immigration education/action
- Antiracism education/action
- Initiatives which cross cultural boundaries

— Is this proposal a collaborative effort among Ohio Conference congregations and/or related organizations?

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**. More information and an online application are on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>. If you prefer, you may download a grant form and mail it to the Ohio Conference office.

The Ministry Development Team will consider all grant proposals at its **Aug. 24** meeting.

In 2020, the Ministry Development Team approved four grants. To learn more about these grants, see <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>.



The rest of Micah 6:8

Continued from page 3

the editorial and opinion sections where I can experience commonality with those I agree with and quickly dismiss those I disagree with. Every one of us believes that we know what is right. What happened to our humility? Miriam-Webster.com defines the word “humble” as “not proud or haughty, not arrogant or assertive; reflecting, expressing or offered in a spirit of deference or submission (i.e. a humble apology).”

Recently I found myself sensing the need to apologize to my 4-year-old granddaughter and to some fellow church leaders. I am not sure which experience was more humbling. Interestingly, I received the same response from the ones I wanted to apologize to: “You don’t have to be sorry; you don’t have to apologize.” I wondered what that says about our current culture. **When was the last time you heard a sincere apology from one of our political leaders? When was the last time you heard a sincere apology from someone in church? When was the last time you were able to apologize to someone without any excuses or deflection of blame?**

The most common Bible verse I hear quoted lately is Micah 6:8, especially from those who emphasize the peace and justice response to the Gospel, “to act justly.” What about

the rest of the verse, “to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”? While God can say, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion” (Exodus 33:19, Romans 9:15), as God’s children who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, we don’t have that choice. We are called to have mercy and compassion on all, including those with whom we disagree and even our enemies.

“Walking humbly with God” means that we need to accept and acknowledge that during our time here on earth, our knowledge on just about everything is limited. At the end of the Apostle Paul’s great chapter on love found in 1 Corinthians 13 — which we need to continually remind ourselves that he wrote primarily to all Christians and not just husbands and wives — he concludes with these words: *For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and*



Dick Barrett

Continued on page 3