

Perspective



Loving God, Loving Others,
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Ministry Grant proposals are due Aug. 4

Last call: **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>.



Dick Barrett to retire Oct. 13

Conference Minister Dick Barrett has announced plans to retire this fall. Dick will officially retire from his Conference Minister role and all ministerial duties on Oct. 13, 2023. A letter from the Ohio Conference Leadership Team regarding Dick's retirement is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Open house to honor Haroldo Nunes and family

An open house will be held for Haroldo Nunes and his family on Sunday, July 30, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, 14367 Hackett Road, Kidron. Open Arms Hispanic Ministry wants to celebrate and express appreciation to Haroldo for his 17 years of ministry with Open Arms. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

RSVPs requested for pastor meeting

A reminder for pastors: On Wednesday, Aug. 16, Ohio Conference will be hosting our annual All Active Credentialed Ministers Gathering at the Upper Sandusky Community Library from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is an important gathering, as our process consultant, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi, will once again be facilitating the gathering to help us discern God's vision for the future of Ohio Conference.



Everyone's input is very important, so please try to make arrangements to attend if at all possible. **If you have not already done so, RSVP to Judy King at the Conference office at 330-857-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net as soon as possible.**

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.

Retreat perspective

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>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

On the Level features MDS stories

The July edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS). In the current issue: Kevin King shares some lessons learned in the wilderness; an MDS family project is bringing a new look to a campground in Wyoming; and a long-time project director talks about why he continues to serve with MDS. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3DlnAQX>.

AMBS to launch Practical Leadership Training

In August, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) is launching a new Practical Leadership Training program to help pastors, lay leaders, community leaders and leaders of nonprofit organizations increase their capacity to provide effective Anabaptist leadership in a variety of settings.

This program grew out of a listening process in which church leaders shared that they needed practical leadership skills to meet challenges resulting from the pandemic, polarization, shifting church commitments and an unpredictable future. In response, AMBS designed a program consisting of modules focusing on four areas: **administration, leadership, contextual engagement** and **well-being**.

Practical Leadership Training modules are offered in five different formats: in-person seminars, webinars, in-person leadership clinics, four-session online workshops, and six-week online short courses. Participants can select the modules that are best suited to their interests and needs. Please see the enclosed program flier for details on upcoming modules. For more information, see <https://www.ambs.edu/practical-leadership-training>.

ADN creates accessible baptism curriculum

Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) has published *Believing and Belonging: An Accessible Anabaptist Membership Curriculum* for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities. Written by ADN Executive Director Jeanne Davies, this curriculum fills the increasing need for curriculum written specifically for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities.

This curriculum has 36 lessons covering God's first people, the story of Jesus, the story of the Early Church, Anabaptist beliefs and practices, and a discussion of baptism and membership. Each story features a captivating illustration by Dona Park or real-life photos that assist in understanding. Lessons also involve a "do" portion, with action items that provide a learning through doing approach.

Believing and Belonging is designed as a year-long preparation for a decision about baptism and church membership. The teacher's edition includes tips and insights for teaching, as well as a guide for discerning next steps if the ability to choose baptism seems unclear. Books are available from Brethren Press. To purchase, go to <https://bit.ly/BelievingandBelonging>.

Peace Sunday perspective

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) invites your congregation to observe Peace Sunday on Sept. 17, 2023. The MWC Peace Commission has prepared Peace Sunday worship resources for congregations. These resources are included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Simplicity perspective

Anabaptist World invites your original submissions for an upcoming issue focusing on the theme "What is simplicity?" Articles should be between 600 and 1,200 words. Photos or other art are welcome. Submissions should be made to editor@anabaptistworld.org by **Aug. 21**. For more information, see <https://bit.ly/AWSept22issue>.

School kit perspective

Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) School Kit Challenge has a goal to collect 10,000 school kits during the month of August. To hear from Mary, a school kit recipient from South Sudan, see the MCC video: <https://bit.ly/2023SchoolKitChallenge>. For more information, see <https://mcc.org/school-kit-challenge>.

Perspective deadlines

Aug. 8 for Aug. 10 issue
Aug. 22 for Aug. 24 issue
