

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohio.mennonite.net

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Fall cluster meeting schedule set

Seven cluster meetings have been scheduled for Ohio Conference delegates to Annual Conference Assembly:

- West Central/Southwest Ohio — Oct. 22 at Jubilee Mennonite Church in Bellefontaine, 7 p.m.
- Southeast Ohio — Oct. 26 at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Jackson, 6:30 p.m.
- East Ohio/Northwest Pa. — Oct. 27 at Midway Mennonite Church in Columbiana, 7 p.m.
- East Central Ohio (Wayne/Holmes) — Oct. 29 at Martins Creek Mennonite Church in Millersburg, 7 p.m.
- Northwest Ohio — Nov. 2 at Grace Community Church in Bryan, 7 p.m.
- Northeast Ohio — Nov. 3 at Peace Mennonite Church in Elyria, 7 p.m.
- East Ohio (North of Route 30) — Nov. 12 at Pleasant View Mennonite Church in North Lawrence, 7 p.m.

Youth pastors to meet Nov. 12

Bluffton University will host an all-Ohio youth pastor peer meeting Nov. 12. The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All youth pastors of the Ohio Conference are invited to be a part of this youth pastor peer event. During the day they will spend time with youth ministry professor and Ohio Conference Youth Ministry Advocate Randy Keeler, have time to interact and get to know each other better, and spend time with Bluffton University youth ministry students. There is no cost to attend. To RSVP or for further information, contact Thomas Dunn at Thomas@kidronmennonite.com.

CPT to hold meetings in Ohio

Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville will host “A Community-Centered Vision of Peacemaking,” a Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) gathering, Sunday, Nov. 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. Sandra Milena Rincón, support coordinator for CPT’s Colombia project, will be the featured speaker at the gathering. A flier with more information is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Susan Mark Landis, Peace Advocate for Mennonite Church USA, says, “I hope to meet you Nov. 8 in Smithville, Ohio, as Sandra Rincón speaks about peacemaking in Colombia and the internation-

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 inserts

This issue of Perspective includes prayer requests from Mennonite Education Agency and the October issue of The Parish Paper.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

alization of Christian Peacemaker Teams. I serve with Sandra on the CPT Steering Committee, and she is dynamic and thoughtful. Sandra has my highest respect — she's one of my heroes — and I hope you make the time to come hear why."

CPT also will hold several other meetings in Ohio and Pennsylvania during November:

- Nov. 6-7 Pittsburgh
- Nov. 8 – 9 Cleveland (John Carroll University)
- Nov. 9 Wilmington College (45 min SE of Dayton)
- Nov. 10 Dayton Peace Museum
- Nov. 10-12 Bluffton University

If you would like to receive an e-mail attachment of a color brochure advertising this tour, or if you are willing to help publicize the tour, provide housing or help arrange press interviews (TV, radio, blogs, newspapers), please contact Paul Neufeld Weaver, a CPT Reservist from Bluffton with CPT experience in Colombia, Chiapas, Grassy Narrows and Haiti. You may contact him at (419) 358-3327 or weaverpn@bluffton.edu.

The Corinthian Plan moves forward

NEWTON, Kan. and ELKHART, IND. — The Corinthian Plan will become a reality Jan. 1, 2010. The health care access plan of Mennonite Church USA reached its revised goal, and project director Keith Harder expects that nearly 70 percent of the denomination's eligible, credentialed pastors will be on the plan.

"I am especially grateful for the assistance that will be going to more than 50 congregations and their pastors who currently have no health care coverage," Harder says. The 450-plus congregations expected to participate will generate more than \$500,000 for the Fair Balance Fund which will provide assistance for these pastors. Some congregations have indicated their intention to contribute to this fund even if they will not be full participants in the plan.

Harder reports "a flood of enrollments and inquiries" the last two weeks of September as congregations anticipated the Oct. 1 deadline. **To facilitate this interest, The Corinthian Plan Project Team has extended the enrollment deadline to Nov. 15.**

Applications for assistance also will continue to be received until Nov. 15 or until the fund is exhausted.

While the original participation goal of 80 percent of all Mennonite Church USA congregations will not be met, The Corinthian Plan project team, including MMA staff and actuaries, agreed that there is sufficient participation to have a plan that will have a solid financial foundation.

Harder reports that there are still more than 250 congregations that have yet to decide about The Corinthian Plan; 190 congregations have indicated they are unlikely to participate.

For more information about The Corinthian Plan, contact Keith Harder at 866-866-2872 (toll-free) or keithh@mennoniteusa.org.

Prayer perspective

Please keep the family of Ken Benner in your prayers. The associate pastor of Kalida Family Outreach Center in Kalida, Benner died Saturday, Sept. 26, at his home in Elida. He had been diagnosed with brain cancer in August. He was 76 years old.

Benner is survived by his wife, Anna Mary; and five children, Sheryl Hoover and LaVonne Hartman, both of Elida, and Jeryl Benner, Lisa Mast and Keith Benner, all of Loveland, Colo.; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and three brothers, Doug Benner of Marietta, Ga., and Dale Benner and Herb Benner, both of Hatfield, Pa.

He was a pastor for more than 40 years. In addition to his work at Kalida Family Outreach Center, he served Bartonsville Mennonite Church in Bartonsville, Vt., Pike Mennonite Church, Sharon Mennonite Church and Cornerstone Mennonite Fellowship.

Funeral services were held Sept. 29 at Lima Community Church. Burial was in Pike Cemetery in Elida.

Perspective deadlines

Oct. 22	for Oct. 26 issue
Nov. 5	for Nov. 9 issue

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