

**District Board Minutes
Brethren Retirement Community
September 7, 2013**

Present: Dave Shetler, Charlene Foster, Judy Boles, Mindy Tipton, Mary Boone, Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh, Julie Hostetter, Burt Wolf, Belinda Yingst, Sandy Jenkins, Susan Liller, Karen Dillon, Tom Dillon, Deb Oskin, Ron Wenzel, Carl Eubank, Trent Smith, Susan Fitze

Welcome to Brethren Retirement Community: Carl Eubank

Introductions, Community Sharing, and Prayers

Minutes of the previous Board meetings: Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh

1. Minutes need to be posted to District website
 - 1.1. Larry will announce when they are posted and Board will vote to approve by email
2. Official minutes for email votes taken by the District Board in 2013.
 - 2.1. August 18: 100% of the board voted to affirm the recommendations regarding a change in the Code of Regulations and the formation of an Outdoor Ministries Board brought by Brookville CoB so that they could be moved on to District Conference.
 - 2.2. August 23: 100% of the board voted to pass the following resolution
 - a) Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 1702.25, by unanimous written consent, the District Board resolves:
 - Whereas the District Board has not received rent payments from Robin Waddell since Third Quarter of 2012;
 - And whereas Robin Waddell has agreed to end his control of Woodland Altars and return control of the property to the District Board;
 - It is therefore resolved, effective August 30, 2013, that the lease between the District Board and Robin Waddell dated September 3, 2003, as amended on August 18, 2004, and on June 18, 2010, be declared in default and that the District Executive Minister and the Board Chair are authorized to execute the documents necessary to make this return of control to the District Board a matter of public record.
 - 2.3. The District Board affirmed the minutes from these two votes.

Worshipful Work: Larry Tyner

Reports from District Officers, Staff, and Affiliates

1. Director of Outdoor Ministries: Karen and Tom Dillon
 - 1.1. Karen shared a verbal report. Highlights included:
 - a) This year, we had 103 campers and more than 30 volunteers.
 - b) The theme was *All Things New*
 - c) No one had to go to the hospital this year.
2. Treasurer's Report: Susan Liller
 - 2.1. Written report provided.
 - a) Per the 2012 district budget, \$56,258 was transferred from the timber fund to the District General Fund.
 - b) Susan projects that Outdoor Ministries Commission will have approximately - \$5000 in its General Fund at the end of October. She wants to avoid using designated funds to cover this shortfall.
 - **MOTION:** Susan motioned that the District Board allow \$5000 to come from timber funds to cover the estimated shortfall in the general fund through the end of October. Burt Wolf seconded the motion.

- **ACTION:** Consensus was found. 100% of members in attendance affirmed and supported this motion.
 - The timber funds on Susan's report will need to be reduced by \$5000.
 - c) Amounts for Gerald Harley (\$6800) and legal fees (\$1500) will be taken out soon.
3. Brethren Retirement Community: John Warner
 - 3.1. No report provided.
 4. Director of District Communications: Mary Boone
 - 4.1. Written report provided.
 - a) Continues to work at strengthening communication for district ministries.
 - b) Has been helping Program and Arrangements with the special and regular District Conferences.
 - c) Has worked on Vital Ministry Journey and Fall appeal letters.
 5. District Executive: Dave Shetler
 - 5.1. Written report provided.
 - 5.2. Two candidates at Flat Creek will be licensed this month.

Commission Reports

1. Mission Renewal: Susan Fitze
 - 1.1. Written report provided.
 - 1.2. In addition to Vital Ministry Journey, Missional Renewal is working on a toolkit for others interested in renewal but not wanting to participate in Vital Ministry Journey.
 - 1.3. Commission members continue to meet with congregations to help them think about and work with renewal.
2. New Church Development: Ron Wenzel
 - 2.1. Written report provided.
3. Ministerial Leadership: Sandra Jenkins
 - 3.1. Licensings: Larry Winkler (Eaton), Eric Brummett (Cedar Grove), Nick Dimmick (Castine), and Bettina Martin (Mud Lick/Flat Creek).
 - 3.2. Ordination interviews: Tracy Primozich (Happy Corner) and Tony Price (Cedar Grove).
4. Shared Ministries: Mindy Tipton
 - 4.1. Written report provided.
 - 4.2. Brethren Disaster Ministries
 - a) BDM has completed four trips between May and August.
 - b) Four spots are open for the September trip to Binghamton.
 - c) There are two full trips scheduled in October.
 - d) Nigerian guests to the Brethren World Assembly assembled 96 clean up buckets and 120 hygiene kits.
 - e) An estimated 580 people (including volunteers) attended the Ice Cream Social. An additional \$2000+ was collected from coin jars people had returned.
 - 4.3. Brethren Helping Hands has not received any new requests for assistance.
 - 4.4. District Youth
 - a) Ten youth attended the bowling event.
 - b) There will be a youth activity with District Conference.
 - c) Happy Corner will host a meet and greet with NYC coordinators next week.
 - d) Powerhouse will be in November.
 - 4.5. Shared Ministries is co-hosting "Peace, Pies and Prophets" with Happy Corner. Pies are needed.
5. Outdoor Ministries: Steve Conklin
 - 5.1. No report provided.
 - 5.2. Steve Conklin has resigned from the District Board.
 - 5.3. The golf outing is scheduled for first Saturday in October.

