

Perspective



Loving God, Loving Others,
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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

Sept. 1 is registration deadline for retreat

Last call for registrations: **Sept. 1, 2023**, is the registration deadline for 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. For more information, see <https://bit.ly/2023Pastor-SpouseBrochure>. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2023Pastor-SpouseRetreat>.

Pastors meet for discussion and discernment

On Aug. 16 Ohio Conference hosted its annual all pastors gathering at the Upper Sandusky Community Library. There were 32 credentialed ministers in attendance, representing 24 of our congregations.

The day was facilitated by our process consultant, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi of Design Group International. Jeanne's focus was on helping the pastors discern God's future vision for Ohio Conference and a strategic plan for the next three years to help carry out our primary mission of *Gathering, Equipping and Sending our congregations by the power of the Holy Spirit to live out God's Greatest Commandments and Jesus' Great Commission*. It was a good day of fellowship and hearing from our pastors in preparation for further processing with all our delegates at the upcoming fall cluster meetings in September.

To view photos from the pastor gathering, please see the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2023PastorMeeting>.

Delegate lists requested

A note for congregational administrators and pastors: Please send your delegate lists to Judy King at the Ohio Conference office (ohmc@zoominternet.net) soon. The first fall cluster meeting for delegates is Sept. 19. Ohio Conference leadership is hoping that once delegates have been chosen, those same delegates will remain engaged in the work of reviewing Conference structure throughout the fall and winter delegate cluster meetings, as well as Annual Conference Assembly. For a list of the fall cluster meeting dates and locations, please see <https://bit.ly/Fall2023ClusterSchedule>.

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

Open Arms | Brazos Abiertos
We welcome, accompany, and partner with Latino immigrants in building a safe and sustainable life.

SONGS & SALSA
LIVE MUSIC . CHIPS . SALSA
October 8th 5:00 pm
TORTILLA CHIPS SERVED WITH A VARIETY OF SALSAS AND DIPS. A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR OPEN ARMS
Salem Mennonite Church-Kidron
3363 Zuercher Rd, Dalton, OH 44618
open-arms.us

Please distribute

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

Deficit increases during July

Ohio Conference's year-to-date deficit increased during July, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. However, giving to the Conference was higher in July than in the previous month.

Receipts during the month of July totaled \$24,297, compared with just \$13,531 in June. Even so, expenses for July were greater than receipts, resulting in a deficit of \$3,529 for the month.

As of July 31, the operating balance for 2023-2024 was -\$24,926. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2024.

EMS to offer seminar on family systems

Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Virginia, is offering continuing education options for pastors and Christian educators. Beginning in October, the seminary is offering an online continuing studies seminar in Bowen Family Systems Theory.

This seminar is intended for those with some acquaintance with Bowen Theory and who welcome the opportunity to deepen their understanding and its applications. There will be monthly sessions via Zoom video conferencing from October 2023 through May 2024. These sessions will include presentations by faculty, group discussion, and individual consultation with a faculty coach along with assigned reading and recorded lectures by Dr. Murray Bowen and others recognized as experts in the field.

Thanks to a Lilly Foundation Thriving in Ministry Grant, this seminar is available at a reduced cost of \$360 per participant. Please see <https://emu.edu/seminary/continuing-ed> for more details. Registration is due by **Sept. 15**. A seminar flier is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

MCC Seek program is for young adults

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is accepting applications for Seek, its newest young adult program for 18- to 20-year-olds who want to do six months of service, discipleship training and cross-cultural sharing in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Starting in January 2024, Seek participants from around the world will stay in the Southeast Asian country, considering together what it means to live, love and serve like Jesus. Seek is firmly rooted in an Anabaptist reading of Scripture and involves Bible study, individual prayer, lectures and conversation. The Seek cohort will be a group of 6-10 international participants.

Young adults who want to participate in the 2024 Cambodia program can apply between Aug. 7 and Sept. 30. While Seekers must cover preliminary expenses like visa fees, MCC pays all in-country costs and provides participants with a small monthly stipend. To learn more, please see the [MCC news release](https://mcc.org/get-involved/volunteer/seek) and visit <https://mcc.org/get-involved/volunteer/seek>.

Seminary perspective

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) is offering **Ministry Integrity Circles**. Pastors, do you need help with ministry transitions or significant challenges? The seminary's Ministry Integrity Circles program provides the support of consultants within a community of peers. Two cohorts will begin this fall: one will be meeting once in person Sept. 25-26 and then three more times on Zoom. Another cohort meeting entirely in person will begin Oct. 23. Apply for the hybrid cohort by Aug. 25 or the in-person cohort by Sept. 23. See <http://ambs.edu/integrity-circles> for details.

...

AMBS is offering a **Transition to Leadership** program. This two-year program guides and nurtures new pastors during the crucial first years of ministry through one-on-one mentoring, biannual learning events, and specialized coaching sessions throughout the year. The Fall 2023 cohort starts Nov. 9; apply by Oct. 9. See <https://www.ambs.edu/transition-to-leadership> for details.

Perspective deadlines

Sept. 5 for Sept. 7 issue

Sept. 19 for Sept. 21 issue
