



**November, 2016**  
**Southern Ohio District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**

## **Sending your Congregation's Delegate to Annual Conference**

In 2017, the 231st recorded Church of Brethren Annual Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. And once again congregations will be encouraged to send a delegate to come together for fellowship and to discern the business of the denomination. For those who may be unaware, here is some information on sending a delegate from your congregation.

### *Why is it important for my congregation to send a delegate to Annual Conference?*

Sending a delegate to Annual conference is the only way to ensure your congregation has a say in decisions that affect the whole church. The Annual Conference delegate body is one of the most important--if not the highest level of decision making in the Church of the Brethren. Each congregation may play a vital part in Annual Conference by sending a delegate or delegates. The number of delegates a congregation may send is relative to the number of members in the congregation.

### *Who can be a delegate and how many delegates does our congregation get?*

Each congregation may choose who their delegate(s) may be, and all delegates must be full members of the Church of the Brethren. The pastor of a congregation is not automatically a delegate.

The number of delegates allowed per congregation is based on its membership statistics as reported in the Church of the Brethren Yearbook for the previous year. The number allowed is as follows:

1 – 200 members	1 delegate
201 – 400 members	2 delegates
401 – 600 members	3 delegates
601 – 800 members	4 delegates
801+ members	5 delegates

### *What do delegates and their congregations get from Annual Conference?*

Delegates benefit personally from the opportunities for spiritual renewal, continuing education, and faith formation. Their congregations benefit from the spiritual growth that their church leadership may bring back and share with the church. In addition to business sessions, each Conference features daily worship services, Bible studies, insight sessions on a wide variety of topics, support groups, meal events, an exhibit hall with booths and many free resources, a Brethren Press bookstore, and much more. All of these are open to every Conference attendee. Every congregation that sends a delegate will also receive a copy of that year's Annual Conference minutes.

To take full advantage of sending a delegate, a congregation should make time for that person to report back following the Conference, so that they can share the experience with the whole congregation.

Delegate registration for Grand Rapids will open online on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. The registration fee for each delegate is \$285. For more information about how to send a delegate to Annual Conference, contact the Conference Office by email at [annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org), or call 800-323-8039 ext. 365.

**Risk Hope, our 2017 Annual Conference** theme, emerges as a recurring chorus from an Old Testament saga of tragedy and redemption. As we look toward Grand Rapids, our con-

ference moderator, Carol Scheppard, will be offering a monthly message addressing, episode by episode, important elements in the story. Her hope is to engage churches and individuals in a series of Bible studies that will help us all prepare for our Annual Conference worship and work together. Click [here](#) to see the first message. Feel free to reference it yourself or share it with brothers and sisters in your congregation as we all wrestle with the challenges of being both the Chosen of God and the Servants of God in the midst of a troubled world.

## **Prayer Requested by Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren**

The Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren and the executive committee of the Council of District Executives (Dave Shetler, our District Executive is currently serving on the Executive Committee of the Council) has released the following request:

Partnership in prayer throughout the church is requested as the Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren and the executive committee of the Council of District Executives met Nov. 1-2 to work on the task assigned from this past summer's Annual Conference. The delegate body referred the concerns of the "Query: Same Gender Weddings" to the Leadership Team in consultation with the Council of District Executives "to bring clarity and guidance concerning the authority of Annual Conference and districts regarding the accountability of ministers, congregations, and districts, bringing recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference."

The Leadership Team and the executive committee of the Council of District Executives are asking that the church as a whole pray with them, as they plan Nov. 1-2 for January conversations that will invite all of the district executives to discern with the Leadership Team the best way for this body of Christ to carry out God's purposes regarding our patterns of authority and accountability.

All members of the church are asked to join in listening to the Lord as well as speaking our concerns to the Lord, as we pray with confidence that God will provide the guidance and wisdom we need. Please be aware of the breadth and diversity of your brothers and sisters in this body of Christ, with whom you join in this time of prayer, especially those whom you have called to serve as your district and denominational leaders. May the Holy Spirit of the Risen Lord shape and empower our spirits to faithfully follow Jesus together, as we pray together over the coming months.

## **Camping and Retreat News and Updates**

The Fall Ambassadors' meeting, held at Salem Church of the Brethren was a lot of fun and a chance to catch up on all the news from the Camping and Retreat Ministries. We watched a DVD with pictures of the events during the 2016 Camping Season, played some games, sang songs and ate light refreshments. A sharing of ideas and information for next year's camping and retreat events helped keep communications flowing.

Cookie Camp, Saturday, December 10, will be our winter fund raiser. Ambassadors were given order forms for the cookies to take back to their churches. Churches not sending ambassadors will receive the information in a mailing to them. We will be making the same eight kinds of cookies as last year. They are: Chocolate Chip, Decorated Sugar Cookies, Lemon Cookies, White Chocolate Dipped Ginger Snaps, Peanut Butter Blossoms, Chocolate Crinkles, Oatmeal Cookies (with and without raisins), and Snickerdoodles.

