



OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

MAR/APR 2022



ohiomennoniteconference.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Barnacles and brownies
- 4 Conference minister musings
- 5 Resource corner
- 6 Women in Leadership Retreat
- 7 Volunteers accept Conference positions
- 10 About people
- 11 Youth worker seminars
- 12 Back page briefings

Conference to review structure, constitution, affiliation with MC USA

Delegates approve new mission statement

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA gathered in person for its Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) on March 4-5, 2022, at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio. The theme for the assembly was *Befriending the Neighborhood: Am I a Good Neighbor?* The focus was on the story of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37.

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

One hundred fifty-six people participated in ACA, including 133 delegates from 34 congregations. In addition to



Delegates discussed the proposed new Conference mission statement in table groups.

times of worship, ACA included four business sessions, a variety of workshops, and times of fellowship. During

the business sessions the delegates unanimously approved a new mission statement: *The*

Continued on page 3

Winter Read starts discussion process

Conversations about race can be uncomfortable for some of us. How do we begin to grapple with issues of racial reconciliation?

More than 60 people from around the Ohio Conference committed to discussing racial reconciliation this winter while participating in a new initiative called the Ohio Conference Winter Read.

Led by Pastors Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells of Lee Heights Com-



Pastors Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells and Kevin Himes led discussion during the Ohio Conference Winter Read.

munity Church in Cleveland and Kevin Himes of Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, the Winter Read participants read Latasha Morrison's book

titled *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation*. Then they had the

Continued on page 5



VOL. LXXVI, NO. 2

MAR/APR 2022

Editor: Ann H. Leaman

Ohio Mennonite Evangel is published six times per year by the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636, telephone (330) 857-5421.

All material for publication should be submitted to the editor at 5854 Sunland St. NE, Louisville OH 44641, or via telephone: 330-453-0150, or e-mail: ohioevangel@gmail.com, one month prior to desired publication date.

Ohio Mennonite Evangel is distributed to all households of Ohio Conference congregations, other interested individuals and church agencies.

Send subscription information and email address changes to the editor at ohioevangel@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL

Barnacles and brownies

On March 3 and 4, Howard and Cathy Wagler of Hutchinson, Kansas, were presenters for a missional conference at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, focusing on the theme “Befriending the Neighborhood: Am I a Good Neighbor?” Sixty people from around the Ohio Conference participated in this conference. I was one of those 60 people.

During the two days of the missional conference, Howard and Cathy shared many stories of interacting with their neighbors. They focused on the importance of keeping Jesus as Lord, and on discipleship and disciple-making. They also encouraged participants to “pay attention to the people who are where you are.” They gave ample time for participants to share in small-group discussion about these topics.

As I reflect on the missional conference, two words stick in my mind: barnacles and brownies. The Waglers used the visual image of



Missional conference photos: At left, presenters Cathy and Howard Wagler; at right, Ramon Lianez discusses his experience of sharing brownies with a neighbor.



barnacles on a large ship during their discussion, noting, “Spiritual barnacles affect our faith as ocean barnacles impact a ship. They create drag...weigh us down.” As we were invited to name the spiritual barnacles in our lives, I had to acknowledge that one of the barnacles dragging me down is definitely fear. If I were less fearful, I would be reaching out and knowing my neighbors much more.

As part of a challenge to participants, the Waglers passed out boxes of brownie mix to each person and encouraged all of

us to bake brownies and share them with our neighbors. They shared “brownie stories” from their experience and the experiences of others. What will happen if all of us who were there follow through and accept this challenge?

— ahl

Note: Even if you weren’t at the missional conference, you can still learn from Howard and Cathy Wagler. Video recordings of the missional conference are available on the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2022MissionalConf>.

Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Moderator: Ken Sims — simsken6@gmail.com
Assistant Moderator: Paula Snyder Belousek — pastor@salem-mennonite.com
Credentialing Ministry Chair: Vickie Yoder — rev.vickieyoder@gmail.com
Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair: Alvis Pettker — pastor.alvis.pettker@gmail.com
Stewardship Ministry Chair: Andrew Blount — blountandrew@hotmail.com
Conference Minister: Dick Barrett — ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com
Regional Pastor: Sherah-Leigh Gerber — ocrpeast@gmail.com
Regional Pastor: Tony Doebrmann — ocrpwest@gmail.com
Administrative Secretary: Judy King — ohmc@zoominternet.net
Finance Coordinator: Stan Helmuth — cboh1@zoominternet.net
Conference Editor: Ann Leaman — ohioevangel@gmail.com
Coordinator of Volunteers: Alys Short — alysashort@gmail.com

Annual Conference Assembly

Continued from page 1



Mission of Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA 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).

CONGREGATION WELCOMED

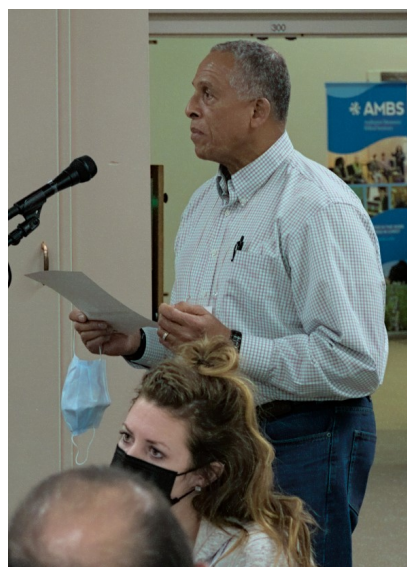
Delegates also unanimously approved a request from Trenton Mennonite Church, Trenton, Ohio, to become a member congregation of Ohio Conference. The transfer was approved by Central District Conference, of which Trenton had previously been a member congregation.

THREE-PART REVIEW PLANNED

Delegates spent time in table group discussions, and they offered feedback on a recent decision by Ohio Conference's Leadership Team to spend the next church year (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023) reviewing the Conference's constitution, structure and affiliation with

Mennonite Church USA. The Leadership Team's decision was based on the recognition that the Conference's current constitution and structure are based on a mission statement that was almost 20 years old. There was also the recognition that Ohio Conference and Mennonite Church USA are not the same conference and denomination that they were 20 years ago. Delegates also gave general affirmation to the Leadership Team's request to use an outside consultant to assist the conference in the year of review.

Throughout the assembly several congregations shared missional stories about being a good neighbor in their own communities, and updates were given regarding Ohio Conference's current initiatives: missional discipleship, anti-racism, immigration, leadership development, and the Akron Church Partnership, which is working on assimilating a group of Congolese refugees into membership in the Ohio Conference.



ACA Photos: At top left, Regional Pastors Sherah-Leigh Gerber and Ralph Reinford lead delegates during a time of communion; at top right, incoming Conference Moderator Ken Sims reports on his table group discussion during an open mic period; below, worship leader Matt Weaver, pastor at Lockport Mennonite Church, talking about being sent.

Photos by Bryan Leaman. For more photos from ACA and a summary video, please see <https://bit.ly/ACAPhotos>.



STAFF TRANSITIONS NOTED

Sherah-Leigh Gerber was welcomed as the new regional pastor for the eastern half of Ohio Conference, replacing Ralph Reinford who is retiring after serving 36 years in pastoral ministry, the last 11 as regional

Continued on page 6

CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

The centrality of Jesus Christ

By Dick Barrett
Conference Minister

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
— 1 Corinthians 2:2 (NRSV)

On March 4 and 5, Ohio Conference hosted our Annual Conference Assembly at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold. During the assembly delegates unanimously affirmed our new mission statement – *The mission of Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA 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' Greatest Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).* The delegates also affirmed leaving in the preamble – *We believe that Jesus Christ is at the center of who we are and all we do. What does it really mean to believe that Jesus Christ is at the center of who we are and all we do?*

