

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Board

March 23, 2019, 10:00AM

Brethren Retirement Community, Spark of Life Room

Attendance: Dave Shetler, Jen Scarr, Tom Bowser, Phillip Dell, Todd Reish, Nick Beam, Ann Stackhouse, Jim Baker, Lindon Brandon, Karen Dillion, Carl Eubanks, Gary Crim, Carrie Drees, Mary Boone, Ron Mack, Sarah Friedrich, Heather Fullen on line, Ty Pyles, Becky Maur, and John Warner.

Welcome

John Warner welcomed us to the Brethren Retirement Community and Dave Shetler lead us in a prayer.

Opening Devotion - Jennifer Scarr

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Brethren Retirement Community - John Warner

John's report is online. He encouraged us to visit next phase of the remodeling during the lunch break. Congratulations to Carl Eubanks and his team for the flawless audit completed in February 2019.

Withdrawal Process Conversations

- Denomination-Wide Withdrawal Happenings
- Finalize Monetary Formula
- What is the purpose of this payment?
- What are we prepared to do if the formula is not accepted?

Report of leadership team had meeting with David Steele this week was given. They learned that a few congregations have withdrawn across the denomination. We are the 3rd district to work on a withdrawal financial formula. There is a desire for consistency among the districts without having a denominational policy to mandate the remuneration.

Jen handed out a formula based on the district budget rather than the congregational budget. The number would be the membership of the departing congregation multiplied by the district expenditures per person. (Currently \$33.00) Refer to sheet. The formula is in lei of taking the property.

Decision to move to what we do if formula not accepted. Nick referred us to the denomination polity for property disputes. It is binding arbitration. It is suggested that we ask the congregation to agree to the formula or we can go through the polity binding arbitration where we ask for the property.

Based on the reading of the polity it is determined that we will accept the payment formula of the membership number multiplied by the per member amount for five years. The payment is due as a lump sum. The money will go into the general fund of the district. This will be presented to them with the framework again pointing out the conflict resolution process. This money will be in addition to the other fees involved.

Staff Reports

District Executive - Dave Shetler report is online.

White Cottage is still searching for a pastor; Beach Grove just finished their profile. There are 70 open positions and significantly fewer pastors looking. It is a challenge to support the congregations. Modesto has found a good candidate for their position so Dave will be using some vacation days to be with them as they call a new pastor. Dave again thanked the board for all its support.

Communications - Mary Boone report is online.

Mary is looking forward to the biannual meeting of the District Administrative Assistants in Elgin.

Camping and Retreat - Karen Dillon report is online.

Karen has distributed the 2019 camping information.

Treasurer Report – Scott Fitzgerald

Joys and Concerns

Art Fourman - Poverty Awareness Simulation, Prince of Peace

Art Fourman presented the COPE program (Cost of Poverty Experience) that Prince of Peace has scheduled for May 11. He extended an invitation for us to feel free to join them.

Angela spent the night at the ER with her young son last night which is why she is not here.

Sarah heard from Mary Sue that her husband, Bruce is having issues with his heart valve.

Ron McAdams fell this morning and broke his hip.

Heather's daughter needs to have molar repair.

Jen is thankful for the Ted and Company performance. It filled the church with close to 200 people.

Jen lead us in prayer.

Withdrawing Congregation Updates

Eaton: since the last board meeting there has not been a meeting waiting for this meeting to finalize the formula. They have submitted paperwork with the state to change their name to the Eaton Community Church even they have yet to complete the withdrawal process.

Bradford: we met with the Leadership board on Feb. 20. Next step is to send them the withdrawal packet. Next meeting is set for April 10.

Castine: held the first vote on Feb. 24 and was nearly unanimous. They are eager to move forward.

The Board reaffirms the polity and statements of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. The 1979 paper from Annual Conference will be examined by Todd Reich, Nick Beam, and Becky Maurer for the development of a statement that can be released.

Program and Arrangements - Carl Eubank

Programs and arrangements for District Conference are progressing for October 11 and 12, 2019 at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. The theme is [God Provides](#). Debby Noffsinger is the designer for the theme artwork. Stewardship Education will dominate the Friday education sessions.

Commission Reports:

Connections - Linda Brandon, Chair

John Kinsel has taken on the leadership of the district deacons. We need more to serve as District Deacons.

Refugee Resettlement Warehouse has to relocate by the end of next week. Volunteers are needed to assist in the process.

Resource and Development - Sarah Frederick, Board Contact

They have been receiving grants and have been awarding them. They are going to redefine what the money is to be used for to assist in the process.

Each church will receive information about the stewardship information that is available to them.

Shared Ministries - Ann Stackhouse, Chair

Developed a sub committee for developing a School of Christian Living. They will have the task to develop what will be offered as well as where and the format.

Interfaith women's group meeting contact has been made but decisions have not been made.

The new van for Brethren Disaster was purchased with money donated by individuals specifically the van. NO money from disaster funds have been used for it.

Ministry Commission– Tom Bowser

Five year ordination renewal is this year. Make certain to have your pastors who need to renew have the needed CEU

Ethics training requirement documentation is needed this year. The program will be different this year.

Recommendation from Ministries Commission is recommending ordination for Larry Lutz. The Board voted to ordain Larry Lutz. Now the Piqua congregation needs to vote for ordination. He is one of four who have finished the TRIM program.

Ministries Commission will be meeting again on Monday to review the license information for someone.

*Action Item – ordination approval of Larry Lutz was approved

Missional Renewal - Ty Pyles, Chair

They met with Jonathan Shively to develop the survey and to train coaches to assist congregations upon completing the survey.

Gifts Discernment - Deb Oskin

*Action Item – appointment of Charlene Foster to Gifts Discernment was approved.

New Business

None at this time

Jim Baker asked for an update of the Urban Ministry.

Dave indicated that a subcommittee has met with a Brethren church minister in east Dayton. The national Brethren denomination has requested to also partner with us on this endeavor. April 17 will be a meeting with the leadership of the 3 denomination local leaderships.

Todd R. expressed extreme respect for Dave's leadership for the district.

Closing and Benediction

Minutes submitted for review

PJ Arndts, Clerk