

Southern Ohio and Kentucky

Church of the Brethren 2020

District Conference via Zoom

October 11, 2020

Welcome by Conference Moderator Sandra Jenkins

Christ's Ambassadors 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20

Moderator Sandy thanked the people who put together the conference via technology! So many talented people joined forces to make this possible.

Irv Heishman led the conference in prayer.

Seating of the Delegates led by Nick Beam, Moderator elect

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Slate Of Candidates for open district positions beginning 2021**

- The slate was voted on by the delegates and approved as presented:
- Vicki Ullery, Moderator Elect; Isaac Zika, Programs and Arrangements; Dottie Woodard, Sie Brock, Jr., Carrie Drees, Tom Bowser, and Dennis Delk District Board.

### **Commission Reports:**

Reports were presented to the conference by prerecorded video.

### ***District Board:***

Jennifer Scarr, board chair report via video

She summarized the challenges of the district during this year of a pandemic which made it so important to be a church dedicated to Christ's work and to keeping all peoples in prayer.

### ***Connections:***

John Kinsel reflected on the three main areas of work during the past year:

- help coordinate development and distribution of Together Magazine supplement which is published in Messenger
- District Deacons to take the district to the congregations rather than asking congregations to come to the district as conduits for open communications. There have

not been enough volunteers to meet the congregational requests for participating in the ministry. The commission is still accepting volunteers to meet the requests to participate.

- The third is the Desert and Discussion opportunities to meet with Dave Shetler and the leadership of the district to keep the lines of communication open. They worked with the Compelling Vision process. They also have worked with the refugee resettlement group.

#### ***Resource and Development Commission:***

- This is a 12-person commission that meets monthly. This commission gives management to existing resources. One of these is the oversight of grants to empower congregations and congregational leadership. Several grant recipients shared how the grants received have made an impact.

#### ***Ministry Missional Renewal:***

- Phil Dell reported that they have partnered with church through the congregation survey. Once the survey is completed a coach is assigned to the congregation to support them in their journey of renewal.
- They are also working with a task team to develop a town hall for exploring racism in our communities and the role of our churches.

#### ***Ministry Commission:***

- Tom Bowser reported that the commission is charged with the calling to ministry and ordination. This year they have been working on the 5-year ordination review process.

#### **Task Team Reports**

- ***Climate Justice:***

Mark Lancaster provided a summary of the work of the team. They have arranged for a 5-week series of workshops on climate change including how the climate change in Ohio is impacting us all. Toward the end of the series the focus will be on how congregations can begin to make an impact starting now. Doug Kaufman is also working with the group and will be a presenter.

#### **Denomination Reports via video:**

##### ***Annual Conference Report:***

Paul Munday reminded us that we are one in Jesus Christ! During this time, we are called to reflect, rebuild, and rejoice in Jesus!

##### ***BBT:***

During this year of uncertainty, BBT is striving to bring stability to the churches and staff. They seek to provide information to local churches as well as districts. There is a catalogue that lists workshops available to congregations. BBT has continued all meetings via Zoom in order to stay

in touch with consumers. BBT shared the application for the streamlined COVID-19 assistance program.

### **Southern Ohio Staff Reports:**

#### ***BDM***

Burton and Helen Wolfe

SODBDM has been busy in the Southern Ohio tornado area. Since March they have not been able to extend the work to other states. The national BDM group began its work in July with local volunteers only. In August others from the brotherhood were allowed to join in the efforts of rebuilding. Clean up buckets, school kits, continued. The Sewing Bee groups added PPE to the sewing opportunities in addition to the school kit bags. Creativity has been used to continue the work of the BDM even without the traditional fund-raising events. Thanks to all those who provide donations.

#### ***District Executive*** - Dave Shetler

Dave is finishing his 10<sup>th</sup> year as our district executive. He has experienced personal loss this year with the death of his own father. Then a pandemic challenged us, racial issues have come back into the focus, cases of Covid-19 has forced us to change how we do church, conduct meetings, and provide support to each other.

#### ***Communication*** – Mary Boone

Mary maintains the website, mailing lists, One Call information as well as all the things that are needed to keep the congregations connected and informed. She does an online newsletter and provides monthly bulletin inserts that highlight district activities. Mary also keeps all the information about the minister for the commission as well as for the brotherhood. Since this year has been the 5-year ordination renewal time, she has been keeping track of all the information to keep process flowing smoothly. She is the district conference manager who is responsible for the details behind the scenes to make it happen!

Mary is managing the background information. She is the managing editor of the Together Magazine!

Mary works tirelessly and is considered only part time !

