

Gifted by God . . . Called by the Church . . . Empowered by the Holy Spirit

The Council of District Executives is sponsoring a conference for congregational leaders May 14-16 at the Frederick Church of the Brethren in Maryland. The conference entitled, "Gifted by God, Called by the Church, Empowered by the Spirit", is for congregational leaders to provide tools and resources to assist congregations to become healthy, vital, growing communities of faith. Arrangements are being made for CEUs for ordained ministers. We may try to organize a bus to go to this event. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend this gathering, and encourage several leaders from your congregation to come as well. Watch for more information on the CODE Leadership Facebook page. Annual Conference Hotel Reservations and Non-delegate Registration open on Wednesday, February 25

While delegate registration opened on January 5, registration will open on February 25 for non-delegates at 12:00 noon central time. Hotel reservations for both delegates and non-delegates will also open at noon (central time) on Wednesday, February 25. To register as a non-delegate, go to www.brethren.org/ac and click on "Register Now"

After you have registered as a non-delegate for Annual Conference, you will immediately receive an automatic email that gives you a link to register for the hotel you prefer. This year there are two hotels in the Conference Block: Marriott Waterside (\$109/night) and Embassy Suites (\$114/night including breakfast for one). You can find more details about these two hotels on the Annual Conference website. Please do not telephone the hotels directly; they cannot give you the negotiated conference rate. Please register for Annual Conference and then use the link you will receive to book your hotel room. All delegates who are registered will automatically be emailed the link on February 25 to secure their hotel reservation. If you have any questions please call the Annual Conference Office at 847-429-4365.. If you have any questions please call the Annual Conference Office at 847-429-4365.

New District Mailing Address

Due to safety concerns, we've decided to no longer have our mail delivered to a rural mail box. Our new mailing address is P O Box 785 Greenville, OH 45331. Please make adjustments to your data base to reflect this change.

Adams County Property Updates

The Woodland Altar's Appraisal is in. You can see it on our website at www.sodcob.org. Negotiations are in process. These details will be presented for approval at a Special District Conference. We will not meet the target date during the first quarter of 2015 but hope to have information for a meeting soon. A blog page has been set up on our District website. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or comments please feel free to join in the discussion.

Prayers for Nigerian Church and the Kidnaped Girls

Some violence and other problems arose during the voting for president and other national offices last week in Nigeria. Counting is underway and results are planned to be released sometime today. Both major candidates say they are committed to bringing the situation under control, but of course, that remains to be seen. One report does say that Boko Haram have been driven out of their headquarters. Our girls have still not been found; Boko Haram says they have been married off.

The Church of the Brethren is organizing efforts for temporary housing and supplying basic needs; more information on these efforts can be found on the denominational website. We are hoping to have some representatives in the district in April to share updates with us. This effort is being coordinated by the Troy congregation and the Brethren Heritage Center. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Our prayers are still very much needed for this situation.

Donations are still being accepted for the Nigeria Crisis Fund; the match amount set by the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren has been reached, but additional funding is still needed. Donations can be made online at brethren.org or make out a check to Emergency Disaster Fund, noting Nigeria Crisis Fund in the memo line. If you prefer to send a check send to: Emergency Disaster Fund Church of the Brethren 1451 Dundee Avenue Elgin, IL 60120

Another opportunity to help comes from the Beavercreek congregation. When Carl and Roxanne Hill visited Beavercreek COB last summer, they were quite concerned about the 3 deaf daughters of one the EYN pastors who was a student at Kulp Bible College. One of the girls will probably benefit from a hearing aid, and the other 2 will need cochlear implants. The costs mentioned were \$2000 each for the implants and \$6-700 for hearing aids. After that evaluation Boko Haram overran Kulp, and at this point the Hills and their Nigerian contacts are trying to locate the family who, of course, had to flee. If the girls can't be located, the funds will be channeled to the EYN Crisis Fund. The Beavercreek church has a fund set up, and contributions can be sent to the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren, 2659 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beavercreek, OH 45434, with the notation "Deaf Girls".

