

March, 2023
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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SOK District Board Announces Changes in Camping and Retreat Ministries Staff

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Board meeting in January, was the last meeting for our retiring Director, Karen Dillon. While Karen will be sincerely missed, they are pleased to announce that we have called her replacement.

We would like introduce you to our new Director of Camping and Retreat, Carrie Drees. Carrie Drees is a member of the Oakland Church of the Brethren. She earned a Master of Divinity Degree from the Earlham School of Religion in 2010. She and her husband, Scott, have three sons who all love the camping programs. Carrie is no stranger to SOK District leadership as she has served on the District Board for five years, the Shared Ministries Commission for two years, the ministry commission for three years, and been a part of the editorial team for the *Together* magazine. She has also participated on the Women's Retreat planning committee and has helped out at Family Camp.

Carrie is excited to continue the Camping and Retreat Ministries for the District that it may continue to bring the love of God into the lives of the children and families the ministry serves.

We ask that you join us in welcoming Carrie Drees to this position and that you continue to support the camping and retreat ministries of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

Camp Sugarwood Summer Camps Are on the Way!!

The dates are set for Camp Sugarwood summer camps. Save the dates and plan to attend or send your children, grandchildren or other children in your life. More info on the camps will be available soon. Many volunteers are also needed. If you are interested in volunteering as a counselor, in the kitchen, lead a bible study, or with any other camp activity, please email, text, or call Carrie Drees, cdrees23@gmail.com, 937-564-7346.

Adult Child Camp June 8-11
Junior Discovery Camp June 11-13
Sewing/Crafts Day Camp June 12-15, 9am-4pm
Family Camp June 16-18
Creative Arts Camp June 18-24
Quilt Camp (at Bergamo) August 8-11

Volunteers needed for 2023 Annual Conference

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District will serve as the host district to the 2023 Annual Conference. It will be held at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, OH. As you can imagine, many, many volunteers will be needed as we serve our sisters and brothers from around the world. Volunteers are needed in many different areas such as unloading supplies off of the truck; ushering; registration, helping with children and youth activities; and more. If you would like to join in as a volunteer to assist the Annual Conference staff in welcoming our delegates and attendees, please call the district



office at 937-203-5254 to give us your information. You will be contacted by the appropriate coordinator as they look at developing a schedule.

Volunteering allows you to the unique opportunity to experience the worship and observe the business of the church all while serving the body of the Christ. Please consider volunteering.

Standing with People of Color Welcome Session

March 14, 2023

DATE/TIME: March 14, 7-8:30pm Eastern

For the last several months a group of local, district, and agency leaders in the Church of the Brethren have been working on the 2022 Annual Conference's call to study and act against the violence of racism. This committee, facilitated by On Earth Peace, comprised of members of the Southern Ohio-Kentucky district, and joined by Mission and Ministry Board staff, have outlined three objectives for the next two years:

- Connect people interested in and/or working on matters related to racial justice
- Study the teachings of Jesus so that we might love our neighbors
- Act to change racial injustices.

On March 14, you are invited to join us at a special online event to build relationships and to learn more about the work of this two-year study/action process to help the Church of the Brethren to stand with people of color.

Participants will gather using Zoom on Tuesday, March 14, to learn about and engage the dreams, the hopes, and the plan for next steps for the work in the next two years. We hope to connect and foster community with racial justice advocates, or those yearning to get involved, from across the Church of the Brethren. We want to hear examples of what racial justice education and action looks like right now where you are. Participants will explore the committee's objectives and consider how we can all work together in 2023 and 2024.

Please pre-register online at <https://>

www.onearthpeace.org/2023_03_14_standing_with_people_of_color_welcome_session

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministry Updates

Children's Disaster Services Volunteer Workshop – On March 17-18, 2023, Oakland Church of the Brethren will host a Children's Disaster Services (CDS) workshop. CDS sets up childcare centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers following natural or human caused disasters. Workers are specially trained to care for traumatized children, providing a calm and reassuring presence. This workshop is for those who want to become CDS volunteers or recertification of current volunteers.

