

Southern Ohio & Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren

2018 District Conference

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Salem Church of the Brethren

Welcome to District Conference! Deb Oskin, Moderator

Welcome to Denominational Representatives

Seating of Delegates Carl Eubank, Moderator-Elect

Approval of 2018 District Conference Agenda Deb Oskin, Moderator

Approval of 2017 District Conference Minutes Deb Oskin, Moderator

Approved with spelling corrections

Presentation of Slate & Affirmation of Slate John Kinsel, Past Moderator

Ballots were completed and collected.

Treasurers Report for 2017 was presented by Scott Fitzgerald, Treasurer

Scott explained the transfer of funds process.

Resource Development: Presentation & Discussion of Proposed 2019 Budget

Resource Development is hoping to increase the congregational giving rather than transferring funds from the developed areas fund. If the current trend continues, we will be out of funds in 3 years. This represents an increase of \$22.00 per member per year. The commission has determined that rather than mailing printed materials they will have a person (District Mission Ambassador) who will meet with congregations to discuss the district funding needs.

Comments from the delegates and responses:

- Concern was expressed that the budget is unrealistic and would anger the congregations.
- Is it possible to send out what will need to be cut if the giving is not met? *It is too late to do it this year but perhaps next year.*
- Who is the district Mission Ambassador? *This person has yet to be selected but they will replace the printed materials that the district usually prints and mails to the congregations.*

- Does the projected \$22.00 take in consideration that we have congregations who are considering leaving? *If the membership drops by 1000 the giving need will go up to \$25.00*
- Who will be determining who the District Mission Ambassador is to be? *The District Board will be involved.*

The rainy day fund balance currently is \$201366.00. Woodland Altars developed area monies are this fund. The undeveloped area empowering grants are in 4 areas: congregation, leadership, emerging ministries, and existing ministries. This money is from the interest of the monies of the sale of the undeveloped areas. We have been using approximately \$35,000 but \$92,000 is proposed for 2018.

Jason Hoover, Trotwood: Why the jump of 35K to 92K for this year? That is the budgeted amount vs actual amount. The 2017 budgeted amount is similar to the 2018 budget amount. Actual for 2018 is projected to be 53K. Why the increase in deficit? Expected funds have yet to be received.

Karen Garrett, Beaver Creek. What conversations did the committee have regarding cutting expenses? The discussions have revolved around the balance of supporting the missions of the church with the further reduction of expenditures.

Mike Oskins, Peace, Columbus. What are the differences in the empowering grants? Phil Dell explained that there are guidelines for each.

Gloria Payne, Happy Corner I am hearing that the expenditures are at the bare minimum but with what is happening in the district, I am thinking that we will need Dave full time.

West Carrollton: If money is not used for empowering grants, these funds are not available for other expenditures. That is correct.

Dwayne Heck, Beech Grove: District keeps asking for more and more for the products you offer. Perhaps the churches no longer want the products you are offering.

Wanda King, Bear Creek: Thanks to Scott for this hard work.

Mile Oskins, Living Peace: Encouraging the board to start planning ahead about what will need to be cut in the future.

Jenny, White Cottage: Because of the empowering fund, we have had benefit even though we are 3 hours away and cannot participate in many of the district activities.

Angela, Bear Creek COB: Every day fund would go up if congregations increase giving and the interest could be added?

John Keller, Troy. Is the district discussing the consolidation of congregations? What would we look like if we were Miami County with missional centers?

## Brethren Retirement Community John Warner, CEO

John thanked the church for the support over the 116 years of service. After prayer, John presented the changes to the Code of Regulations. He reviewed the process used for the agreement. The majority of the board will continue to members of Church of the Brethren Southern Ohio and Kentucky District and the District Executive will be an ex officio member. This change provides local congregations with relief from direct liability. There were no questions from the delegates. Motion to approve was made by Lee Saylor, Salem congregation and second was from Wanda King, Beaver creek congregation. Motion passed.

## Denominational Representatives & DVD

After a short break a short video shared information from Bethany Seminary, the Brethren Benefit Trust, and On Earth Peace. • Loyce Borgmann shared in his report that the BBT is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Irv Erbaugh from West Charleston spoke briefly about On Earth Peace and some restructuring of the leadership.

## District Board Report Phil Dell, Chair

Phil Dell shared that the 16 members of the board each brings gifts to the board as ideas, insights, interests. A few examples of what the board strives to do: supporting churches to expand their ministries, to work together to meet the needs of others. Phil described the members of the board as courageous servants of Jesus, conscious of what we are called to do and be, and caring. Each one has a caring heart and spirit in the work of the board. The Board meetings are every other month. Visitors are welcomed to the regular meetings.

