

Perspective



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30 days of prayer planned in October

On July 4 the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly at Convention 2009 adopted a resolution titled "Resolution on following Christ and growing together as communities even in conflict." The resolution addresses conflict regarding issues of human sexuality. (To see a copy of the resolution, go to www.mennoniteusa.org/Home/Convention/Delegates/Resolutions/GrowingTogether/tabid/1212/Default.aspx.)

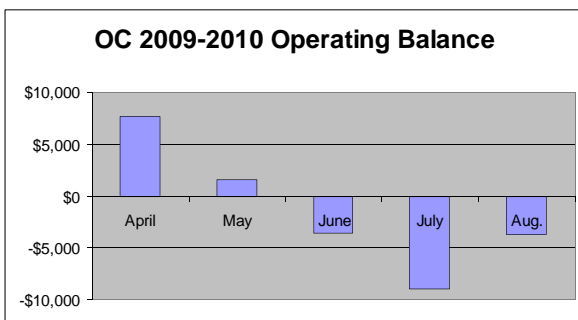
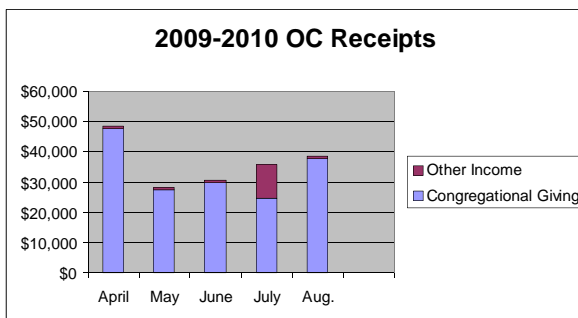
Responding to the resolution, the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board has asked area conferences and others to spend 30 days in prayer. After the 30 days of prayer, the Executive Board will be asking conference boards and conference leadership to prepare responses to several questions and send those responses to the Executive Board.

The Ohio Conference Leadership Team has decided to observe the 30 days of prayer during October.

Conference expenses outpace receipts in 2009

At the end of the first five months of the 2009-10 fiscal year, Ohio Conference's operating balance was -\$3,681. For those five months (April-August), expenses were \$185,225, which was slightly less than the amount budgeted for that time period, \$188,803.

However, even though expenses were less than projected, income also was below the amount budgeted, resulting in the negative operating balance. Congregational giving was \$167,129 for April-August, and other miscellaneous income was \$14,414, which combined for total receipts of \$181,543.



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.

Delegate perspective

Has your congregation chosen new delegates to Ohio Conference since the last Annual Conference Assembly? If your congregation's delegate list has changed, please send the updated information to Judy King, Conference administrative assistant, at ohmc@zoominternet.net. The Conference plans to send the latest issue of *Delegate News* to all delegates in early October prior to fall cluster meetings, so an up-to-date delegate list is essential.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Fall cluster meeting schedule is in process

Regional Pastors Andy Stoner and Matt Hamsher have begun scheduling fall cluster meetings for Ohio Conference delegates. So far, five cluster meetings have been scheduled:

- West Central/SW Ohio — Oct. 22 at Jubilee Mennonite Church in Bellefontaine, 7 p.m.
- SE Ohio — Oct. 26 at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Jackson, 6:30 p.m.
- East Ohio/NW Pa. — Oct. 27 at Midway Mennonite Church in Columbiana, 7 p.m.
- East Central Ohio (Wayne/Holmes) — Oct. 29, location TBA, 7 p.m.
- Northwest Ohio — Nov. 2 at Grace Community Church in Bryan, 7 p.m.

Advent worship planning workshop scheduled

The fall issue of *Leader* magazine has Advent worship materials with the theme “Bursting In & Breaking Out.” A workshop focused on Advent worship planning using these materials will be offered Saturday, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m. to noon at Orrville Mennonite Church. Norma Duerksen, Ohio Conference Resource Advocate, will facilitate the workshop. Cost is \$20 per church group attending. No pre-registration is needed.

MCC develops materials about cluster munitions

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has developed a set of materials of special interest to peace educators. The materials focus on cluster munitions as one current aspect of U.S. militarism and describe the global scope of the problem and MCC’s long history of involvement. Also included are interactive Bible studies and practical tools for education and advocacy within the congregation. A flier with information is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Small congregations are focus of program

Applications are now available for the Summer Collegium, a project in support of small congregations at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. Clergy (and their spouses) from 25 small churches of all Christian denominations are invited to spend nine days at Virginia Theological Seminary for encouragement, education, rest and renewal. **All expenses, including travel, books, meals, lodging, child care at home and pulpit supply, are paid by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.**

This year’s theme is Leadership in the Small Congregation. The keynote speaker will be Alice Mann, a prolific writer on congregational ministry. John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland will join the worship team for the conference.

Dates for the Summer Collegium are June 23-July 1, 2010. To apply, see online www.vts.edu/education/collegium, e-mail SummerCollegium@vts.edu or call (703) 461-1760. Applications must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2009, to be considered.

Health care perspective

Oct. 1 is the deadline for congregations to sign up to participate in the Corinthian Plan, the proposed health insurance plan for pastors and church employees of congregations in Mennonite Church USA.

If your congregation has not already done so, please return the Information Form to Mennonite Mutual Aid found at the “sign up” link on the Web site: www.MennoniteUSA.org/TheCorinthianPlan. If you have questions, contact Keith Harder at KeithH@MennoniteUSA.org or (620) 382-7135.

Advent perspective

Camp Luz will host an Advent-themed Day Apart on Wednesday, Dec. 9. The event will be facilitated by Pastors Norma Duerksen and Rachel Siemens. Check future issues of *Perspective* for more information about this event.

Perspective insert

Included with this issue of *Perspective* is a brochure with information about a workshop titled “Sexual Purity in a World of Brokenness.”

Perspective deadlines

Oct. 8	for Oct. 13 issue
Oct. 22	for Oct. 26 issue

www.ohio.mennonite.net