



**Southern Ohio District Conference** will be held October 6-7, 2017 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. Registration is now open on the district website. Guest speakers this year are Debbie Eisenbise and Gimbiya Kettering. The pre-conference sessions are open to all. Non-delegate attendees also need to register. The theme will be "Created to love" based on the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. Our moderator is John Kinsel.

### Empowering Grants Available

By action of the 2015 Southern Ohio District Conference a percentage of the interest on monies received from The Nature Conservancy from the sale of the undeveloped portion of the Camp Woodland Altars property will be set aside each year for use as grants to Empower Congregations and to Empower Leadership within the District. We are excited to announce that we are now prepared to begin funding these grants.

The intended purpose of the grants is twofold:

1. To provide financial support to any congregation within the District which seeks it for the development of new or expansion of existing missional efforts;
2. To provide financial support for any member of a District congregation who is in a leadership position and wishes to obtain further training to enhance their leadership role or any member of a District congregation who wishes to seek training to prepare them for future church leadership.

Guidelines and applications for these grants have been mailed to all of our congregations. You can also download them from the district website.

### New District Deacons Ministry

This year, our new Connections Commission with the District Board, is excited to announce the beginning of the new District Deacons Ministry. Many of us are familiar with the way deacon ministry functions on a congregational level, now we are learning and creating what the deacon ministry would look like on a district wide level. Our goal is to comprise a team of fifty or so members paired into twenty-five teams of two who will serve two to three congregations each for three to five years. This team will covenant to pray for, support, and visit their assigned congregations annually.

Keeping in tradition with how deacons were once called on a congregational level, we will be collecting prayerfully considered nominations from the district body. You are invited as a church or as an individual to submit nominations of people in your congregation or of those around the district who would be gifted in spiritual caregiving. Please submit nominations to the District Office via telephone (937-203-5254) or email ([sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)). Once all nominations are collected, a group of former district moderators will prayerfully consider the list and compile a list of possible District Deacons. It will then be the task of former moderators and the District Deacon Coordinating committee to extend the invitation to those selected to join this new ministry.

It is our hope that District Deacon Team will be assembled and trained by this year's District Conference so that we could commission them before our gathering and bless their ministry among us.

### Disaster Ministry Updates

**Ice Cream Social Fundraiser** – Support S. Ohio BDM by attending the Ice Cream Social Fundraiser on Saturday, August 5 at Happy Corner COB from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Come for supper, pie, and ice cream. New this year will be a sale of items from SERRV, a fair trade organization working with artisans throughout the world. Remember to bring the coin collection jars that you may have received last year. All proceeds benefit the ministry of S. Ohio BDM, funding volunteers going on rebuilding trips and buying supplies for Church World Service kits.

**Golf Scramble** – On Saturday, August 12 there will be a Golf Scramble at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville. This is jointly sponsored by BDM and the Camping and Retreat Ministry. You can give support as a golfer or as a hole sponsor. Click here for registration and hole sponsorship forms.

**School Kits** - It's time to assemble school kits for Church World Service. Our goal is to send 2,000 kits this year. A kit assembly is scheduled for Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 PM at Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. This is the warehouse location for BDM's storage. We've already sent 200 school kits, but have many more school supplies to purchase. Donations are needed for purchasing these supplies. Please make checks payable to S. Ohio District COB, with a footnote "CWS Kits". These may be sent to S. Ohio District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

**Sewing Bee** – Come sew school bags on Saturday, August 12 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. Both in the U.S. and internationally, Church World Service (CWS) school kits are needed for disaster survivors, refugees, and the economically disadvantaged. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

### Choir Music Give-Away

From July 10-17 tables will be set up at the back of the Shuff Christian Life Center Chapel at the Brethren Retirement Community with choral music we no longer need and cannot fit into our filing cabinets. This will include Easter cantatas, Gospel, General, song books and more.

The Shuff Christian Life Center is located near the flagpole parking lot (the upper parking lot as you arrive at BRC). From 8:30 AM-4:30 PM on Monday - Friday you may enter through the double doors at the top of the ramp from the Flagpole parking lot. If you come during other hours, you will need to go through the main lobby of the building to the chapel, which is located on Juniper Lane 3. Our Telecom operators at the entrance will be happy to give you directions.

If you have questions, please call Staff Pastor Paula Ulrich at 937-547-7623. Please share this information with the musicians of your church.

*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](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)) 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.***

