



March, 2018
Southern Ohio District Newsletter
Printable Version

Special District Meeting
March 17, 2018

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.

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.

Thanks to all who have helped complete the organization/inventory portion of the project.

Please call Linda Brandon (937-667-0647) or email lindabrandon76@gmail.com for more information about how you can get involved in the future.

New Carlisle Church of the Brethren Hosts Missy Buchanan

Go-Go, Go-Slow, No-Go, a worship and workshop event, explores the topics of aging and faith. What are some of the “joys and jolts of aging?” How can congregations bring their generations together to learn from each other? How can congregations encourage spiritual formation of older adults? What would spiritual formation be for the Go-Go, Slow-Go and No-Go Older Adults in our congregations. In other words, what do we need to hear and understand for our present and future ministry?

A popular author/writer and speaker on topics of aging and faith, **Missy Buchanan** was one of the keynote speaker for the 2017 Church of the Brethren National Older Adult Conference. She has appeared on *Good Morning America* with co-anchor Robin Roberts and her mother, Lucimarian Roberts. The elder Mrs. Roberts personally found Buchanan’s books to be a great source of encouragement and comfort. A native Texan, Missy loves spending time with her family, her husband, Barry, three grown children, and the grandchildren.

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.

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Cincinnati, OH - July 4-8, 2018 Duke Energy Center

Theme: Living Parables

The 2018 Annual Conference will be held at Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati. Southern Ohio District will be hosting the conference with the theme of “Living Parables.” Our district has the opportunity to be a “living parable” by assisting and serving in some capacity at the conference.

Volunteers are needed to assist with Early Childhood Care; Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Junior High, Senior High, Young Adults, Single Adults, Conference Registration, Ticket Sales, Ushering, Unloading(7/3/18)

and Loading(7/8/18) of equipment.

[Click here](#) to download a form, check your interests, provide your contact information and send it to Glenn and Linda Timmons, On Site Co-Coordinator by February 1, 2018. (4481 Valleybrook Drive, Englewood, OH 45322) If you have questions, call us at 937-832-2630 (H) or 937-623-5609 (C)

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Update

Appreciation Dinner and 2017 Data - At the annual BDM Appreciation Dinner on March 3 thirty-seven first time BDM volunteers and three Children's Disaster Service volunteers were honored. We celebrate all the lives that were touched in 2017 when S. Ohio BDM sponsored 12 rebuilding trips with 140 volunteers. This was done at a cost of \$6,500 and the volunteer labor is valued at \$135,200. Our Church World Service response for the year was 732 Cleanup Buckets, 1,000 Hygiene Kits and 2,200 School Kits at a cost of \$32,500. Thank you to all those in the S. Ohio District who have supported this ministry, helping our brothers and sisters who are in need.

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. Expenses include vehicles, insurance, gas, food, and tools. S. Ohio BDM covers the cost of getting volunteers to and from a site, but also wants to do our part helping with the expenses incurred when we volunteer. 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. Come not only to sew, but for great fellowship too. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. A flyer containing all the 2018 Sewing Bee dates can be found on the District Website.

Hygiene Kit Assembly - On February 15 fifty-two volunteers from fifteen congregations assembled 1,000 hygiene kits for Church World Service (CWS). These will be shipped to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. From there they will go anywhere in the world to those in need. This project was funded by donations that exceeded the cost of our October CWS cleanup bucket project. Thank you to all for your compassion and generosity.

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.

Our next Board meeting will be May 12, 2018. As reports become available they will be posted on our website.

Empowering Congregations and Empowering Leadership Grants Available

Introduction

By action of the 2015 Southern Ohio District Conference a percentage of the interest on monies received from The Nature Conservancy for their portion of the sale 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.

Purpose of the 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. More information and applications for these grants can be found on the District website.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2018 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

-- The most current information on the church in Nigeria including prayer needs can be found on brethren.org

-- Roxanne Hill, recovering from surgery

--Jim Baker, recovering from knee surgery

--Jim Moore, prostate cancer

--Rob Raker, heart condition

--Congregations in pastoral transition-- Prince of Peace, Doug Veal interim; Bear Creek, Fred Bernhard has ended his time as interim, Angela Asamoah has begun her service; Painter Creek, Pastor Dave Cummins retiring later this year

--May we remember the possibility of new church starts in various locations in our district.

--There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our