



Southern Ohio District Conference will be held October 6-7, 2017 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. Registration is now open on the district website. Guest speakers this year are Debbie Eisenbise and Gimbiya Kettering. The pre-conference sessions are open to all. Non-delegate attendees also need to register. The theme will be "Created to love" based on the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. Our moderator is John Kinsel.

Empowering Grants Available

By action of the 2015 Southern Ohio District Conference a percentage of the interest from the sale of Camp Woodland Altars is to be used each year for grants. The monies received from the Nature Conservancy come from the sale of the undeveloped portion of the Camp. The grants will be used to Empower Congregations and to Empower Leadership within the District. We are excited to announce that we are now prepared to begin funding these grants.

The intended purpose of the grants is twofold:

1. To provide financial support to any congregation within the District which seeks it for the development of new or expansion of existing missional efforts;
2. To provide financial support for any member of a District congregation who is in a leadership position and wishes to obtain further training to enhance their leadership role or any member of a District congregation who wishes to seek training to prepare them for future church leadership.

Completed Grant applications should be sent to the District mailing address:
P O Box 785
Greenville, OH 45331

NOTE The first deadline for grant applications is August 1, 2017. Thereafter, deadlines will be on April 1 and August 1, annually.

"Meet and Greet" the 2018 Annual Conference Moderator

Come and meet Samuel Sarpiya during a "meet and greet the moderator" time offered to the District on Sunday, August 27 at 2:30 pm at the West Charleston Church of the Brethren. Born in Nigeria and raised in South Africa, Samuel is a Brethren church planter and community organizer in Rockford, IL. Brother Samuel is passionate about the connection between peacemaking and the gospel of Christ. His passion for Jesus' peace has moved him to be a pastoral presence in the Rockford school systems, to train the local Rockford police force in nonviolent principles, and to partner with Nigerian Brethren in developing mobile libraries for camps of internally displaced persons. Samuel will lead a church school hour session at West Charleston and preach during morning worship.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Volunteers Needed, including assistant cook - S. Ohio BDM is seeking volunteers to work in Eureka, MO August 6 - 12. We already have four volunteers, and can take up to fifteen. Volunteers' expenses for food, housing, and transportation are covered by BDM. The work is recovery from flooding in December 2015 and April 2017. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

10th Annual Ice Cream Social – Support BDM while you enjoy a delicious supper, pie, and ice cream (vanilla, peach, black raspberry, and maple pecan). The Annual Ice Cream Social will be on Saturday, August 5, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Happy Corner COB, 7037 Union Road, Clayton. Tickets for Share-a-Meal will be available for \$20 each. A schedule of dates and hosts for the meals can be found on the district website (www.sodcob.org). New this year will be a sale of items from SERRV, a fair trade organization working with artisans throughout the world. Bring the coin collection jars that you may have received last year. All proceeds benefit the ministry of S. Ohio BDM, funding volunteers going on rebuilding trips and buying supplies for Church World Service kits. Invite a friend and come for an evening of food and fellowship!

Golf Scramble – On Saturday, August 12 there will be a Golf Scramble at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville. This is jointly sponsored by BDM and the Camping and Retreat Ministry. You can give support as a golfer or as a hole sponsor. Registration and hole sponsorship forms can be found on the district website. Due date is August 4, 2017.

School Kit Assembly – On Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 PM school kits will be assembled for Church World Service. To help with this project, come to Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. This is the warehouse location for BDM's storage. Donations are needed for purchasing supplies. Our goal is to send 2,000 kits this year, at a cost of about \$5.00 each. Please make checks payable to S. Ohio District COB, with a footnote "CWS Kits". These may be sent to S. Ohio District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

Sewing Bee – Come sew school bags on Saturday, August 12 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. Both in the U.S. and internationally, Church World Service (CWS) school kits are needed for disaster survivors, refugees, and the economically disadvantaged. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, the Southern Ohio District (sodcob@brethren.org) visit our website: www.sodcob.org. In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to sodcob@brethren.org **before the 15th of the month.***

