

Perspective



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Ministry Grants are available for local projects

Ministry Grants are back! **Aug. 4** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT). The MDT is accepting proposals from Ohio Conference congregations and related ministries for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has **\$7,395** available for grants.

If your congregation is seeking funding for a ministry that would impact your community, consider applying for a Ministry Grant.

The Ministry Development Team will consider all grant proposals at its August meeting. Please note that this is a one-time grant. Grant monies are not intended to be used for staffing.

More information and an online application are available on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>. A copy of the grant application is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Please remember us in prayer this summer

Please keep Ohio Conference, our congregations and pastors in your prayers throughout the summer. If you would like a prayer request added, please contact Ann Leaman at ohioevangel@gmail.com, Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com, or Regional Pastor Tony Doehrmann at ocrpwest@gmail.com.

Please remember these requests during your prayer times:

— Ohio Conference as we continue to discern God's future vision for us as a conference. Our process consultant will be meeting with the Leadership Team and Ministry Development Team on June 15 and with our credentialed ministers for an all-day gathering on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in Upper Sandusky.

— Congregations in Ohio Conference that are discerning God's will for them regarding future conference and/or denominational affiliation.

— Congregational pastors on sabbatical:

- Rebecca Kauffman, Bethel Mennonite, through July 10.
- Jeff Hochstetler, Berlin Mennonite, June through August. (Jeff, Kelsey and their three daughters will be serving with

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.

Financial perspective

Ohio Conference ended the first month of the 2023-24 fiscal year with a deficit, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for the month of April totaled just \$12,451, including \$12,299 in giving from congregations. Expenses for the month totaled \$26,545, resulting in a deficit of \$14,094 for the month.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Mennonite Mission Network in Colombia May 28-June 21.)

- Kevin Himes, Salem Mennonite, Kidron, July through September.
- Joel Shenk, Toledo Mennonite, June 26 through Sept. 25.

— Congregations in pastoral transition.

— Congregations with summer youth mission/service trips:

- Oak Grove, West Liberty (Youth and Adult), Puerto Penasco, Mexico, June 22-25.
- Beech Mennonite (Youth and Adult), Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) in Kentucky, week of July 3.
- Wayne County Axis Youth Group, Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) in Kentucky, week of July 3.
- Salem Mennonite, Kidron, Guatemala, July 8-14.

— Pastor Matthew Reed, Beech Mennonite, mission trip with [Young Life](#) to Prague, Czech Republic, July 14-21.

— Sharon Mennonite Church, community missions festival, Aug. 5.

— Salem Mennonite, Elida, summer worship and Sunday school planned around the theme of creating peace together.

SEMILLA leadership to visit NE Ohio

SEMILLA Seminary Meet and Greet — Come join us for a meet and greet with visitors from SEMILLA Latin American Anabaptist Seminary, located in Guatemala City, which provides biblical, theological and leadership training to over 700 adult students annually throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Meet the leadership of SEMILLA and hear the latest updates on Saturday, June 3, 2-5 p.m. at Venture Heritage Farm, 13777 Arnold Road, Dalton, Ohio 44618. For more information about SEMILLA, see <https://semillagt.org>.

AMBS offers Ministry Integrity Circles

Pastors, do you need help with ministry transitions or significant challenges? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's (AMBS) **Ministry Integrity Circles** program provides the support of consultants within a community of peers. The Spring 2023 cohort begins June 26 and is free to participants.

This program includes an initial in-person session at AMBS on June 26-27. Other sessions will take place over Zoom Sept. 25-26, 2023; Jan. 29-30, 2024; and April 22-23, 2024.

Paula Snyder Belousek, pastor at Salem Mennonite Church in Elida, has participated in this program. If you have questions about Ministry Integrity Circles, contact her at pastor@salemmentonite.com or contact Julia Schmidt at AMBS at jschmidt@ambs.edu.

Apply for the Spring cohort by May 26. A Fall 2023 cohort is also planned. Learn more at ambs.edu/integrity-circles.

Remembrance perspective

James Robert “Bob” Lemon, who served as pastor of Owl Creek Mennonite Church in Lucasville for almost 30 years, died May 19 at his home in Heritage Green in Kidron. He was 89 years old. His full obituary is available at <https://bit.ly/BobLemon>.

Tech in worship perspective

Anabaptist Worship Network recently offered a webinar about best practices for audio visual technology in worship. A recording is available at <https://bit.ly/AudioVisualTechinWorship>. Viewers can learn from expert panelists on a range of issues related to practical and artistic concerns for sound and images, with takeaways for both beginning and advanced technicians.

Relief sale perspective

The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction will take place July 7-8 at the Mt. Hope Event Center. A relief sale poster and the most recent Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale newsletter are included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Perspective deadlines

June 6 for June 8 issue
June 20 for June 22 issue
