

# Perspective



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

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## ***Building bridges and seeking shalom***

How can we build bridges between people, working toward social righteousness and shalom? In a new episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, Doug Zehr introduces a series of podcasts from Grace & Groundings, Ohio Conference's racial reconciliation resource team. Listen to this episode to learn more about this five-part podcast series and to hear Doug discuss five common misconceptions about racism.



Doug Zehr is a member of Grace & Groundings, Ohio Conference's resource team focused on racial reconciliation. To learn more about Grace & Groundings, see the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/RacialReconciliationResources>.

You can listen to this podcast [on Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#) or find it on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

## ***Retreat registration deadline is Jan. 12***

Last call for registrations: **Jan. 12** is the deadline to register for the Ohio Conference Women in Leadership Retreat on Feb. 2-3 at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. "Finding your Voice" will be the retreat theme.



Presenter for the retreat will be Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, dean of lifelong learning at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. She will lead participants in exploring what it means to claim the fullness of their identity as leaders created in God's image.

For more information, see the retreat brochure: <https://bit.ly/2024WILRetreatBrochure>. Register online at <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.***

## ***Writing perspective***

*Anabaptist World* invites your original submissions for an upcoming issue focusing on the theme "Inclusion of people with disabilities." Articles should be between 600 and 1,200 words. For more information about this theme, see <https://bit.ly/AWDisabilitiesInclusion>. Submissions are due to [editor@anabaptistworld.org](mailto:editor@anabaptistworld.org) no later than **Feb. 5**.

## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

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

## Cluster meetings have begun

Winter cluster meetings for Ohio Conference delegates are taking place this month. Four meetings remain on the schedule:

- 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

Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last about two hours. Please register for the cluster meeting that you plan to attend. Register online at <https://bit.ly/2024WinterClusterMeetings>.

## Rediscover the Bible with ACA speaker

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 see her series of videos, “Rediscovering the Bible,” on the Trinity Mennonite Church website: <https://www.trinitymennonite.com/rediscoveringthebible>. The videos explore how to interpret scripture through a Jesus-centered lens and how to discern the Spirit in everyday life.

## Giving increases during December

Giving to Ohio Conference increased during December. Receipts for the month totaled \$31,476, including \$21,569 in congregational giving and \$9,885 in gifts from individuals. In contrast, receipts for the month of November totaled just \$20,839.

Expenses for December totaled \$30,612, resulting in a small surplus of \$864 for the month. As of Dec. 31, Ohio Conference’s operating balance for 2023-24 was -\$43,377. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2024.

## Public educator group to meet Jan. 25

The next online meeting of the Mennonite Public Educators group is Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 7 p.m. Eastern. This group is intended for all Mennonite education professionals working in public school settings. The conversation topic will be “CRT, Social-Emotional Learning, & book banning.” Registration is required. Email [info@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:info@MennoniteEducation.org) to receive registration information.

## Hope for the Future conference set for Feb. 9-11

Registration for Mennonite Church USA’s (MC USA) Hope for the Future conference, to be held in Dallas, Texas, Feb. 9-11, 2024, is now open. The annual conference provides space for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) leaders from across the United States to gather and share in mutual support and worship. More information is available on the MC USA website: <https://bit.ly/2024HopeforFuture>.

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## Social justice perspective

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Grace & Groundings, Ohio Conference’s racial reconciliation resource team, would like to remind everyone that February is Black History Month and June 23 is Social Justice Sunday. This spring Grace & Groundings will be sharing resource materials for observing Social Justice Sunday in your congregation.

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## ACA perspective

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Registration is open for the 2024 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA). Sharon Mennonite Church will host ACA on March 1-2. For more information, please see <https://bit.ly/2024ACAInfo>. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/2024ACARegistration>.

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Delegates are welcome to submit resolutions for consideration by the delegate body at ACA. Please note that all proposed resolutions should be submitted to the Ohio Conference office by **Feb. 9**.

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## Perspective insert

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This issue of *Perspective* includes bulletin announcements for January from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

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## Perspective deadlines

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Jan. 23 for Jan. 25 issue

Feb. 6 for Feb. 8 issue

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