

Church of the Brethren
Southern Ohio & Kentucky District
District Board Meeting

Date: March 25, 2023 Location: Potsdam Church of the Brethren

Facilitator: Todd Reish

Recorder: Susan Liller

Attendees			
Attend ✓	Name (voting members)	Attend	Name (non-voting attendees)
✓	Todd Reish – Chair (2) 2024		Ty Pyles (Moderator) ex-officio
✓	Tom Bowser (2) 2023		??Replacement for Paula?? (Moderator-elect) ex-officio
✓	Dennis Delk (2) 2023		Becky Maurer (Standing committee) ex-officio (2) 2024
	- (2) 2023 (rplmnt.for Carrie)	✓	Susan Liller (clerk) ex-officio (1) 2025
✓	Sie Brock (1) 2023		Scott Fitzgerald (Treasurer) ex-officio
✓	Dottie Woodard (1) 2023	✓	Nick Beam, Interim DE (staff) ex-officio
	Laura Brown (2) 2024	✓	Mary Boone, Dir.Dist.Com. (staff) ex-officio
✓ (zoom)	Sara Friedrich (2) 2024		Carrie Drees, Dir.Camping/Retreat Ministry (staff) ex-officio
✓ (zoom)	Staci Peterson (1) 2024		John Warner, BRC Administrator
	Fred Circle (1) 2024		Gary Crim, District Attorney
✓	Mike Yingst (2) 2025		
✓	Phil Dell (1) 2025		
✓ (zoom)	Mindy Tipton (1)2025		
✓ (zoom)	Amy Hager (1) 2025		
✓ (zoom)	Mike Meade (1) 2025		
✓ (zoom)	Vicki Ullery (Past-moderator)		

Agenda

- 1) Welcome & Devotions
- 2) Approvals
 - a) Agenda
 - b) Minutes of prior meeting
- 3) Commission Reports
 - a) Ministry - Sie Brock
 - i) Action on Ordination Termination
 - b) Mission Renewal - Dottie Woodard
 - c) Shared Ministries - Mindy Tipton
 - d) Resource Develop. -Sarah Friedrich
 - e) Communication - Amy Hager
 - i) District Tech Team
- 4) Staff Reports
 - a) Nick Beam DE
 - i) Updates on Bear Creek and Mack Memorial
 - b) Scott Fitzgerald
 - c) Mary Boone
 - d) Carrie Drees
- 5) Visioning Committee Update
- 6) Racial Justice Team / Announcement
- 7) Moderator Elect replacement
- 8) Discussion of finances

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Item	Discussion
1)	Pastor Carl Hill welcomed us and shared slides & stories of recent Nigeria trip (EYN 100yr celebration) Mike Yingst led us in devotions & prayer – Isaiah 43:19 – about to do a new thing . . .
2)	APPROVALS a) Agenda Mike moved to approve the agenda, Phil seconded. Passed unanimously. b) Minutes of prior mtg (1/28/23) Dottie moved and Tom seconded to accept minutes. Passed unanimously.
3)	COMMISSION REPORTS
3 a)	Ministry Commission – Sie Brock Have not had a meeting yet. Interviews are in the works. Ron Sherck moved to Northern Indiana and moved to CBC denomination which requires COB ordination termination. Since not coming from a commission, a motion and second is needed. Tom moved, Sie seconded, to recommend Ron Sherck have his ordination terminated in the COB denomination due to his membership in the CBC denomination. Discussion: Nick will call Ron to let him know of this action. Motion passed unanimously. Craig Smith (former SOh/K district pastor and former ANE Executive Director) has moved to Troy, OH, back to S.Ohio/Ky and has requested his membership be moved back to SOh/K. The district will hold his and his wife’s memberships for now.
3 b)	Missional Renewal – Dottie Woodard Dottie reviewed her written report (attached).
3 c)	Shared Ministries – Mindy Tipton Mindy reviewed her written report (attached). Looking for more ways for shared ministry opportunities.
3 d)	Resource Development – Sarah Friedrich Resource Development met this week. Grants awarded to East Dayton (outreach ministries) and Prince of Peace (VBS). Generosity Project (about stewardship) = 5 congregations – led by Marcia Shelter – one more book to read. Program paused for April due to Easter. Will read next book in May and then get a review of the project from participants and a summary of the projects the congregations worked on with a presentation to the District Board. Good News Project connecting Board Members with congregations is being revised.
3 e)	Communication – Amy Hagar Amy reviewed her written report (attached). Completed analysis of polity resulting in 3-pronged vision. Information Technology seems to be our district’s biggest weakness and we want to work with funds available and churches without technology. Mud Lick pastor looking at virtual District bible study. Want to review the Good News Project. Social Media capability could be bolstered – young people connect via Social Media.