Here is how the Cookie Camp will operate. We will meet at Salem Church of the Brethren at 9:00 am, on Dec. 10. All the supplies for the cookies will be there. The only other items for people to bring would be mixers. After selecting a type of cookie to make, everyone gets busy to make the fun begin! As soon as the cookies are baked and cooled, they are packaged into the \$2.50 or \$5.00 boxes. Samples are always available as well as coffee, tea, milk, and juice. Lunch will be served to all the workers. Since we will be handling lots of hot trays of cookies, it isn't a safe environment for small children. However, children 10 years old and up are welcome to come with a parent or grandparent.

The cookie baking is exciting and so interesting to watch. It's like seeing a beehive of worker bees buzzing around. The aromas of the baking cookies are also heavenly.

Please let Karen Dillon know if you would like to participate in Cookie Camp. phone: 937-890-7388 or email [crimdill@aol.com](mailto:crimdill@aol.com) This year's proceeds will help fund a new adventure for the children and their friends of Southern Ohio churches, WINTER BLAST.

WINTER BLAST is coming January 27 - 28, 2017. It is an overnight experience for kids and their friends who attended camp last year or want to attend camp in the future. We will meet at Cricket Holler on Friday evening after dinner at 6:00 pm. Kids will be assigned cabins with counselors and adults. After finding a bunk and meeting their counselors, we will head off to the Vandalia Recreation Center for swimming and splashing in the pool. When we return to the camp, we will have snacks, devotions, and watch a movie before heading back to the cabins for a good night's sleep!?! A pancake breakfast will be served Saturday morning before the games and activities begin. In the morning we will go sledding, play outdoor games, go hiking, have snow related activities, and enjoy being in the winter wonderland. Kids will be free to come and go in the center to refresh or get warm. Puzzles, board games, crafts, and activities of all kinds will be set out for the campers inside. After lunch we will have a Bible study and then more fun outside and inside. When parents pick up their children at 4:00 pm, we hope the campers will have had a great time with friends, playing in the snow, and experiencing God's great creation in winter. Invitations have been sent to last year's campers, but all churches are invited to send campers. Ambassadors and churches will be receiving a mailing soon with all the details about registration. The cost for the event will be \$20 per person.

Camp and Retreat Schedule for 2017  
January 27 - 28: WINTER BLAST - Cricket Holler

March 12: Ambassadors' Meeting Salem COB  
June 7: Camp Set Up Cricket Holler  
June 8 -11: Adult/Child Camp--Cricket Holler  
June 12-15: Camp Safari-- Cricket Holler  
June 11-15: Possible Youth Service/Work Camp (local projects) Cricket Holler  
June 15-18: Family Camp--Cricket Holler  
June 18-24: Creative Arts Camp--Cricket Holler  
July 5-8: Quilting Camp-- Bergamo  
August 12: Golf Outing  
September 22-23: Women's Retreat Bergamo  
September 25-29: Adult Bible School - Salem COB (other locations and dates to be added in the future)  
October 15: Ambassadors' Meeting

## **Disaster Ministry Updates**

Sewing Bee – On Saturday, Nov. 5 there will be a Sewing Bee at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Come at 9:00 AM to sew bags for Church World Service school kits. The S. Ohio District just sent a shipment of 1,701 school kits to the warehouse at the Brethren Service Center. Now we need more bags sewn. There is a great demand in the U.S. and internationally for school kits. Bring your sewing machine and a sack lunch. For more information, call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. Prior to the Sewing Bee, you're invited to join the women of Greenville COB at the Coffee Pot on Broadway in downtown Greenville. They meet the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM for coffee, goodies, and fellowship. [Click here for a flyer with 2017 Sewing Bee dates.](#)

2017 Trip Schedule – We now have the dates for the 2017 S. Ohio BDM trips. Some trips are to Columbia, SC and others will be to another site that opens in January. [Click here for the 2017 trip](#)

schedule flyer. Please note that the June 11-17 and July 16 – 22 trips are for youth. To sign up for a trip or for more information contact Burt Wolf 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

### **Books for Nigeria**

One of the ways to help Nigerians recover from the violence they have experienced is to support education. This new initiative allows you to partner with EYN as it rebuilds its education programs. There are two focuses of this book drive: children's education and pastoral education. All books must arrive at the Brethren Service Center by November 20, 2016 so they can be sorted and packed for shipment to Nigeria.

Send books to:

Books for Nigeria  
601 Main Street  
New Windsor, MD 21776

**Books for Children:** EYN related schools are in need of books for their school libraries and classrooms. Please collect new or used books in good condition for children ages 6 to 16 years old. Specifically requested are paperback chapter books for children, such as those recognized by the Newberry Award (easily found online). Non-fiction books and children's encyclopedias are also requested. All books should be in good condition and published in the last 20 years.

