



OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

NOV/DEC 2022



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.

Last winter during the first Ohio Conference Winter Read, more than 60 people from throughout the Conference participated in discussions about Latasha Morrison's book *Be the Bridge*. ■

Missional Workshop to focus on projects

In 2023 Ohio Conference is offering a Missional Workshop on April 15. During this one-day workshop, teams from Ohio Conference congregations will work on plans for projects designed to reach out to their individual communities.

Mauricio Chenlo, minister for church planting at Mennonite Mission Network, will facilitate

the Missional Workshop. This event will include significant time for congregational teams to work on a project and receive feedback about the project from others.

The location of this workshop is yet to be determined. Registration information will be shared on the Ohio Conference website in the near future. ■



Mauricio Chenlo

RESOURCE CORNER

Check out these Advent resources

**By Ann Leaman
Ohio Conference
Resource Advocate**

As we move into the season of Advent, Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Education Agency and CommonWord have Advent resources for individuals, families and congregations.

“Restoration is Near!” is the theme of the Advent at Home 2022 worship guide, now available at the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) website: <https://mennoniteusa.org/adventathome>. Using the theme developed for *Leader* magazine, the guide offers weekly and daily scriptures from the lectionary texts, worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information to help individuals and households of all ages prepare for Advent through Epiphany.

Talashia Keim Yoder from Goshen, Indiana, wrote the Advent at Home curriculum. Keim Yoder is a grad-

uate of Hesston College and Tabor College, and is currently attending Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. She is the pastor for Christian formation at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. She has developed past editions of Advent at Home and Lent at Home. Artist Erin Ramer from Parnell, Iowa, designed the guide.

Advent at Home was originally created by Mennonite Church Canada in 2002. MC USA has developed the curriculum since 2016 as part of its Faith Formation emphasis. This year, Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) and MC USA communications staff partnered together to produce the resource. It is intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of Christmas.



COMMONWORD

Another online source for Advent resources is CommonWord, which is a collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University. CommonWord has compiled a curated list of worship, drama, family, and other resources for Advent. To view these resources, go to www.commonword.ca/go/2190. ■

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Leadership Team announces resignation of Regional Pastor Sherah-Leigh Gerber

It was with sadness that the Leadership Team of Ohio Conference recently accepted the resignation of Sherah-Leigh Gerber as our regional pastor in the east. Sherah-Leigh was called to this role of regional pastor because of her unique skill set and gifting, and her presence and contributions will be greatly missed. One of the primary reasons she gave for her resignation is the intense season in the life of the Conference that made the emphasis of her work different than she had anticipated. The other primary reason given was the patriarchy and sexism which she experienced while carrying out her role as regional pastor.

As the Leadership Team we are especially concerned about

patriarchy and sexism present in our system. In late 2020 the Leadership Development Resource Team that was in place at the time conducted a survey of our pastors and congregational leaders regarding women in ministry. The survey revealed that over the years there has been improvement in how women pastors are viewed in Ohio Conference. However, the survey also revealed that women in ministry continue to experience more challenges and barriers than men. The report specifically stated, “Comments reflected that people tend to scrutinize women leaders more than they do men.”

Together as a Conference we must own the patriarchy and sexism that exists in ourselves, our congregations, and in the Ohio Conference system. These attitudes, biases, and actions, whether conscious or unconscious, are inconsistent with the Kingdom of God as



Sherah-Leigh Gerber

revealed through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, and we must continue the undoing of them from our system.

The Leadership Team strongly affirms the calling of women to all ministerial positions. In particular, we affirm the gifts that Sherah-Leigh possesses, and the significant contributions she has made to our Conference life. We ask for your prayers for her during this time of transition in her life. ■

“As the Leadership Team we are especially concerned about patriarchy and sexism present in our system.”

Foundations for Justice webinar recordings available

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 third of these training sessions will take place Nov. 17. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/FoundationsforJustice>.

This training series is 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.

