



October, 2017
Southern Ohio District Newsletter
Printable Version

Southern Ohio District Conference

The 163rd Southern Ohio District Conference is only a few short days away. It will be held October 6-7, 2017 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. Click [here](#) to view the schedule. This year's theme, Created to Love, comes from 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. Again this year, the pre-conference leadership sessions are open to all. All attendees need to register. Registration forms, reports, and business items, as well as a brochure containing more information are available on the district website.

Our guest speakers will be Debbie Eisenbise and Gimbya Kettering. Both are on staff with the Church of the Brethren.

Our moderator is John Kinsel. We look forward to what God will teach us through this theme at District Conference on October 6 & 7th.

Reconciliation Listening Sessions

The work of the Southern Ohio District Reconciliation Team continues. One of the concerns that emerged from the Listening Sessions held last year was about District Finances. In the coming year, the Reconciliation Team will facilitate a district-wide discernment regarding overall financial guidelines for the district. As a first step in this process, three Listening Sessions focused on District finances have been scheduled. All interested members of the District are invited to attend one of these meetings to contribute to future practice regarding the District budgeting process. The dates and locations of the Listening Sessions are as follows:

Beavercreek CoB on Monday October 16

New Carlisle CoB on Tuesday October 17

Brethren Retirement Community, Shuff Chapel on Wednesday October 18.

All meetings will begin at 7PM. Bob Gross will be facilitating all three sessions.

All are welcome! If you are passionate about this concern but unable to attend one of the sessions, please let the District office know and Bob will follow up with you.

Thank you for continuing to be involved in this ministry here in Southern Ohio

District Youth Rally

You are invited to come and join other Jr. and Sr. Hi youth and advisors for our Fall 2017 Youth Rally! This event, from 2 to 4 PM at Salem Church of the Brethren on October 22, will be a time of fellowship, information, and worship.

We will be reviewing some of the opportunities available to the youth through the District, including NYC 2018 for Senior High Youth, Workcamps, available to all ages, and our Summer Camp program.

Advisors-there will be a special meeting for you to discuss NYC 2018. This meeting will allow you to connect with and speak to other advisors and discuss travel arrangements as well as what to expect from NYC.

We look forward to this time with you! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Dillon at 937-890-7388.

Disaster Ministry Updates

CWS Project Update: 500 Cleanup Buckets

We continue to work as a district, gathering funds and supplies for 500 Cleanup Buckets for Church World Service (CWS). The need is so great with recent flooding in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. As of Sept. 24, churches and individuals have sent about \$14,600 for this project. Each bucket is valued at \$75 by CWS. We work to assemble them for much less, but this project will still cost at least \$20,000. Each bucket contains fourteen different items including a scrub brush, trash bags, household cleaner, work gloves, laundry detergent, and dust masks. See the CWS website for a full list of the bucket contents. Items have been ordered in bulk and are arriving. When we are certain to have all items, an assembly date will be set. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this project, reaching out to share God's love by helping those in need. Contributions may be sent to S. Ohio District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Make checks payable to S. Ohio District COB, and write BDM / Buckets on the memo line.

Join the October Trip to the Brethren Service Center

Once Church World Service school kits and hygiene kits arrive at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD, volunteers are needed to process them for shipping to the point of need. S. Ohio volunteers have an opportunity to help with this on the October 23-27, 2017 trip. There is room for two more volunteers to travel in the BDM vans. More volunteers are encouraged to come, providing their own transportation. Rooms have been reserved for lodging at Best Western in Westminster, MD. Volunteers cover their own expenses on this trip. [Click Here](#) for the informational brochure with the registration form. Registration deadline is October 16, 2017. For more information contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Ice Cream Social

At the 10th Annual Ice Cream Social on August 5 we raised \$10,130. The attendance was about 420, which included 105 workers. Others also helped by baking pies. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser.

Camping and Retreat Updates

Save these Dates:

October 15, Ambassador's Gathering Salem COB, 2 - 4 pm.

December 8 & 9, Cookie Camp

January 19 - 20, 2018, Safari Winter Blast Cricket Holler (Special Needs Campers)

January 26 - 27, 2018 Winter Blast Cricket Holler

Our next District Board meeting will be held November 10 & 11, 2017.

The Retreat will be held at the Brethren Retirement Community. As reports become available they will be posted on our website.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer.

--Violence, fear, and unrest continues across our world. We however, follow the Prince of Peace and must be agents and conduits of God's love, peace, and grace to a hurting world. May we continue to lift our world in prayer and may we be the people God calls us to be as our District Conference theme reminds us, Created to love.

-- We continue to lift those being affected by the recent hurricanes and those serving to assist in these regions.

--Pete Kontra, called as District Executive of the Atlantic Northeast District beginning 01-01-2018. Randy Yoder continues to serve as Interim DE there

-- Doug Veal began long term intentional interim at Prince of Peace.

--Rob Raker, heart condition and complications following surgery to implant pacemaker

--Congregations in pastoral transition-- Prince of Peace, called interim; West Charleston, working through pastoral staffing changes as co-pastor Nancy Heishman has accepted the call to become Director of Ministry; Bear Creek, Nan Erbaugh serving as interim while they continue to discern next steps; Nan continues to serve as pastor at Lower Miami.

- There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective locations, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer. Please contact me if you know of prayer situations of which I should be aware.

May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.