

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Starting this fall: Join us in prayer

One of the opportunities to practice our faith together, growing out of our commitments from the most recent Annual Conference Assembly gathering, is to join in a collaborative prayer practice this fall.

We will meet on Zoom from noon to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 14 through Nov. 23, using [Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book](#) as the format for our time together. You can also access the readings and prayers on the app of the same name. To download this free app, go to <http://bit.ly/AnabaptistPrayerApp>.

The rhythm of praising, listening and responding is modeled in this form of communal prayer. **We invite you to set this intentional time to be in the presence of God with others from across our Conference as we live, work and discern together.**

We hope you will join us.

– Paula Synder Belousek, Pastor and Ministry Development Team Chair and Sherah-Leigh Gerber, Regional Pastor

Note: For login information for these prayer times, see the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/OCPrayers>.

Has your congregation appointed ACA delegates?

A reminder for congregations: Please be sure your congregation has delegates appointed prior to the fall delegate gatherings in September and early October. (See page 2 for a list of the delegate gatherings.) Once your congregation has appointed delegates, please send their names and contact information to Judy King at the conference office at ohmc@zoominternet.net.

This year the Ohio Conference Leadership Team is encouraging each congregation to appoint an alternate delegate who will fully participate in all delegate activities throughout the year. In that way, this alternate delegate will be fully prepared to act as a substitute voting delegate at Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) if one of your congregation's other delegates is not able to attend. ACA will take place March 3-4 at Central Christian School in Kidron.

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.

Perspective inserts

This issue of Perspective includes the September-October issue of Prayer Prompter, the September issue of Prayer Vine from Mennonite Mission Network, and the September issue of Daily Prayers for Mennonite Education from Mennonite Education Agency.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Retreat will focus on ‘Joy in the Journey’

Ohio Conference will hold a retreat for wives of Ohio Conference pastors on Nov. 4-6, 2022, at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. Miriam Zehr will be the speaker for this retreat, which will explore the theme “Joy in the Journey.”

For more details, please see the [retreat brochure](#) included with this issue of *Perspective*. Register online by **Oct. 7** at <https://bit.ly/JoyintheJourneyRetreat>.

MEDA event to highlight work in Haiti

Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) invites you to learn more about MEDA’s work of economic development in Haiti. On Tuesday, Sept. 13, the Northeast Ohio Hub of MEDA will host a gathering from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Venture Heritage Farm, 13777 Arnold Road, Dalton, Ohio.

The event will include authentic Haitian hors d’oeuvres and updates from the field with MEDA’s Haiti project manager, Claude Clodomir. Claude is a Haitian native and passionate about the work MEDA is doing to create jobs and alleviate poverty through business in his country.

Hors d’oeuvres will be provided at no cost, but donations will be accepted for MEDA. To learn more or to register for this event, go to <https://bit.ly/MEDASept13>.

MDT awards three grants

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) has awarded three grants totaling \$15,225. The MDT approved these grants at its meeting on Aug. 18, 2022.

Community Garden — Grant funds will be given toward the creation of a community garden in Archbold. The goal of this project is to provide gardening space for residents of a subsidized housing complex in the area. Partnering organizations will include Zion Mennonite Church, the village of Archbold and the Archbold FISH Food Pantry.

Third Street Family Green Space — First Mennonite Church in Canton and Lighthouse Ministries are receiving funding toward the creation of 3rd Street Family Green Space. The project calls for investment in the empty lot across the street from the church building as a green space which will be available for the church’s neighbors and neighborhood, while still remaining functional for various church and Lighthouse activities.

Van for Akron Swahili Mennonite Church — Grant funds will be given toward the purchase of a used 15-passenger van for use by the Akron Swahili Mennonite Church. Other congregations working with the Akron congregation to fund this purchase are Crown Hill Mennonite Church, Martins Mennonite Church, Orrville Mennonite Church, Wooster Mennonite Church, Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville and Salem Mennonite Church in Wooster.

Delegate perspective

Ohio Conference is planning five fall delegate gatherings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. Each meeting will run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

- Tuesday, Sept. 20 — Oak Grove Mennonite, Smithville
- Thursday, Sept. 22 — Beech Mennonite, Louisville
- Tuesday, Sept. 27 — West Clinton Mennonite Church, Wauseon
- Thursday, Sept. 29 — South Union Mennonite, West Liberty
- Tuesday, Oct. 4 — Online meeting via Zoom

To assist in planning, please register online at <https://bit.ly/2022FallClusterMeetings>.

Hymnal perspective

Salem Mennonite Church in Elida has used copies of *Hymnal: A Worship Book, Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story* that they would like to pass on to a congregation or ministry that would put them to good use. If you are interested, contact Pastor Paula at pastor@salemmennonite.com.

Perspective deadlines

Sept. 6 for Sept. 8 issue
Sept. 20 for Sept. 22 issue