Recordings of the training sessions are available. To view the recordings, contact Administrative Secretary Judy King at ohmc@zoominternet.net or 330-857-5421. ■

CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

Holy Indifference

In my last article for the *Evangel*, I wrote about the spiritual discipline of Christian discernment. As individual Christians we should be discerning the will of God in our beliefs, decisions and actions each and every day. Our discernment of God's will for our lives should be based on what has been revealed to us in the Bible and in God's Son Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. As difficult as discerning God's will for our lives as individuals can be at times, it becomes exponentially more difficult to discern God's will as a body of Christ — whether it be one church or a collection of churches such as a conference or a denomination. It is even more difficult for us as Mennonites and Anabaptists who believe that the will of God is to be discerned collectively. Mennonite educator Michael King says, "Christian discernment involves the community of believers gathered in Jesus' name around Scripture to find its way through [forward]."

In her book *Pursuing God's Will Together*, Ruth Haley Barton writes about the practice of "Holy Indifference." Holy Indifference applies to the practice

of discernment in that it should be the goal of every Christian involved in a discernment process to be indifferent to anything and everything but the will of God. How do we determine God's will on specific matters? Again, God has chosen to reveal his will through the Bible and his Son Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that "The Son is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15a). In our 1995 *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, Article 4 on Scripture states, "We accept the Bible as the Word of God written . . . God has spoken above all in the living Word who became flesh and revealed the truth of God faithfully and without deception . . . Because Jesus Christ is the Word become flesh, Scripture as a whole has its center and fulfillment in him."

In the same way we need all the aspects of the triune God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — to help us discern who God is, we need to look to Scripture, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to find our way forward.

Ruth Haley Barton says there are two distinct elements of Holy Indifference, the prayer for Holy Indifference and the practice of Holy Indifference. The prayer for Holy Indifference needs to come first. Whatever it is we are trying to discern, we need to pray for indifference to anything and everything but the will of God as revealed through the Bible,



Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. If we are discerning God's will correctly, those three should be in agreement.

As we as a community of Mennonite churches across Ohio continue to try to discern God's will for us into the future, and as the Strategic Planning Team that is now in place reviews all the feedback we have received from our pastors and delegates, and prepares to present options at our winter cluster meetings in January, may we all be in prayer for Holy Indifference.

As we enter into this season of Advent and Christmas, may our prayer for Holy Indifference be the same as that of Mary at the angel Gabriel's announcement that she was to give birth to the Messiah, "I am the Lord's servant, may your word be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38), and Jesus' words near the end of his life in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). ■

"Whatever it is we are trying to discern, we need to pray for indifference to anything and everything but the will of God as revealed through the Bible, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit."

Leadership Team shares update on review process

At our Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) on March 4-5, 2022, Ohio Conference delegates affirmed the use of a consultant to help us with strategic planning, including visioning for the future and reviewing our affiliation with Mennonite Church USA (MC USA). The review in affiliation is due to a resolution passed by the Ohio Conference delegate body on March 25, 2017. That resolution stated, “We will continue our affiliation with MC USA with one of three changes that would trigger a review of that affiliation: 1) A substantive change in the Confession of Faith; 2) A substantive change in the Membership Guidelines of MC USA; 3) A change in policy or practice at the national level that would require Ohio Conference to recognize the credentials of pastors who have performed same-sex marriages or who are involved themselves in a same-sex relationship.”

While at ACA this past March we did not know what would take place at MC USA’s special delegate assembly on May 27-30, 2022, we felt there was the likelihood that the Membership Guidelines of MC USA would at least be retired. Actions by MC USA’s delegates retired the Membership Guidelines and later rescinded them in the *Resolution for Repentance and Transformation*. The process to bring that resolution, as well as its language and actions called for, fit the provision to review our affiliation with MC USA.