At the beginning of this Lenten season, I have found myself drawn to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 2:2, "*For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*" I also recently found myself troubled when I read an article in the Feb. 11, 2022, edition of

Anabaptist World titled "There's Just Something About That Name – Why it's better to be 'Jesus Centered' than 'Christ Centered.'" I think we run into serious problems as "Christians" when we try and separate Jesus the man from Jesus the Christ. I share these thoughts from personal experience. After growing up Roman Catholic, in my adult years I realized that the Catholic Church's emphasis on Jesus the Christ diminished the fact that Jesus was also a human being who walked on earth with many of the same challenges and temptations that we humans have faced throughout history. Placing so much emphasis on Jesus the Christ diminishes our role as disciples of Jesus trying to live as Jesus lived, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Now, having been a part of the Mennonite/Anabaptist church for the past 25 years, I have also realized that putting so much emphasis on Jesus the man diminishes the fact that Jesus was God among us, suffered and died on the cross for the salvation of the world, with the promised gift of a resurrected eternal life for all who believe in him. If we're not careful, placing so much emphasis on Jesus the man leads to a failure to recognize our own sinfulness, our need for a Savior, and the need for the cross.

Sometimes we can focus so much on one side of a truth that we lose the truth altogether. It seems like everywhere I



turn lately I hear, "We are all created in God's image." That is a very important truth that goes all the way back to the beginning, Genesis 1:27: "*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*" But on the other side of that biblical truth is that since the fall of Adam and Eve, all human beings created in God's image have been marred by sin. In Romans 3:23-25a we read, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*" And when Jesus asked the disciples, "*Who do you say I am?*" Simon Peter replied, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (Matthew 16:15-16). It was upon Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ in which Jesus said he would build his church.

As we move forward as a conference in a year of review and living into our new mission statement, my prayer is that we keep Jesus Christ as the center of who we are and all we do. ■

Sometimes we can focus so much on one side of a truth that we lose the truth altogether.

Be the Bridge

Continued from page 1

chance to discuss the book and the issues raised during five evening Zoom meetings during January and February. The Zoom meetings included input from leaders Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells and Kevin Himes, as well as discussion in small-group “breakout rooms” and times of full-group discussion.

Following the five weeks of discussion, Ohio Conference surveyed participants, asking them to reflect on the experience and to give suggestions for future Winter Read studies. Respondents overwhelming gave the discussions a positive review, and many indicated that they would be interested in further book studies.

One participant said, “I appreciated the variety of people that were participating across the conference and the experience leaders brought to the study. I also was very appreciative that



People from around the Ohio Conference gathered on Zoom to participate in the discussion during the Ohio Conference Winter Read.

we were not in the same breakout groups every time. That was so helpful to share in small groups even though I felt very vulnerable but others were in a similar position.”

*Note: Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells and Kevin Himes previously led their congregations in a joint study of **Be the Bridge** last year. To learn*

more about how this collaboration first came about, you can view “Speak the Truth in Love,” a webinar from Mennonite Mission Network about racial reconciliation that features Vikki and Kevin’s story: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/events/4416/Speak-the-truth-in-love>. ■

RESOURCE CORNER

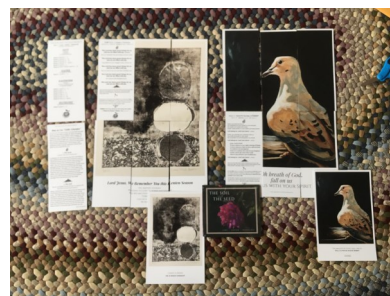
Try these resources during Lent

By Ann Leaman
Ohio Conference
Resource Advocate

Looking for Lenten resources which you can use at home? The Soil and the Seed Project has released a new free collection of resources for this season. The Soil and the Seed Project: Vol. 2 — Lent—Easter—Pentecost is a collection of music, artwork, and “little liturgies” following the liturgical

calendar. These resources offer new ways to establish daily and weekly rhythms of faith during the seasons of Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

The new faith formation resources are available from the project website at www.thesoilandtheseedproject.org. Formats include CD and print, digital (mp3 and PDF files), and mobile-friendly formats.