Register online at <https://www.brethren.org/cds/training/>. Contact Toni Custer at tcuster77@gmail.com or 937-423-1841 for more information.

Volunteer at New BDM Site – Dawson Springs, KY is the new rebuilding site that opened in January 2023. The work is primarily new homes as 400 of the 1,200 housing units in town were destroyed during the December 2021 tornado. This site will be open for six months with the possibility of being extended. A flyer with the 2023 trip dates is available on the district website (www.sodcob.org) or ask in your church office. Transportation, housing, food, tools, and leadership are provided. Call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join a crew.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – The first sewing bee of 2023 will be held on Saturday, February 25 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine to make school bags for Church World Service (CWS). Non-sewers will prep items for school kits and cleanup buckets. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. A flyer with the 2023 schedule is available on the district website or check with your church office.

Quilters Donate to Brethren Heritage Center

This past autumn, four Perry Township ladies began meeting at the Heritage Center to start-up a quilting group. To date, they have completed two quilts and a third quilt is in the frame. The group would like to offer their services if you have a quilt top that needs quilting. There would be a charge, which will be donated directly to the Brethren Heritage Center. The quilters meet weekly on Mondays from 10 am until 1 pm. Please stop by if you would like to talk to them regarding your quilting needs. We also invite you to join us for quilting.

Trotwood CoB Offers Scholarship for College Students

The Trotwood Church has five scholarships for college students. You can learn more details and ask for an application form by contacting the church at 937-837-6604, Tuesday thru Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon or sending an email to office@trotwoodcob.com. The amount of each scholarship will be determined by the number of applicants, the resources available and the guidelines of each contributor. The deadline to have the applications turned in is April 14, 2023.

Calling all Needle Artists!!

Each year the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren quilts wall hangings and auctions them at Annual Conference to raise money for hunger projects. For several years the funds have gone through the CoB Global Food Initiative for Nigeria, where the need is the greatest.

If you would like to participate, please [click here](#) to download a flyer with more information. Blocks should be completed and mailed before May 15, 2023 so they can be assembled and quilted. It would be amazing if all of our congregations would participate.

SOKD Congregation Reaches Out to Flood Victims in Southeast KY

In July of 2022, there were devastating floods in southeast Kentucky, many families lost their entire home and all their possessions. Some even lost their life as the floods came in overnight while people were sleeping. Many churches from around Southern Ohio /Kentucky district got together to assist the flood victims here in Clay County. Mud Lick and Flat Creek churches are located in the southern end of Clay County and did not receive the devastating flooding.

The day after the flooding, calls went out to various organizations, businesses and nonprofits for assistance. Those in Clay County are grateful for the assistance of the churches of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky district. One such donation were 10 comforters that were brought to the Flat Creek church on November 1, 2022, by Nick Beam, Interim District Executive, Dave Shelter, past District Executive and an Eder Financial Associate.

The comforters were then taken to Red Bird Mission by Lois Smith, Moderator for both Flat Creek and Mud Lick churches. After this, the comforters were then taken to Laurel Creek nursing home at the northern end of Clay County by one of the Red Bird Mission Dewall Senior Center members.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2021 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

-For the people in Ukraine living in fear, for the families who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.

-For Cleve Bowling who is on the pastoral team at Flat Creek/Mud Lick who has cancer in his throat and voice box.

-For the people in Ukraine living in fear, for the families who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition:

- **Greenville**— Pastor Ron Sherck resignation as of June 19

- **West Alexandria**—Pastor Brody Rike resignation as of May 15
- **Oakland**--Andrew Wright, interim
- **White Cottage** continues their agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment.
- **New Carlisle**--Tara Hornbacker, interim
- **Prince of Peace**-- John Sgro, interim
- **Trotwood** -- Rusty Curling, interim
- **Lower Miami**--Tracy Knechel Sturgis, interim
- **Beavercreek** -- Sandy Jenkins, interim pastor
- **Donnels Creek** -- Jim Chronister, interim
- **Pleasant Hill** -- Fred Bernhard, interim
- **Trinity** — John Ewdards, interim
- **Olivet**—Daniel Fullen resigned

- There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective locations, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer.

Please contact Nick if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.