

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohio.mennonite.net

Editor: Ann H. Leaman • 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 • Phone/Fax: (330) 453-3793 • E-mail: ohioevangel@earthlink.net

ACA registration forms due Feb. 27

Have you sent your registration for Annual Conference Assembly (ACA)? The registration deadline for ACA is Feb. 27. After that date, the registration fee increases from \$25 to \$35. Please send your registration form, registration fee **and workshop form** to Judy King at the Ohio Conference Office, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636. Do you need a registration form? You can download one from the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. ACA will take place March 13-14 at Central Christian School in Kidron.

Share your congregation's story at ACA

Does your congregation have an outreach program that others at Annual Conference Assembly would be interested in learning more about? If so, please consider sharing that information during ACA. In addition to business sessions, worship and workshops, ACA will include time for delegates to visit displays and poster sessions. More information about poster sessions is available on the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. (Click on "ACA.")

MCC Great Lakes to hold annual meeting

It's not too late to register for the Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes annual gathering on Feb. 27-28 at Central Mennonite Church, 21703 State Route 2, Archbold. Come join fellow MCC supporters as we gather to worship, fellowship and learn more about how MCC is working both locally and around the world. Events include worship services on Friday and Saturday evenings, as well as workshops and informational sessions about current programs and projects. Please register by **Feb. 23** by calling (574) 534-4133 or e-mail GreatLakesOffice@mcc.org.

Retreat to focus on life after losing a spouse

Author and pastor Rachel Hartzler will lead a retreat for widowed people, their friends, caregivers, pastors and counselors at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center April 24-26. Hartzler, pastor of Pleasant Oaks Mennonite Church in Middlebury, Ind., is the author of *Grief and Sexuality: Life After Losing a Spouse*, published by Herald Press in 2006. The weekend will include group input sessions, worship, and time for reflection. For more information see <http://www.laurelville.org/Program/Grief.html> or contact Erin at (800) 839-1021 or erin@laurelville.org. You may also contact Rachel at rach@maplenet.net.

Perspective: 1) The interrelation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed. 2) Point of view; capacity to view things in their relative importance.

Report perspective

All Ohio Conference delegates should have received a report of the recently completed theological review of Central Christian School. This report, which was sent to delegates by e-mail last week, was inadvertently omitted from Ohio Conference Report Book. If you are a delegate and did not receive a copy of the report, please download it from the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Mediation skills training offered May 4-8

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering a Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders May 4-8 at First Presbyterian Church in Maumee, Ohio, near Toledo. This training event is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal and congregational conflict, as well as other forms of conflict. For more information, please see the registration brochure included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Goshen College offers online Lenten devotions

GOSHEN, Ind. — Everyone needs a bit of silence and spiritual reflection to renew hope. Goshen College again offers an online spiritual resource to help Christian believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to reflect on the season of Lent.

Beginning Feb. 25 (Ash Wednesday) and culminating on April 12 (Easter), Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on lectionary Scripture passages, available online, by daily e-mail or via RSS feed. To access the devotions or sign up to receive them daily in your inbox, go to www.goshen.edu/devotions.

Organizers said the devotions will reflect honestly on the scriptures and offer words of assurance of faith. Many writers will reflect on the Lenten theme: "Our lives are in your hands..." The spiritual offerings will include poetry, personal stories, reflections and prayers, all intended to more closely examine the call to change and follow Christ.

MCC seminar to highlight global food crisis

AKRON, Pa. — The Washington Office of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. will hold a spring seminar in Wichita, Kan., at the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church March 28-30. The subject is "Hunger for Justice: The Global Food Crisis."

A striking rise in world food prices over the last three years has produced economic, political and social instability around the globe. This seminar will examine the short- and long-term causes of this food crisis and how Christians can respond.

The seminar will begin with a definition of the crisis and move into a biblical and theological look at the crisis given by the Rev. Patricia Shelly, professor of Bible and religion at Bethel College, North Newton, Kan. Workshop topics range from globalization and the food crisis to making local and sustainable eating choices. There also will be a visit to a congressional office.

The seminar is open to all. Registration is \$55 per person prior to Feb. 27, and \$65 thereafter. A two-day registration fee of \$45 for March 28 and 29 only is available. A limited number of student scholarships are available. Call (202) 544-6564 or e-mail dcint2@mcc.org for more information.

Registration is available at mcc.org/us/washington/programs/seminar/signup.html.

Meeting perspective

Several cluster meetings for delegates to Ohio Conference's Annual Conference Assembly remain:

- East Ohio (Columbiana)/NW Pa. — Feb. 24 at North Lima Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
 - NW Ohio — Feb. 23 at Central Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
 - West Central/SW Ohio — Feb. 26 at Cornerstone Mennonite Fellowship, 7 p.m.
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Perspective deadlines

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| March 5 | for March 9 issue |
| March 19 | for March 23 issue |
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