You can learn more about The Soil and the Seed by listening to a podcast featuring the creators of this project: <https://bit.ly/SoilandSeedPodcast>. ■

Women leading, empowered by the Holy Spirit

At the Women in Leadership Retreat presenter Rebecca Slough encouraged participants to lead like themselves with the Holy Spirit's empowerment. Photo by Sue Short.



By Alysa Short

Coordinator of Volunteers

Ohio Conference held a retreat for women in leadership Feb. 18-19 at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. Twenty-three women from around Conference participated in this overnight retreat led by Rebecca Slough, academic dean and professor of worship and the arts emerita at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

Focusing on the theme *Empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead like yourself*, Rebecca challenged the women to have a wide-angle view as well as a close-up view of the group or organism with which they work. She encouraged the participants to keep

the six P's in mind as they lead – Person, People, Place, Purpose, Power and Promise.

As a part of the retreat experience, each of the four sessions Rebecca led included a time of movement, integrating body, mind, heart and spirit. While at times challenging, the movement offered participants an opportunity to engage in stories, silence, song, discomfort, and amusement.

Leadership, Rebecca shared, is not always easy, but it is a spiritual practice. Through input, movement, fellowship and Bible study, the Women in Leadership Retreat participants were encouraged to lead like themselves with the Holy Spirit's empowerment. ■

During worship services, speakers Howard and Cathy Wagler focused on the ACA theme: "Befriending the Neighborhood: Am I a Good Neighbor?"



ACA

Continued from page 3

pastor. Sherah-Leigh previously served Ohio Conference as coordinator of volunteers from 2019 to 2014, prior to moving to Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she served as associate pastor at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church from 2015 to 2021.

WORSHIP FOCUSES ON CONFERENCE THEME

ACA also included times of worship focused on the Assembly theme of "Befriending the Neighborhood." Speakers Howard and Cathy Wagler of South Hutchinson, Kansas, have

a passion for helping Christians to be missional in their own communities. Howard is the former lead pastor of Journey Mennonite Church. Cathy grew up in West Liberty, Ohio. They currently are network directors of South Central Mennonite Conference. ■

Volunteers accept Conference positions

Members of Ohio Conference congregations who volunteer their time play a vital role in Conference life. Without the help of numerous volunteers, many of the programs and functions of the Ohio Conference could not take place.

Much of the work of Ohio Conference is done by the Leadership Team, the Ministry Development Team, the Credentialing Ministry, the Stewardship Ministry and the Gifts Discernment Ministry. Delegates at Annual Conference Assembly affirmed the following individuals for service:

Moderator

Name: Kenneth (Ken) Sims

Home congregation:

Sharon (Plain City)

Occupation:

Everence financial client services representative - Retiring on Sept. 30, 2022

Previous service: Elder - Lee Heights Community Church (eight years), elder - Sharon Mennonite Church (seven years), adult Sunday school teacher (15 years), member of Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (six years)

Family information: Married to Grace (Hostetler) Sims for 52 years; three adult children; seven grandchildren; four grand-dogs; one outdoor cat (Zoe)

Goals: I am looking forward to meeting and working with the



Leadership Team, connecting with other churches and congregations in the Conference, and assisting with the leading of meetings and discussions of Conference business.

Hobbies/special interests:

Reading, working on cars (performance), bicycle riding, and cooking (grilling), but I am very comfortable around the kitchen.

Gifts Discernment Ministry — Chair

Name: Jared Chase

Home con-

gregation:

Sharon (Plain City)

Occupation:

Pastor

Previous

service:

Served as youth pastor at Sharon for nine years. At the Conference level I have helped in planning some Conference retreats such as the missional festival and youth ministry-related retreats and now the youth worker webinar series upcoming in March through May.

Family information: Sarah and I have been married for 16 years. We have three wonderful children: Emma (13), Noah (10), and Julia (4). Our latest adventure has been welcoming a mini-goldendoodle to the bunch. His name is Milo.

