

Southern Ohio District Conference

October 6, 2017

6:30 Business Meeting Opening

1. Welcome

John Kinsel: Welcomed the delegates and guests

Seated the delegates by Moderator Elect Deb Olinski

Welcomed visitors:

Dave Shetler introduced: Steve Mason, BBT, Lori Currany, Admissions at Bethany Seminary, Sam Schutlz and Charlene Haines with ADNet, Debby Eisenbise and Gimbiya Kettering the presenters , Rebecca Toliefson, Ohio Council of Churches

2. Announcements

Dean Garrett announced that he wanted to take pictures of all ministers present for the Heritage Center. Please meet with Dean to get pictures taken.

John Kinsel shared that as a result of the presentation "Listening with Grace" last year, there is an ongoing conversation for families of individuals who identify with the LGBT community and their families. Living Sanctuary will meet at Pleasant Hill Monday, Oct. 30 at 7pm.

Bob Gross will be meeting with us tomorrow for the next step in the reconciliation process which focuses on financial processes. Listening sessions will be held at 7:00 pm at the following locations and dates: Beaver creek Church of the Brethren on October 16; New Carlisle October 17; Brethren Retirement Center on October 18.

Passport Program: Freddie and Brenda Worthington from Prince of Peace church presented the Passport Program as a way to support visiting other congregational worships. Please review the information in the packet and make suggestions of any additional information or corrections.

Refugee Resettlement Task Team: Linda Brandon discussed that Miami Valley Catholic Social Services is the lead agency in resettling refugees in the area. Southern Ohio Church of the Brethren will be collaborating with them in this work. The Catholic Social Services has a warehouse for supplies/items used to help the families as soon as they arrive in the area. The Refugee Resettlement Task Team are in need more volunteers to work on organizing and establishing and maintaining an inventory of the warehouse. Additionally, volunteers are needed to help pack boxes for families as they arrive (no furniture is at this warehouse). Tour of warehouse let Linda know.

Living Peace Church will have peanut brittle available for sale during lunch tomorrow.

Please bring nonperishable food items to place in the baskets in the vestibule. Pastor Nick Beam will take them to the local food bank.

3. Action Items

- a. Approval of Agenda
Voice vote approved the agenda as presented.
- b. Presentation and Acceptance of Slate of Nominees for District Board
Judy Boles, 2016 moderator, presented the slate.
Delegates will mark voting slips to affirm the slate. They will be turned in this evening. The results will be presented on Saturday.
- c. Presentation of the Budget
Carl Eubanks presented the budget presented by the district board for consideration. Does not require second.

Meeting Adjourned

Saturday, October 7, 2017 Business Meeting Reopened

4. Reports

- a. Reconciliation Team Bob Gross
Since 2016 conference, met with the Board in November, looked at the situation at that point and identified that fiscal handling and therefore the 3 meetings this fall. At each meeting people will be able to express concerns about fiscal decision making. That information will then be drafted into a summary/decision making and there will be a series of meetings in the spring and review a drafted policy will be brought to 2018 district conference
- b. BBT Steve Mason
Southern Ohio invested resources with BBT as of 9/30/17: \$1654920.00
\$1,435,857 added in 2016
 - \$1,130,840 into Nature Cons Fund
 - \$ 305,017 into WA Developed Area Fund
Assets Under Management – \$175,013,048
Clients – 189, including 22 districts

c. Staff Report

Dave Shetler:

Karen Dillion, Director of Camping is not here because of a back issue.

Dave, District Ex.

Mary Boone, Director of Communication,

Scott Fitzgerald Treasurer

Staff works closely with the board: Ministry, Gifts Discernment, Missional Renewal, Shared Ministries, Resource Development, Connections

Brethren Disaster Ministries is a focus of the district with a trip a month 124 volunteers with the district supporting costs. BDM Trips (average more than one a month)

School Kit Assembly

Clean up Bucket Assembly

Helping Hands (local response and assistance)

Sewing Bees

Monthly Meetings

Camping ministries is alive and doing quite well. Volunteer numbers have increased. 6 pastors worked as counselors this past summer. We have a camp for children with special needs. This camp has become one of the largest camps with close to a one on one counselor to camper. Camping is year round now.

