

Sending your Congregation's Delegate to Annual Conference

In 2017, the 231st recorded Church of Brethren Annual Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. And once again congregations will be encouraged to send a delegate to come together for fellowship and to discern the business of the denomination. Information on sending a delegate from your congregation can be found on the district website.

Prayer Requested by Church of the Brethren Leadership Team

The Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren and the executive committee of the Council of District Executives (Dave Shetler, our District Executive is currently serving on the Executive Committee of the Council) has released the following request:

Partnership in prayer throughout the church is requested as the Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren and the executive committee of the Council of District Executives met Nov. 1-2 to work on the task assigned from this past summer's Annual Conference. The delegate body referred the concerns of the "Query: Same Sex Weddings" to the Leadership Team in consultation with the Council of District Executives "to bring clarity and guidance concerning the authority of Annual Conference and districts regarding the accountability of ministers, congregations, and districts, bringing recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference."

The Leadership Team and the executive committee of the Council of District Executives are asking that the church as a whole pray with them, as they plan for January conversations that will invite all of the district executives to discern with the Leadership Team the best way for this body of Christ to carry out God's purposes regarding our patterns of authority and accountability.

All members of the church are asked to join in listening to the Lord as well as speaking our concerns to the Lord, as we pray with confidence that God will provide the guidance and wisdom we need. Please be aware of the breadth and diversity of your brothers and sisters in this body of Christ, with whom you join in this time of prayer, especially those whom you have called to serve as your district and denominational leaders. May the Holy Spirit of the Risen Lord shape and empower our spirits to faithfully follow Jesus together, as we pray together over the coming months.

Camping and Retreat Upcoming Events

Cookie Camp, Saturday, December 10, will be our winter fund raiser. Ambassadors were given order forms for the cookies to take back to their churches. Churches not sending ambassadors will receive the information in a mailing to them. We will be making the same eight kinds of cookies as last year. They are: Chocolate Chip, Decorated Sugar Cookies, Lemon Cookies, White Chocolate Dipped Ginger Snaps, Peanut Butter Blossoms, Chocolate Crinkles, Oatmeal Cookies (with and without raisins), and Snickerdoodles.

Here is how the Cookie Camp will operate. We will meet at Salem Church of the Brethren at 9:00 am, on Dec. 10. All the supplies for the cookies will be there. The only other

items for people to bring would be mixers. After selecting a type of cookie to make, everyone gets busy to make the fun begin! As soon as the cookies are baked and cooled, they are packaged into the \$2.50 or \$5.00 boxes. Samples are always available as well as coffee, tea, milk, and juice. Lunch will be served to all the workers. Since we will be handling lots of hot trays of cookies, it isn't a safe environment for small children. However, children 10 years old and up are welcome to come with a parent or grandparent. Please let Karen Dillon know if you would like to participate in Cookie Camp. phone: 937-890-7388 or email crimdill@aol.com This year's proceeds will help fund a new adventure for the children and their friends of Southern Ohio churches, WINTER BLAST.

WINTER BLAST is coming January 27 - 28, 2017. It is an overnight experience for kids and their friends who attended camp last year or want to attend camp in the future. Ambassadors and churches will be receiving a mailing soon with all the details about registration. The cost for the event will be \$20 per person. More information is available online.

Camp and Retreat Schedule for 2017

January 27 - 28: WINTER BLAST - Cricket Holler
 March 12: Ambassadors' Meeting Salem COB
 June 7: Camp Set Up Cricket Holler
 June 8 -11: Adult/Child Camp--Cricket Holler
 June 12-15: Camp Safari-- Cricket Holler
 June 11-15: Possible Youth Service/Work Camp (local projects) Cricket Holler
 June 15-18: Family Camp--Cricket Holler
 June 18-24: Creative Arts Camp--Cricket Holler
 July 5-8: Quilting Camp-- Bergamo
 August 12: Golf Outing
 September 22-23: Women's Retreat Bergamo
 September 25-29: Adult Bible School - Salem COB (other locations and dates to be added in the future)
 October 15: Ambassadors' Meeting

District Board Meeting Our next District Board meeting will be held November 11 & 12, 2016. You can go online to read reports at any time preceding the meeting.

Disaster Ministry Updates

On Saturday, Nov. 5 there will be a Sewing Bee at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Come at 9:00 AM to sew bags for Church World Service school kits. The S. Ohio District just sent a shipment of 1,701 school kits to the warehouse at the Brethren Service Center. Now we need more bags sewn. There is a great demand in the U.S. and internationally for school kits. Bring your sewing machine and a sack lunch. For more information, call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. Prior to the Sewing Bee, you're invited to join the women of Greenville COB at the Coffee Pot on Broadway in downtown Greenville. They meet the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM for coffee, goodies, and fellowship.

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, the Southern Ohio District (sodcob@brethren.org) visit our website: 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 **before the 15th of the month.***