Goals: COVID has exposed a lot of things about church and the way it's been done over the last 10 to 20 years. Is it time we begin to think about new ways of doing things? My pray-



er is that as a conference we can be open to think about things in new ways. I plan to serve in that same way, holding this opportunity with open hands as I seek to honor God in the conversations I have and the connections that I make in this new role.

Hobbies/special interests:

Spending as much time as I possibly can with family. Over the last year I have been really challenged with establishing a better balance of my time between work and family. Spending intentional time with my family both collectively and individually over my sabbatical last fall reminded me of how important those times are while I still have the opportunities.

Credentialing Ministry — Chair

Name: Myron Weaver

Home con-

gregation:

Maple Grove (Hartville)

Occupation:

Orrvilla executive director

Previous

service: Pastor at Maple Grove Mennonite and Berlin Mennonite, member of an Ad hoc committee of Ohio Conference, member of Credentialing Ministry

Family information: I am married to Sheryl, and we have two sons: Adam is married to Kim, and they have two children; Jarrod is married to Amanda, and they have two children.



Continued on page 8

Volunteers

Continued from page 7

Goals: To serve current pastors in a way that helps them be the best they can be for the Kingdom of God and the congregation they serve. To encourage congregations to consider ways of calling individuals sitting in their pews to the pastorate.

Hobbies/special interests: I enjoy reading, bicycling, traveling with Sheryl and friends, and volunteering.

Ministry Development Team — Faith Focus

Name: Dave Elkins

Home congregation: Central (Archbold)

Occupation: Pastor

Previous service: Ministry Development Team (several years ago)

Family information: Becky Elkins, spouse; Kaitlyn and Abby Elkins, daughters

Goals: To encourage and support the mission of Ohio Conference

Hobbies/special interests: Reading

Ministry Development Team — Worship Focus

Name: Valerie Jones

Home congregation: South Union (West Liberty)

Occupation: Retired medical social worker and leadership consultant



Previous service: Sunday school teacher at Sharon Menonite; pianist at Sharon and South Union; Everence advocate for South Union; South Union representative on Green Hills Community Board of Directors, West Liberty

Family information: Married to Gary Jones

Goals: My goal is to honor God while being and doing my best to be a helpful contributor to the Ministry Development Team. The role of Worship Focus Leader is intriguing. Being a pastor's daughter, I have always been in church and, over the years, have experienced many different types of worship. With an inquisitive mind and a passion for the Lord, my goal is to be a resource to Conference leaders and congregations as they seek to worship God in fullness and grace.

Hobbies/special interests: Playing the piano, reading, and traveling

Stewardship Ministry — Endowment Focus

Name: Bruce Breckbill

Home congregation: Salem (Kidron)

Occupation: Managing director, Everence

Northeast Ohio market

Previous service: Member of Stewardship Ministry

Family information: Married to Jill Detweiler Breckbill; three adult children, no pets.



Goals: Find ways to promote generosity and godly stewardship. Generous people are happy people. Generosity is contagious.

Hobbies/special interests: Gardening. In particular, growing hot peppers and making hot sauces.

Stewardship Ministry — Stewardship Focus

Name: Marion Beyeler

Home congregation: Orrville

Occupation: Retired

Previous service: Member of Stewardship Ministry Team, Conference moderator



Stewardship Ministry — Finance Focus

Name: Steve Schmid

Home congregation: Wooster

Occupation: Retired — business leadership

Previous service: Member of Ministry Development Team

Family information: Married to Cathy

Goals: To contribute to the Stewardship program and learn from other team members

Hobbies/special interests: Woodworking, candle making, volunteering with other organizations



Continued on page 9

Volunteers

Continued from page 8

Stewardship Ministry — Endowment Focus

Name: Chelsea Waidelich

Home congregation:
West Clinton
(Wauseon)

Occupation:
Accountant

Previous service:

Member of Stewardship Ministry Team



Credentialing Ministry

Name: LaVerne Yousey

Home congregation:
Summit
(Barberton)

Occupation:
Retired professor

Previous

service: Member of Credentialing Ministry Team



Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Heather Myers

Home congregation:
Tedrow
(Wauseon)

Occupation:
Teacher

Previous

service: Junior youth leader, Sunday school teacher, member of music team, chorister, Missions Committee member

Family information: I am married to Tim Myers and am mother to three sons: Jacob and Levi are students at Eastern Mennonite University, and Samuel is a junior at Pettisville High School.