- 5.4. Outdoor Ministries Commission has disbanded.
- 6. Gifts Discernment: Burt Wolf
 - 6.1. All the Annual Conference 2014 volunteers are lined up.
 - 6.2. There are two slots left to fill for the District Conference slate.
- 7. Resource Development: Carl Eubank
 - 7.1. Written report provided.
 - 7.2. The capital campaign is on hold until after the 2013 District Conference.

Old Business

- 1. Program and Arrangement Update: District Conference
 - 1.1. Norma Shively and Linda Timmons are serving as on-site coordinators.
 - 1.2. Friday: There will be a pre-conference education event (pastors, ministers, church leaders, church administrators) with a follow up session on November 8. There will be a banquet following the pre-conference event for attendees of that event.
 - 1.3. Herman Kauffman is returning as parliamentarian.
 - 1.4. Reports need to be five minutes or less. They should relate to the budget.
 - 1.5. For lunch, half the attendees will eat while the other half hear expanded reports from commission members. Then the two groups will switch.
 - 1.6. The deadline for the pre-conference event is September 20. Registrations will not be accepted after that.
 - 1.7. Letter from Eaton Church of the Brethren:
 - a) Dave Shetler presented Eaton's letter petitioning the district board to ask the district to respond to various denominational agencies, departments, committees, and educational institutions they believe acted in conflict with the 1983 Annual Conference paper on Human Sexuality. Julie recused herself from this discussion because she is employed by two of the agencies named.
 - b) Program and Arrangements recommended the following response be placed on the conference floor: **"Regarding the writing of statements and other actions on the part of Annual Conference Agencies and related organizations, we the Southern Ohio District encourage wisdom and discretion, striving to keep with the spirit of Annual Conference decisions."**
 - Gary Crim suggested the amendment: **"and authorize the District Clerk to send copies of this resolution to the Mission and Ministry Board, On Earth Peace, Brethren Benefit Trust, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Annual Conference office."**
 - Program and Arrangements presented this response to District Board as informational. No action was taken by the District Board at this time.
 - c) Tom Bowser will handle this item of business at District Conference.
- 2. Personnel Committee report: Judy Boles, Janet Jullian, Larry Tyner
 - 2.1. The team is trying to set up a performance review of Mary and Dave.
- 3. Update on Shalom Team
 - 3.1. Have not met. A budget request was made for training.
- 4. Camping and Retreat Transition Team
 - 4.1. Members: Curt Ankeny, Mary Boone, Steve Conklin, Gary Crim, Tom and Karen Dillon, Stan Dohner, Nan Erbaugh, Char Foster, Art Fourman (chair), Susan Liller, Tony Price, Dave Shetler, Carrie Smith, Mindy Tipton, and Larry Tyner.
 - 4.2. Vonda has been hired to oversee the property.
 - 4.3. Insurance has been cared for. The company wants to conduct an on-site visit.
 - 4.4. Susan needs authority to spend timber funds for additional insurance, security, water testing, and other items from the transition team.
 - a) **RECOMMENDATION:** Gary Crim recommended that the treasurer be authorized to pay bills from Woodland Altars first from income received from Woodland

Altars and then from the timber reserve fund. All bills shall be approved by three persons, the chair of the Camping Retreat Transition Team, the District Board Chair, and the District Executive.

- **ACTION:** The District Board found consensus to pass the recommendation.

New Business

1. Poplar Grove Church official recommendation to close
 - 1.1. This congregation is not meeting and is renting its facility to a New Conference German Baptist group that is interested in a long term rental or purchase. Members of Poplar Grove are planning to petition the District Board to close.
 - 1.2. Due to the need for more research, the Board decided to table this discussion until another District Board meeting.
2. Woodland Altars Concerns: Gary Crim
 - 2.1. Gary Crim, District Lawyer, gave legal advice. Appropriate action was taken.
 - 2.2. **MOTION:** Sandy Jenkins motioned that the District Board authorize up to \$5000 from the timber funds for consulting expert legal counsel. Mindy Tipton seconded the motion. A time of discussion followed.
 - a) **ACTION:** The District Board found consensus to pass the motion.
 - 2.3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Gary recommended that 2-3 District Board members meet with him to construct an organized response to the proposed change in by-laws. Dave Shetler suggested the following board members to serve: Dave Shetler, Mary Boone, Susan Fitze, Carl Eubank, and Janet Jullian. Non-board members could be added as needed.
 - a) **MOTION:** Geneva Price motioned that the District Board create a strategy team that would meet with Gary so that we can be best prepared for the upcoming District Conference. Sandy Jenkins seconded the motion.
 - **ACTION:** The District Board found consensus to pass the motion.
 - The Board appointed the named individuals to serve on this team.
3. The Ecumenical Stewardship Program was delayed.
4. The New Ventures Fundraising Letter has been sent.
5. July's District Conference concern about prospective buyers touring the property was addressed.
6. 2014 Southern Ohio District Budget
 - 6.1. The proposed budget is posted online.
 - 6.2. There may be need for an alternate budget that doesn't rely on timber funds if Brookville recommendation passes.
 - 6.3. Further conversation and decisions regarding the 2014 budget were held until a future meeting to allow board members time to reflect on and pray over the budget.
7. The District Board Retreat, as scheduled, conflicts with a Southern Ohio disaster ministry trip. Susan Fitze requested that we consider changing the date to the following weekend. Larry agreed to look into changing the date.

Announcements

Worshipful Work

Where have we sensed God's Spirit leading us in this meeting?

For what do we have to give thanks out of our time together?

What do we need God's help with moving forward?

Where do we need God to continue to give us clarity?

Closing Prayer