

Perspective



Loving God, Loving Others,
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

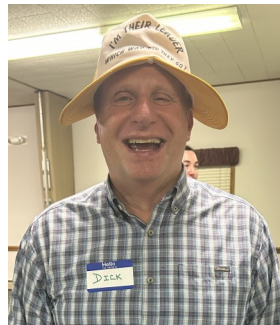
Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: 330-453-0150 Email: ohioevangel@gmail.com

Delegates meet for discussion, look toward future

Thank you to everyone who attended Ohio Conference's fall delegate cluster meetings. Delegates met for a time of discernment and discussion, considering these questions:

1. What is the context in which Ohio Conference congregations find themselves in today?
2. What are the needs and longings of the communities in which Ohio Conference congregations reside?
3. In light of the context, what is God's invitation to the congregations of Ohio Conference in the years ahead?
4. What should be the focus of Ohio Conference's support to congregations in the coming three years?

All the information from the cluster meetings is being collated by our process consultant, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi, and will be provided to the Leadership Team and the Ministry Development Team as they gather on Thursday, Oct. 12, in Upper Sandusky to continue to seek God's vision for Ohio Conference over the next several years and create a strategic plan based on that vision.



Retiring Conference Minister Dick Barrett received a special gift after the Sept. 28 cluster meeting at Wooster Mennonite Church (see photo). For additional cluster meeting photos, please see the Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2023FallClusterMeetings>.

ACA 2024 is for everyone, not just delegates

Ohio Conference's 2024 Annual Conference Assembly will take place March 1-2 at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. A flyer with information about ACA is included with this issue of *Perspective*. Please share it with your congregation and post it on your church bulletin boards.

The ACA Planning Committee is inviting **everyone** from Ohio Conference congregations to attend this year's ACA because of the featured speaker and topic for this year's gathering. Featured speaker Meghan Good will be presenting on her upcoming book,

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.

Worship perspective

Together In Worship and CommonWord have partnered to support worship in Mennonite and Anabaptist communities with hundreds of free spoken-word materials, visual art pieces, new music and video resources. All of these materials are available on the CommonWord website (<https://bit.ly/CommonWordWorshipResources>) and on the Together in Worship website (<https://togetherinworship.net/Home>).

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

[Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story.](#)

Initiative to promote awareness of gun violence

ELKHART, Ind. (Mennonite Church USA) — Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has launched “[Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence](#),” an initiative to bring awareness to the complex issue that intersects with poverty, racism, discrimination, criminal justice, education and the environment.

MC USA will host two webinars about the topic of gun violence, beginning with “Anabaptism and U.S. Gun Culture” on Oct. 12, 2023, at 7 p.m. ET. Join the webinar as panelists explore the issues that drive today’s violent gun culture in the U.S. and examine how our Anabaptist faith informs our response. Host Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, denominational minister of Peace & Justice, will lead this conversation with theologians Malinda Berry, Ph.D., of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and Andrew Suderman, Ph.D., of Eastern Mennonite University. Register online at <https://bit.ly/AnabaptismAndGunCultureWebinar>.

For more information on “Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence,” visit the online resource page throughout the campaign at <https://bit.ly/LPJEndGunViolence>.

Zoom meetings are for public educators

Mennonite Public Educators is hosting a series of Zoom meetings, “Being a Mennonite in Public Ed.” The first meeting will take place Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. ET. Participants will be invited to have real discussions about what it means to live out their faith in the public schools.

Mennonite Public Educators is a group that brings together Mennonite teachers and other education professionals who work in a public-school setting in the U.S. or Canada for mutual encouragement, support, and learning.

There is no cost to join the conversation, but registration is required to share the Zoom link. Register at <https://bit.ly/10-12-23MennonitePublicEducators>.

Author Summit to feature Meghan Good

Jesus Collective is planning an Author Summit featuring Meghan Larissa Good, who will be the featured speaker at the 2024 Annual Conference Assembly.

In the Author Summit, participants will meet via Zoom to explore Good’s soon-to-be published book, [Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story](#). The series will include seven meetings, all featuring conversation with Good.

The Author Summit will take place on Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. on Zoom, beginning Nov. 15 and ending Jan. 10, 2024. (There will be no meetings on Nov. 26 and Dec. 27). To register, go to <https://bit.ly/AuthorSummitMeghanGood>.

Podcast perspective

“*Til Death Do Us Part*” is a new podcast featuring conversation between author Christiana Peterson and her husband, Matthew Peterson, who is pastor of Midway Mennonite Church in Columbiana. In the description of this podcast, Christiana says, “Because I write about death and my husband is a pastor who is often invited into sacred spaces where death is present, we have many conversations about death... In each episode we discuss how our culture often ignores this most mysterious of human experiences, and how looking more deeply at our mortality might also be life-giving.” Episode 1 tackles the subject “Our Fear of Death.” You can listen to this podcast on [Spotify](#), Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, iHeartRadio, or Amazon.

Retreat perspective

Mennonite Men will hold a Men’s Retreat Saturday, Dec. 9, at Pathways Retreat in Goshen, Indiana. The theme of this half-day retreat will be “Living that Matters for Men.” Steve Thomas, US coordinator for Mennonite Men, will be the retreat leader. For more information, see the flyer included with this issue of *Perspective*. To register, go to bit.ly/pathways_Living_That_Matters.

Perspective deadlines

Oct. 24 for Oct. 26 issue
Nov. 7 for Nov. 9 issue
