

Working Together . . .  
Empowering Disciples



January, 2021

### Denominational Compelling Vision Bible Study

The Compelling Vision Team is developing a 13-session Bible study series around the Compelling Vision. Designed for use by youth and adults, the series will be available at no cost on the Compelling Vision webpage in February 2021. (Sample sessions will be posted in mid-January.) Recognizing the importance of discerning the mind of Christ through communal study of scripture, it is our hope that this Bible study series will serve a two-fold purpose: to help congregations engage more deeply with the Jesus in the Neighborhood vision and to help congregations and their delegates prepare for the conversations to take place at Annual Conference as we move toward affirmation of the vision. Each of the thirteen sessions has as its focus a question that invites participants to explore a different word or phrase in the vision and has been written by a different person, creating a series that is rich in both breadth and depth. You can find a list of themes and presenters on the district website.

### Moderator's Town Hall "Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Three" Slated for January 21

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for the next Moderator's Town Hall on January 21, 2021, at 7:00 PM EST. The topic will be "Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Three." Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen will once again be the featured resource person. The Town Hall will center on current trend lines related to the COVID-19 crisis along with relevant topics such as the rollout of vaccines to alleviate the pandemic. A special focus will be the role of churches in response to the crisis, as the faith community is called to grapple with the realities of both faith and science. To register for the Town Hall, please visit: [tinyurl.com/ModTownHallJan2021](http://tinyurl.com/ModTownHallJan2021). Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants. Questions about registering for this event or any other administrative matters can be emailed to [cobmoderators townhall@gmail.com](mailto:cobmoderators townhall@gmail.com)

### District Missional/Renewal Commission holds Conversations About Race Relations

Recent current events and news stories around such topics as racial justice, white privilege, equality/equity, etc have spurred conversations within the Missional/Renewal Commission. As a result, in an effort to increase understanding within the district, a task team has been formed. Among other things, this team has compiled a list of resources which will help you understand and talk about diversity within your congregation. These are posted on the district website. Click here The Task Team will add to this list as they continue to meet and learn what resources are available. They also plan to offer other learning opportunities. Be watching for more information.



### Winter Blast 2021

The 2021 SOKD Winter Blast will be held in the ZOOM format on January 16, 2021. Sessions will be held at different times for various age groups. Please check the District Website for more information including how to register.

### Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates:

**2020 Data** – This year has presented unique challenges for S. Ohio/KY BDM due to the impact of COVID-19. Initially rebuilding trips were cancelled, but then new protocols were developed and put in place. There were 13 rebuilding trips with 89 volunteers. These trips were to North Carolina and Dayton, Ohio at a cost of \$2,500. Prior to the BDM site moving to Dayton, S. Ohio/KY volunteers repaired three tornado damaged homes at a cost of \$5,000. For Church World Service (CWS), 1,008 Cleanup Buckets and 1,084 School Kits were assembled for \$24,000. At six Sewing Bees, 40 participants sewed bags for school kits or prepped items for buckets/kits. This year we were unable to work at the Brethren Service Center processing CWS kits or to send volunteers to care for children through Children's Disaster Services. Support was given in many forms: as a rebuilding volunteer, assembling CWS kits, financial contributions, and prayer. All are greatly appreciated as together we bring hope and share God's love with disaster survivors.

**2021 Rebuilding Trips** – Volunteers are needed for rebuilding trips throughout 2021. The current site is in Bayboro, NC, and the site in Dayton, OH will reopen in April. Volunteers need to be at least fifteen years old, unless they go with a parent or guardian, and then they may be fourteen. Expenses are covered, and transportation is provided. COVID-19 procedures are in place during travel, at the housing site, and at the work site. BDM works hard at serving disaster survivors and keeping volunteers safe. A flyer with all the 2021 trip dates can be found on the district website. Sign up by calling/texting Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com)

**2021 Sewing Bees** – Sewing Bees are scheduled for sewing school bags for Church World Service. They will be held at Greenville Church of the Brethren and Eaton Community Church. A flyer showing the dates and locations can be found on the district website. The next Sewing Bee will be in Greenville on Saturday, February 20. For more information call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, email the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District ([sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)) or visit our website: [www.sodcob.org](http://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](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org) **before the 15th of the month.***