



District Executive Minister Report District Conference - October 11-12, 2019 - Happy Corner Church of the Brethren

The Church of the Brethren is continuing to move forward to discover, define, and live into a compelling vision. We spent time in our district as in all districts and then at Annual Conference to share and discern together. As the team continues to compile this information and bring material to next year's Annual Conference, may we continue in a spirit of prayer for this process and for our church. As we consider our mission statement - Working Together, Empowering Disciples - I am hopeful through this process we can capture a vision to carry out our mission. There is certainly evidence of our mission being carried out; the various ways our congregations are working together, an urban ministry team beginning its work, camping and retreat ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Brethren Retirement Community, the ministries led by our commissions, congregations discovering new life. 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. Even as we face 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.

My reports to the District Board meetings are posted on the district website for your perusal. A significant portion of my work and ministry among you though needs to be kept confidential in its nature. There are many consultations with ministers, congregational leaders, and others as ministry continues in the various locations across Southern Ohio and Kentucky.

As the church and culture change around us, there are ongoing challenges and new opportunities. In the past several years, there has been a significant shift in the number of persons accepting a call to ministry. I encourage all of us to be sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit in discerning and calling forth leadership for the church in this ever changing world.

I do participate in the Council of District Executives; there are at least two meetings a year for the entire Council, and generally two additional meetings of our regional Council. The Council continues to be a place for us to network and support each other.

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. 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 continue to be amazed at witnessing the variety of ways we serve together to “continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.” 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. Indeed “we are all one body” in ministry and service together!

Blessings!

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