

Perspective



Loving God, Loving Others,
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Winter cluster meetings start Jan. 9

Five winter cluster meetings have been scheduled for Ohio Conference delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last about two hours.

Locations are as follows:

- Jan. 9 — Tedrow Mennonite Church, Wauseon
- Jan. 11 — Beech Mennonite Church, Louisville
- Jan. 16 — Crown Hill Mennonite Church, Rittman
- Jan. 18 — Oak Grove Mennonite Church, West Liberty
- Jan. 22 — Online meeting via Zoom



Please register for the cluster meeting that you plan to attend. Register online at <https://bit.ly/2024WinterClusterMeetings>.

Retreat to nurture women's leadership gifts

In less than two months Ohio Conference will hold a Women in Leadership Retreat, focusing on the theme "Finding Your Voice." This retreat is designed for women in a variety of leadership roles, not just pastors. It will be held Feb. 1-2 at the Lial Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. Please encourage women from your congregation to attend. For a brochure with more information, see <https://bit.ly/2024WILRetreatBrochure>. Register online at <https://bit.ly/2024WomeninLeadership>.

Plan now to join the Ohio Conference Winter Read

Coming in January: Please plan to join us for the Ohio Conference Winter Read. This winter people from around the Ohio Conference will gather on Zoom to discuss the book *Not Quite Fine: Mental Health, Faith, and Showing Up for One Another* by Carlene Hill Byron. Discussion leaders will be Emiley Shenk and Darin Nissley.

Warren Kinghorn, MD, ThD, of the Duke University Medical Center and Duke Divinity School, recommends *Not Quite Fine*,

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.

Prayer perspective

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team will again meet on Dec. 14. Please cover this morning meeting in prayer as they work together to lead Ohio Conference and welcome Dan Miller, the interim conference minister. Pray for wisdom, discernment and the leading of God's Spirit to reign in their discussion.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

saying, “For those who care about mental illness and wonder how to help, this is a wonderful place to start.”

Winter Read discussions will take place on five Thursday evenings: Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, Feb. 8 and Feb. 15. Sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

Registration is free, but participants need to purchase their own copy of the book. It is available from the MennoMedia website: <https://bit.ly/NotQuiteFine>. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/OhioConferenceEventRegistration>.

ACA speaker discusses scripture

Everyone is invited to attend the 2024 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) March 1-2 at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. The featured speaker at ACA will be Meghan Larissa Good, the author of *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today* and *Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Rediscover a Better Christian Story*. Want to learn more about Meghan Larissa Good? You can read her counsel for making sense of disturbing Bible stories in “Four Keys to Making Sense of those Troubling Bible Stories” on *Outreach Magazine*’s website: <https://bit.ly/TroublingBibleStories>.

Ohio MCC Comforter Bash set for March 8-9

Fairlawn Mennonite Church in Apple Creek will host the third annual Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on March 8 and 9. The church is located at 8520 Emerson Road, Apple Creek.

All are invited to knit comforters for Mennonite Central Committee. Women, men, youth groups, friends and family are invited! Come and go as you are able. Hours are as follows: Friday, March 8 — 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday, March 9 — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Food will be available for a donation.

Comforter tops and backs are needed for this event. Please see the MCC website for details: <https://mcc.org/events/ohio-mcc-comforter-bash>.

Arsenic mitigation efforts continue in Bangladesh

At the 2023 Annual Conference Assembly, Bill and Carole Schumacher of Sharon Mennonite Church shared a presentation about the Arsenic Mitigation Project, which focuses on removing arsenic from the water supply in Bangladesh. The Schumachers have continued to work with this project. To learn more, see the project’s most recent newsletter: <https://bit.ly/11-23ArsenicMitigation>.

Grant awarded to MEA Hispanic Ministries

Mennonite Education Agency Hispanic Ministries has received a \$15,500 grant from The Schowalter Foundation to adapt the Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA – Anabaptist Bible Institute) digital resources to better serve participants in virtual settings. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/MEAHispanicMinistries-Grant>.

Report perspective

Reports for the Ohio Conference Annual Report Book are due this month. If you have been asked to submit a report for the Annual Report Book, please send it to Judy King at ohmc@zoominternet.net by **Friday, Dec. 15.**

Grant perspective

Mennonite Mission Network is offering an Anti-Racism Grant specifically for individuals and organizations managed by Asian, Black, Hispanic, Indigenous or other People of Color groups who are engaged in peacebuilding, social justice and anti-racism efforts. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/MMNAnti-RacismGrants>.

Peace perspective

More than 800 people from 250 congregations across Canada and the U.S. met online Nov. 28 to talk about ways to respond together to the war in Gaza and Palestine. See the *Anabaptist World* report for details: <https://bit.ly/Nov28Meeting>.

Perspective deadlines

Dec. 19 for Dec. 21 issue
Jan. 9 for Jan. 11 issue
