

**November, 2018**  
**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**



**2018 Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference** was marvelously hosted by the Salem congregation on October 19th & 20th. Wonderful meeting space was provided along with delicious meals and other hospitality. Deep appreciation is expressed to Salem for hosting.

- Dr. Dan Ulrich began the pre-conference teaching session on “The Body of Christ in Corinth & America” Friday afternoon. Ordained ministers received CEU’s for participating.
- Friday evening worship on the theme of “We Are All One Body” was led by members of the Program and Arrangements Committee with the message shared by the District Conference Moderator, Deb Oskin. “Body moments” from the Refugee Resettlement Team and on the Compelling Vision process were also shared.
- Sandy Jenkins, pastor of the Constance congregation was called as Moderator Elect
- Sarah Friedrich (member of the Living Peace congregation), Todd Reish (member of the Oakland congregation), Jim Baker (member of the West Milton congregation), Heather Fullen (member of the Olivet congregation), and Angela Asamoah (pastor of the Bear Creek congregation) were called to serve on the District Board
- Ben Kraus (of the West Charleston congregation) was called to continue on the Program and Arrangements Committee
- Becky Maurer (of the Oakland congregation) was called to serve as one of our Standing Committee Delegates
- John Keller (of the Oakland congregation) and Sheila Shumaker (of the Troy congregation) were called to the Brethren Retirement Community Board
- Brethren Retirement Community report was shared by CEO John Warner. Delegates approved an update to the Code of Regulations and a new Affiliation Agreement with the District.
- Loyce Borgmann of Brethren Benefit Trust and Irv Heishman, chair of the board of On Earth Peace, shared the Annual Conference Agencies report, along with the shared report video
- District Board Report was shared by Phil Dell, Chair along with reports from each of the commissions
- Several of the Empowering Congregations grant recipients shared regarding the impact of receiving these grants
- Bob Gross, our reconciliation consultant, shared an update
- Information on Congregational Withdrawal Process was presented
- Following discussion and questions, the delegates approved the 2019 District Budget
- New Moderator Carl Eubank was welcomed by outgoing moderator Deb Oskin with conference then being adjourned

Reports and business items of District Conference are posted on the district website. Our 2019 District Conference will be held at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. The theme will be God Provides.

### **Discovering a Compelling Vision: Listening Sessions Scheduled**

The first step as we work together to discover God's compelling vision for us as a denomination, is that of listening to how God is working in each of our lives. You are encouraged to attend one of the following listening sessions to share and listen to others as we work together to "discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue".

- November 1, 2018 beginning at 6:30 PM at Brethren Retirement Community
- November 2, 2018 beginning at 6:30 PM at Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren
- November 3, 2018 beginning at 9:30 AM at White Cottage Church of the Brethren
- November 3, 2018 beginning at 5:30 PM at Troy Church of the Brethren

\*\*\*The Church of the Brethren stands at a crossroads. Recent decades have been defined by paralyzing conflict. In response to the ongoing conflict, at the 2017 Annual Conference, the delegate body affirmed a report from the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives regarding The Authority of Annual Confer-

ence and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts. That report concluded with this statement: To stay on the journey together, it is also crucial that the church discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue. . . Denominational and District leadership have worked together to begin a process whereby we can begin a process of conversation and discernment in an effort to arrive at a compelling vision rooted in our shared commitment to live as Christ's disciples." \*\* from [brethren.org/ac/compelling\\_vision](http://brethren.org/ac/compelling_vision)

A much more extensive explanation of the process can be found on the above cited website. We hope you will join us on this journey, engaging in the conversations as they occur. Be watching for more information about how this process will unfold in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

