

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Twenty-five attend Women in Leadership Retreat

Twenty-five women attended the Ohio Conference Women in Leadership Retreat Feb. 2-3 at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. Speaker Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, dean of lifelong learning at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, led group sessions focusing on the theme “Finding Your Voice.” The retreat format also included time for worship, spiritual practices, quiet time and free time for participants. To see photos from the retreat, visit the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2024WomenInLeadershipPhotos>.

Register for ACA by Feb. 9

Have you registered for Annual Conference Assembly (ACA)? **Tomorrow, Feb. 9**, is the deadline to register for ACA at the regular fee of \$50 per person. After that date, the registration fee rises to \$65 per person.

Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City will host the 2024 ACA March 1-2. The featured speaker at this event will be Meghan Larissa Good, author of *Divine Gravity* and *The Bible Unwrapped*. The theme of the 2024 ACA will be “Following Jesus Together with a Common Mission,” based on Philippians 2:5-11. For more information about ACA, see the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2024ACAInfo>. To register online, go to <https://bit.ly/2024ACARegistration>.

Podcast explores immigration and our response

What is life like for refugees who come to Ohio? The latest episode of the Ohio Conference Cast podcast tells the story of one immigrant family that has ended up in Kidron, Ohio, after fleeing the war in Ukraine. Listen to this episode to hear the conversation between host Kevin Himes and his two guests, Alex Murza and Terry Shue. Alex and his family are building a new life in Ohio after leaving Ukraine, and Terry and many others in the local community have played a part in the Murza family’s resettlement in Kidron. To listen, go to the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/OhioConfCast2-7-24>.

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

Regional Pastor Tony Doehrmann has shared this prayer request: Meredith Caldwell’s husband is now home after suffering multiple strokes which have left him permanently blind in one eye and have impacted his fine motor skills. Please remember Meredith, Bill, and their family in prayer. Meredith formerly served as pastor at Salem Church in Waldron, Michigan.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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This episode is one in a series of podcasts created by Grace & Groundings, Ohio Conference's racial reconciliation resource team. These podcasts are designed to spark deeper conversations about issues of social righteousness and shalom. To learn more about Grace & Groundings, see <https://bit.ly/RacialReconciliationResources>.

Orientation sessions will be held online

Orientation sessions for new delegates to Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) and for table group leaders at ACA will be held on Zoom prior to ACA.

The new delegate orientation will take place Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

To attend, use this link: <https://bit.ly/2024NewDelegateOrientation>.

The table group leader orientation will take place Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

To attend, use this link: <https://bit.ly/2024TableLeaderOrientation>.

If you are unable to attend your orientation, please be sure to watch the recording PRIOR to ACA. Links to the recordings will be posted on the 2024 Annual Conference Assembly page of the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2024ACAInfo>.

Please help cover ACA in prayer

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.

So, whether you are young or old, near or far, join us in inviting the Lord's Spirit to guide the leaders and delegates as they engage in worshipful work.

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

POTC focuses on non-military career options

Peaceful Options for Training and Careers (POTC), an independent initiative formed by Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), has begun training volunteer counselors to help young adults find non-military career, service and training opportunities. Titus Peachey, a retired MCC peace educator, led the most recent training session on Jan. 18, 2024, via Zoom. To learn more, see the Mennonite Church USA website: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/potc-mobilizes>.

Social justice perspective

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.

Lent perspective

“Christ Among Us” is the theme of the Lent at Home 2024 worship guide, now available for free from the Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) website: <https://bit.ly/2024LentatHome>. This guide uses weekly and daily Scriptures as a basis for worship rituals, prayers, and activities designed to help individuals and households of all ages prepare for the season of Lent.

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The Soil and The Seed Project has released a new collection of **free** resources for Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Included are a new album of music, “Little Liturgies,” art, and lyrics/chord/lead sheets. To download these resources, go to <https://www.thesoilandtheseedproject.org/vol-9>.

Perspective deadlines

March 5 for March 7 issue

March 19 for March 21 issue
