

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Board

May 9th, 2020 @ 9:00AM via Zoom Platform**

There were 24 participants logged into this meeting.

Welcome, Announcements, Tech Orientation

Annual Conference has been cancelled for the 2020 session

Opening Devotion - Jennifer K. Scarr

Colossian 3 is a scripture that has meant a great deal to Jen during this time, so she shared it with the board. Jen has thought of wearing her mask as a sign of her love for others. She led the board in an opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

The agenda and minutes were approved.

Order of the Day:

Brethren Retirement Community - John Warner

John shared from the BRC and he thanked God for the protection given to the center residents and staff. They are balancing the health of members as well as the quality of life for the residence. As things as opening up they find this a especially difficult challenge. They currently have enough PPE and are blessed to have received assistance with this need from multiple sources. They are providing updates to families and residents. Next week they are going to try a zoom meeting for family members and then one with their independent living members.

Sarah asked if they needed cards and notes sent to the residents to help lift spirits. John said they are always welcomed and could be sent to his attention and he would make certain to pass them to the residents who might need them most.

Announcement from On Earth Peace - Irv Heishman

Supportive Communities Network provides space for LBQT folks. The OEP has released an official statement of commitment to join the Supportive Communities Network.

Staff Reports:

District Executive - Dave Shetler

Dave feels that this time has shifted the usage from his car to his computer. Dave has shifted his notes to include a devotional into his weekly notes. His first image when the stay home order came was of Noah in the arc and how he wanted to leave the arc. Noah sent out a bird to see if it would be safe to leave the safety of the arc. He knows that some congregations are wanting to resume in church worship.

In a meeting with CODE, there was a grant offering for how to continue doing ministries with children, pastor ministries, and other groups. Andrew, Karen, and Dave are meeting to apply for a grant to assist the BRC to purchase gift cards for the staff to purchase a carry out meal; Karen is hoping to apply for connecting with kids; and this group is hoping to apply for one to help support pastors.

If there is a congregation needs district support during this time, encourage them to call Dave.

Question was raised to determine what the pandemic has done to the pastor placement process. Dave said it has certainly slowed the process a great deal. It has not been possible for people to get together.

Communications - Mary Boone

Mary has a report online. She continues to do her work with the ordination renewal, moving the data base, working on the TOGETHER publication. Mary feels the weekly staff meetings have been helpful even if they have been onZoom. She feels it has been a good way to keep connected with the work that is being done.

Camping and Retreat - Karen Dillon

The ministry is alive and well, but Karen told Carl that he will need to wait a year to wash dishes! The scouts have restricted the use of their facilities for face to face activities and or meeting. Karen is looking with the Camping and Retreat Ministries to do virtual camp programming. Mondays will be for younger children (Preschool – 2nd grade) Tuesdays (3-6) Wednesdays Jr Hi Thurs. High School Fridays inter age groups. With grant money they will be able to mail packets to the kids each week, so they have activities. Quilters would like to get together a few times. At the end of the summer it was suggested that they try to get folks together for a drive-in ice cream, sing along session perhaps at Salem.

Karen has reserved the camp for Winter Blast and camps for 2021.

Karen's personal learning curve now includes learning to host Zoom meetings.

Julie affirmed the mailing out of supplies, and she volunteered to help stuff envelopes.

Treasurer Report - Scott Fitzgerald

We started with congregational giving were up but then beginning March that giving dropped. Investments are pretty much on par with where they were last year currently.

Deficits are not quite as low as they typically are at this point of the fiscal year.

Becky asked if the Annual Conference fees already paid for the Standing Committee members become a donation to the Annual Conference office. The board approved that the fees for our Standing Committee members be a donation.

That the district recommend that our local congregations also do something similar.

The individual who had already paid conference fees are receiving a letter requesting to know if folks want to receive a refund, donate their fee, or to make a partial donation to the Annual Conference committee. The board will send an email to the churches to encourage them to also consider doing a donation to support the AC committee.

Bear Creek Property Update - Dave Shetler

The appraisal was posted on the confidential section of the board website.

The group that had been renting the facility for some time continues to rent the building at this time. Gary continues to work on the titles for the property. There is a need to have a survey completed for the properties. Once the issues with the deeds are resolved then we can proceed with the process marketing the property.

