

September, 2018
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
Printable Version



2018 Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

October 19 & 20

Salem Church of the Brethren

Theme: We are all One Body

We are still needing delegate registrations from many of our congregations. Please use these links to register online using a credit card at your earliest convenience in order for arrangements to be made. Printable versions are also available online if you prefer to mail them in with a check.

Pre Conference Event: The Body of Christ in Corinth and America

This year's District pre-conference event will be a 4 hr teaching session entitled "The Body of Christ in Corinth and America" and will be led by Guest Speaker, Dan Ulrich, Wieand Professor of New Testament Studies at Bethany Seminary. Here is a brief description of the talk. "In response to news about divisions within the house churches in Corinth, Paul's effort to repair the beloved body of Christ included writing an instructive letter. The thesis of that letter is an appeal for unity and reconciliation. As Christians who may also need reconciliation, let's gather to study 1 Corinthians with Paul's overall purpose and message in mind. We will not ignore some passages that figure in our divisive debates today, but we will interpret them contextually, showing how the message of the cross and the Spirit's gift of love can still work to heal Christ's body."

CEUs will be granted upon request.

Discovering a Compelling Vision: Listening Sessions Scheduled

The first step as we work together to discover God's compelling vision for us as a denomination, is that of listening to how God is working in each of our lives. You are encouraged to attend one of the following listening sessions to share and listen to others as we work together to "discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue".

November 1, 2018 beginning at 6:30 PM at Brethren Retirement Community

November 2, 2018 beginning at 6:30 PM at Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren

November 3, 2018 beginning at 9:30 AM at White Cottage Church of the Brethren

November 3, 2018 beginning at 5:30 PM at Troy Church of the Brethren

***"The Church of the Brethren stands at a crossroads. Recent decades have been defined by paralyzing conflict. In response to the ongoing conflict, at the 2017 Annual Conference, the delegate body affirmed a report from the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives regarding The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts. That report concluded with this statement: To stay on the journey together, it is also crucial that the church discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue. . . Denominational and District leadership have worked together to begin a process whereby we can begin a process of conversation and discernment in an effort to arrive at a compelling vision rooted in our shared commitment to live as Christ's disciples." ** from brethren.org/ac/compelling_vision

A much more extensive explanation of the process can be found on the above cited website. We hope you will join us on this journey, engaging in the conversations as they occur. Be watching for more information about how this process will unfold in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference

November 10-11, 2018

PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference registration is live! PowerHouse is an overnight youth conference at Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana for youth in grades 9-12 and their advisors. Click here for more information about Powerhouse. The speakers this year are David and Maria Huber, Jed Freels, and Jeanne Davies. The weekend will include worship, workshops, recreation, yummy camp food, new friendships, and fun! this year's event is November 10-11, 2018.

Fall Bible School

October 22-26, 2018

Troy Church of the Brethren

Come join others from the district to enjoy a Bible School geared for adults. The guest speaker is Allison DeHart and the theme, A Hidden Wholeness--Welcoming the Soul in Community. Allison is the past Executive Director of partners in Hope. After leaving her work at PIH she moved to Boulder, Colorado and Studied at the Naropa University. While she was studying at Naropa she did an independent study of the Nag Hammadi texts - early Christian texts that were discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt in 1945. She is now a board member of a non-profit called the Tanho Center, which is working to build awareness of these texts. Tanho Center recently as produced a short film about one of these texts, The Gospel of Mary.

Each day is structured with Bible studies, singing, sharing, interesting speakers, activities, games, puzzles, arts, crafts and a light lunch. People from many churches have been meeting new friends and getting to know other friends better as they gather together during these Bible schools. People attending have said they feel refreshed and renewed by the experience aof this set apart time for personal growth and fun. Everyone is invited to attend this event offered by the SOKD Camping and Retreat Ministry and the Troy Church of the Brethren.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Update

Update from BDM leaders in Lumberton, NC – Our volunteer housing was not flooded by Hurricane Florence. There are some homes that we started working on before the storm that were not affected, or affected minimally, that we are continuing to work on. We believe that we will have some rebuild work, some roof work and some muck and gut work for those that can physically handle that. I have not heard any word on the homes that we completed in Lumberton. I do know of one that we almost completed that had several feet of water in it, and needs to be re-done. The city and FEMA are discussing steps forward.

All of the houses in Nichols, SC received water. We will muck and gut them as the homeowners and the town decide on how they are going to move forward.

Volunteer Now! Oct. 7-13 and Nov. 4-10 -- BDM continues to work in Lumberton, NC. There are openings for three volunteers on the Oct. 7-13 trip, and five volunteers on the Nov. 4-10 trip. Transportation is provided and expenses are covered. Please contact Burt Wolf (937-287-5902) to volunteer or for more information. Please share this with others who you think may be able to serve. We want a full crew of fifteen for each trip.

Volunteer in Puerto Rico - BDM is scheduling small groups of 5-7 volunteers to work in Castañer, Puerto Rico rebuilding homes for COB members. Volunteers need to be able to work in a hot humid climate. It is hoped that most volunteers will stay at least two weeks (10 working days). Assistance is available for airfare. For more information and to volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Church World Service Response/ Donations – Many volunteers have helped recently with assembling school kits and hygiene kits. The Church World Service truck was in Ohio in mid-September, and transported our 2,500 school kits to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. Soon we'll also have 2,000 hygiene kits ready to send. Donations are welcomed. Please make checks payable to S. Ohio/KY District COB, and footnoted BDM/CWS kits. Mail checks to S. Ohio/KY COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

Kingdom Building: An Evangelism Conference

The Greenville Church of the Brethren would like to invite all to an Evangelism Conference on November 9 & 10th. The guest speaker is our Moderator Elect, Paul Munday. A flyer with more information including how to register can be found on the district website.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2018 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the district website.

--The most current information on the church in Nigeria including prayer needs can be found on the denominational website.

-- Dave Shetler's mother, Barbara Shetler, has had a few minor strokes and possible cecum cancer.

-- Mary Sue Rosenberger, pulmonary fibrosis along with a slow growing carcinoma in her lungs.

-- Rob Raker, heart condition. Hoping for a new procedure which may alleviate some of the issues he has been facing.

--Church Families Impacted by New Government Regulations--The federal government has been adding burdensome new rules for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Families in our church are having to take days off from work to meet the new requirements. They are also experiencing long delays in receiving and renewing their work permits and green cards *for which they are eligible. One church member has been unable to obtain a driver's license due to a new requirement that his government-issued ID cards be verified as authentic, and that verification has not been timely. Please keep our church families in prayer as they face the growing costs of navigating these increasingly-heavy paperwork burdens, as well as the fear and stress involved in this process. Also, pray for immigration attorneys overwhelmed by the increasing workload of serving their clients in this environment.*

-- Congregations in pastoral transition-- Prince of Peace has called Katie and Tim Heishman as co-pastors beginning in October; Painter Creek has made arrangements for regular pulpit supply; Good Shepherd is seeking pastoral services; Beech Grove pastor Dewayne Heck has announced plans for retirement.

--May we remember the possibility of 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 locations, 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 Dave if you know of prayer situations of which he should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.