## **Multicultural Worship Workshop**

On November 16-17, the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Board will be holding its board retreat at West Charleston Church of the Brethren. That Saturday, the 17th, in place of a guest speaker for the retreat, West Charleston invites anyone interested to join alongside board members for a special worship service at 10:15. This is not a "demo," it will be worship in the way that we have come to make our new normal: multicultural, multilingual, and joyfully expectant of the time when all peoples of every nation and tongue will worship God together. After worship, we will share a meal prepared in part by some of our immigrant families, and then have the opportunity to choose one of two workshops in the afternoon: Those who are involved or interested in music, sound, projection, translation, or other logistics of worship in their home congregations could join a workshop led by Naomi Tayse and Carol Strayer. Those who are more interested in the challenges and opportunities of navigating intercultural leadership and outreach are invited to workshop with Pastors Irvin Heishman and Caleb Kragt. West Charleston Church of the Brethren is located at 4817 S.R. 202, just north of 571, outside of Tipp City. Donations to cover the cost of the meal will be accepted, and those not on district board can plan to be finished by 2:30. RSVP by calling West Charleston CoB at (937) 667-3988, so that adequate preparations for the meal can be made.

## **PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference**

November 10-11, 2018

PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference registration is live! PowerHouse is an overnight youth conference at Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana for youth in grades 9-12 and their advisors. Click [here](#) for more information about Powerhouse. The speakers this year are David and Maria Huber, Jed Freels, and Jeanne Davies. The weekend will include worship, workshops, recreation, yummy camp food, new friendships, and fun! this year's event is November 10-11, 2018.

## **Constance Church requests prayers**

The beloved church building of Constance Church of the Brethren of Hebron, Kentucky which boasts 121 years of faithful service to Christ as a meeting place for all who seek Him has fallen victim to the instability of the surrounding hillside. This issue has been happening for quite some time. As a congregation, we knew there would come a time to make the painful decision to leave the property. We have tried our best to put it off as long as we could, but the time has come. The foundation has become a severe safety concern. Major cracks and wall separations continue to advance each week. To repair the building would cost an enormous amount and even then, it would be a temporary fix because the hillside is relentless.

In a vote taken following worship on September 30 during an emergency council meeting, it was decided to vacate the current building. With the gracious offer of rooms from Reverend David Shockey and the church council of Hebron Lutheran Church, Constance Church of the Brethren will gather temporarily to hold services in rooms 205 and 206 until we can sell the current property and seek a new permanent location.

While bittersweet and emotional, we see this as a new beginning motivated by a strong and constant past of heartfelt Christian work for the kingdom of God and the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We deeply honor all those witnesses who have brought Constance Church of the Brethren up to this point. We are ready with God's help to continue this mission into the future, peacefully, simply and together.

Our services will begin at Hebron Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 4. Worship will be at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday School for all ages will follow worship. We, the Constance Church of the Brethren, ask for ardent prayers during this time of transition.

## **Election Eve Communion Invitation: A Christian Unity Event**

*Monday, November 5 at 7:00pm*

*Prince of Peace COB*

Next month is another divisive election. Are you tired of the polarization in our politics and the way it infiltrates the church? Do you long for a way out of the culture wars? There is a better way. We can come together as Christians, united in Christ, focused on how to love one another across our differences. We worship a God who washes feet. We can still hold passionately to our beliefs, but when we take communion we remember that we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Some will vote for Republicans, some will vote for Democrats, others will vote for third party candidates or not at all. All of us are loved by Christ and called to love one another. Join us on the night before the election to worship the God who calls us into one family and celebrate our unity in Christ. An RSVP to the church office is helpful but not required. Please email [popcob1956@aol.com](mailto:popcob1956@aol.com) or call 937-294-0708 to RSVP.

## **Sound System Available**

The Bear Creek congregation has purchased an updated sound system and has components of their previous system available. For more information please contact Dave Fourman at 937-336-5390.

## **Kingdom Building: An Evangelism Conference**

The Greenville Church of the Brethren would like to invite all to an Evangelism Conference on November 9 & 10th. The guest speaker is our Moderator Elect, Paul Munday. A flyer with more information including how to register can be found on the district website.

## **Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Update**

*Sewing Bee* – On Saturday, November 3, a Sewing Bee will be held at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Sewers will be making bags for Church World Service (CWS) school kits. Please bring a sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. The 2019 Sewing Bee flyer is available on the website.