Goals: To serve the Ohio Conference in the area of gifts discernment

Hobbies/special interests: Reading, playing guitar/singing, gardening, being physically active, spending time outdoors and enjoying time with family and friends

Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Ken Neuenschwander

Home congregation:
Sonnenberg
(Kidron)

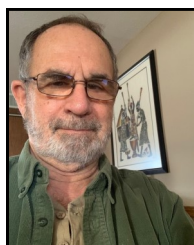
Occupation:

Retired – owner management at Kidron Electric

Previous service: Current chair of the Outreach & Service Ministry at Sonnenberg and serving on Lighthouse and Open Arms boards

Family information: Wife, Connie; four grown children and four grandchildren

Goals: To match willing and capable persons with the responsibilities in the Conference
Hobbies/special interests: I really enjoy fixing and creating things in my shop. I especially like working with wood and making things for the grandchildren.



Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Lucas Johnson

Home congregation:
Valley View
(Spartansburg, Pennsylvania)

Occupation:
Pastor



Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Matt Weaver

Home congregation:
Lockport
(Stryker)

Occupation:
Pastor

Family information: Mar-

ried to Megan, with three children, Natelie, Zoey and Robbie

Goals: To assist the conference in living into its new mission statement by finding gifted and willing individuals to serve in various positions. To get to know more of Ohio Conference's inner workings to better understand the ministry we do.

Hobbies/special interests:

Cooking and baking, reading and gardening, singing, piano and soccer



Gifts Discernment Ministry

Name: Sher Speigle Byler

Home congregation:
First
(Canton)

Occupation: I am a counselor/therapist with Sharon

S Byler Counseling.

Previous service: I previously served as associate pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite, Smithville (1987-1992) and on the Stewardship Ministry Team of Ohio Conference (2014-2016). At First Mennonite (Canton) I am currently serving as treasurer. I have also served as an elder and have chaired the Gift Use Committee, Pastoral Transition Team and Pastoral Search Team.



Continued on page 11

ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

The West Clinton Mennonite Church congregation prayed with Ryan Harker (center) during his ordination service. Other pastors present were Regional Pastor Tony Doehrmann (far left), Steve Heatwole (next to Tony), West Clinton pastors Brenna Roth and Linda Riegsecker, and Conference Minister Dick Barrett. Photo by Lori King.



At the request of West Clinton Mennonite Church and with the affirmation of Ohio Conference's Credentialing Ministry Team, Pastor Ryan Harker was ordained to pastoral ministry

on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022. Ryan's wife, Brenna, West Clinton's children's pastor, brought the message from Ephesians 4:11-16. Conference Minister Dick Barrett, who also serves as re-

gional pastor for West Clinton, officiated the ordination service.

Ryan has served at West Clinton since being licensed toward ordination in 2018. ■

On March 13 Keith and Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach were commissioned as long-term pastors at Millersburg Mennonite Church.



After having served as interim co-pastors of Millersburg Mennonite Church since September

2020, Rachelle and Keith Lyndaker Schlabach were commissioned as long-term pastors

at Millersburg Mennonite on Sunday, March 13.

Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford gave the sermon based on scripture from Joshua 1 and 1 Peter 1, titled "Entering Uncharted Territory." Rachelle and Keith's mentors, Sherah-Leigh Gerber and Shawn Hilliard, shared words of encouragement. Ralph Reinford led the commissioning ceremony, and Conference Minister Dick Barrett, led the prayer. Following the worship service, the congregation celebrated with a carry-in meal. ■

Continued on page 11

ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 10



Hank Unruh (pictured at center, in green) was licensed for ministry and installed as family life pastor at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron on Feb. 6. Youth, their parents and youth sponsors were invited to lay hands on Hank during a prayer of blessing.

