



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 to 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. Cost for the conference is \$75 which includes 2 breakfasts and 1 dinner. 1.0 CEU will be granted if all sessions are attended. [Click here](#) to download a brochure with more details including how to register.

Housing must be arranged directly with Hueston Woods. Double rooms are \$115.09/night including tax. Call 513-664-3510 before March 15 to make your housing reservation. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

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.

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Update

Dessert Auction to Support National BDM- S. Ohio CoB Dessert Auction will be on Saturday, March 24 at 6:00pm at the Salem CoB. Come enjoy a soup and salad supper with the auction beginning immediately after supper. All proceeds will go to the national BDM fund to help with the expenses during the time volunteers are at a BDM project site. Plan to attend for delicious food, wonderful fellowship, and amazing desserts!

Sewing Bee - Come sew school bags on Saturday, April 7 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. These bags will be used for CWS school kits.

District Board Mini-Report

The District Board met in regular session on Saturday, February 24 hosted by the Covington congregation. Highlights of the meeting follow:

- Chair Phil Dell led a devotional time
- Board member shared announcements, prayer concerns, and joys.
- Board received a report from Brethren Retirement Community
- Board received reports from staff

Board received reports from the commissions Board received a report from a special committee which met with a group of concerned person from the district Board appointed a committee to finalize the agenda for the special March 17 district meeting

Our next District Board meeting will be held May 12, 2018.

*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.***

