

# Perspective



Loving God, Loving Others,  
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

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## **Ministry Grant proposals are due Aug. 4**

There's still time to apply: **Aug. 4** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal for an Ohio Conference Ministry Grant. The Ministry Development Team (MDT) is accepting proposals from Conference congregations and related organizations for projects and mission initiatives. The MDT has **\$7,395** available for grants this year. Learn more and apply online at <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>.

## **Register for Pastor-Spouse Retreat by Sept. 1**

Pastors: Are you planning on attending the Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat? The retreat will take place Nov. 10-12 at Deer Creek State Park Lodge and Conference Center in Mt. Sterling, Ohio. Registration is due by **Sept. 1, 2023**. For more information, see <https://bit.ly/2023Pastor-SpouseBrochure>. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2023Pastor-SpouseRetreat>.

## **Everence Blessing Booth debuts at relief sale**

Everence in Northeast Ohio was privileged to partner with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale this year. The sale was held on July 7 and 8, 2023, at the Mt. Hope Event Center in Mt. Hope,



Ohio. Everence staffed a Blessing Booth where attendees could donate directly to their favorite MCC project without having to bid or take something home with them. This year was the first for the Everence Blessing Booth. Look for it again next year in 2024.

## **Giving to Conference drops during June**

Giving to Ohio Conference dropped during June, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Receipts for the month of June totaled \$13,531, including \$12,377 in congregational giving. In contrast, receipts for May totaled \$27,670, more than twice as much.

**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.**

## **Open Arms perspective**

The Open Arms Hispanic Ministry Board has hired a new executive director. Pablo Delgado will begin as executive director on Aug. 1. Over the past six months he has been serving Open Arms as a community outreach worker. To learn more about this new appointment, see the Open Arms website: <https://bit.ly/OpenArmsExec>.

## **Please distribute Perspective copies to:**

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

Expenses for June totaled \$24,472, resulting in a deficit of \$10,941 for the month. As of the end of June, the Conference's operating balance for the 2023-24 fiscal year was -\$21,397. The fiscal year ends March 31, 2024.

### **Anabaptist World seeks submissions**

*Anabaptist World* invites your original submissions for an upcoming issue focusing on the theme "resisting Christian nationalism." Articles should be between 600 and 1,200 words. For more information about this theme, see <https://bit.ly/AWResistingChristianNationalism>. Submissions are due to [editor@anabaptistworld.org](mailto:editor@anabaptistworld.org) no later than **July 24, 2023**.

### **MC USA to continue abuse prevention work**

ELKHART, Indiana (Mennonite Church USA) — Mennonite Church USA has named Nancy Kauffmann, former board president of Dove's Nest and longtime Mennonite church leader, as the interim denominational minister of Church Safety for MC USA's Church Vitality office, effective June 26, 2023. **This new position was created so that the denomination could address the need for continued abuse education and prevention work.**

This need came after Dove's Nest, an abuse prevention ministry, dissolved May 31, 2023. MC USA will use the name **Safe Church** to continue and to expand on the work that Dove's Nest started, according to Michael Danner, MC USA associate executive director of Church Vitality. By Aug. 1, many of Dove's Nest's resources, including the "Circle of Grace" curriculum, guidelines for setting up safe space policies, consultation services and a speakers' bureau will be available on the MC USA website.

For more information, please see the MC USA news release: <https://bit.ly/MCUSACHurchSafety>.

### **MCC to offer immigration law training**

Mennonite Central Committee is hosting an in-person Basic Immigration Law Training Sept. 11-15 in Akron, Pennsylvania.

This 40-hour training will be conducted using the curriculum of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). This course will help to provide the necessary training component for individuals who wish to apply for accreditation from the Department of Justice (DOJ). [DOJ recognition and accreditation](#) allows non-attorneys working at non-profit organizations to practice immigration law. The course will touch on all areas of immigration law and practice focusing on topics most relevant to those serving and representing low-income immigrants.

Following the training, participants have two to three weeks to complete a take-home, open-book exam.

Register by July 28 to take advantage of the early bird registration fee. Registration closes **Aug. 11**. For more information or to register, see <https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/immigration-law-training>.

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### **Assembly perspective**

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**O**n July 7 Mennonite Church USA delegates narrowly rejected a recommendation to lengthen the delegate assembly cycle from two years to three. See the report from *Anabaptist World* for more details about the 2023 delegate assembly: <https://bit.ly/DelegateAssembly2023Report>.

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### **Pastoral perspective**

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**G**ary Stuckey will begin as associate pastor at Lockport Mennonite Church in Stryker on Sept 1. His final Sunday at Inlet Mennonite Church in Wauseon is July 23.

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### **Worship perspective**

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**W**ant to take your worship outside this summer? CommonWord has a curated collection of outdoor worship resources that you can use. Whether you're in a forest, a field, or your backyard, these resources will help you find God in the world around you. Visit [commonword.ca/go/3535](https://commonword.ca/go/3535) to see the collection.

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### **Perspective deadlines**

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July 25 for July 27 issue  
Aug. 8 for Aug. 10 issue

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