

District Executive Minister Report
District Board Meeting - May 12, 2018 - Olivet Church of the Brethren

Since our last Board meeting, we held the special district wide meeting to share about the state of our church in regards to the dissension but also how we are working together to live out the mission given to us by God. I appreciated the spirit of the meeting, leading us to consider both our heritage and how to move forward with a compelling vision. Most of the comments and feedback have been positive, but there are also those who are still considering leaving the Church of the Brethren. As we continue to serve and work together in ministry and mission here in Southern Ohio/Kentucky, may we seek the guidance of the Spirit, be inspired by the love of Jesus, and be filled with the grace of God. In these uncertain times in our world, our country and even in our denomination, there are these encouraging signs of God's movement within us, may we be faithful.

I continue to meet with congregations either as a preacher or for ongoing relationship contact or for various issues. Since my last full board report in February,

- * worshipped with East Dayton and conducted the ordination service for their pastor, Zach Spidel.
- * met numerous times with the Prince of Peace search team.
- * participated in the BDM Appreciation Dinner.
- * led a meeting with Painter Creek leadership with leadership from Oakland and Potsdam on a possible way forward for ministry at Painter Creek.
- * met with a group of ministers desiring to plan an evangelism workshop (Phil Dell, Jim Baker, and Sheila Shumaker were also present).
- * met with leadership from Good Shepherd as we consider pastoral transition later this summer.
- * led a meeting with representatives from Mack Memorial, Bear Creek, and West Milton, along with Bethany students and faculty member, On Earth Peace representative, BVS representative, East Dayton representative, and Peace Place representative to talk about urban ministry options for these locations including partnerships. There will be an urban ministry team formed out of this meeting to move this ministry forward.
- * shared at a community Day of Prayer service.
- * preached at Painter Creek during their time of transition.
- * participated in the first Dessert and Dialogue gathering at East Dayton.

We currently have several congregations in some stage of pastoral search. Good Shepherd will be served through June with the partnership with Bethany Theological Seminary and the district; Musa Mambula, a EYN pastor currently at Bethany as international scholar in residence will be ending his time at the end of June. Prince of Peace continues in the long term intentional interim agreement with Doug Veal; the search team is conducting interviews. Painter Creek is being served by pulpit supply as a partnership with Oakland is being

explored. I express appreciation to each of these persons as they assist in ministry in these congregations and we send best wishes to those pastors beginning new ministries. I have had numerous contacts with pastors and other church leaders on a variety of topics related to their ministries and/or role within the district. I've also met with minister's groups as they gather for study and fellowship. John Warner from BRC and I continue our relationship and friendship as we share in ministry together.

My duties on the Council of District Executives include being the CODE representative to the Mission and Ministry Board and serving on the denominational Leadership Team. I am also the Council secretary which means that I am part of the Council's Executive Committee. Due to a variety of other meetings, the Executive Committee has been meeting via Zoom for several meetings this spring. Bethany hosted a CEU event for the Council in April which was followed by the Council meeting with the Leadership Team. Mid-West CODE sponsored Biblical Authority Conversations which was attended by a number of persons from our district. My term as secretary and representative to MMB and Leadership Team ends at the conclusion of Annual Conference this summer. The Mid-West Council will be sponsoring a new pastors retreat this October, held at Camp Mack.

I continue to meet with our commissions as often as possible to share in the ongoing work. Our teams continue their fine work of ministering to the pastors and congregations of the district in addition to ministry for the district at large. I deeply appreciate the dedication, energy and commitment of those serving on our commissions, as well as other committees and the board in roles throughout the District. It is important that we express our appreciation for one another as we serve together. Camping and retreat ministries have a number of summer events planned after a busy fall and winter. Appreciation is also expressed to our paid and volunteer staff for all their hard work; we have a great team working together for Southern Ohio/Kentucky.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve for and with you all in Southern Ohio/Kentucky, even and especially in the midst of these rather uncertain times. I deeply appreciate our teamwork in ministry as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus. May we be ever mindful that we need to proceed in an attitude of prayer, of openness to God's Spirit and of continuing the journey as the people of God, filled with grace, love and peace. May we be aware of the presence of God as we seek to fulfill the mission God has given us.

Blessings!

Dave Shetler, District Executive Minister, Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren