

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Have you registered for ACA yet?

Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) is almost here! Have you registered yet? ACA will take place March 1-2 at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City. Please note: If you want to order meals for ACA, you must do so by **today, Feb. 22**. After today you will still be able to register for ACA, but not for meals. Register online at <https://bit.ly/2024ACARegistration>.

Please pray for ACA

Please join us in praying for the Annual Conference Assembly on March 1-2:

- For opening our eyes to what it means for us today to have a Jesus-shaped faith as Meghan Good bears witness to the winds of the Spirit: from scripture, from her experience and from connections with others. We would love to pack the place for these sessions!
- For eyes to see future possibilities as delegates (hopefully) adopt a Conference strategic plan for the next three years. If we think of administration as pastoral care for the organization, these actions care for the health of Ohio Conference and lean into a future that delegates have discerned as they have participated in cluster meetings over the last two years.

— Dan Miller, interim conference minister

ACA planners are still seeking prayer partners

Ohio Conference's Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) is quickly approaching on March 1-2, 2024. Even if you are not attending ACA, you can still participate! We invite you to sign up to help cover all of ACA in prayer.

We are looking for willing individuals to commit to praying 20 minutes during the ACA weekend. You can do this from anywhere — your couch, your church, your office, even while on a walk. If you live close to Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City, you can even come and pray in the ACA prayer room (Room #12) at the church.

Go to <https://bit.ly/2024ACAPrayerSignup> to sign up for a time

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.

Camp Luz perspective

Camp Luz is seeking a leader who is passionate about seeing people growing in their faith in Jesus Christ to serve as program director. Use your skills and experience to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children, young adults, and families. This position is available immediately. See the [enclosed news release](#) for more information. A full job description is available at <https://www.campluz.com/employment-opportunities.html>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

slot. If a slot is already full, please sign up for another one. You may also sign up by contacting Alysa Short at alysashort@gmail.com or 419-572-1348.

Deficit shrinks during January

Strong congregational giving to Ohio Conference during January resulted in the Conference's highest monthly receipts by far for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Receipts for January totaled \$60,875, including \$50,397 in giving from congregations. In comparison, congregational giving in December totaled just \$21,569. Expenses for January totaled \$36,417, resulting in a surplus of \$24,458 for the month.

As of the end of January, the Conference's operating balance for 2023-24 stood at -\$18,919. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2024.

Healthy Boundaries refresher training planned

Ohio Conference will hold a Healthy Boundaries 201 training on Tuesday, April 30, at Wooster Mennonite Church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The training also will be available online through Zoom. For those meeting in person, lunch will be provided.

Healthy Boundaries 201 is designed for credentialed pastors who have previously completed Healthy Boundaries 101. **Please note:** All persons with an active (or active without charge) credential from the Ohio Conference are required to complete Healthy Boundaries training **once every three years**.

To register, go to <https://buytickets.at/ohioconferenceofmennonitechurchusa/1157814>. Please register by April 22.

Seminary programs offer support for pastors

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, is offering programs which support pastors currently serving in the church.

The [Transition to Leadership](#) program guides and nurtures new pastors during the crucial first years of ministry. This two-year program includes monthly one-on-one mentoring sessions, biannual Learning Events with other new pastors and their mentors, and optional consultations with consultants with expertise in pastoral ministry and intercultural competence.

[Ministry Integrity Circles](#) are designed for experienced pastors who are encountering shifts in their ministry or pastoral identity brought on by personal, cultural or structural change. In this one-year program, participants meet four times with a cohort of four to six other pastors to reflect deeply on their current ministry. Led by consultants trained in pastoral ministry and intercultural competence, they gain skills needed for ministry discernment. See the AMBS website (<https://www.ambs.edu>) for details about both of these programs.

ACA perspective

This year as a service project at ACA, Ohio Conference will be collecting grocery items for Daily Needs Assistance, a non-profit agency serving those in need in the Plain City area. Please see the [enclosed donation list](#) for suggested items.

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At the winter cluster meetings, we encouraged delegates to read Meghan Larissa Good's book *Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story*. You are invited to post pictures of yourself reading *Divine Gravity* on the [Ohio Conference Facebook page](#) with the hashtag #OCdivinegravity.

Service perspective

This year the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash will take place at Fairlawn Mennonite Church, 8520 Emerson Road, Apple Creek, Ohio.

Hours are as follows: Friday, March 8 – 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, March 9 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

See the Ohio Conference website for more information: <https://wp.me/p6vGMi-4eD>.

Perspective deadlines

March 5 for March 7 issue

March 19 for March 21 issue
