

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: 330-453-0150 Email: ohioevangel@gmail.com

Registration is open for ACA

Online registration is open for the 2023 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA). Central Christian School in Kidron will host the 2023 ACA March 3-4. The theme of this year's gathering will be "Doing Life Together: Rooted and Grounded in Love," based on Ephesians 3:16-21.

Doing Life Together



**Rooted and Grounded
in Love**
Ephesians 3:16-21

Pastors, please note this schedule change:

This year the Pastor Appreciation Meal will be at **lunchtime** on Friday. In the past few years, the Pastor Appreciation Meal has been held in the evening on Friday, but this year it will be at lunchtime. Pastors will still need to order dinner for Friday.

For more information about ACA, please see the Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2023ACAInfo>. To register online, go to <https://bit.ly/2023ACARegistration>. Register for ACA by **Feb. 10**. The registration fee increases after that date.

Winter Read conversations begin next week

The first installment of the Ohio Conference Winter Read will take place next week on Tuesday, Jan. 10! Please join us on Tuesday nights in January and February on Zoom as we discuss the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Our online conversation will take place on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.



A reading schedule for this series is available: <https://bit.ly/2023WRSchedule>. To receive the Zoom login for the Winter Read, please register online: <https://bit.ly/2023WinterRead>.

Would you like to learn more about Bryan Stevenson and how he became involved in his life's work? Listen to him talk with author and podcaster Kate Bowler: <https://katebowler.com/podcasts/bryan-stevenson-love-mercy/>.

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.

Prayer perspective

In your prayer times, please continue to remember the planners of Ohio Conference's Annual Conference Assembly, which is planned for March 3-4, 2023, at Central Christian School in Kidron. This group is composed of Dick Barrett, Matt Ellington, Dan Hooley, Judy King, Paula Snyder Belousek, and Alysa Short. May they have wisdom, strength and peace as they coordinate all of the details.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is a day that remembers the non-violent approach to racial justice that was led by minister and activist Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “Grace & Groundings,” Ohio Conference’s racial reconciliation resource team, invites you to use the previous Sunday – Jan. 15, 2023 – to remember the work that has been done and continues to be done toward achieving true equality and human rights for African Americans and other people of color.



Consider shaping your worship service around a theme of reconciliation or equality for all God’s people. Highlight past accomplishments, honor current efforts, and recognize the work that still needs to be done. As Christians we know that all humans are created in God’s image and are called to live with dignity in peace, love, and unity. Let’s promote these moral values as we worship together. There is a place for everyone at God’s table.

Laurelville to host Music & Worship Leaders Retreat

Laurelville Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, will host its annual Music & Worship Leaders Retreat January 20-22, 2023. This year’s theme is “Lament and Hope” with guest speaker Safwat Marzouk, author and theologian.

The retreat gives music and worship leaders a space to learn, recharge, and connect with their peers through valuable workshops, seminars, resources, fellowship time, worship, and plenty of music. For more information or to register, go to <https://bit.ly/LaurelvilleMusicandWorship>.

AMBS conference to focus on ‘Reimagining Ministry’

“Reimagining Ministry” will be the theme of the 2023 Pastors & Leaders Conference at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana. This year’s conference is designed to give pastors and church leaders ideas and practices to help nurture resilience, compassion and hope in themselves and in their congregations by learning from Jesus’ ministry.

Pastors & Leaders 2023 will begin at 7 p.m. EST on **Monday, Feb. 13**, and conclude at 12:30 p.m. EST on **Thursday, Feb. 16**. Keynote speakers will be Joni Sancken and April Yamasaki. Participants can attend in person on the AMBS campus or from a distance via livestream and Zoom. For more information, see the AMBS website: <https://bit.ly/AMBSPastorsandLeaders2023>.

Scholarship application deadline is Feb. 28

Everence is continuing its college scholarship program for the 2023-24 school year and will be accepting applications through **Feb. 28, 2023**. The program awards scholarships of \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000. To be eligible the student or the student’s parent must own or be using an Everence product. For more details or to apply, visit everence.com/college-scholarships.

Delegate perspective

Five winter cluster meetings have been scheduled for Ohio Conference delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last between 1.5 and 2 hours.

Locations are as follows:

- Jan. 17 — Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Hartville
- Jan. 19 — Toledo Mennonite Church
- Jan. 24 — Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City
- Jan. 26 — Orrville Mennonite Church
- Jan. 30 — Online meeting via Zoom

Please register for the cluster meeting that you plan to attend. Register online at <https://bit.ly/2023WinterClusterMeetings>.

Racial justice perspective

Anabaptist World invites your original submissions for the Feb. 10 issue focusing on the theme “racial justice.” Articles should be between 600 and 1,200 words. For more information about this theme, see <https://anabaptistworld.org/aw-call-for-submissions-racial-justice>. Submissions are due to editor@anabaptistworld.org no later than **Jan. 15, 2023**.

Perspective deadlines

Jan. 17 for Jan. 19 issue
Jan. 31 for Feb. 2 issue
