

# Delegate News



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## Winter cluster meetings scheduled

Winter cluster meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly will be held during February and early March. Eight cluster meetings have been scheduled:

- **Cleveland** — Feb. 24 at Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland, 7 p.m.
- **Columbiana/Pennsylvania** — Feb. 10 at North Lima Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
- **Holmes/Tuscarawas** — Feb. 17 at Millersburg Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
- **Lima** — March 5 at Pike Mennonite Church in Elida, 7 p.m.
- **Northwest Ohio** — Feb. 19 at Pine Grove Mennonite Church in Stryker, 7 p.m.
- **Stark County** — Feb. 25 at First Mennonite Church in Canton, 7 p.m.
- **Wayne County** — Feb. 12 at Wooster Mennonite Church, 7 p.m.
- **West Central/Southwest Ohio** — Feb. 26 at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty, 7 p.m.

Please remember that if you cannot attend the cluster meeting in your area because of a schedule conflict, you are welcome to attend any of the other meetings.

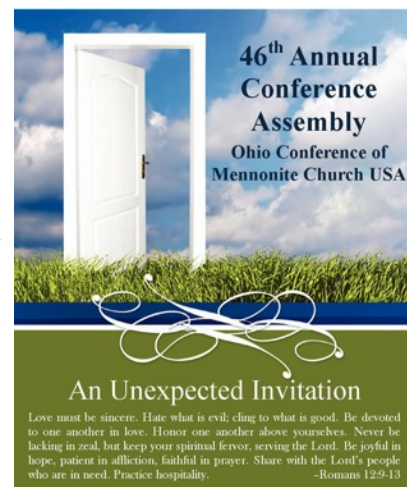
## Cluster meeting agenda planned

All cluster meetings will include a devotional time led by the regional pastor. In addition, a number of business items will be covered:

- Brief report and discussion on Mennonite Church USA pastors' survey
- Proposal for discussion at Annual Conference Assembly
- Financial report
- Stewardship visits and Five-Year Plan
- Spending plan proposal
- Congregational sharing

## Register for ACA by Feb. 20

The registration deadline for the 2015 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) is **Feb. 20**. This year's Assembly will be held March 13-14 at Martins Creek Mennonite Church in Millersburg. The cost to register is \$30 by Feb. 20, and \$45 thereafter. Fees for meals are extra.



If you have not already received registration forms from your congregation, you may find them online at

[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org). Go to "Delegates/ACA" to download any of the forms and to see more information about ACA.

**Online registration also is available.** To register online, go to the Conference website and click on "Register."

If you register by mail, please make sure to include the registration form **and** the workshop registration form, as well as the fee. All forms and fees should be sent to Judy King, Ohio Conference, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636.

## New delegate orientation planned

A note for new delegates to Annual Conference Assembly: Be sure to attend our New Delegate Orientation from 12:30-1 p.m. on Friday, March 13. A brief overview of the role and expectations for delegates will be given. We also will review the decision-making processes used at ACA. There will be opportunity to meet Conference leaders and to ask questions.

## **Constitutional amendment proposed**

One of the business items delegates will discuss at winter cluster meetings is a proposed amendment to the Ohio Conference Constitution.

Based on input from the Gifts Discernment Ministry, the Ohio Conference Leadership Team is recommending the amendment, which calls for delegates at Annual Conference Assembly to affirm the appointment of all members of the Stewardship Ministry and the Credentialing Ministry. Currently, delegates at Annual Conference Assembly affirm the appointment of the chairs of both these groups, but not the individual members. (Delegates also affirm the members of the Gifts Discernment Ministry and the non-staff members of the Leadership Team and Ministry Development Team.)

A copy of the proposed constitutional amendment is included with this issue of *Delegate News*. A portion of the Ohio Conference Constitution which details the duties of the Gifts Discernment Ministry is also included for reference. You may download a copy of the entire Ohio Conference Constitution by going to the Ohio Conference website at [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org), choosing “Delegates/ACA” and then choosing “ACA Documents.”

## **Reports are posted online**

Copies of the 2015 Ohio Conference Annual Report Book will be sent to all Ohio Conference delegates. You also may view the reports online. To see the reports, go to [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org), choose “Delegates/ACA” and then click on “Reports.”

## **MC USA releases survey results**

The Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA has released reports of a survey of credentialed leaders in the denomination. The survey included questions about benefits ranging from affiliation with Mennonite Church USA to denominational, conference and agency services; beliefs about inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) individuals as members of congregations or in leadership roles; and alternative organizational arrangements for the denomination. See the news release from Mennonite Church USA at <http://bit.ly/1Dlj68Z> for more information and a link to the reports.

## **Credentialing Ministry Team answers frequently asked questions**

The Credentialing Ministry Team of Ohio Conference would like to share its responses to several questions the team has been asked recently. These questions and the Credentialing Ministry Team’s responses are included with this issue of *Delegate News*. This information also was printed in the January-February issue of *Ohio Mennonite Evangel*.

## **Document is recommended reading**

All delegates are asked to familiarize themselves with the document “Procedures for Responding to Tension-Producing Differences within Ohio Conference.” The Theological Resource Committee developed this document, which was accepted as a working document at the 1998 Annual Conference Assembly. A copy is included with this issue of *Delegate News*.

## **Conference runs deficit**

Expenses for Ohio Conference were greater than giving during the first nine months of the 2014-15 fiscal year, according to figures provided by Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth. Income for April 1-Dec. 31, 2014, totaled \$277,036, and expenses for the same period were \$358,122, resulting in an operating balance of -\$81,086 for the first nine months of 2014-15. The proposed Ohio Conference spending plan for 2015-16 will be presented at winter cluster meetings.

## **Delegate News is for you**

...if you are a delegate to Ohio Conference’s Annual Conference Assembly. Each Ohio Conference congregation is eligible to send at least two delegates (or more, depending on the number of members), as well as an additional young adult delegate. In addition, all credentialed pastors of Ohio Conference congregations are automatically delegates, as are paid staff and members of the Leadership Team, Ministry Development Team, Credentialing Ministry, Gifts Discernment Ministry and Stewardship Ministry.

If you are no longer a delegate for your congregation, please forward *Delegate News* to the new delegates in your congregation. In addition, please inform Judy King, Conference administrative assistant, of the change. You may contact her at [ohmc@zoominternet.net](mailto:ohmc@zoominternet.net) or (330) 857-5421.