

Special District Meeting

The District Board and the Program and Arrangements Committee, including the District conference Officers, are calling a special all District meeting this spring. The date for this event is Saturday, March 17, 1:30-4:00 PM at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. David Steele, General Secretary for the Church of the Brethren will be our guest.

The purpose of this gathering is to engage one another about some of the deep divisions that are becoming more prominent and are a distraction to our common witness of Jesus. The General Secretary's presence will be to share basic information from polity regarding the withdrawal process if congregations choose to begin those conversations. Denominational leadership and the Council of District Executives are currently working on clarifying this process, but there is no specific timeline when this work will be completed.

All members of the district are invited to attend this event. We also ask that all members hold their congregation, the district, and the denomination in prayer as we face an uncertain future and the deep divisions of our fellowship.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

The purpose of this gathering is NOT to encourage congregations to leave. Unfortunately, however, we have heard that some congregations in our district have already begun conversations about leaving the Church of the Brethren. Again . . . this is not our desire. We emphasize--congregations are NOT being encouraged to leave. In the current climate, we feel it is in the best interests of all to explain the process of withdrawal as well as the consequences of such an action. It is our sincere desire that we stay together and share in *continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, TOGETHER*, but if there are those who feel they can no longer do this, we wish to explain the process of withdrawal. We do not desire a process utilizing legal action, but rather a process of discernment and prayer filled with grace, love and care for one another

Conversations About Biblical Authority

The Mid-West Council of District Executives is sponsoring a Biblical Authority Conference (CEUs will be available) on April 23-25, 2018 for pastors, ministers, and other church leaders of congregations in Illinois and Wisconsin, Michigan, Northern Indiana, Northern Ohio, Southern Ohio/Kentucky, and South Central Indiana Districts. The conference will be held at Hueston Woods. Mark your calendars and watch for more information.

Refugee Resettlement Assistance Begins with Warehouse Reorganization

We ended our District Conference a few years ago with a time of brainstorming ways we could work together to make a difference. God laid the suffering of refugees around the world upon the hearts of several folks in the District at that time. Since then, a Task Force has teamed up with Catholic Social Services (CSS) assisting refugees who wish to resettle in the Miami Valley. One area

where CSS has expressed a need for assistance is in organizing and maintaining a running inventory of items that are donated and stored in a warehouse. When a refugee family comes to this area, they have access to the items in the warehouse to set up their homes and begin their new life.

The organizing portion of the project begins at the warehouse on Monday, February 12th at 9 am. We will also work on Wednesday, February 14th beginning at noon. The inventory phase begins at 9:30 am on Friday, February 16th. Please call Linda Brandon (937-667-0647) or email lindabrandon76@gmail.com and let her know if you would like to help and which dates work for you so they will know how many folks to expect.

New Carlisle Church Hosts Missy Buchanan

Go-Go, Go-Slow, No-Go, a worship and workshop event, explores the topics of aging and faith. This event will be hosted by the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren on April 13 and 14, 2018. For more information and to register, call the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren at (937) 845-1428. You may also email Vicki Ullery, Associate Pastor, at ncbrethren01@aol.com. Registration is open now.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Hygiene Kit Assembly - February 15 at 7:00 PM, one thousand hygiene kits will be assembled at Mill Ridge Village Community Center, 1000 Mill Ridge Circle, Union.

Appreciation Dinner - The annual BDM Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 3 at 6:00 PM at Eaton COB. There will be a recognition of first time volunteers and a celebration of the ministry of S. Ohio BDM. Supporters, trip volunteers, sewers, and those who want to learn more about this ministry are all invited. Please RSVP by Feb. 21 southernohiobdm@gmail.com

Sewing Bee - Come sew school bags on Saturday, March 3 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) Training - Register now for the CDS training scheduled for April 20 - 21, 2018 at Trotwood Church of the Brethren. Those who previously reserved a spot need to also submit **this official registration with the \$45 fee. After March 23 the fee is \$55.**

2018 Trip Schedules - In 2018 ten rebuilding trips are scheduled with room for fifteen volunteers on each trip. Contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com for more info.

*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.***