In April, our process consultant, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi from Design Group International,

began meeting with our constituents. She met with the Leadership Team and pastoral staff, our active credentialed ministers, and our congregational delegates in regional cluster meetings, concluding on Oct. 4, 2022. This first part of the review process centered on receiving feedback in three main areas: 1) God’s purpose and vision for Ohio Conference based on our new mission statement – *to Gather, Equip and Send our congregations by the power of the Holy Spirit to live out God’s Greatest Commandments and Jesus’ Great Commission*; 2) the things that Ohio Conference brings to our credentialed ministers and congregations that are most appreciated; and 3) options for future affiliation.

The well-attended meetings led to a widespread recognition that not all Ohio Conference congregations or members of individual congregations are in agreement regarding affiliation with MC USA. Participants in the various meetings expressed strong appreciation for Ohio Conference’s support structures, pastor peer groups, regional pastors, and the geographic proximity that allows for close networking.

All the feedback from those groups has been compiled and is being prayerfully reviewed by our Strategic Planning Team – Dick Barrett, Conference Minister; Michelle Steffen, Sonnenberg Mennonite Church; Joel Shenk, pastor at Toledo Mennonite Church; and Tyson Stuckey, Central Mennonite Church.

With our consultant facilitating, the Strategic Planning Team met for

From the Leadership Team



the first time on Oct. 29, 2022, in Upper Sandusky. The initial focus of the Strategic Planning Team will be to follow up on the feedback we have received about vision, purpose, and those things which are most important to our credentialed ministers and congregations. The team also will gather more solid information about the various options and explore how that information fits with the affiliation options that were shared. It is the goal of the Strategic Planning Team to have two or three viable options for delegates to consider. Delegates will have another time of discernment at our next round of cluster meetings scheduled for January 2023. This plan will provide time for further refinement of the options before the Annual Conference Assembly on March 3–4, 2023, at Central Christian School in Kidron.

As the Leadership Team of Ohio Conference continues to pray for our pastors, congregational leaders and congregations, we ask that you continue to keep us and our other Conference leaders in your prayers as well, as we continue to discern together where God may be leading us in the years ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone from the [Leadership Team](#). ■

“It is the goal of the Strategic Planning Team to have two or three viable options for delegates to consider.”

Learning trip gives deeper understanding of MMN ministries in France

A Mennonite Mission Network Learning Fellowship visit to Paris, France, focused on church life in the country. Participants gathered in front of Sacre Coeur (Sacred Heart), one of the most frequented tourist sites in Paris and an active Catholic church. From left: Matthew Krabill, James Krabill, Toni Krabill, Kayci Detweiler, Paula Snyder Belousek, Marisa Smucker, Erin Unruh, Jeanette Krabill and Hank Unruh. Photo provided.



By Lynda Hollinger-Janzen
Mennonite Mission Network Paris Mennonite Center (PMC) sponsored a learning fellowship visit for its supporters, Sep. 16-26, to give them a deeper understanding of its ministries in France and throughout the French-speaking world. James and Jeanette Krabill, who were long-time workers with Mennonite Mission Network, co-hosted the visit with their son and daughter-in-law, [Matthew and Toni Krabill](#), who are currently serving with Mission Network as co-directors of the Paris Mennonite Center. The elder Krabills served for 20 years in West Africa, and James was a Mission Network administrator for 20 more years, before retiring from full-time employment in 2017.

The two-generation Krabill hosting team welcomed three participants from Ohio congregations — members of Matthew and Toni Krabill's ministry

support team — and two Mission Network staff persons who took a deep dive into the vibrant spiritual life of “post-Christianity” Paris, often described as one of the most secular cities in the world. Paula Snyder Belousek, a former Mission Network Service Adventure leader and pastor of [Salem Mennonite Church in Elida, Ohio](#), was joined by Erin and Hank Unruh of Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, Ohio, where Hank Unruh pastors. Erin Unruh is a pharmacy technician. Marisa Smucker, Mission Network's senior executive of ventures, and Kayci Detweiler, Mission Network's divisional coordinator of advancement, were also able to experience first-hand the ministries for which they provide administrative support.

The group took in some of the iconic Paris destinations — the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame ca-

thedral, the *Sacre Coeur* (Sacred Heart) Basilica and the Latin Quarter, but conversations with religious leaders were interspersed throughout this more standard tourist fare. They met with French Mennonite leaders, members of the Muslim community, and professors of French church history and secular culture.