**Books for Kulp Bible College:** EYN's Kulp Bible College is requesting help supplying their library. They are in need of materials for training pastors including Bible commentaries, reference books, and resource books for pastors as well as books on Christian education, theology, preaching resources, Hebrew and Greek languages, pastoral counseling and ethics. All books should be in good condition and published in the last 20 years. The KBC staff have provided a wish list of specific titles that are needed (found online at brethren.org). For larger donations, call Pat and John Krabacher (937-765-0483). A Southern Ohio District transport.

### **Trinity Church of the Brethren Seeking Accompanist**

Trinity Church of the Brethren in Sidney, Ohio is looking for a full time or part time person or persons to play music for worship or as needed at other times such as Christmas Eve / Christmas Day and Love Feast. For more information, please contact either Linda Miller at 1-937-726-5258 or Shirley Stone at 1-937-492-3670.

### **Potsdam Church Seeking Child and Families Outreach Intern**

The Potsdam congregation is seeking an intern with a term at least through the end of this calendar year and possibility of renewal to work with their children and family outreach. Responsibilities include working with the Wednesday Awana ministry, assisting in other church activities such as Children's Church and Summer VBS, coordinating other regularly scheduled activities/programs pertaining to child & families outreach. I have a complete job description if you or someone you know is interested in this ministry.

### **West Charleston Seeking Music Director**

West Charleston Church of the Brethren is seeking a Music Director for their multicultural worship services. The position involves about 10 hours a week and fluency with Spanish language is a plus. Contact the church at 667-3988 or send a resume to w\_c45371@yahoo.com.

### **Greenville Church Choir Request**

## Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2016 Prayer List for Congregations is available on our website.

- As we are winding down to election day, rhetoric, fear, and tensions surrounding this election are on the rise. As followers of Jesus, may we hold our nation and the election process "in the light" to borrow a phrase from Quaker sisters and brothers.
- Violence continues in various parts of our country and world with shootings and stabbings, bombs and other forms of violence. Racial tension seems to be at an all time high, along with anger at authority, protests directed at injustice or perceived injustice with anger directed at both perpetrators and protesters. Now more than ever, the message of Good News given to us as followers of the Prince of Peace needs to be shared in powerful and effective ways. May we pray to this end, listening and responding when God's call comes for us to speak and act.
- The 2016-2017 Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren:
  - David A. Steele, general secretary
  - Carol A. Scheppard, Annual Conference moderator
  - Samuel Kefas Sarpiya, Annual Conference moderator-elect
  - James M. Beckwith, Annual Conference secretary
  - Chris Douglas, Annual Conference director, staff support
- The Executive Committee of the Council of District Executives:
  - Colleen Michael, chair
  - Kevin Kessler, vice chair
  - David Shetler, secretary
  - David Shumate, treasurer
- Julie M. Hostetter, executive director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and former Southern Ohio District Moderator, is continuing rehabilitation and recovery at home after a short stay in the hospital due to a fever caused by an abscess. She is receiving antibiotics at home. The cards, CaringBridge.com postings, emails and prayers from friends and colleagues have been a source of care and encouragement and are greatly appreciated!
- Phil Dell (pastor of the Harris Creek congregation) reports that his sister Carolyn Guenther, who lives in Florida, had an apparent stroke and is not able to feel anything on her right side, although there is some improvement in her overall condition. She has a past connection to our district as a former member at West Milton COB, daughter of former pastor Byron Dell, she was at one time licensed to the ministry in our district. Please keep Carolyn and the family in your prayers.
- Rob Raker, former pastor of the Bear Creek congregation, is still dealing with his heart condition and is continuing to undergo tests to determine the best way forward; he appreciates our prayers as well as prayers for the Bear Creek congregation. John Edwards is assisting with pulpit supply and some other duties for the next several months.
- Jim and Karen Chronister's daughter, Shannon Collins, continues to recover from her brain surgery from last month. In speaking with the Chronisters, this is a "time will tell" situation still in need of our prayers.
- Please keep both Don and Patty King in prayer. Don serves as pastor of the Prices Creek congregation. Don's hip replacement surgery went well and he was able to be with us at District Conference. Patty is undergoing cancer treatment, a fairly strong chemotherapy therapy has begun. Prayers are appreciated for the King's and the Prices Creek congregation.
- Please keep Sie Brock, pastor at Stonelick in your prayers. Sie suffered a heart attack several months ago but is doing well. Sie was at District Conference and expressed appreciation for the prayers these past months.
- May we remember Libby Kee, retired Church of the Brethren minister living in the Columbus area, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer, Libby reports she is doing quite well.
- May we remember the possibility of a new church starts in various locations in our district.
- There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective loca-

tions, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer.

Please contact me if you know of prayer situations of which I should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

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