Disaster Ministry Updates

The **Brethren Disaster Ministries' Appreciation Dinner** is planned for Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 6 PM at the Troy Church of the Brethren. Our theme this year is "Past, Present, and Future". This is an annual event where we recognize and "thank" those dedicated folks who help on BDM work projects, help with the BDM Ice Cream Social and other fundraisers and/or support BDM in any way – know that your help is very much appreciated! If you would like to join us for dinner and an evening of inspiration and fellowship, please RSVP to Mary Weikert - Telephone: 937-667-8155 or Email: maryfweikert@frontier.com

Sewing Bee – May 2 at 9:00 AM at Eaton COB, 1407 N. Barron Street. School Bags will be sewn for kits being sent to Church World Service. Sewers bring your sewing machine. Others may bring scissors to cut out gowns for baby kits.

Sites in New Jersey and Colorado - The Superstorm Sandy recovery will continue at Spotswood, NJ throughout 2015. The Toms River, NJ site is completing six new builds, and is unable to start an additional six houses because the necessary permits haven't been issued. This site will close May 2. A new site will then open in May in Greely, Colorado, providing recovery from severe flooding of September 2013.

Volunteer Trip Opportunity – The next trip opportunity to New Jersey for Superstorm Sandy

Recovery is May 24-30. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [click here to email](#).

New Windsor Trip – October 26 – 30. Registration is open for a trip to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. This trip is especially for those who have an interest in BDM, but aren't able to go on trips doing construction. Three days will be spent working with Church World Service kits and for SERRV. Lodging and meals will be in Zigler Hall. Please [click here](#) for more information and a registration form.

Congregational Visits

Would your congregation like to learn more about Brethren Disaster Ministries? We welcome the opportunity to come to your church to share about BDM. We are available for programs of varying lengths. For more information or to schedule a visit, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Camping and Retreat Commission Updates

CRC is gearing up for another camping season with camps for everyone. All camps will be held at Cricket Holler, except for Quitting Camp which will return to Bergamo Retreat Center. From Adult/Child Camp to the new Family Camp, plans are being made to provide a special, set apart time to experience what living in Christian community is. Each camp is carefully crafted to fit the campers as they explore God's boundless love and His call in their hearts while they live with others sharing the adventure.

Family Camp is new. We will be sharing the Fourth of July weekend together at Cricket Holler. People can come for a day or the whole weekend. Some can camp in tents, RVs, cabins, under the stars or just return home for their own beds. Lunch, supper, and snacks will be shared together, but breakfasts are on your own. Highlights will include family Bible study, games, free time, swimming, campfires, singing, seeing fireworks, and eating together. What a special time this will be honoring a national holiday with church friends and family! Come and join in the celebration and fun.

Volunteers are NEEDED. Camp counselors, cooks, Bible study leaders, singers, campfire builders, dish washers, crafty people, storytellers, and even warm bodies are all needed to make camp an exciting and wonderful place to be. Volunteers can be used for as little as an hour or as much as a week or more. Kitchen help is really needed to provide delicious, home cooked meals to the campers and leaders who often say they are starving from all of their activities. Please look over the list of dates to find the time you could serve in this vital camping ministry. The rewards are great when one sees the happy faces around the tables as campers and leaders enjoy, food, fellowship, and fun.

National Older Adult Conference

September 7-11, 2015, at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in western North Carolina.

The NOAC poster is in the March Source packet.

The NOAC registration brochure will be mailed to past NOAC participants, congregations, district offices, retirement communities, and others later this month. A copy of the brochure will be in the April Source packet.

NOAC registration: Brochures have been mailed to past NOAC participants, congregations, district offices, retirement communities, and others. You may register by mail as soon as you receive the brochure or download the form from the website. Registration begins March 2 at 9:00 am CST. Information about lodging reservations is in the registration brochure and will be online. People arrange conference center lodging directly with Lake Junaluska Conference Center. People requesting special consideration due to age (75+) or physical/functional limitations can reserve lodging beginning April 1. All others are asked to wait to reserve lodging until April 16.

Right now, only the NOAC home page is online (www.brethren.org/NOAC), including a PDF of the registration brochure, but very soon all the conference information will be available there.

We often hear that people don't want to attend NOAC because they aren't old! This conference is for people age 50 and older, and many younger people—those in their 20s and 30s—love coming to NOAC to help the conference run smoothly. The younger adults don't understand why people age 50, 60, 70, and even older don't want to go to NOAC. The young adults encourage those over 50 to give it a try!