#### ***Camping and Retreat*** - Karen Dillion

Karen is happy to announcement the name for the camping program: Camp Sugarwood Altars. It is important to remember that it may not be a place but is a ministry! The challenge this year was learning to do a virtual camp for early learners, elementary students, junior high, high school, and family campers. Materials for 8 weeks of camping were assembled thanks to the numerous ambassadors and delivered to the campers. Materials were mailed for those who were in other locations. Sent out 87 bags! A few participants were not able to continue but

those who attended each session explored the ways to pray and to put prayers into action. A family from MAINE joined family camp!

***District Mission Ambassadors*** – Andrew and Debi Wright

Before the pandemic restricted travel, Andrew and Debi visited many churches. Once the pandemic began, they decided to do a road trip and look letters of thanks to all the ministers in the district. The second trip was to visit with all the retired ministers of the district! Additionally, they have kept us informed about the district in a series of YouTube videos the Rest of the Seeds to inform folks of the work of the board.

***BRC:*** John Warner

John brought greetings from BRC and thanked churches for the ongoing prayer support you provide to us at the BRC. The staff of the BRC has worked tirelessly to care for the residents. The residents have been patient with the restrictions imposed for their safety. BRC has been trying to protect the residents and they have had few cases of Covid 19 to date. They have worked diligently for 7 months to protect each other. They continue to work on the staff and resident morale. Covid fatigue has set in so they have renewed their efforts to keep positive! They are finding a dip in census since folks are hesitant to move into a group setting and staff hiring is difficult. The good news is that the independent living is full.

Brethren Home Care is continuing its services. John expressed gratitude for the financial support for masks as well as the card of support for our residents and staff. This ministry is needed and appreciated.

***Scott Fitzgerald: Financial report for fiscal year 2019.***

Refer to the financial end of year 2019 report:

The increase in line 11 is reflective of the increase of fuel for the new bus versus the vans used previously for BDM.

Equity:

Funds typically run a deficit through most of the year until the end of the year when funds are transferred to bring them into balance.

***Pastor Anniversaries:***

Dave Shetler reported the anniversaries as follows:

Jenn Scarr 5 years

Rob Raker 10 years

Nick Beam 20 years

Doug Donohoo 20 years

Ken Oren 20 years

Tony Price 20 years

Robert Penron 20 yrs

Mel Smith 20 yrs

Andrew Wright 35 years

Brent Driver 35 years

Nancy Heishman 35 years

Dan Ulrich 35 years

Dave Shetler 40 years

Charles Cupp 55 years

Mike Hodson 55 years

Glenn Timmons 55 years

Dwayne Yost 60 years

Bill Kidwell 65 years

Mary has created certificates and they will be mailed.

Sandy Jenkins offered a prayer of thanksgiving for all the recognized ministers.

Scott Fitzgerald, Treasure continued report 2020 and the proposed budget

See attached reports

Questions regarding the final report for 2019 and through second quarter of 2020:

Karen Garrett asked what the plan is to resolve the deficit as we enter the last half of the fiscal year?

Scott indicated that the majority of the giving historically arrives in the last half of the fiscal year. We are also looking at fundraisers.

Glenn Timmons as the chair of the resource development team/commission shared the appreciation for the continued support of the congregations. He reminded us that in addition to the financial support there are many hours of services donated by those who do the work as Christ's Ambassadors.

Presentation of the 2021 fiscal year budget.

John Kinsel asked where would funds from sold properties go?

Response: the commission will have a proposal for this in the future.

Susan Lillar: would the funds from the properties have to go to the district conference?

Response: polity says it is the decision of the board as to where the funds go.

Follow up question: Do we need a motion to begin the discussion?

No, it comes from the district board and does not require a motion.

Additional comments to the conference for a balanced budget included 2 options:

1. To truly make a balanced budget we would need to reduce salaries and benefits by 43%.
2. The plan is to work to on fund raising at this point.

Comments revolve around asking about congregations who are not contributing about making some contributions. commissions, board, and the staff have been challenged to donate \$50K. in the past few days \$10K has been pledged.

The board is recommending option 2.

There was a call for the vote and the conference delegates went to a separate Zoom screen to vote. The vote results were 42 to affirm and 14 to not affirm. There were 30 churches represented in the vote and there were 56 voting delegates.

The recommended 2021 budget passed.

Nick Beam, Moderator for the 2021 district conference has selected Romans 8: 5 "for those who live in the flesh set their minds on the flesh and those who live in the spirit live set their minds in the spirit." We need the spirit now more than ever. The theme will be Move in our Midst though spirit of God.

Karen reminded us that women's retreat is in weeks with the theme will be the spirit of prayer.

Sandy passed the gavel and the cup to Nick. Dave thanked Sandy and the committee for such a great conference in a new format. Sandy ended us with a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of Christ's Ambassadors.

Submitted by clerk

PJ Arndts