“All of these people make up the religious landscape present in France today,” James Krabill said. “All of their [perspectives] are important for understanding how God is at work in this part of God's world.”

For Snyder Belousek, some of the trip's highlights were learning about the collaborative efforts between French and North American Mennonites, especially *Domaine Emmanuel* (now known as AEDE), an organization that provides

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MMN in France

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housing and a sheltered workshop for people with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. This ministry was started by French Mennonites at a time when these services were rare in France.

“This was of special interest to me, because my first career was working with adults with developmental disabilities in Men-

nonite-affiliated organizations in the United States,” Snyder Belousek said. “We also worshipped with the Chatenay-Malabry Mennonite Church, a beautiful example of a multi-ethnic community, where people from a variety of backgrounds form a Christian community against the backdrop of a secular society.”

Participants in the learning fellowship visit agreed that they had plenty of good food, a lot of fun, and they made many new friends. They all said that the experience helped them return to their home communities with strengthened resolve to participate in God’s reconciling mission in the places where God has planted them.

Reprinted with permission from Mennonite Mission Network. ■

Mennonite Arts Weekend planned

“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. ■



Dialogue (quilt) by Rachel Derstine

MENNONITE
Arts WEEKEND

BETWEEN:

*Embracing
Vulnerability*

FEB 3-5, 2023
CINCINNATI, OHIO

GIRL NAMED TOM

Roseann Penner Kaufman
Talashia Keim Yoder
Daniel Shank Cruz
Anne H. Berry
Rachel Derstine
Dick Lehman

Viki Graber
Lynn Sommer
Joungmin Sur
SaeJin Lee
Jerry Holsopple
Angela Sprunger

INFO &

TICKETS:

mennoniteartsweekend.org



Mentor-Mentee retreat provides resources

Pastors currently licensed toward ordination met with their mentors Sept. 6 for the Mentor-Mentee Retreat at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin.



On Sept. 6 Ohio Conference hosted a Mentor/Mentee retreat for our pastors who are currently licensed towards ordination. The one-day retreat was held at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. There were seven pairs present:

- Mentee Nathanael Hostetter Ressler (Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Hartville), Mentor Dan Hooley (Crown Hill Mennonite Church)
- Mentee Keith Lyndaker Schlabach (Millersburg Mennonite Church), Dick Barrett (filling in for Mentor Shawn Hilliard, Martins Mennonite Church)
- Mentee Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach (Millersburg Mennonite Church), Mentor Sherah-Leigh Gerber (Ohio Conference)
- Mentee Meredith Caldwell (Salem Mennonite Church, Waldron, Michigan), Mentor Sue Short (Zion Mennonite Church)
- Mentee Brenna Harker (West Clinton Mennonite Church), Mentor Paula Snyder Belousek (Salem Mennonite Church, Elida)
- Mentee Henry Unruh (Salem

Mennonite Church, Kidron), Mentor Jeff Hochstetler (Berlin Mennonite Church)

- Mentee Linda Reigsecker (West Clinton Mennonite Church), Regional Pastor Tony Doehrmann (filling in for Rebecca Kauffman, Bethel Mennonite Church)

The primary input person was Terry Shue, retired pastor and former denominational minister for Mennonite Church USA. Terry's passion while serving as a congregational pastor and as a denominational minister was raising up healthy church leaders. The focus of the day was on relationship building, core competencies and Credentialing Ministry Team expectations. It was a great day of fellowship and learning. A special thank you goes to Terry Shue for his leading and to Alysa Short, our coordinator of volunteers, for her planning of the day. ■

HELP US PURCHASE THIS VAN

Ohio Conference has awarded a matching grant of \$10,000 to go towards the purchase of a 15-passenger van for the Akron Swahili Mennonite Church. We are calling for churches and individual donors to raise an additional \$24,000 to purchase.



