

# Perspective



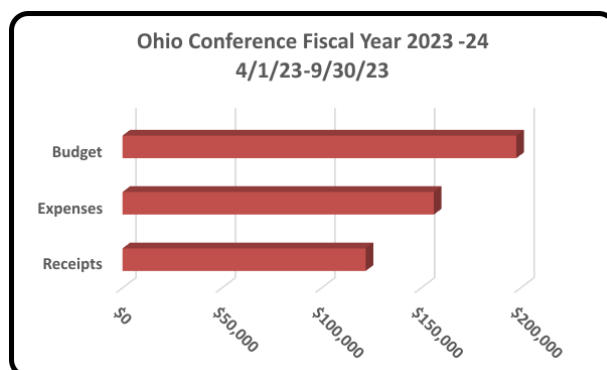
Loving God, Loving Others,  
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

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

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

## Congregational giving drops during September

Congregational giving to the Ohio Conference dropped during September, while giving from individuals increased during the same month. During September, congregations



contributed a total of \$13,960, compared to \$24,973 contributed during August. On a more positive note, the Conference received \$5,100 from individuals during September.

Total receipts for September were \$19,094, and expenses for the month were \$28,741, resulting in a deficit of \$9,647 for the month. As of Sept. 30, the Conference's year-to-date operating balance was -\$34,205.

## Encourage women in your congregation to attend Women in Leadership Retreat

Online registration is open for the Ohio Conference Women in Leadership Retreat planned for Feb. 2-3, 2024, at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. The



retreat will feature Jewel Gingerich Longenecker of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, who will focus on the theme "Finding Your Voice."

**The planning committee for this retreat would like you to think about women in your congregation whom you could encourage to attend.** The goal is for each congregation to send at least one woman. Consider sending women currently serving in pastoral or congregational roles such as MYF leaders, mentor coordinators, Sunday school teachers and superintendents, Christian education leaders, delegates, commission leaders, or other

*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.*

## MDS perspective

The October edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In the current issue: Kevin King shares the health benefits of being a volunteer; an old grocery store is transformed near Red Lake, Minnesota; and if you enjoy quilting, knitting or crocheting, you'll want to learn more about the MDS Housewarmer Project. To read more, go to <https://conta.cc/3FnVTrJ>.

## Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

positions, as well as women who want to explore possibilities for using their gifts in church leadership.

Cost for this retreat will be \$85 per person, which covers three meals, lodging and retreat fees. For more details, please see the retreat brochure included with this issue of *Perspective*.

The registration deadline is **Jan. 12, 2024**. Register online at <https://bit.ly/2024WomeninLeadership>.

### **Please post this updated flyer in your church**

The Credentialing Ministry Team of Ohio Mennonite Conference has updated the “How to Report Pastoral Sexual Misconduct” flyer and strongly encourages congregations to post it in their meeting spaces. Please consider posting in visible places, but it doesn’t have to be the first thing people see when entering the church. Consider posting in bathrooms, on bulletin boards or other conspicuous places around the church. We also ask that soon after the flyer has been posted that someone audibly refer to it publicly during announcement time in worship and/or print an announcement in church bulletins or newsletters. Thank you for helping to make our churches safe places!

### **Webinar topic is baptism and intellectual disabilities**

How do congregations welcome people with intellectual disabilities into baptism? Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) is hosting a free webinar on this topic titled “Becoming the Baptized Body” today, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m. ET on Zoom. **The webinar also will be recorded and available for free on ADN’s website beginning in November 2023.**

The webinar will feature a conversation between ADN’s executive director, Jeanne Davies, and Dr. Sarah Jean Barton, author of *Becoming the Baptized Body: Disability and the Practice of Christian Community*. The two will discuss baptism and church membership, focusing special attention to people with intellectual disabilities. To register for this free webinar, go to <https://bit.ly/BtBBWebinar>.

### **AMBS launches Forming Leaders Together campaign**

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, has launched its Forming Leaders Together fundraising campaign. Funds raised through the campaign are supporting the seminary’s collaboration with Anabaptist-Mennonite organizations serving the church in Canada, the United States, and around the world.

According to Paula Killough, MDiv, Director of Campaign, the seminary has reached 83 percent of its \$12 million campaign goal, with contributions and commitments totaling \$9.9 million. Planning for the campaign began in 2020.

To contribute to the campaign, visit [ambs.edu/leadersgive\\_us](https://ambs.edu/leadersgive_us). To learn more, see <https://bit.ly/FormingLeadersToether>.

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### ***Peace perspective***

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**I**n an interview with Camille Dager of Mennonite Church USA, Joel Shenk, pastor of Toledo Mennonite Church, describes how he learned blacksmithing as part of his personal peace witness and how Ohio Conference and his congregation have joined him in this work: <https://bit.ly/BlacksmithingPeaceWitness>.

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### ***Mental health perspective***

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**N**athanael Hofstetter Ressler, pastor of Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Hartville, shares about ADHD and how his congregation has been working to deal with mental health issues in a blog post for Anabaptist Disabilities Network: <https://bit.ly/ADN-MentalHealth>.

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### ***Health care perspective***

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**D**id you know that Mennonite Church USA has a health plan? The Corinthian Plan provides health coverage for eligible pastors, church employees and their families. Learn more during an upcoming Zoom meeting on Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. ET. Current participants of the plan are also welcome to ask questions. Register online at <https://bit.ly/CorinthianPlanQandA>.

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### ***Perspective deadlines***

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Nov. 7 for Nov. 9 issue  
Nov. 21 for Nov. 24 issue

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