Other Ministries/activities include:

- Refugee Resettlement
- District Deacons,
- Ministers Groups
- One Call now,
- New Church start exploration,
- Pastoral placement and interim ministry,
- Counsel/support for congregations, Congregational leadership, pastors, and Pulpit supply
- Communications ministries: website, monthly e-newsletter, weekly note, monthly bulletin insert, special email notices;
- Together Magazine

All individuals may be in the data base by submitting information to the district.

We have an account with an agency for background checks for our churches.

5. Action Items

a. Budget Discussion

Refer to the 2016 Budget Report provided by the Treasurer for details

Carl Eubanks led the discussion of the budget and thanked Steve for being here to address any specific questions. Part of money from sales of properties was set for scholarship grants for congregations/individuals. Happy Corner was one of the grant recipients. They used the money for the Picnic in the Park project which is hosted about 500 families in the community to get supplies for the upcoming school year in the past. This year they got area sponsors and moved to the community park. They had approximately 700 attendees at the event in 2016 and the expanded project in 2017 hosted approximately 2100 people. Community partners raised \$11000 for this event.

Budget discussion:

Carl: highlights: not change the format for the budget until the reconciliation meetings have concluded. Staff is being paid for 75% or 30 hours a week. Empowering line is for the grants to congregations

Questions/Discussion:

Deb Oskin, Living Peace Church ,Columbus, Ohio: District exec. Medical insurance is on the budget. How is this done but is not legal on the budget as an item.

Response: it is a group plan therefore legal.

Nan Erbaugh, Lower Miami: Happy that Heritage Resource Center increased by 50%

Donna Wojcik, Trotwood Church:

Call of question with second: Budget as presented will be voted upon. Voice vote passed the budget.

Drawing from visiting the exhibits:

Shawn Willgress won camping chair

Julie Brewer has won a coffee mug

Slate of Members for the open board positions was passed as presented.

Recognition of Pastors:

Sheila Schumaker presented certificates of recognition to the district pastors:

10 Years:

John Cruser

Lisa Baker

15 Years:

Dan Denlinger

Ty Pyles

20 Years:

Greg Hyre

Mark Bowman

Bob Bitner

Ron McAdams

Sheila Shumaker

30 Years:

Mark Gardner

35 Years:

Jim Chronister

Phillip Dell

40 Years:

Ron Fleming

50 Years:

John Huffacker

Bruce Rosenberger

55 years:

Fred Bernhard

Additional recognition:

Sie Brock as having completing the EFSM Program

Agency Reporting:

- Lori Carrant presented the Denominational Video and spoke about Bethany.
- Annual Conference will be in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2018. Glenn and Linda Timmons are site coordinators for the conference July 4-8 at the Duke Energy Center. They handed out a city brochure and a letter of invitation to help make this Annual Conference successful.
- Pat Krabacher presented on the Fund Stream and Partnership Initiative.

6. Action Items

- a. Code of Regulation Changes Presentation, Discussion and Vote

Coming from the board and it does not need a second.

Ty Pyles outlined the four main changes to the Code of Regulations to bring about the needed revisions to become compliance with current Ohio Code.

Questions/Comments from the Delegates:

Deb Olskin, Living Peace Church: Are we going to change the website address? The domain name will remain the same at this time based on the process needed to change it.

Richard Fox, Pleasant Hill: Richard then stated it seems ironic that the state is telling the church how to organize.

Dean Garrett, Emmanuel Church: Is there were a community in southwest Kentucky it would be part of Southern Ohio/Kentucky? Response: Standing Committee makes the determination of these types of items.

Passed by Voice Vote

7. Report

- a. Sharing of West Alexandria Query and Board Response

Brother Brody Rike pastor, West Alexandria and Tracy Spalding board member to clarify the query. John Stoke, Oakland requested a summary of the board response since some attendees do not have packets. Dave read the response.

Question/Comments from delegates:

Brother Garrett, Emmanuel Church: stated that some districts have written a specific policy as have some other districts. He stated that he would be willing to serve on such a committee.

8. Passing of the Gavel

John thanked all those in attendance for the fellowship and worship at this conference as well as those who have worked tirelessly to plan and execute it. John then passed the gavel and cup to the Moderator of 2018, Deb Oskin.

Remarks and Benediction by 2018 Moderator

Deb challenged us to go forth remembering this: "We are Christ's body"

She then led us in benediction and adjourned the conference.

Recorder:

PJ Arndts