Make checks payable to "Ohio Conference" designated to "Congolese Van," 5358 Kidron Road, Box 210, Kidron, OH 44636.

Donations must be received by December 31, 2022.

If you would like more details, contact Thomas Dunn at thomas@crownhillmennonite.com.

Thank you in advance for your donations!

ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

Glenn Nofziger II was installed as pastor at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022. Regional Pastor Sherah-Leigh Gerber brought the message, *This Changes Everything*, drawing from the calling of the disciples from Matthew 4. The congregation hosted a fellowship meal following the service.

Glenn is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite Seminary. He previously served as pastor of congregational care at Martins Creek Mennonite Church in Millersburg. ■



Glenn Nofziger II was installed as pastor at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron Sept. 11. Photo by Kevin Nofziger.

The pastors of Akron Swahili Mennonite Church, Benaya Mlondani Wahina and Malanga Lusaende, were licensed for Christian ministry on Sunday, Oct. 2, during a World Communion Sunday worship service held at Central Christian School in Kidron.

The worship service was a joint service involving about a dozen churches in the region. About 350 people were present for the worship service, which was led in three languages: English, Spanish and Swahili. Conference Minister Dick Barrett led the licensing ceremony.

Benaya Mlondani Wahina is the lead pastor of Akron Swahili Mennonite Church, and Malanga Lusaende is the vice pastor. Both men served as pastors for many years in Africa, and they have continued in ministry since coming to the United States.



Conference Minister Dick Barrett (left) licensed Benaya Mlondani Wahina (center) and Malanga Lusaende for ministry on Oct. 2 during a World Communion Sunday worship service at Central Christian School in Kidron.

Thomas Dunn, co-pastor of Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman, and Jacob Dodson, pastor of Wooster Mennonite

Church, have agreed to serve as mentors for Benaya and Malanga. ■

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ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 9

Mennonite Church USA

Jeff Hochstetler is serving on the Worship Planning Committee for MennoCon23, the Mennonite Church USA convention which will take place July 3-8 in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to serving on the Worship Planning Committee, he will serve as one of the two worship leaders during MennoCon23.

Jeff Hochstetler lives in Berlin, where he serves as lead pastor of Berlin Mennonite Church.

He graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, with a Master of Divinity and Goshen College with a Bachelor of Arts in business and history. He learned to love road cycling on the flat terrain of Northern Indiana. He is the president of the Holmes County (Ohio) Ministerial Association and serves on the board of directors at Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.



To learn about the other members of the Worship Planning Committee for MennoCon23, please see the Mennonite Church USA website: <https://bit.ly/MennoCon23Planning>. ■

MMN and Mennonite Women USA

Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells, pastor of Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland, was one of the featured speakers during Leaders Inspiring Leaders, a women's leadership conference held Sept. 29-Oct. 2 in Elkhart, Indiana. She preached the morning message during the worship service at Anabaptist

Mennonite Biblical Seminary on Sunday, Oct. 2. This women's leadership conference was sponsored by Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Women USA. To learn more about this conference, see the Mennonite Mission Network website: <https://bit.ly/MMNLeadersInspiringLeaders>. ■



Everence

KIDRON, Ohio – Everence® Financial has hired Dariush Meraj as a financial consultant joining the Northeast Ohio team.

Meraj works out of the Kidron, Ohio office. He serves clients in Holmes, Wayne, and Stark Counties, providing life, health, and Medicare supplement insurance, investment, and retirement planning as well as estate planning.

Meraj has his Series 6 license and is registered with Everence Trust Company and Concourse

Financial Group. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Ashland Theological Seminary and has participated in several courses at Eastern Mennonite University. He previously served as a missionary in the Middle East and worked with Hartville Hardware.

In addition to insurance and financial services, Everence also offers a full range of banking services through the Everence Federal Credit Union branch in Kidron. ■



ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 10

Strategic Planning Team

On Sept. 1 Ohio Conference's Leadership Team approved the formation of a Strategic Planning Team as part of the Conference's current review process. The members of this team are Conference Minister Dick Barrett, Tyson Stuckey from Central Mennonite Church in Archbold, Michelle Steffen from Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron, and Joel Shenk from Toledo Mennonite Church.

