

# Perspective



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## **Thanks to all who participated in ACA**

Many thanks to all who participated in Annual Conference Assembly March 13-14 at Central Christian School in Kidron. Special thanks go to everyone at Central Christian School and the ACA Planning Committee. Conference Administrative Assistant Judy King reports that the number of people attending this year's event, 360, was the highest ever. The highest attendance previously was 320. In addition, 25 young adults registered for ACA this year, she reports.

## **Resource Team Coordinator hired**

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team has hired Sherah-Leigh Gerber as Resource Team Coordinator for the Conference. Beginning April 1 she will work 19 hours per week, mostly with resource teams. She may also work on some special projects as time permits. Sherah-Leigh has been hired for one year and will be paid on an hourly basis from the Capacity Building Fund.

Sherah-Leigh grew up in Indiana, but most recently she and her husband lived in Harrisonburg, Va., where she was enrolled in seminary. Recently they have moved to Apple Creek. She will be awarded a Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary in April after finishing one online course. You may contact Sherah-Leigh Gerber at [shgerber@gmail.com](mailto:shgerber@gmail.com) or (330) 234-4444.

## **Reduce Poverty Team creates resources**

The Ohio Conference Reduce Poverty Team has created several written process descriptions which provide specific details on poverty-related initiatives. The team encourages active members of Ohio Conference congregations to inform and activate their congregations on these poverty-related initiatives. Copies of these four documents are included with this issue of *Perspective*:

- How to create a church bulletin board on poverty
- How to create an increased focus on local poverty
- How to create a mentoring program
- How to adopt a school

These "how-to's" are meant to be an easy starting point for congregations to work to reduce poverty, and the team will be soliciting congregations for their successful activity descriptions to share with all Conference churches. The team's goal is to create an ongoing

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***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.***

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## ***Mediation perspective***

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***T***he Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering a Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders May 4-8, 2009, in Maumee, Ohio. The registration deadline for this training event has been extended to April 17. A brochure with more information is posted on the "Publications" page of the Ohio Conference Web site: [www.ohio.mennonite.net](http://www.ohio.mennonite.net).

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## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

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- Pastor(s)
  - Church chairperson
  - Youth sponsor(s)
  - Delegates
  - Duplicate for other church leaders
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shared informational resource among the Ohio Mennonite churches in our work to reduce poverty.

The Ohio Conference Reduce Poverty Team also is actively planning participation in the Mobilization to End Poverty Conference in Washington, D.C., on April 26-29, 2009. Already a group of nine from Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland is planning to attend. Information about this conference was included in the March 9 issue of *Perspective*. To learn more about the conference, see [www.sojo.net/mobilization](http://www.sojo.net/mobilization).

Because Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. and MCC East Coast are outreach partners, Mennonites can receive the discounted registration rate of \$199 for adults and \$150 for students. To receive information about registering at the special rate, contact [KathrynR@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:KathrynR@MennoniteUSA.org).

### **Information now available about new health plan**

The Corinthian Plan is a new health care benefit plan for Mennonite Church USA pastors and church workers. Last week information about the plan was sent to every congregation. Congregations will have until Oct. 1 to enroll with a goal of having 80 percent of Mennonite Church USA congregations in this new plan. Ambassadors for The Corinthian Plan have been trained in every conference and will be contacting someone in your church in the next several weeks. More information is also available at [www.TheCorinthianPlan.org](http://www.TheCorinthianPlan.org).

### **Kick-off dinner planned for relief sale**

The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Kick-off Dinner will be held April 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dutch Valley Restaurant in Sugarcreek. Guest speaker for the event will be Arli Klaasen, Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee. Special music will be provided by an ensemble from Lake Center Christian School. Tickets are free, but an offering will be taken to cover dinner and pre-sale expenses. Seating is limited. Call Perry Miller at (330) 815-5700 or Beth Miller at (330) 473-2253 for reservations or additional information.

### **Retreat for peacemakers to be held in May**

Central District Conference is sponsoring a retreat designed to nurture, encourage and strengthen peacemakers. "Nurturing Peacemakers Retreat" will be held May 8-10 at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Mich. The retreat will be led from an Anabaptist-Mennonite background, but it is open to people of other traditions and backgrounds.

A registration form with more information about the retreat is included with this issue of *Perspective*. Those interested also may register online at [www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net](http://www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net). Please forward the form to your congregation's peace committee or other persons who might be especially interested in attending this retreat.

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## **Youth perspective**

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**F**or the first time the Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN) of Mennonite Church USA will be awarding the Youth Peace Drum at this year's assembly in Columbus. This award is intended to encourage young people to begin the work of a lifelong commitment to peace. A flier with more information and a nomination form is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

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## **Convention perspective**

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**H**as your congregation submitted the names of its delegates to the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Columbus this summer? April 1 is the deadline for congregations to submit the names of their delegates. Go to <http://www.mennodata.org/mennonitedirectory/login.asp> to report the names of delegates. If you have forgotten or misplaced your congregational number or password, you may contact Judy King at the Ohio Conference office at (330) 857-5421 or .

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## **Perspective insert**

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**I**ncluded with this issue of *Perspective* is the March issue of *The Parish Paper*.

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## **Perspective deadlines**

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April 2      for April 6 issue  
April 16     for April 20 issue

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