

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Welcome Shaquez! New Program and Communication Coordinator to begin on July 1



My name is Shaquez Dickens. I am originally from Wooster, Ohio, where I previously worked in various roles at The College of Wooster. I graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University with my Bachelor's in Business and will soon graduate with my Master's in Organizational Leadership. My husband, Bob, and I live in Wooster with our five children: Nevaeh, Legna, Traeh, Luos, and Tirips. We have been members of Wooster Mennonite Church for several years and look forward to raising our children in an environment full of faith and love. My family loves being outdoors. One of our favorite places to enjoy is Gatlinburg, Tennessee. That is the place where we have found ourselves more in sync with one another and able to experience pure joy in the mountains. In my spare time, I try to enjoy photography. I love taking pictures of my family and friends and capturing their special moments for memories. I also love to read and bake any chance I get.

My heart is drawn to serving others. God calls me to serve Him through serving His people in any way He leads me. The more I learn about Ohio Mennonite Conference, the more excited I am to be a partner in this community and help with the work this incredible organization does. My hope is to be a vessel that faithfully serves the conference.

Thank you for warmly welcoming me to your Conference community!

Note from Dan Miller, Interim Conference Minister:

We (Dottie Hathaway assisted with the interviewing process) were enthused when we interviewed Shaquez. We observed thoughtfulness, a developed understanding of process, and a person of faith as we talked with her about her 15 years of planning events and work in communications. We are pleased to have Shaquez joining Ohio Mennonite Conference staff as Program and Communication Coordinator.

Shaquez will begin July 1. A big thank you to Alysa Short who will continue through July to orient Shaquez to the program and communication areas.

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.

Appreciation perspective

Note from Dan Miller:

While I am glad to work at the hiring process on behalf of Ohio Conference, because I am a man and new and short-term, I thought it would be helpful to have a wise woman who knows the conference to work with me. Dottie Hathaway accepted the invitation and we made a good team for this hiring process.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Updated Staffing Announcement



Ohio Conference is looking for a half-time administrative coordinator and a quarter-time bookkeeper. These two roles can be hired separately or combined if an applicant has experience in both areas.

Each position makes a significant contribution to the conference's ability to work toward its mission to love God, love others, and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

The [Administrative Coordinator](#) will be the first point of contact for those contacting the conference; provide support services to staff and leadership teams; assist with Conference events as requested; and manage current and historical files.

The [Bookkeeper](#) will receive and process all revenue and expenses; track activities in financial software; file tax forms; and create reports that convey current fiscal vitality to leaders and congregations.

Submit cover letter with resume and references to Dan Miller, interim conference minister, at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com.

Is God calling you? (Or someone you know?)

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
John 14:13-14

Thank you for the ways you support Ohio Mennonite Conference!

The Gifts Discernment Committee is tasked with filling all Conference committee positions. Sometimes their work is quick and smooth. At other times, it is difficult and daunting. As of this writing, eleven people have been asked to fill the position of moderator elect. For various reasons all of them have declined to serve. Given the heavy agenda that Conference has addressed in recent years, is it surprising that people might hesitate? Yet the moderator and moderator elect do not do this meaningful work alone. They work with gifted leaders who also desire the best for this network of congregations.

The moderator elect position is part of the structure change adopted at Annual Conference Assembly this past March. This position serves on Leadership Council for two years, learning about the work of moderator and filling in if needed. After two years, they move to the moderator position for two more years. Due to this time of transition between old and new structure, however, the person filling the moderator elect role will only serve until March 31, 2025, when they will become the moderator for the next two years.

Yet the question remains - who can fill this position? We are Ohio Conference, and in this challenge we need each other. Consider your giftings. Consider giftings in others. And pray. We already know about the importance of prayer; and we need to pray. Pray that Gifts Discernment will know whom to ask. Pray that the person for this position will be willing to recognize their giftings and accept. Pray for the Holy Spirit's intervention, wisdom, and guidance. Prayer works. Let us not forget that.

Thank you for praying. Thank you for tapping shoulders. Thank you for listening to the Spirit.

Adriel perspective

Adriel's annual golf benefit is quickly approaching on September 9. Proceeds benefit children throughout Ohio through Adriel's foster care, adoption, clinical services, family preservation, and training programs. To learn more or to register, visit <https://www.adriel.org/donate-to-adriel-online/foster-care-events-volunteer/>.

Relief Sale perspective

The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale will be held Friday and Saturday July 12-13 at the Mount Hope Event Center in Mount Hope. Beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, those attending will enjoy a silent auction, food stands and a concert. On Saturday, the day starts with a breakfast and run followed by a live/online auction. But that isn't all the fun. Check it all out at <https://mcc.org/events/ohio-mennonite-relief-sale>.

Financial perspective

Stan Helmuth, Ohio Conference financial coordinator, has finalized the May financial statements; May is the second month of the fiscal year. While congregational giving was higher in May than in April, expenses are still exceeding receipts. Staff continues to keep expenses below budget, but giving also continues to be below budget. As of May 31, the conference has a \$12,478 deficit for the current fiscal year.

Perspective deadlines

July 2 for July 5 issue

July 16 for July 18 issue