

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Winter Read to return in January

Returning this January: The Ohio Conference Winter Read. This winter Ohio Conference will once again hold a Conference-wide book study using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. This year we will be studying *Just Mercy*, a book by Bryan Stevenson.



Winter Read discussion sessions will take place in the evening on Zoom. Specific meeting dates will be announced at a later time.

Bryan Stevenson was the speaker at Eastern Mennonite University's spring 2022 commencement ceremony. He is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and a professor of law at New York University Law School.

Foundations for Justice series starts tonight

As part of Ohio Conference's continuing education regarding anti-racism and intercultural competency, we are offering a three-part "Foundations for Justice Series." The first session will be held online **tonight, Oct. 20**, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. The other two sessions will take place Nov. 3 and Nov. 17.

This training series will be led by Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, Intercultural Competence and Undoing Racism Coordinator at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. The training is required for all Ohio Conference staff and those holding volunteer positions with the Conference. We strongly recommend the training for all our credentialed ministers, and it is open to anyone from an Ohio Conference congregation.

While we encourage you to participate live on the three Thursday evenings, we realize that these scheduled times may not work for everyone. Consequently, the three sessions will be recorded so they can be viewed at a later time. There will also be some brief pre-session work to help prepare for each of the sessions. Please register online for this training series at <https://bit.ly/FoundationsforJustice>.

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.

Mission perspective

Is your church planning a mission Sunday in November? Do you want to explore God's call to create sacred spaces for people to encounter Jesus? Mennonite Mission Network has Mission Sunday materials for your congregation to use. Go to <https://bit.ly/2022MissionSundayResources> to explore and download these resources.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Deficit grows during September

Six months into the 2022-23 fiscal year, Ohio Conference continues to run a deficit. The deficit increased during the month of September, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Receipts for the month totaled \$23,436, including \$23,122 in giving from congregations. Expenses for the month totaled \$29,486, resulting in a deficit of \$6,050 for the month. As of Sept. 31, the Conference's operating balance for 2022-23 was -\$44,935. The Conference's fiscal year ends March 31, 2023.

Mennonite Arts Weekend set for Feb. 3-5

"Between: Embracing Vulnerability" is the theme for the 16th Mennonite Arts Weekend, February 3-5, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations and workshops by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend. A nursery will be available.

Now is the time to take advantage of the early-bird registration offer and sign up for limited spaces in workshops. Find the list of presenters and registration, location, and lodging information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/2023maw>. Come enjoy the fun, connect with friends, and hear Girl Named Tom.

Register now for stewardship event

Oct. 23 is the deadline to register to attend *Weaving a Legacy – Finances God's Way*. This Everence stewardship event will take place Sunday, Oct. 30, at 2:30 p.m. at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City.

The afternoon will include workshops on topics such as teaching children about money, how investments can reflect one's faith values, and estate planning. There also will be time for participants to share stories of how their faith shapes their financial decisions. Participants are invited to stay for fellowship and a pork barbecue supper starting at 5 p.m.

To register, contact Melissa Short at 800-348-7468 ext. 3392 or melissa.short@everence.com. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/WeavingaLegacy>.

Camp Luz to offer personal retreat

Camp Luz in Kidron will hold a personal retreat Nov. 11-12. Check in will be from 6:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, and the retreat will end at 6:45 p.m. Saturday.

Cost for this retreat is \$60 per person. The registration cost covers three meals and lodging. The retreat will feature a silence and solitude schedule, including a handout. Register online at <https://www.campluz.com/personal-retreat.html>.

Employment perspective

Open Arms Hispanic

Ministries is looking to hire a community outreach worker. This person would be bilingual, be able to maintain a flexible schedule (up to 20 hours per week) and live in or near Wayne County. Please contact Dan King for more information at dljking@gmail.com or 330-466-1269.

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Mennonite Mission Network is hiring several new staff members. An announcement with more information about these job opportunities is included with this issue of *Perspective*. Please share this announcement with your congregation.

Prayer perspective

Please join us each Wednesday at noon for a time of communal prayer on Zoom. We will be using [*Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book*](#) as the resource for our time together. To participate, you can use either the prayer book or the app of the same name, available at <http://bit.ly/AnabaptistPrayerApp>. The login link for these prayer sessions is <https://bit.ly/OhioConferenceAtPrayer>.

Perspective deadlines

Nov. 1 for Nov. 3 issue
Nov. 15 for Nov. 17 issue