

**2013 Special Southern Ohio District Conference
Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren
July 27, 2013**

Opening devotions Nan Erbaugh, Program and Arrangements Committee

Introductions Julie Hostetter, District Moderator

1. Moderator Hostetter introduced the District Conference officers, the parliamentarian, the Church of the Brethren Associate General Secretary and Executive Director of the Office of Ministry, the tellers, the District staff members, the District legal counsel, District Board members, the time keeper, and those providing technical support

Presentation of the day's schedule Julie Hostetter, District Moderator

1. Ken Oren (Pittsburg) objected to the consideration of the question, saying "in an effort to maintain the respect due to this board and its committees, I request that you decline to accept the report and recommendation brought to this body."
 - 1.1. Moderator Hostetter ruled this out of order, stating proper notification of the conference and its business was given.
 - 1.2. Ken Oren challenged the ruling.
 - 1.3. After conferring with the District officers, the parliamentarian, and District legal counsel, Moderator Hostetter ruled that the delegates would consider Ken's challenge.
 - a) This was not a debatable motion.
 - b) A 2/3 vote of the delegates was needed to overrule the moderator.
 - c) Voting yes upheld the moderator's ruling that Ken was out of order, voting no overruled it.
 - d) Voting was done by standing.
 - e) The votes were split roughly 50/50. The moderator's ruling was upheld.

Neutral Committee Report Art Fourman, member of the Neutral Committee

1. Art Forman provided an overview of the Ad Hoc committee's work and the "final minute" from District Conference 2012 regarding their recommendations. He introduced the Neutral Committee and explained their work.

Presentation of Consultant's findings Jody Oates, Kaleidescope

1. Jody Oates, the consultant from Kaleidescope, reported on his findings from his feasibility study of Woodland Altars.

Questions for clarification for the presentation Jody Oates, Kaleidescope

1. Time was given for people to ask questions of clarification about the consultant's presentation.
2. The following clarifications were made.
 - 2.1. Past camp directors were not interviewed for this report.
 - 2.2. 2003 figures were used to develop projected expenses going forward. They were tested against other camps of similar size and programming.
 - 2.3. This report did not look at how Woodland Altars was marketed to Church of the Brethren congregations as a retreat location.
 - 2.4. The expenses shown in the report for 2001, 2002, and 2003 are actually low. However, the bottom line numbers are correct.

- 2.5. Additional camps, such as day camps in communities could potentially be used as feeders to a residential program at Woodland Altars.
- 2.6. This report gave an estimate of operational costs not maintenance costs.
- 2.7. If the District decides to retain the camp Jody can provide models for this ministry that have worked well at other sites.
- 2.8. The operational budget is based on a mix of volunteer and paid staff. We may save \$10,000-15,000 not having paid staff if we rely on volunteers for counselors and maintenance.
- 2.9. Past success can be attributed to the larger constituency and greater number of users we had in the past. Going forward our expenses are greater and our constituency and number of users are smaller.

Break

Timeline change

1. Gary Crim (District legal counsel) and Larry Tyner (District Board Chairperson) explained why the District Board moved more quickly than the timeline presented at the 2012 District Conference. In January 2013, the District Board received notice that the tenant leasing the camp was going to seek bankruptcy to get out of the lease. To keep camp running for the summer, the District Board negotiated with the tenant to take no action in relationship to his being in default of the lease payments with the agreement that he continue to run Woodland Altars so that our district could have summer camp in 2013. The District Board will declare the lease in default in August, 2013. We will take possession of property September 1, 2013.
2. Gary Crim noted that if delegates vote to sell the camp, the District Conference would still need to approve any sale.

Recommendations from District Board Larry Tyner, District Board Chairperson

1. In regards to property, the District Board recommended
 - 1.1. To cease all operations at Woodland Altars as of September 1, 2013.
 - 1.2. To sell the property and facilities at Woodland Altars.
2. This recommendation did not need a second because it came from the District Board.

General comments or questions of the District Board

1. The delegate body was given time to ask general questions of the District Board and to make general comments regarding the recommendations.
 - 1.1. Concern was raised that one month was not enough time to let people in the district know that Woodland Altars might be sold.
 - 1.2. The question was raised as to what plans were being made for Outdoor Ministries if the camp was closed. Larry Tyner explained that while we do not know the location of camps in the future, Outdoor Ministries would continue.
 - 1.3. The question was raised as to why timber funds have not been used for Woodland Altars. Larry Tyner explained that they have. Susan Liller (District Treasurer) gave an accounting of the timber funds.
 - 1.4. The question was raised as to how the revenue of the sale of Woodland Altars would be used. Burt Wolf (Resource Development Team) responded that we would need to gather data and create a formula for the use of that money. That expenditure would then need to be approved by the District Conference.

Speaking in affirmation or opposition to recommendation

1. People were given the opportunity to speak for or against the recommendation put forth by the District Board.

Vote on facilities recommendations

1. Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh (District Clerk) read the recommendations from the District Board.
 - 1.1. To cease all operations at Woodland Altars as of September 1, 2013.
 - 1.2. To sell the property and facilities at Woodland Altars.
2. The recommendation needed to receive a simple majority vote to pass.
3. Nan Erbaugh led the delegates in prayer.
4. Mary Jo Flory-Steury (Associate General Secretary and head teller) read the ballot to the delegates.
5. Tellers distributed the ballots to delegates.

Recommendations on Programming recommendations Julie Hostetter, District Moderator

1. Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh read the recommendations.
 - 1.1. To reorganize and rename our current Outdoor Ministries to encompass a larger scale by changing the name to Camping Ministries (which can include both outdoor and indoor ministries).
 - 1.2. To combine the newly named Camping Ministries, Shared Ministries, and Disaster Ministries under a new ministry title called Connection Ministries.
 - 1.3. To hire an Associate District Executive of Connection Ministries (see Job/Position Description).
2. Moderator Hostetter shared that after a closer reading of the District Code of Regulations and in consultation with Gary Crim and Herman Kauffman (parliamentarian) it was decided that the District Conference did not need to vote on the programming recommendations made by the District Board. According to the Code of Regulations, the District Board may employ staff as needed, pending budgetary approval by the District Conference.
3. Delegates were given time to comment on the recommendations as points of information.
 - 3.1. Concern was raised over combining Disaster Ministries and Outdoor Ministries, with the feeling being expressed that each needed more focus.
 - 3.2. "Camping Ministry" seemed narrower than "Outdoor Ministry" If the desire is to broaden the scope of this ministry, the name did not seem to indicate that.
 - 3.3. Concern was raised over being able to afford the position if we cannot afford present expenses.

Results of the Vote Mary Jo Flory-Steury, head teller

1. 117 ballots were cast.
 1. 50 delegates affirmed the District Board recommendation.
 2. 67 delegates did not affirm the District Board recommendation.
2. The recommendation did not carry.
3. Larry Tyner responded, thanking the delegates for their participation in this process and challenging them to increase support of Outdoor Ministries going forward.

Adjournment Julie Hostetter, Moderator

1. Moderator Hostetter adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh
District Clerk