*2019 BDM Trip Schedule* – Dates have been scheduled for 2019 BDM trips and the flyer is available on the website. Join a group to rebuild homes for disaster survivors. Transportation is provided in the BDM vans, and expenses are covered by S/ Ohio/KY BDM. To sign up for trips, please contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com).

*Volunteer in Puerto Rico* - BDM is now scheduling 2019 dates for small groups of 5-7 volunteers to work in Castañer, Puerto Rico, rebuilding homes for COB members. Volunteers need to be able to work in a hot humid climate. It is hoped that most volunteers will stay at least two weeks (10 working days). Assistance is available for airfare. For more information and to volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com).

*Church World Service Donations* – With Hurricanes Florence and Michael, there has been a great need for cleanup buckets and hygiene kits. Donations enable us to purchase supplies in bulk, which is cost effective. To help with this project, make checks payable to S. Ohio/KY District COB. On the memo line, write BDM/CWS kits. Mail checks to S. Ohio/KY COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Donations are much appreciated.

## **Book Signing**

Need a special Christmas gift for that 4- to 10-year-old on your list? Brethren author Peggy Reiff Miller will be signing copies of her picture book *The Seagoing Cowboy* on Saturday, November 17, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the New & Olde Pages Book Shoppe, 856 Union Boulevard, in Englewood (across from Kroger). She will be one of at least seven local authors signing books that day for the store's annual Holiday Open House. Her book captures a slice of Brethren history when young and old men alike tended livestock sent to Europe on ships following World War II.

## 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.

- Jim Moore, member of Salem and serving on the district board, is dealing with a cancer diagnosis. Testing has found a mass on the colon, spots on the liver and spots on the lungs. Jim had an initial treatment of chemotherapy via IV late last week with more chemotherapy scheduled. Jim is currently at a rehab center receiving treatments. Please keep Jim and family in your prayers.
- My mother, Barbara Shetler, has taken several turns for the worse, including low blood count (which may indicate internal bleeding) and occasional signs of dementia. Doctors are indicating a shorter survival time than earlier reports. We appreciate your prayers.
- Mary Sue Rosenberger, former chaplain at BRC and spouse of Bruce, former pastor at Greenville and interim director at Woodland Altars, has been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis along with a slow growing carcinoma in her lungs. Mary Sue and Bruce are currently members of the Living Peace congregation in Columbus. They share this update -MarySue's last chemotherapy treatment was on October 8. And after today's radiation treatment, she has completed 27 radiation treatments and has only seven more to go! But she continues to be reflective about the whole process. During long periods when she is too tired to do anything else, she is composing in her head ideas to be shared with you - her special friends. You have seen her wry humor in previous installments. Today she probes some deeper ideas. Here is a link -- <https://bruceandmarysue.blogspot.com/> Thanks for sending your prayers, your cards, your emails, and above all -- your love.
- Sara Bowman, wife of Mark (pastor at Eversole and former District Moderator), is home recovering from surgery for a total hip replacement. Sara and Mark appreciate your prayers for healing and wholeness.
- Rob Raker, former pastor, continues to deal with the heart condition that has plagued him for some time now. He is hoping for a new procedure which may alleviate some of the issues he has been facing. Doctors continue to work with Rob as these heart struggles continue. Rob appreciates our prayers.
- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - Dwayne Heck has announced that he will be retiring from his pastorate at Beech Grove with the last Sunday at the end of November; Painter Creek has arrangements with Phil Reynolds for regular pulpit supply. Good Shepherd has begun an arrangement with Carla Gillespie for pastoral services; Cincinnati has called Staci Williams, a recent Bethany graduate with an MA and now working on an MDiv from Northern Ohio district, as associate pastor, Staci has begun her service; Set Hendricks, on pastoral staff at Happy Corner, has announced he has accepted a position on pastoral staff at the Manchester congregation in South Central Indiana, Seth will be at Happy Corner through the end of the year.
- May we remember the possibility of a new church starts in various locations in our district as well as the urban ministry team for revitalizing some of our urban churches.
- 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 Dave ([dshetlerbrethren.org](mailto:dshetlerbrethren.org)) if you know of prayer situations of which he should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.