

Perspective



Loving God, Loving Others,
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Four cluster meetings remain

The first fall cluster meeting for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly was held Sept. 19 at Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty. Four cluster meetings remain on the schedule:

- Sept. 21 — Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland
- Sept. 26 — Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold
- Sept. 28 — Wooster Mennonite Church
- Oct. 2 — Online meeting via Zoom



Please register for the cluster meeting that you plan to attend. Register online at <https://bit.ly/Fall2023ClusterMeetings>.

Register online for Women in Leadership Retreat

One role of ministry leaders is to notice and affirm the gifts of those in your congregation. The planning committee of this winter's Ohio Conference Women in Leadership Retreat would like you

to begin thinking now about women in your congregation that you could encourage to attend. We would love to see each congregation send at least one woman, preferably more! This could be women who are currently serving in pastoral or congregational roles, as well as women who want to explore possibilities for using their gifts in church leadership.

The Women in Leadership Retreat will take place Feb. 2-3 at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. The input speaker for this retreat will be Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, dean of lifelong learning and DMin program director at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. To learn more, please see the retreat brochure included with this issue of *Perspective*. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2024WomeninLeadership>.



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.

Seminary perspective

Online Short Course: Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace: Oct. 25 – Nov. 21. Join Drew Strait, Ph.D., in this four-week online short course from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary to deepen your understanding of White Christian nationalism and explore practical and effective nonviolent strategies for resisting it — drawing insights from how Jesus countered oppression. No grades, no papers. CEUs available. Register by Oct. 4 to save \$50. See ambs.edu/nationalism.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

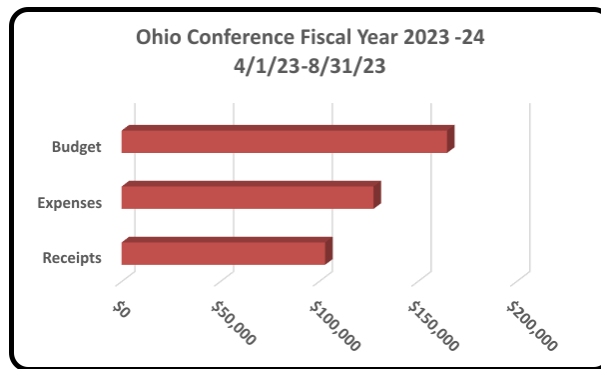
Young adult perspectives sought

Ohio Conference's racial reconciliation resource team, Grace & Groundings, is working on actions related to social justice. However, the team wants to address those issues that are of utmost concern to young adults in particular. Please encourage the young adults in your congregation to let us know what topics they would be most interested in. Please forward this message on to them and encourage them to reach out to us either via email at graceandgroundings@gmail.com or by filling out this two-question [Google Form](#) by Friday, Oct. 6. If you have any questions, please send them to graceandgroundings@gmail.com.



Conference deficit decreases slightly in August

Ohio Conference's year-to-date deficit decreased slightly during August. Ohio Conference's income totaled \$25,105 during August, including \$24,973 in giving from congregations. Expenses during August totaled \$24,737, resulting in net income of \$368 for the month.



Despite the small surplus during August, the Conference continues to run a deficit in 2023-24. As of Aug. 31, the Conference's operating balance for the fiscal year was -\$24,558. Ohio Conference's fiscal year ends March 31, 2024.

Explore a call to ministry with Journey

When God calls someone to leadership, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Ohio Conference invites you to join



Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program.

This program is for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. The early registration deadline to apply for winter 2024 is **Dec. 6, 2023**, with the final registration deadline on **Jan. 10, 2024**. For more information visit www.ambs.edu/journey, contact your pastor, or contact the Ohio Conference office at ohmc@zoominternet.net or 330-857-5421.

Mission perspective

Ohio Conference now has a series of mission-focused videos on the Conference website. These videos, originally designed for a missional workshop, are available for your use. The following videos are included:

- Matt Pritchard — Considerations for Emerging Faith Communities
- Wild Church — Innovation/Creative Church
- Planting Piedra Viva Mennonite — Partnership
- Homestead Mennonite Church Experience — Revitalization

For more information and links to these videos, see the Conference website:

<https://bit.ly/MissionalVideos>.

World hunger perspective

Mennonite World Conference is one of 14 Christian organizations joining hands with World Vision International in prayer and action against world hunger. The third annual Weekend of Prayer and Action Against Hunger will be observed Oct. 14-16, 2023, coinciding with World Food Day, which falls on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2023WorldHunger>.

Perspective deadlines

Oct. 3 for Oct. 5 issue

Oct. 24 for Oct. 26 issue