

Perspective



Loving God, Loving Others,
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Retreat offers time for rest, reconnection

Fourteen couples attended the Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat, which was held Nov. 10-12 at Deer Creek State Park Lodge in Mt. Sterling, Ohio. The theme of the weekend gathering was “Fill my Cup,” and participants were encouraged to rest, be refreshed and reconnect with their spouse.

Our thanks go to the sponsors who helped to underwrite this event: Hummel Group, Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville, Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty, and Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold.

To view additional photos from the retreat (taken during the “Not-So-Newlywed Game”), go to the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2024Pastor-SpousePhotos>.

Retreat will equip women to use leadership gifts

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.”

This retreat will explore what it means for women to lead as their authentic selves and to claim the fullness of their identity as leaders created in the image of God. Participants will lay aside ill-fitting models of leadership and address the challenges that many women face as they develop their gifts and callings as leaders.

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.

Address perspective

Interim Conference Minister Dan Miller officially begins his work with the Ohio Conference next Friday, Dec. 1. Please note that Dan will be using the email address ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

For more details, please see the retreat brochure: <https://bit.ly/2024WILRetreatBrochure>. Please register online at <https://bit.ly/2024WomeninLeadership>.

Winter Read to focus on mental health

Coming in January: The Ohio Conference Winter Read. This winter Ohio Conference will once again hold a Conference-wide book study over Zoom. This year we will be studying [*Not Quite Fine: Mental Health, Faith and Showing Up for One Another*](#), a book by Carlene Hill Byron. Discussion leaders will be Emiley Shenk and Darin Nissley.

Winter Read discussion sessions will take place on Zoom on Thursday evenings, beginning Jan. 11 and concluding Feb. 15. Sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. **Please note: There will be NO discussion on Jan. 25.** See <https://bit.ly/2024WinterRead> for details or to register.

EMU to host Shalom Academy Jan. 8-10

Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, will host Shalom Academy (formerly School for Leadership Training) Jan. 8-10, 2024. Cultivating unity within faith communities can be difficult when cultural pressures are divisive. Shalom Academy 2024 will offer a place to learn and reflect on the practices that move congregations past divisiveness and toward peace, both within their walls and in their larger communities. To learn more or to register, go to <https://emu.edu/seminary/slt>.

AMBS gathering to focus on peacemaking

“Strategies for Peacemaking” will be the theme of the 2024 Pastors & Leaders Conference at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, Feb. 19-22, 2024. Betty Pries, PhD, will be the featured speaker.

This conference will focus on tools for peacemaking — building our capacity to tend to our inner work; address conflicts within our churches; and lead people to action on big issues such as climate change, immigration and political division. The conference will be held in person, with livestreaming and Zoom connections also available for those at a distance. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/AMBSPastorsandLeaders>.

New training modules offered at AMBS

In August AMBS launched a new Practical Leadership Training program to help pastors, lay leaders, community leaders, and leaders of nonprofit organizations increase their capacity to provide effective Anabaptist leadership in a variety of settings.

A new set of training modules is available beginning in January. Topics include Intergenerational Faith Formation, Riding the Wave of Conflict and Change, Seeing through Technology, and many more. For more information, see <https://www.amsb.edu/practical-leadership-training>.

Advent perspective

If you are seeking ways to nurture faith at home during Advent, take a look at the new **free** resources available online at The Soil and The Seed Project: <https://bit.ly/SoilandSeedVol8>. Volume 8 of these faith formation resources, now available, is intended for use during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

The Soil and The Seed Project has created “little liturgies” with downloadable music, art, prayers, scripture, and discussion prompts which can be used by individuals, families, or small communities. These resources are intended for daily and weekly use in people’s homes.

Resource perspective

CommonWord, a collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University has a variety of Christmas resources available for download. View them at <https://www.commonword.ca/go/2191>.

Perspective deadlines

Dec. 5 for Dec. 7 issue
Dec. 19 for Dec. 21 issue
