

SeptemberAugust, 2021
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

October 8 & 9, 2021

Theme: “Move in Our Midst, Thou Spirit of God”

This year's conference will again be all virtual. Because of the planning time needed, and the uncertainty of circumstances when planning began, your Program and Arrangements Committee again made the difficult decision to hold our conference using the Zoom platform.

Friday workshops will be led by the District Racial Justice Commission, the District Climate Justice Commission and by Zach Spidel and Susan Liller about Jesus in the Neighborhood. An afternoon session will explore how the Spirit is moving in our midst through all three of these district ministries. CEUS will be offered for all 3 workshops. A complete conference schedule, business items, and reports have been posted on the district website. Registration is now open online. All attendees must register to receive your zoom participation link.

Move in Our Midst

An Invitation to Participate

To date 69 persons have donated or pledged \$25,870 of a \$50,000 goal.

"Teach us to love with heart, soul and mind."

"When I think about the hymn "Move In Our Midst," I remember singing it in my home church from the time I was very young, learning the alto part before the melody because that's what my mom always sang along with my dad singing bass. I remember the first time I sang it at Annual Conference a cappella, and the amazing chills I felt as I was surrounded by that awesome harmony from 3,000 other Church of the Brethren members. I remember singing it with my seminary women's spirituality group for a beloved friend, Bob Faus, who was in the hospital in the last days of his life here on earth, mostly sleeping. Our group was able to cover soprano, alto, and tenor, and as we sang it wasn't too long before we could hear Bob humming the bass part with us. Bob shared his love and music with us right up to the end.

"Music has a way of bringing people together. It's one of the beautiful things that I'm glad we can hold on to, despite our differences. As a church, we are divided in so many ways, yet music allows us to sometimes be in unison, to experience the sweet harmonies, and be challenged by the complex dissonances that keep things interesting. In the third verse of "Move In Our Midst," the text is "Teach us to love with heart, soul, and mind." Music offers us a great example of following this great commandment. As a church, as people of faith, we are called to love, and we are called to sing together: "Spirit of God, thy love makes us strong." --Reflection by Pastor Barb Saylor

If you are someone who wants to see the Church of the Brethren spreading God's love to our neighbors in Southern Ohio and Kentucky, you are invited to join the Ambassadors for Christ by making a donation of any size.

Please consider making a pledge, or a donation in one of the following ways.

1. Go to the district website at www.sodcob.org and click on the "Ambassadors for Christ" link to make a commitment for a future donation.
2. Donate now by check. Please mark Ambassador's Club on the memo line. Send your check via mail



to: Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren,
P O Box 785
Greenville, Ohio 45331

3. Contribute monthly or make a one time donation by credit card. Simply go district website at www.sodcob.org and click on the donate now tab. This will walk you through the process of making a donation using your credit card.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Ice Cream Social – Thank you to all who were a part of the annual Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 7. We appreciate the support of the workers, musicians, and all who attended. For those still wanting to make a donation, it's not too late! Checks may be made out to "S. Ohio/KY District COB" with "BDM" on the memo line. Send to S. Ohio/KY District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

BDM Sites – Work continues in the Dayton area on tornado damaged homes and with houses that are part of the Tornado Survivor Pathways to Home Ownership Program. Opportunities are winding down, as the Dayton site will close on October 2. Then BDM will return to Bayboro, NC, continuing recovery from Hurricane Florence (Sept. 2018). To volunteer or for more information, call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Sewing Bee/Prep CWS Items – There will be work for both sewers and non-sewers at the September 25 Sewing Bee. It will be held at 9:00 AM at Eaton Community Church, 813 Camden Road. Non-sewers will be preparing items for *Church World Service (CWS)* cleanup buckets and school kits. Many items have been purchased and need to be taken out of the packaging. Sewers will be making school bags for CWS school kits. Bring your sewing machine and an extension cord. Everyone, bring a sack lunch and come for a time of service and fellowship. For more information call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. [Click here](#) for a flyer showing all the 2021 Sewing Bee dates and locations.

Bucket Assembly – *Volunteers are needed to assemble Clean-up Buckets for CWS. The assembly will be on Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 PM at Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton.*

Appreciation Dinner - Save the date for the upcoming BDM Appreciation Dinner! It will be held on Saturday, October 23 at 6:00 PM at Salem Church of the Brethren. More information will be coming soon.

First Ever Old Fashioned Brethren Gathering Presented by the Brethren Heritage Center

SAVE THE DATE.....Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 10-3 the Brethren Heritage Center along with Brethren Charities will present our first ever....."Old Fashioned Brethren Gathering".

This event will be held in the lot behind the Heritage Center at 428 N. Wolf Creek St., Brookville, Oh. There will be a book fair, with ice cream, pastries and face painting available.

Throughout the day, our guests, the **Salem Quartet**, will present music along with an old fashioned hymn sing. Tours of our facilities, the **Brethren Heritage Center and Brethren Charities, will be given.**

Our first-ever "Old Fashioned Brethren Gathering" will be a great success if you mark your calendar and plan on joining us!



Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other in prayer.

- Todd Reish, SOKD Board Chair--several areas of blockage in heart
 - Sie Brock (pastor of the Stonelick congregation and member of the District Board)--fully vaccinated but has a breakthrough case of Covid is in quarantine at home. Having some symptoms primarily as a bad cold.
 - those dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ida and the continuing effects of this now tropical storm.
 - the people of Haiti --earthquake and tropical storm.
 - those in Afghanistan- persons fleeing or attempting to flee to places of safety.
 - Severe wildfires in CA and flooding in TN
 - Folks directly affected by acts of violence and an end of such violence.
 - those affected by the coronavirus outbreak. Brethren Retirement Community reports a few staff members testing positive which changes visitation guidelines. If you plan on visiting at BRC, please make sure that you will be able to do so.
 - those congregations in pastoral transition - Andrew Wright is serving as interim at **Oakland; Donnels Creek** has called Nicholas Kallis to begin work as pastor; Nicholas is beginning the credentialing process. Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at **Brookville ; White Cottage** has entered an agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment, but is considering entering the search process. Tara Hornbacker is serving as interim at **New Carlisle**. The **Prince of Peace** congregation Executive Committee has called John Sgro to serve as interim pastor. **Trotwood** leadership has called Rusty Dinkins Curling to serve as interim pastor. Nan Erbaugh has retired as pastor of the **Lower Miami** congregation-- the congregation has called Tracy Knechel Sturgis as interim pastor. **Eversole** has entered the pastoral search process with hopes to call someone to serve alongside current pastor Mark Bowman as he approaches retirement late next year and then for the newly called person to begin service as the senior pastor. Barb Sayler has announced her resignation as pastor at **Beavercreek** The congregation leadership has called Sandy Jenkins to serve as interim.
- 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 me if you know of prayer situations of which I should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.