

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Giving drops sharply in February

Giving to Ohio Conference dropped sharply in February, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Receipts for the month totaled just \$7,745, including \$5,521 in giving from congregations. In contrast, receipts for January were \$60,875, by far the highest monthly total in fiscal year 2023-24.

Expenses for February totaled \$25,159, resulting in a deficit of \$17,414 for the month.

As of Feb. 29, the Conference's operating balance for 2023-24 was -\$36,334. The Conference fiscal year ends March 31, 2024.

Salem to co-host service at Lima Mennonite

Palm Sunday special service at Lima Mennonite, Sunday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. Lima Mennonite (1318 Main St., Lima, Ohio), together with Salem Mennonite in Elida, will host Sarah Augustine, co-founder and co-chair of the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition. Her presentation will focus on understanding the Doctrine of Discovery, a set of laws rooted in the 15th century that gave Christian governments the moral and legal right to seize lands they "discovered," despite those lands already being populated by indigenous peoples.

The Doctrine of Discovery still has far-reaching implications for indigenous people and the settlers who inhabit their lands today. Sarah, who is a Pueblo (Tewa) descendant, is the author of the book *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. To learn more about Sarah Augustine and the Doctrine of Discovery visit <https://dismantleddiscovery.org/>.

Podcast series to continue in April

Coming in early April: Grace & Groundings, Ohio Conference's racial reconciliation resource team, is working on the next episode of the Ohio Conference Cast, which will focus on the topic of food security. This podcast episode should be available in early April. In the meantime, Grace & Groundings invites you to revisit the most recent podcast episode in the series, focusing on the experience of an immigrant family.

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.

Farewell perspective

Thank you, Ann and Tony!

At the end of the month Ohio Conference says goodbye to Tony Doehrmann and Ann Leaman. Tony has served as regional pastor for the western part of Ohio since October 2019. Ann has been serving as conference editor since October 1998. Thanks to both for their service in support of the life of Ohio Conference!

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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In [“Building a New Life in Ohio,”](#) host Kevin Himes talks with 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. All podcast episodes are available on the Ohio Conference website at <https://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>, as well as on Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

Healthy Boundaries refresher training planned

April 22 is the deadline to register for the Healthy Boundaries 201 training sponsored by the Ohio Conference. This training will be held 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. Lunch will be provided for in-person participants. To register, go to <https://buytickets.at/ohioconferenceofmennonitechurchusa/1157814>.

Safe Church policies will be webinar focus

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) is hosting a webinar, “Making a Safe Church Protection Policy,” on **Monday, March 25**, at 7 p.m. ET. Facilitators will be Marlene Bogard and Nancy Kauffmann, MC USA’s interim denominational minister for Church Safety. Webinar participants will learn how to write a protection policy, how to use the policy, when to update their congregation’s policy and how to educate their congregation about the policy. To register, go to https://mcusa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T65rPDv1SBOIufnfrHfCtA#/registration.

AMBS receives grant for new initiative

[Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary](#) (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, has received a \$1,249,830 grant from **Lilly Endowment Inc.** to establish a program, “Anabaptist Thriving Congregations,” to help congregations deepen their study of the Bible with the goal of connecting more authentically with their communities.

The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment’s Thriving Congregations Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the flourishing of congregations by helping them deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute to the vitality of their communities and the world. To learn more, see <https://www.ambs.edu/news/seminary-receives-1-2-million-grant-for-anabaptist-thriving-congregations-program/>.

MC USA webinars focus on women in leadership

A recording of the webinar “The Hope-Filled Persistence of Women in Ministry” is now available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyPPI_ubb6A&t=3s.

Mennonite Church USA’s next Women in Leadership webinar will be on April 23 at 7 p.m. ET. Register at https://MCUSA.zoom.us/.../register/WN_bWnkm9zcrqmiPfnX_zg1PQ.

Abuse prevention perspective

April is Abuse Prevention month. Congregations and pastors are welcome to contact Nancy Kauffmann, interim denominational minister of Church Safety for Mennonite Church USA’s Church Vitality office, if they wish to have a speaker, training or other resource to use during the month. You may contact her at nancyk@mennoniteusa.org.

Peace perspective

Mennonite Church USA is seeking award nominations for its 2024 [Bring the Peace](#) initiative. The denomination gives the award to a Legacy Peacemaker and a Young Peacemaker each year.

A Legacy Peacemaker is someone who has devoted their life to peace and justice work, whereas a Young Peacemaker is a young adult or teenager who has just begun their peacemaking journey and is making an impact through their contributions. Submit your recommendations for nominees by completing this form **before April 19**: <https://mcusa.formstack.com/forms/btpawardnominationform>.

Perspective deadlines

April 2 for April 4 issue

April 16 for April 18 issue
