

# Conference Calendar

## AUG

- 16 Credentialed Leaders Meeting with Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi, Upper Sandusky

## SEPT

- 19 Fall Delegate Cluster Meeting, Oak Grove Mennonite Church, West Liberty
- 21 Fall Delegate Cluster Meeting, Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland
- 26 Fall Delegate Cluster Meeting, Zion Mennonite Church,
- 28 Fall Delegate Cluster Meeting, Wooster Mennonite Church

## OCT

- 2 Fall Delegate Cluster Meeting, online
- 12 Leadership Team and Ministry Development Team Meeting, Upper Sandusky

## NOV

- 10-12 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Deer Creek State Park Lodge, Mt. Sterling, Ohio

## Delegate assembly schedule to remain the same

On 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 Ana-

baptist World for more details about the 2023 delegate assembly: <https://bit.ly/DelegateAssembly2023Report>.

Ohio Conference bulletin inserts are published six times per year by Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)  
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## Series to explore generosity and stewardship

Starting this month, **MennoMedia** is offering three online sessions focused on generosity and stewardship, featuring input from consultants at **Everence**. Beginning Thursday, Aug. 17, the monthly sessions will unpack the “why” behind our giving and provide input on specific charitable tools that you can use to support the causes and organizations that are important to you.

All sessions begin at 2 p.m. ET. Recordings will be available for those whose schedules will not accommodate afternoon meetings. Dates and topics are as follows:

- Aug. 17 — Exploring “why” we give



- Sept. 21 — Strategic generosity: Maximizing your charitable impact
- Oct. 19 — Strategic generosity at year end

Learn more and register online at [www.mennomedia.org/register-now](http://www.mennomedia.org/register-now) or by emailing Mitch Stutzman, Director of Development and Partner Engagement at MennoMedia, at [MitchS@MennoMedia.org](mailto:MitchS@MennoMedia.org).

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## Dick Barrett announces retirement plans

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.

Writing for the Ohio Conference Leadership Team, Moderator Ken Sims noted, "Dick has been an outstanding asset and resource to the Conference since he began his assignment as Conference Minister in the fall of 2018 on a part-time basis and began his full-time work with the

Conference in January 2019." The entire letter from the Ohio Conference Leadership Team regarding Dick's retirement is on the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/7-14-23LeadershipTeamLetter>.



## MC USA to continue abuse prevention work begun by Dove's Nest organization

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.

MC USA plans to include many of the resources of Dove's Nest on the denominational website, including the "Circle of Grace" curriculum, guidelines for setting up safe space policies, consultation services, and a speakers' bureau.

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

## MCC sets goal for School Kit Challenge

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is holding a School Kit Challenge this August.

**The challenge:** Help 10,000 kids attend school by donating 10,000 school kits during the month of August.

To assist in this challenge, MCC is



offering a free school kit activity resource for Sunday school and vacation Bible school students. To learn more about the chal-

lenge or to order the school kit activity resource, go to <https://mcc.org/school-kit-challenge>.

## 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.