Congregation Updates - Dave Shetler

-Stoney Creek: no new information since pandemic began.

Grant Request from Brethren for Biblical Authority (BBA) via Greenville CoB Update :

The grant was approved however, with the health concerns the event may or may not be scheduled. The scheduling of the event will determine when the grant will be awarded.

Do we often have groups outside of congregations requesting grants? Do we need a process for this?

Discipleship and Reconciliation Team/Shalom Team Update - Jennifer K. Scarr

Jen spoke to Rick Polomas and John Kinsel prior to the pandemic and they both had interest in the restart of the team but made no commitments.

Commission Reports:

Connections - Ron Mack, Board Contact (John Kinsel - Convener)

There has not been a meeting either in person or online.

Resource and Development - Sarah Frederick, Board Contact (Glenn Timmons, Convener)

A suggestion has been made to request more specific information about how the money will be used. The group asking for money specifically for educational events may be asked for detailed information about the specifics of the educational offering outcomes and measurements of those outcomes.

Glen shared that the commission has been responding to the grant requests and the items that the board highlighted at the retreat using task teams. A Stewardship education task team offered through stewardship education office which was a webinar with 8 participants. They have a tape of the event which can be used for additional trainings.

Another task group is focused on how we make our budget understood by the nonfinancial people in the pew in addition to the official reports.

Shared Ministries - Ann Stackhouse, Chair

BDM is on hold for now. Once the Health Department clears for volunteers to work in the Dayton area, local area volunteers will be working in small projects for now. The plans for fund raising events that have been critical in the past are currently on hold for now.

Young Adults have not met during the pandemic, but they are texting and hoping to do a game night on Zoom or a movie night online. They are planning to stay flexible about what they might do as things start to open.

Ministry - Tom Bowser, Chair

This commission has not met.

When CEU's are requested for an event for which a grant was requested we may need to have additional questions to suggest for the grant application.

Missional Renewal - Phil Dell, Chair

They are working to secure more coaches to support congregations as they work through their congregational survey.

Mission and Ministry Board meeting went well considering the restrictions. BRC was able to provide meals even though they were not able to host the meetings. Thanks to Oakland for hosting the meeting on short notice.

It is suggested that we ask for time on the agenda for their next meeting for how a district can respond when groups separate from the denomination and members/ministers participate in those separating groups.

Program and Arrangements - Sandy Jenkins

Met on April 4 through Zoom. At this point they do not know what the fall conference will actually look like. They are going to continue to plan as if we are having an onsite meeting in October. As we get closer to the fall they will determine if we are having a physical meeting or if there will be an alternative internet type of meeting. Dave indicated that there are several districts that have already made decisions to have late summer conferences as virtual meetings. Sandy is looking to the district for assistance in this process. Dave said that the district Zoom is limited to 100. Bethany has hosted for larger groups for a fee.

Questions about voting in a Zoom setting can be done in polling situation was a consideration that Program and Arrangements could consider.

Task Team Updates:

Refugee Resettlement:

Not a lot of activity has happened due to the pandemic

Climate Justice:

Have met by Zoom and are working on the potential of a retreat in the fall. There is a professor at Goshen College who has been working on a donated farm who might be able to work with hosting a retreat. No firm plans can be made at this time. Karen had proposed this group work with the Camping and Retreat group around the Simple Living camp. She is hoping that they might be working together on a retreat.

“What the Church Might Look Like” Task Team:

They have not met, however, the comment that we have all become members of this task team may be right on point!

Gifts Discernment - Carl Eubank

The group has not yet met. Carl is requesting that the board email names of suggestions of potential open positions. He will be emailing a request to the board.

New Business:

Guidelines and Recommendations for Resuming In-Person Church Gatherings

After discussion it was thought that we should “err on the side of caring too much” when it comes to thinking about guidance on how to decide when to resume in person worship. It was suggested that we provide multiple sources of guidelines to the congregations to use to facilitate their decision making.

Based on a recommendation from Todd, the leadership team will draft a guidance for our congregations. It will then be given to the board and then sent out. The leadership team will stay on the Zoom to craft the response.

The board will meet again at the end of May to consider additional guidance to congregations.

Closing and Benediction

Minutes submitted by PJ Arndts