

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Retirement plans announced

Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford has announced that he plans to retire at the end of March 2022. He has served as regional pastor for the eastern part of the Ohio Conference since 2011.

Please join us for Ohio Conference Winter Read

The Ohio Conference Winter Read: This winter Ohio Conference is trying something new, a Conference-wide book study offered via Zoom. 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. 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. To register for these online discussions, go to <https://bit.ly/2022OCWinterRead>.

Women in Leadership Retreat set for Feb. 18-19

Ohio Conference's Women in Leadership Retreat will take place 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. **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. For more information, please see the enclosed retreat brochure. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/WomenInLeadershipRetreat>.

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.

Report perspective

Reports for the Ohio Conference Annual Report Book are due this month. If you have been asked to submit a report for the Annual Report Book, please send it to Judy King at ohmc@zoominternet.net by **Friday, Dec. 17.**

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Webinar to discuss upcoming delegate assembly

Register today! Join Michael Danner, Mennonite Church USA associate executive director of church vitality, on Monday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. for the first in a series of webinars to help conferences and congregations prepare for the 2022 Delegate Assembly (May 27-30, Kansas City, Missouri). He will provide an overview of MC USA's structure and decision-making, including conversation about how the special session of the Delegate Assembly fits into the big picture. Register at mennoniteusa.org/why-important-da22.

Transformation is theme of blog post

"As I look at the ways in which I have been transformed, it is always a result of who I am close to." Thomas Dunn, co-pastor of Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman and member of the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board, reflects on the theme "Be Transformed" in a blog post for Mennonite Church USA: <http://ow.ly/8r4m50GVQey>.

Goshen College offers online Advent devotions

Once again Goshen College is offering online weekday devotions during Advent. Goshen College students, faculty and staff are providing weekday reflections based on the lectionary Scripture passages. They are reflecting on the theme "Dare to Imagine" from Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada worship resources.

These daily devotions are available online at www.goshen.edu/devotions. If you would like to receive these devotions by email, go to <https://www.goshen.edu/devotions/subscribe>.

Sonnenberg seeks lead pastor

Sonnenberg Mennonite Church of Kidron, Ohio, is seeking a full-time lead pastor. A job description outlining the requirements and responsibilities of the position is included with this issue of *Perspective*. Additional information about the church can be found on the church website: sonnenbergmc.org. Interested candidates may contact the regional pastor, Ralph Reinford, at ralphreinford@gmail.com, or the chairperson of the search committee, Phil Raber, at raber2020@gmail.com.

Everence scholarship applications now available

Everence® college scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 academic year are now available. Current or new Everence members (and their children) are eligible to apply for the scholarships of up to \$3,000 to help pay for eligible college expenses.

Recipients are chosen based on community involvement, extracurricular activities, leadership, and a written answer to a question about the applicant's stewardship influence. For complete eligibility requirements and an application, visit everence.com/college-scholarships. Applications must be postmarked or emailed by Feb. 28, 2022.

Musical perspective

Girl Named Tom, the sibling trio from Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, has continued to advance in live rounds of competition on NBC's *The Voice*. The trio is one of eight remaining semifinalists and will perform again during the live semi-final shows next week. To see one of their most recent performances, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpdTXOUf7dw>.

Immigration perspective

The Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team would like to remind everyone that there are many opportunities to share God's love, hope, and peace. Are you looking for ideas about how you can share God's love with immigrants? The Immigration Resource Team has updated its Immigration Resource List, which features books, websites, organizations, and films, as well as contact information for people who have experience dealing with immigration issues. A copy of the list is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Perspective deadlines

Dec. 14 for Dec. 16 issue
Jan. 4 for Jan. 6 issue