Tyson Stuckey grew up at Salem

Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan. Since 2006 he and his wife, Angie, have been



members of Central Mennonite Church in Archbold. They have two sons, Ethan, a high school senior, and Logan, an eighth grader. Tyson and Angie are currently MYF sponsors at Central, where Tyson has also served in many other roles. He is also on the board of several community agencies. Tyson is a Certified Public Accountant and a managing partner of Shultz Huber & Associates, Inc. of northwest Ohio.

Michelle Steffen lives and

works on the family dairy farm in Apple Creek, Ohio, with her husband, Greg. They have two chil-



dren, Elijah, a student at Messiah University, and Moriah, a student at Houghton University. Michelle has been a member of an Ohio Conference church at various stages in her life spanning 20+ years including Berlin Mennonite, Chestnut Ridge Mennonite and currently Sonnenberg Mennonite Church.

Joel Shenk has been the pas-

tor at Toledo Mennonite Church since 2010. He lives in Toledo with his wife,



Emiley, and daughters, Roslyn and Lizette. While attending Fuller Theological Seminary, Joel worked with the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference and the Center for Anabaptist Leadership before moving to Ohio to begin pastoral ministry. At Toledo Mennonite Church, Joel has

partnered with RAW Tools to disarm hearts, wage peace, and turn guns into garden tools. He also enjoys fly fishing as much as possible.

Dick Barrett has served as

conference minister of the Ohio Conference since fall 2018. A native of New York State,



Dick previously pastored at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty for 16 years, four years as associate pastor and 12 years as lead pastor. He and his wife, Mary, live in West Liberty.

The Strategic Planning Team is being coached by the Conference's process consultant, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi of Design Group International. With the leadership of the consultant to guide the process, the Strategic Planning Team is following up on the feedback received during meetings with credentialed pastors, delegates and Conference volunteers and staff. The team will gather information about options for denominational affiliation and hopes to have two or three options for delegates to consider. ■

Conference Calendar

NOV

- 16 Ohio Conference at Prayer, online via Zoom
- 17 Leadership Team Meeting, online via Zoom
- 17 Foundations for Justice Webinar, online via Zoom
- 23 Ohio Conference at Prayer, online via Zoom

JAN 2023

- 17 Winter Cluster Meeting, Maple Grove Mennonite, Hartville
- 19 Winter Cluster Meeting, Toledo Mennonite
- 24 Winter Cluster Meeting, Sharon Mennonite, Plain City
- 26 Winter Cluster Meeting, Orrville Mennonite
- 30 Winter Cluster Meeting, online

FEB

- 3-5 Mennonite Arts Weekend, Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati
- 3-5 Youth Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 17-19 Jr. High Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

MAR

- 3-4 Annual Conference Assembly, Central Christian School, Kidron

APR

- 15 Missional Workshop, location to be announced

As part of their school-wide Community Service Day, eighth grade students from Central Christian School in Kidron packed 750 relief kits for Mennonite Central Committee. To view a gallery of photos, see <https://bit.ly/CCSRReliefKits>.

New Vision issue on “Spirituality and aging” available for free online.

The Fall 2022 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* is co-edited by Jane Kuepfer, PhD, and Andy Brubacher Kaethler, PhD. This issue focuses on three aspects of spirituality and aging — changes, questions and resources — and seeks to honor the experience of aging. The Fall 2022 issue is available at ambs.edu/vision.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) invites you to join the celebration of 50 years of MCC Thrift. This special virtual event will celebrate the history, creativity and generosity of the MCC Thrift network and its many dedicated volunteers.

The online presentation will begin on Nov. 22, 2022, at 8 p.m. EST. Register at <https://bit.ly/MCCThriftCelebration>. ■

OHIO MENNONITE
EVANGEL
News & Views of Ohio Conference

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

Back page briefings...

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 dlinking@gmail.com or 330-466-1269.