## Camping & Retreat Ministries

Karen Dillion delivered her report by the numbers:

By the numbers:

2 Bible Schools for the adults

4 cabins at Cricket Holler

7 kitchen aid mixers were used for cookie camp

8 campers from Winter Blast that have a special need

9 pastors served at camp

56 years represents the number of years Charlene Foster has given to the program.

Winter Blast happens with or without snow

61 volunteers make the programs successful

70 women attended the women's retreat

83 golfers outing

102 PRIZES for the golfers

117 campers for summer camps

200 school kits at camp

200 health kits made at Bible School

600 health kits will be made at Troy Bible School

111 x3 number of people who attended some activity of the campers/ participants in the last year activities. Now with 8 fingers up, that is the number of meals served.

## Brethren Disaster Report

Helen and Burton Wolf

Typically Brethren Disaster Services are assigned to an area a year or two after an event. BDM work with those for whom no other resources are available. Of the 3 sites for work this past year, 2 have had 2 major floods within a short period of time, including Lumberton, NC and Eureka, Missouri. Youth as young as 14 can join a mission trip if a parent is also on the trip. Youth as young as 15 can participate as long as there is an adult who will take responsibility for them. This year our district will have volunteers serve outside of the US. Three from our district will go to Puerto Rico and ten to Honduras.

This year there have been opportunities to assist our district in assembling items to support the work of the church. Clean up buckets were assembled by 96 folks and sent to the New Windsor Center. 7000+ Cleanup buckets have been assembled since the last district conference. School Kits are assembled at the Greenville COB on a regular schedule. Hygiene kits 4011 kits will have been assembled. They have all been shipped to the New Windsor Brethren Service Center. Though the work is done by the volunteers, Scott Fitzgerald keeps the funds flowing and helping the BDM with supplies. Mary Boone provides the lists of volunteers and provides the mailings. Funds for trips come from fund raising events, donations from churches and individuals. Our district provided 14 trips in the last year.

Children's Disaster volunteers are sent to areas at the invitation of the Red Cross. An additional 35 folks were trained this year. Tony Custer shared of her experiences as a children's disaster

volunteer. Wanda King, Bear Creek challenged everyone to volunteer. John Kinsel, Beaver Creek shared that Wanda King is about to lead a team to Texas to serve children who have come from South America.

Sandy Jenkins, Constance COB: This is a product we should all get behind. Jenny Wilkins, White Cottage COB: We are a distance away but this is one area we have participated in and this is truly a great product. Terry Griffith, Lower Miami COB: BDM has connected young people who struggle being part of the church and now wants to continue to be part of the church.

#### Reconciliation Report Bob Gross

A concern that needed to be addressed from the initial listening was financial. Last year, there were 3 meetings right after district conference about those issues. Because of a lack of energy about this from those meetings, the concerns was not addressed. Bob suggest that it could be revisited based on the discussion from this morning.

Announcements included that the peanut brittle from the Living Peace congregation would be on sale during lunch; Vickie Ullery shared information about the New Carlisle Leadership Academy; Dean Garrett shared about the Kingdom Building Conference; there was a request for volunteers to assist in cleaning up when the conference ended; and the slate of candidates for the board was approved:

Sandy Jenkins, pastor of the Constance congregation was called as Moderator Elect Sarah Friedrich (member of the Living Peace congregation), Todd Reish (member of the Oakland congregation), Jim Baker (member of the West Milton congregation), Heather Fullen (member of the Olivet congregation), and Angela Asamoah (pastor of the Bear Creek congregation) were called to serve on the District Board  
Ben Kraus (of the West Charleston congregation) was called to continue on the Program and Arrangements Committee  
Becky Maurer (of the Oakland congregation) was called to serve as one of our Standing Committee Delegates  
John Keller (of the Oakland congregation) and Sheila Shumaker (of the Troy congregation) were called to the Brethren Retirement Community Board

~ Lunch ~

#### Ordination Anniversaries:

The following are among the ordinations recognized presented by Shelia Schumaker:

10 yrs

Nan Erbaugh, Barb Minkey, Ben Walters

15 yrs

Linda Lewis, Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh

25 yrs

Libby Keith, Mary Sue Rosenberger

40 yrs

Steve Stump

Commission Reports:

Missional Renewal: Sheila Schumaker

2020 Ordination Review

They license and review. Next year they will offer ethics workshop because it will be the five year review. Would like to also have one for leadership teams. Pastors need to submit renewal units into the district office. Bethany will allow pastors to audit classes. 6 were interviewed for licensure/ordination. 4 are finishing TRIM this next year. Looking at position descriptions.

