

Perspective



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Audio files of songs now on Web site

Two new recordings are now available for listening or download from the Ohio Conference Web site. As part of the Revitalizing Testimony in Worship Project, Christine Nafziger, co-pastor of Millersburg Mennonite Church, composed two songs, “We Will Stand, We Will Speak,” and “I Will Stand.”

One of the songs, “We Will Stand, We Will Speak,” was introduced to delegates at the Annual Conference Assembly in March. Both songs focus on testifying about what God has done.

Writing about the composition process, Christine Nafziger noted, “Because testimony is first and foremost about God, I wanted to start the song by naming a few of the countless things God does to/for us. I then wanted to name our response to all God is doing — to open our mouths and testify to God’s great deeds!” She added, “May these songs be a blessing to you and your congregation, and may they challenge you to tell others what God is doing in your life and in the world around you.”

Recordings of both songs can now be found in the “Worship Resources” section of the Ohio Conference Web site: www.ohio.mennonite.net. Sheet music and lyrics for both songs also are available for download.

Mid-states conferences’ Festival 2010 postponed

Plans for a Worship Festival 2010 gathering of the four mid-states conferences of Mennonite Church USA (Central District, Illinois, Indiana-Michigan and Ohio) have been postponed. Conflicts with the chosen date, the current economic climate, scheduling conflicts, and personnel changes on the planning group figured into the decision to defer the plans. Mid-states area conference leaders had commissioned a group to plan the festival.

The planning group’s chair, Kathy Smith, in consultation with Brent Eash, liaison to the group from the mid-states conference leaders, made the difficult decision to postpone plans for a 2010 gathering. On behalf of the mid-states area conference leaders, Eash thanked Kathy Smith and the planning group, noting, “Though we were unable to see the Worship Festival happen in 2010, learning about the challenges will help future groups who might take on a similar project.”

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.

Perspective insert

This issue of Perspective includes a letter from Jim Schrag, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, regarding Convention 2009.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Peacemakers conference to take place Aug. 15

A Midwest Peacemakers Conference will be held Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Brethren Retirement Center (Brick Room), 752 Chestnut St., Greenville, Ohio. The conference will take place from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Featured presenters will be Doug Hostetter and Josh Stieber. Hostetter is a peace activist, professor, photojournalist, peace pastor and UN civil society activist. Stieber is an Iraq war veteran who has become a conscientious objector.

There is no charge for the conference, but participants are asked to bring a dish, salad or dessert for the carry-in luncheon. A flier with more information about the conference is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Mennonite Media changes name

Effective July 1, Mennonite Media became Third Way Media. The Harrisonburg-based division of Mennonite Mission Network is the longest-running Mennonite/Anabaptist public media office in the United States.

“We want to continue our mission of providing innovative, creative, storytelling, practical, life-changing, faith-based media to the general public,” said Burton Buller, director of Mennonite Media since 1999. “We place messages of hope and reconciliation from an Anabaptist Christian perspective into the marketplace of ideas. We hope that helps to inform the cultural dialogue that determines the values by which this nation lives.” Buller said Mennonite Media decided to more closely align with its most popular and well-known brand name — Third Way Café.

Third Way Café is the Web site which provides information on Mennonites for the general public, offering both history and present-day thinking from an Anabaptist viewpoint. The name “Third Way” taps into Christians and the broader public who are looking for a sane, middle, third way — neither right nor left, neither Protestant nor Catholic, neither evangelical nor mainline, according to Buller.

Third Way Media will continue as a division of Mennonite Mission Network and as part of Mennonite Church USA. Implementing the name is expected to take place over the next several months.

MC USA Convention 2011 set for July 4-9, 2011

Mennonite Church USA’s next church-wide convention, Convention 2011, will be held July 4-9, 2011, in Pittsburgh, Pa. The convention will begin Monday afternoon, July 4, and end Saturday morning, July 9.

The week of convention will be filled with quality speakers and presenters, special events, delegate sessions, activities and worship for all ages. The gathering will take place at the Pittsburgh Convention Center, located in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh.

Health care perspective

This issue of *Perspective* includes a number of resources related to the healthcare resolution passed at Mennonite Church USA Convention 2009. These resources were prepared by Susan Mark Landis, peace advocate for Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership.

Perspective deadlines

Aug. 6	for Aug. 10 issue
Aug. 20	for Aug. 24 issue

www.ohio.mennonite.net