

**November, 2021**  
**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**



## **Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference**

The 2021 Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference is now a part of our history. As we gathered via Zoom, during our Friday sessions, we heard stories of how the Spirit of God has been moving among us through the East Dayton Congregation, the Climate Justice Team and the Racial Justice Team. The Friday evening worship continued storytelling through song, testimony and in the worship message from Tim and Audrey Hollenburg Duffey as they skillfully shared using stories about baseball to illustrate our live as followers of Jesus. Saturday brought more stories of discipleship as we heard about various ministries throughout our district and beyond. As we looked back at the past year, it was clear to see that God has “Moved in our Midst” even during a global pandemic.

Our 2022 Conference theme is, “Celebrate God’s Abundant Goodness”.

## **Micah 6:8 Community: An Invitation to Participate**

Your Resource Development Commission would like to invite you to join a new community within the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. The Micah 6:8 Community (formerly the Ambassador's Club) believes in the message and mission of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren and is willing to support this mission financially.

Micah 6:8 reads: "He has shown you, O Mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." [Click here](#) to download a brochure which gives a few examples of how SOKD strives to fulfill this verse.

If you have supported our mission in the past, we can't thank you enough. It is only through your generous donations that our ministry continues. Or possibly you have not contributed financially in the past, but have given of your time and talent. Thank you for that very precious gift. Would you now consider making a financial contribution? Your gift of any amount will undergird and enhance the ministry we do together, unleash the power and creativity of God’s Holy Spirit in district and congregational ministries, and empower us to respond to God’s call to radical discipleship informed by our Brethren heritage.

If you are feeling a call to be a part of the SOKD Micah 6:8 Community, you can mail your donation to the district mailing address at P O Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Or you can [click here](#) to make a donation online using your credit card.



# Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

**BDM Sites/Volunteer Opportunities**— The Dayton national BDM site closes Oct. 30. There is still some work that will continue with S. Ohio/KY volunteers on tornado damaged homes and with houses that are part of the Tornado Survivor Pathways to Home Ownership Program. BDM returns to Bayboro, NC on October 31, continuing recovery from Hurricane Florence (Sept. 2018). The site is scheduled to be open through April. Volunteers are needed for all 2022 trips. A list of trip dates is posted on the district website. To volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or call/text 937-287-5902.

**Appreciation Dinner Recognitions** – BDM’s Appreciation Dinner was held on October 23. Volunteers were recognized for the many ways they support the ministry of S. Ohio/KY BDM. There were 38 first-time rebuild volunteers and one first-time Children’s Disaster Services volunteer. Service awards were presented to three who have given outstanding service. Sam Dewey received the Sledgehammer Award for his leadership in the cleanup phase of the tornado recovery. Sammy Deacon and Rex Miller were recognized for outstanding leadership, coordinating and leading the national BDM effort in Dayton.

## Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Camping and Retreat Ministries Updates

### Fall Women’s Retreat

“What Brings You Joy!” is the theme of the upcoming Fall Women’s Retreat. Nov. 5 - 6, we are gathering safely through Zoom. Everyone will be comfortable and warm at home with no night driving. Yet we will experience the joy of being together and sharing our stories. Paula Bowser will guide us in the exploration of scripture and what joy means. Registration closes on Oct. 29, so that the materials and surprises can be packed into bags and delivered to those who register.

### Changes, Updates, and New Ideas

The Camping and Retreat Ministries Committee met to map out the winter activities. However, everyone still has Covid on the mind and the unknown consequences of large gatherings.

Our wonderful *Cookie Camp* will be postponed until near Easter. We will shift from stars and Christmas trees to bunnies, Easter eggs and spring flower cookies as well as some of the other favorites. It is a great fundraiser and so much fun to bake together.

*Winter Blasts* are also being transformed into Spring Flings. Hoping the weather cooperates, middle school and high school students will gather on April 23, and elementary kids on April 30, to have fun packed days of games, surprises, and inspiration as they reconnect to old and new friends from all over the District.

The *Summer Picnics* were so successful last summer, that the CRM decided to offer them again. It was so good to have time for games, playing, fellowship and chatting with friends in an unstructured afternoon and evening. Not having to cook the supper meal was also an incentive. Mark your calendars for June 26, and July 31, 2022, for the summer picnics



# Lower Miami Congregation Hosts Asylum Seekers

Over the past several months, the Lower Miami Church of the Brethren has been preparing to host a family of four who were seeking asylum in the U.S. A couple from Lower Miami were acting as official sponsors. Against all expected procedures, Nancy and her family were dumped back into Tijuana by Customs and Border Patrol. At present, these migrating friends who have been seeking safety for at least two years are pausing to consider their next steps. With the help of contributions through the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition, they have found a place to live in the outskirts of Tijuana and are getting their boys into school. We continue to stay in touch and pray for their safety in an uncertain reality.

While they discern next steps, Lower Miami is able to offer the guest space to another asylum seeking family of four from Columbia who need at least temporary housing and general orientation to the Dayton community. Worldwide, so many families are in motion as they seek just the basics of life that we often take for granted. Nancy says that it is sometimes so hard to know what to do next but that God opens doors through others who care. The always gracious and praise full words of Nancy, even as her family struggles to survive, remind us that God is a God of plenty and that we are all in this together as one big family of God.

May we hold these two families and all are who far from home in our hearts and prayers. For more information, please contact Gale Stephenson at (513) 314-1616 or [scraper042002@yahoo.com](mailto:scraper042002@yahoo.com).

## *Prayer Needs*

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2021 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

- Nick Beam--serving on district leadership as interim Associate District Executive and then as Interim District Executive as Dave moves toward retirement. We also remember the Pleasant Hill congregation as they will be going through a pastoral transition.
- There were even more reports of shootings and planned shootings in the news. May we pray for an end to such violent responses.
- The people of Haiti as recovery continues from the recent earthquake.
- Afghanistan--upheaval in this country and many persons fleeing or attempting to flee to places of safety.
- Adjustments to the changes the relating to the coronavirus pandemic
- the employment situation in our world.
- May we remember 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 will be working with the Ministry Commission regarding the credentialing process. Fred Bernhard, interim pastor at **Brookville**; the congregation has called Michael Trott as pastor beginning 2022; **White Cottage**--agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services; Tara Hornbacker, interim at **New Carlisle**; John Sgro, interim pastor at **Prince of Peace**; Rusty Dinkins Curling, interim pastor at **Trotwood**; Tracy Knechel Sturgis, interim pastor at **Lower Miami**; Sandy Jenkins, interim pastor at **Beavercreek**. **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.

- 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 if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.