Sandy Jenkins shared that she is one of the Kentucky pastors. A letter that was shared with the Constance Church of the Brethren. The Hebron church has fallen victim of the hill side. They will be leaving the building. They will be meeting at the Hebron Lutheran building while selling the building/site and until they find a new site.

Connections:

Linda Brandon reported that the Catholic Social Services would like us to host clothing drives. Linda is also requesting monetary donations to purchase shampoos, conditioners, and combs that are non-damaging to the hair of the refugees.

The Together Magazine is the outgrowth of the Connections Commissions as is the Passport program for visiting the churches. District deacons training will be in this next year. Dessert with the District meetings have been put on hold because of the compelling vision meetings.

Mission Renewal:

Ty Pyle:

Two major projects this year:

1. Jonathan Shively to develop a survey which will help leadership teams jump start the missional work of the congregation. It will be brought to the congregation. It can be done online or on paper. Once it is finished you get a report that can be discussion starters to support the discovery of what are strengths and challenges as opportunities for growth.

2. New Urban Ministry Initiative started with 2 churches and now has grown to include 6 additional churches as well as Brethren agencies of Bethany, On Earth Peace, as well as BVS.

Resource Development Grant Recipients:

Glenn Timmons reported:

White Cottage received one for outreach ministries and one for youth to attend NYC.

Jenny Irvin Outreach for 600 children in custody of Muskingum County. 3K from the grant Mentored 10 children who are in the foster system. Helps with transportation to keep children in their school to finish the school year. They did this for 3 children. Provided tutors for children. Making bundles of love packages with blankets and basic toiletries. 21 since March. Members are going to the hospital to nurture infants born drug dependent.

5 youth and one advisor flew to NYC thanks to the grant. Jenny read feedback from each of the youth. At the end of the conference they wanted to return to the site where 4 years ago they had worded during BDM trip.

Dennis Delk from Potsdam COB received a grant to replace a furnace and air conditioner for the fellowship hall to make the work with the children of the community. They come together every Wednesday night during a school year. They have a meal before the Kids Club.

Caleb Kragt and Irv Erbaugh shared about the grant they received to help share worship Swahili, Spanish, and those who need amplification. There are headsets through which the worship is translated. Thanks to the grant received from the district.

Congregational Withdrawal Process:

Dave Shetler provided an overview of the need for the process. After the March meeting 5 congregations asked for the district to explain the process. The denominational process has yet to be approved. Castine, Bradford, Easton, Stoney Creek, and Bellefontaine are the congregations requesting the process. The process is based on church polity. The process is the responsibility of the district board and therefore, does not require conference action. We are charged to give aid and counsel to the congregations. The goal and hope is for reconciliation. Scheduling is underway for Bradford and Castine. The other two have not yet to make written requests to enter into the withdrawal process.

Dean Garrett, Emmanuel. Atlantic Northeast Conference presented a process to district conference for action.

Gloria Bear Creek, asked how this different from just closing? Dave explained that in a closing process, all assets of a congregation come to the district. In a withdrawal process there is a discussion with the congregation about the assets.

Sandy Jenkins, Constance: When you said there is some negation, does that mean they might purchase the property? It is something that can be part of it.

Dean Garrett: Is it true that there will be part of this process in the compelling process and this will be replaced?

Gloria: is the reason the same with each congregation? Issue of Biblical authority is the reason given so far.

Dave expressed that an important part of the process is to remember that this is a painful process and that we work toward reconciliation.

Motion by Lee Saylor and Norm Reeder seconded to accept the reports as presented.

Budget for 2019 Motion to approve by Lee Saylor and Second by Jim Kinsel to approve budget as presented this morning.

Closing comments by moderator: Deb talked about the process of planning a conference. Carl Erbaugh is the moderator for 2019. Happy Corner has agreed to host. Scripture will be Philippians 4: 19 "God Provides"

Nov. 17 will be the District Board Retreat. Everyone is invited to experience a multicultural worship, meal and workshop at the West Charleston Church of the Brethren. Worship at 10:15 and reservations are needed for the meal.

Announcements:

Call Charlene Foster to volunteer for camp help.

Men's retreat in Feb. 2019

37 out of 50 congregations in attendance at the District Conference.

Lee Saylor has requested that we consider a rotation of conference sites.

Carl Eubank, Moderator for 2019 led the conference in the closing prayer.



Submitted

PJ Arndts, Clerk