

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Conference seeks Regional Pastor

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA is seeking a half-time Regional Pastor for the Eastern region of the state beginning April 2022. The individual will primarily serve as pastor to the pastors and as a liaison between the Conference and congregations. Previous pastoral experience required. Women and men from all cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply. For a full job description, please see <https://bit.ly/RegionalPastorEast>. To apply, submit a letter of interest to Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com by Jan. 15, 2022.



Winter cluster meeting dates set

Ohio Conference is planning five winter cluster meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last approximately 90 minutes.

Locations are as follows:

- Jan. 18 — Bethel Mennonite Church, West Liberty
- Jan. 27 — Salem Mennonite Church, Kidron
- Feb. 1 — Tedrow Mennonite Church, Wauseon
- Feb. 10 — Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Hartville
- Feb. 15 — Online via Zoom



There is no charge to attend cluster meetings; however, we do ask that you register in advance. Please register online at <https://bit.ly/2022WinterClusterMeetings>.

Deficit grows during November

Ohio Conference's deficit grew substantially during the month of November, according to figures provided by Finance Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Receipts for November totaled \$19,855, including \$18,262 in giving from congregations. Expenses for the month totaled \$43,146, resulting in a deficit of \$23,291 for the month.

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.

Leader's perspective

This issue of *Perspective* includes a Christmas message from Conference Minister Dick Barrett. In this Christmas greeting for everyone in the Ohio Conference, he reflects on the events of 2021 and reminds us about the source of our hope.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

As of the end of November, the Conference's operating balance was -\$48,150. The 2021-22 fiscal year ends March 31, 2022.

MDS plans tornado response

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) has Early Response Teams investigating several of the sites of last week's tornadoes to help determine how and where MDS will respond. Many of their partners via the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) which specialize in search and rescue, damage assessment and cleanup are already responding. Together with their NVOAD partners and local officials, MDS will determine when and where volunteers will be needed most. If you are interested in being added to a volunteer waitlist, please fill out the form on the MDS website: <https://mds.volunteermatrix.com/e/113>

The Winter Read: Please join the discussion

You're invited: Please join us for the Ohio Conference Winter Read. This winter Ohio Conference is trying something new, a Conference-wide book study offered via Zoom. This year we will be discussing Latasha Morrison's book *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation*.

Discussion leaders will be Pastor Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells of Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland and Pastor Kevin Himes of Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron. These pastors led their congregations in a joint study of the book last winter.

The discussion will take place from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. on five Thursdays — Jan. 6, 13, and 20, and Feb. 3 and 17. The book is available as a paperback or on Kindle on the Amazon website: <https://bit.ly/BeTheBridgeBook>.

To register for these online discussions, go to <https://bit.ly/2022OCWinterRead>.

Women in Leadership Retreat set for Feb. 18-19

Ohio Conference will hold a Women in Leadership Retreat Feb. 18-19 at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin. The theme of the retreat is "Empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead like yourself."

Rebecca Slough, academic dean emerita and professor emerita of worship and the arts at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will be the retreat speaker. She is passionate about supporting women to become confident, trustworthy, but not perfect, leaders.



Retreat planners are encouraging every Ohio Conference congregation to send at least one woman to this retreat.

Cost of the retreat is \$75 per person. Registration is due by **Jan. 28**. For more information, please see the enclosed retreat brochure. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/WomenInLeadershipRetreat>.

Musical perspective

Congratulations go to Girl Named Tom, the sibling trio from Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold. The trio was named the winner during the season finale of NBC's *The Voice* on Dec. 14. To learn more, see <https://bit.ly/TheVoiceFinaleGNT>.

Comforter perspective

Save the date for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on April 22-23! A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event in Kidron to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. We invite you to make comforter tops and backs (60"x80") for use at the Comforter Bash. Comforter backs and tops should be dropped off at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road) between Jan. 1 and March 1. For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.

Perspective deadlines

Jan. 4 for Jan. 6 issue
Jan. 18 for Jan. 20 issue
