

Southern Ohio District Listening/Discerning/Visioning Process begins

At the 2015 District Conference, the body voted to have the District conduct a process for Listening/Discerning/Reconciliation utilizing an organization steeped in reconciliation work. The planning of this process has begun. Leslie Frye of the Ministry of Reconciliation has been contacted by District Executive David Shetler and John Kinsel, who has been appointed by the Board to facilitate this process. Upon her recommendation, Bob Gross and Carol Waggle have been retained to conduct a training of volunteers on January 23, 2016. The District Gifts Discernment Team has identified 40 persons as prospective volunteers and is in the process of contacting them for a commitment. After the day of training, the volunteers will go out in pairs to visit with groups from each of the 52 congregations associated with Southern Ohio District. Their task will be simply to listen and bring back appreciations, concerns and suggestions regarding the District expressed by the congregations. This information will be utilized in planning any future next steps for the District. Anyone who is interested in being a volunteer listener or would like to recommend some they know may contact John Kinsel at jbkinsel@gmail.com. Your prayers are also coveted for the ministry.

Youth Winter Retreat--Registration is now open for the Youth Winter Adventure to be held at Camp Willson, near Bellefountain, over the President's Day weekend, February 13 - 15, 2016. This weekend is open to all youth in the district, grades 7 - 12. We will leave the Troy Church at 1:00 pm, Saturday, and return about 1:00 pm, Monday. The retreat will be led by Jon Keller, pastor of the Troy Church of the Brethren. The weekend planned has a wide selection of activities like skiing, snowboarding, tubing, hiking, horseback riding, crafts, worship, games, and relaxing. The cost of \$220 includes meals, housing, food, transportation, entrance fees, ski lessons, and equipment rentals. The registration forms have been sent to all churches and can be found on the Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren website. The retreat is limited to 30 participants, on a first come basis. More information and forms will be sent to each person after the registration and fees are received. The registration deadline is January 30, 2016. Scholarships are available. Mail registrations and checks (made out to Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren, with "Camping and Retreat" on the memo line to:

Karen Dillon
756 Old Springfield Rd.
Vandalia, OH 45377

Cookie Camp--Many thanks to everyone who made our first cookie camp such a success. \$600 was earned which will support campers and costs of operating the 2016 camping program. The fellowship and fun the attenders experienced was even more valuable. New and old friends worked together, helping each other in many tasks as they talked and shared stories, jokes, and samples of cookies. Not one pan of cookies was burned during the whole event. What an accomplishment! Visit our website or read more about this year's cookie camp.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Urgent Need for Volunteers - Volunteers are needed **January 3-9** in Spotswood, NJ. We already have two volunteers planning to go, and are hopeful for more! Volunteers will also be there from the W. PA district. If you are able to volunteer or for more information, please contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902. BDM has just three weeks in January to finish its Superstorm Sandy recovery.

New BDM Project Opening in Harts, WV - West Virginia was hit repeatedly with major flooding in March, April and July of 2015. With many of the counties unable to recover on their own due to high unemployment rates and poverty levels, Brethren Disaster Ministries will open a long-term recovery project in February, 2016. BDM will assist with the rebuilding of both homes and washed out bridges. **S. Ohio's first trip will be February 14-20, 2016. Volunteers are needed, including heavy equipment operators.** Contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 to join the crew.

Jan. 9 Sewing Bee - Mark your calendar for Saturday, Jan. 9 at 9:00 AM for our next Sewing Bee for Church World Service. It will be at Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 N. Barron Street. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine for sewing school bags for CWS kits. **If you want to sew, but don't have a portable machine, we do have two sewing machines that can be used. Please call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442 to reserve a machine.** Lunch will be served.

2016 Annual Conference Update 2016 Annual Conference will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Early delegate registration remains the same at \$285. In terms of housing costs, in Greensboro, we will only have one hotel (the convention center and the hotel are all in one building). Our hotel rate is \$109 + 12.75% tax which makes it a total of \$121.75 inclusive. The Sheraton is also giving us free parking and free wi-fi, so there is no additional charge for those. Registration for both delegates and non-delegates will open in February.

For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, the Southern Ohio District (sodcob@brethren.org) or you can always visit our website: 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 before the 15th of the month.

