

## **Returning to Church-- Recommendations from Your District Board**

On Saturday, June 20th, your District Board gathered to handle a few items of business, including our recommendations on best practices during the ongoing pandemic. The Board decided to uphold our previous recommendations, which are in-line with the recently released recommendations from our denomination.

**We recommend that churches continue to love one another from afar for the time being.**

If churches decide that it is necessary to meet in-person, we strongly recommend following the guidelines and practices released by the denomination which is attached to this letter (Church-of-the-Brethren-checklist-for-reopening-church.pdf), and it can also be found at the following link: [Click here](#). Our collective understanding of the CoViD-19 virus is constantly changing as the scientific communities continue their research and study. Humbly, we must admit that our knowledge of this virus is incomplete. It is important for us as clergy and lay leaders to continue educating ourselves to the best of our ability about the virus so that we can continue to do our best in making healthy decisions for our church communities.

Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday recently hosted a Town Hall featuring epidemiologist Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen. The information shared by Dr. Jacobsen is deeply helpful to the discernment of best practices during this time. If you were unable to attend the Town Hall but would like to view the recording, please email [cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com](mailto:cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com) with your request, and a recording will be sent to you.

## **Southern OH/KY Disaster Ministries Updates**

**Ice Cream Social, Share-a-Meal Donations** - Even though we're unable to have our annual Ice Cream Social and Share-a-Meals, BDM is able to continue serving disaster survivors through rebuilding homes and assembling Church World Service kits and buckets. You're invited to make a donation of the amount that you would usually spend/donate at the Ice Cream Social on dinner and Share-a-Meal tickets. This will enable the ministry to continue reaching those in need. In 2020 we'll be rebuilding tornado damaged homes in Dayton and flooded homes in Pamlico County, NC. Dates are being set for assembling 1,000 clean-up buckets and 1,000+ school kits. [Click here to donate on-line](#). Checks can be made out to S. Ohio/KY District COB, with BDM on the memo line. Mail checks to S. Ohio/KY COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Thank you for joining us as we serve Christ, as we serve others together.

**Volunteers Needed for Dayton BDM Site** - The Dayton BDM site will be opening on July 13, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, BDM is counting on local volunteers to be the workers during the initial phase. There will not be any overnight lodging or meals provided during July. In this first phase rebuilding will begin on a smaller scale with a crew of about 8 people. The number of volunteers and the type of skills needed will vary from week to week. Rather than putting out an open call for volunteers in July, we are being asked to create a "Wait List". This list will identify volunteers, their skills, and their availability. From that list, leadership will call volunteers for a week (Monday - Friday) at a time. During this start up stage, it will be important for volunteers to be available for a full week. Volunteers of all skill levels are encouraged to apply. Let us know if you are able to help. We are compiling a "Wait List" of available volunteers. To apply to volunteer, contact Burt Wolf (SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com, 937-287-5902). We will then send you the Volunteer Registration and Release Form and the COVID-19 Safety Guidelines Form. These forms will need to be completed, signed, and returned with what weeks during July 13-31 you are available. We must have these forms returned before you can be asked to volunteer.

**Nebraska Short-term Rebuild** - Brethren Disaster Ministries is partnering with The Kings Garden and Omaha Rapid Response to help families affected by historic flooding in March 2019 in King Lake, Nebraska. BDM has planned two weeks, August 16 - 29, 2020, for volunteers to join in this recovery and is welcoming volunteers from all districts. [Click here for a poster with more information](#). Contact Burt Wolf (937-287-5902, SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating. This will be helpful in coordinating travel and for giving project updates.

**Sewers Needed for Cloth Masks** - Sewers are needed to make cloth masks for BRC and for BDM rebuilding sites. Kits have been assembled with pre-cut fabric, elastic, and instructions. Each kit is for 30 masks. Contact Barb Brower at [barbbrower51@yahoo.com](mailto:barbbrower51@yahoo.com). Arrangements can be made to pick up the kits or to have them delivered.

**Cleanup Buckets** - Items are being purchased for Cleanup Buckets for Church World Service (CWS). We will have two assemblies this year, doing 500 each time. We originally planned an assembly in June, but are delaying this due to the current pandemic.

**School Kits** - Again this year, we hope to assemble 2,500 school kits for CWS. However, we're asking for donations to make this possible. It costs about \$5 per kit, which includes the supplies and \$2 for shipping to the point of need. Let's work together and reach our goal! Checks may be made out to S. Ohio/KY District COB, and footnoted BDM/School Kits. Donations may be sent to S. Ohio/KY District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, email the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District ([sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)) or visit our website: [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org). In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to [sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org) **before the 15th of the month**.*

