

District Board Meeting

05-14-2016

Present: Ty Pyles, Dave Shetler, Carl Eubank, Art Fourman, Janet Julian, Fred Bernhard, Linda Brandon, Heather Fullen, Phil Dell, Karen Dillon, Charlene Foster, Jim Baker, Susan Liller, Mary Boone, Judy Boles, Jim Moore, Ron Mack,

Worshipful Work led by Ty Ples

Welcome by Mark Ashworth, Board Chair and Dewayne Heck, Pastor.

Prayer requests were shared by the Board.

Discussion centering around vision using the Empowering book:

“Working together, empowering disciples”—what does that mean?

Working together means:

- Community: not just individual congregations
- Supporting one another, encouraging one another
- Utilizing our unique talents the Lord has given us.
- Need to help our congregations understand why we need each other. So that we can create an atmosphere where we can empower congregations. The word “Brethren” is plural, not singular. You can’t find the word Saint in the Bible. “We” will do this.

One comment on Empowering Disciples concerned doing this at a local level:

- How do you do this on a local level when the greatest amount of time spent together is a 2 hr. block on Sunday morning

We then turned our discussion to the four empowering areas. The first area:

Empowering congregations: How do we empower congregations?

- Listening sessions may have been empowering to congregations. In reaching out to them it helped congregations feel included in the District. How do we empower congregations to stay in touch with us.
- Better communications needed.
- It might be helpful to communicate individual congregation’s successful ministries to give other churches ideas. Plans are already underway for stories to be interwoven throughout District Conference this year. Missional Renewal is also working to empower individual congregations.
- May be good to poll our congregations and ask them what is their most successful mission? Then share the answers.
- Are there things going on in local churches that other churches would participate in if they knew of them?
- How can we as a board empower congregations to come up with those events and publicize them.

Business Session:

Minutes of 03-05-16 meeting approved.

Staff Reports were presented and accepted.

BRC, CRC, Treasurer, Director of Communications, District Executive

Included in District Executive report is a Delegate Briefing June 5, 2:00 PM Pleasant Hill.

Camping and Retreat Commission added Golf Outing information to the printed report.

Reflection and Feedback: Empowering Leadership

- CEUs—10 contact hours per year required. – we provide some grants
- Is there any other way we can empower leadership? – District Conference had session on church Boards—how to conduct meetings , etc. include lay leadership in our training.
- How do congregations know they need to be calling out leadership?
- This is not just the pastor’s role.
- Possibly offer an “Exploring Your Call” as a District such as “Shoes of a Fisherman. “
- Karen suggested that we host an event entitled “Exploring Your Next Call” for folks who are retiring.
- How do you steer a person toward a career as a pastor when there are not many full time positions.

Empowering Emerging Ministries

- Shared Ministries project Wide Arms Ministry
- BDM Youth Trip—If service projects is what is catching the interest of youth maybe we should look into that as a district.
- Refugee resettlement
- Combined worship service Pleasant Hill, Troy, Sidney, Piqua, having combined service at Pleasant Hill July 31 at regular preaching time of Pleasant Hill
- What could we do if we had the time, money, or help? After school program, sports league for kids,
- New church plant
- Church of the Brethren have been innovators in the past. More recently we have become followers.
- Innovators of new church plants which include new church models. Pizza, cookout, icecream at Potsdam. Weren’t there 2 years ago. Looking at ways to assimilate. They won’t be willing to sit in a worship service.
- Instead of throwing kids in the nursery place them in a makeshift nursery in the corner of the room.
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Commission Reports:

Gifts Discernment:

* Largest positions open are clerk and treasurer.

Ministerial Leadership:

* Met recently to review ordinations. Need to meet again soon.

* Mark Lancaster recommended for ordination with dual status United Methodist and Church of the Brethren. Approved.

Missional Renewal:

* VMJ Coaches needed.

* Troy, Salem, West Alexandria doing Vitality Survey. The survey will also be recommended to Olivet

New Church Development has not met. Phil Dell (Commission Chair) plans to participate in the church planting event at Bethany coming up soon.

Shared Ministry:

* Bicycle Event, July 17, 2016 from 2:30-5:00 at Golden Gate park. We will ride the Wolf Creek Trail from Brookville to Verona. No registration required.

Resource Development commission:

* Board needs to develop a grant process for disbursing funds to Empowering congregations and Empowering leadership. Resource Development will be glad to handle applications, but the Board needs to decide on a process. Once someone applies for a grant, who will review and grant the money? Will we ask the whoever is applying for the money to provide a part of the need for themselves? Are a couple questions that we need to consider

- Proposal to have a task group to come up with guidelines . John Kinsel, Karen Dillon, will add a couple more if needed. Need guidelines in place by District conference.
- District Budget for next year . . . Delegates need information before District. How will we make the decision for what to include? Discussion surrounding survey, informational meetings with delegates before conference.
- Next meeting June 9 at 10:30 AM at Mill Ridge Village. Discussion at that meeting will revolve around presenting some Scenarios at informational meetings.

Commission Reports approved.

***Listening process** has been going on for a couple months. Reconciliation team is meeting today. 16 listeners were with the reconciliation team. 35 reports have been completed and turned in to reconciliation team. 7 congregations chose not to participate although contact was made. It was thanks but no thanks for a variety of reasons. Size and simply choosing not to be involved with district are a couple reasons given. We were not able to find anyone who is still a member at Strait Creek. Listeners were met with hospitality and graciousness. Conversations were not hostile or rejecting rather simply stating their concerns. This was an enormous step for the District. Many were very appreciative of the fact that we would come and listen to them. The listeners were very hopeful as a body. Congregations had some new hope simply because we had sent someone to listen to them. List of questions from the

Gratis Congregation shared. Report and recommendations from the reconciliation team will be shared with congregations and the board by June 1.

***Adams county property update**—We have the money. Legal expenses have been paid. A few wrap up bills still need to be made. Need to send Gary Crim a thank you note for his work . Ty will send it.

***Name Change**—Southern Ohio Kentucky District will be the new name. Gary will work on changes needed in the code of regulations. Name change will need to be approved by District Conference. It is rare for a non-profit to not have the treasurer as a staff person. By consensus action was taken to make the treasurer's position be a hire of the district board. Ty will report to Gary.

Capital Campaign: Since there will not now be a capital campaign, a proposal was made and accepted to pay the campaign expense out of the proceeds from Mr. Partin.

Announcements:

Troy garage sale 9-4 next Saturday to benefit school bags for Church world Service

John Kinsel will share the story of hope coming out of his trip to Nigeria with Children's Disaster Ministry. John will place article in newsletter about this and the Listening session.

Sign up for camp

Dave at Potsdam May 29.

Empowering Existing Ministries

- Brethren Helping Hands
- Gifts Discernment calls forth leadership—give suggestions. Encourage individuals to offer their talents. Understanding the gifts of individuals

New Church Development

- May move forward more quickly now that there is money from camp.

Shared Ministry

Camping and Retreat Commission

- Help find campers
- Help find counselors

Missional Renewal Commission

- Celebrate our success stories
- Take advantage of the many resources that are available in the tool kit

Ministry Commission

- Recognize gifts and talents
- Shoes of the Fisherman
- How many have talked to someone within the last two months about ministry.

Resource Development Commission

Prayer and extinguishing of the candle by Ty Pyles.

Adjourned 3:15