On Feb. 6 Hank Unruh was licensed for ministry and installed as family life pastor at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron. Pastor Kevin Himes gave the sermon, titled “Lead the Way” and based on Titus 1:5-9. Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford led the licensing and installation ceremony. He invit-

ed the youth, their parents, and sponsors to come forward to lay hands on Hank during a time of prayer.

Hank most recently served as youth pastor at First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro, Kansas. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Religion and Communications from Bethel

College in North Newton, Kansas, and a Master of Divinity degree with a major in Pastoral Ministry from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Hank is married to Erin Unruh, and his parents are Mark and Tammy Unruh of Newton, Kansas. ■

Volunteers

Continued from page 9

Family information: I am married to Lorin Byler.

Goals: My goal for my service with the Gifts Discernment Ministry is to be open to God's Spirit in discerning the gifts needed in Ohio Conference leadership and assisting in identifying those who possess those gifts.

Hobbies/special interests: I like to read fiction books, especially mysteries. ■

March 22
April 12, 19, 26
May 10, 17, 24
7:00-8:15 p.m.

Please note starting date change!

Register at
www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Questions?
Contact Alysa Short at
alysashort@gmail.com /
419.572.1348

Jesus as Model

Youth Ministry Reimagined

Are you a **youth worker**? Could you use some **encouragement and support**? Then join Ohio Conference during the months of March, April and May as they offer **FREE online seminars** for youth workers to engage with leaders while learning from each other. Participants will be supported and encouraged in their important, yet challenging, role as youth leader.

Participants will have the opportunity to connect with other youth workers from around Conference and to share their stories of successes and challenges.

Conference Calendar

MAR

22 Youth Worker Seminar, online

APR

1-3 Men's Retreat, Camp Luz

12 Youth Worker Seminar, online

19 Youth Worker Seminar, online

22-23 Ohio MCC Comforter Bash, Kidron Community Park Recreation Building, Kidron

26 Youth Worker Seminar, online

MAY

3 Enneagram Workshop for Pastors, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library,

10 Youth Worker Seminar, online

17 Youth Worker Seminar, online

24 Youth Worker Seminar, online

27-30 Mennonite Church USA Special Delegate Assembly, Kansas City, Missouri

JUL

5-10 Indonesia 2022, Mennonite World Conference Assembly 17, Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia, and online

NOV

4-6 Pastors' Wives Retreat, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin

<https://mennocreationcare.org/green-mustard-seed-fund>.

The Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team has begun a series of posts about immigration on the Ohio Conference Facebook page. The most recent post, dated March 3, explores the concept of compassion as it relates to immigrants. You are invited to join the conversation about immigration. See the team's posts on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OhioConferenceMCUSA>.

Online Anabaptist Short Course: Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 20–May 31. Join Betty Pries, PhD, to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online short course from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. No grades, no papers! CEUs are available. See ambbs.edu/shortcourses.

Camp Luz in Kidron will host a Men's Retreat April 1-3. Retreat speaker Wayne Morgret will focus on the theme of restoration. Learn more at www.camluz.com/mens-retreat.html. ■

Back page briefings...

Mennonite churches and Anabaptist-related nonprofits are invited to apply by **April 1, 2022**, for one of several \$1,000 grants from Mennonite Creation Care Network's Green Mustard Seed Fund. Past grants have funded a

variety of creation care projects, from insulation to a church day camp featuring endangered species. Priority is given to congregations with limited means and those experiencing or responding to environmental injustices. Learn more at

OHIO MENNONITE
EVANGEL
News & Views of Ohio Conference

For more Ohio Conference news, visit the Ohio Conference website: ohiomennoniteconference.org