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	<p>Todd: Does the Board want to okay the Communication commission to create a Tech Team (name to be decided). By simple show of hands, all Board Members were in favor of this.</p> <p>Discussion – Board members agreed the Communication commission would be responsible for creating and defining this tech team.</p> <p>Possible members: Rick Dobberstein, Tony White, Bruce Rosenberger, Wendy St. Peter, Mindy Tipton</p>
	<p>Mike Yingst moved and Tom seconded to accept all the commission reports.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
4)	STAFF REPORTS
4 a)	<p>Nick Beam - Interim District Executive: Nick reviewed his written report (attached). While at Olivet, they gave Nick blankets for flood victims in KY. ACTS continuing education program (mentioned in Dottie's Missional Renewal report) – Nick will talk with some other DE's (at Bethany in April) who have this program to see if Southern Ohio/KY could partner with one of the Districts already using this education process. This would be more time commitment than the old 3-yr reading program and less than TRIM and EFSM.</p>
4 a i)	<p>Updates on Bear Creek and Mack Memorial Nick reported the following: Mack Memorial = we closed on this property and deposited \$226,221 from the sale. Bear Creek = almost ready to close (expect another \$205,000 coming to the district from this sale)</p>
4 b)	<p>Scott Fitzgerald – Treasurer Scott was not at the meeting due to needing to work, but his report was provided (attached). Todd read Scott's narrative report and reminded the board we are in different times with revenue not meeting expenses. Todd informed us that many non-profits take 3% from investments to help with operations.</p>
4 c)	<p>Mary Boone – Director of Communications Mary reviewed her written report (attached). District Conference is October 6-7, 2023 Todd asked about the process of creating the "Together" magazine. Mary explained the 4-month process to the Board. Todd encouraged each Board member to ask congregations to come up with stories about their congregations and submit them to Mary. It is a time consuming and expensive process. Mary questioned if there is a better way to communicate with district members. Dennis and Mike Yingst mentioned the importance of the Together insert with people they know. Dottie said sending videos about Carl's Nigeria trip to other churches is another way to communicate. General discussion: We need to share what is happening at congregations with other congregations.</p>
4 d)	<p>Carrie Drees – Director of Camping & Retreat Ministry Carrie was not able to attend this board meeting but submitted a written report (attached).</p>
	<p>Dottie moved and Tom seconded that the staff reports be accepted.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
5)	<p>VISIONING COMMITTEE UPDATE The committee has met twice. Gayle Stephenson, Karen Garrett, Dave Balmer, Anna Sweitzer, Staci Peterson, Sarah Friedrich, Nick, Todd Todd: The committee discussed what took place about 10 years ago – "cottage" mtgs throughout the District. There are two upcoming meetings planned: one in Cincinnati (about 3 hrs on a Sunday afternoon), one on Zoom</p>

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	<p>Sarah: Committee has been evaluating 2016 notes from listening sessions – looking at positives/negative – are these still valid today?</p> <p>Nick: Committee members are reading the book “Reorganized religion” by Bob Smietana. Bob has done lots of interviews of churches. Bob says, If the church is to survive, we have to get past the thinking that church is White Christendom.</p> <p>Todd: we have come up with probably 10 top positive things and 10 top negative things from 2016 notes.</p> <p>Tom: in addition to racial issues, there are also religion issues – wider view of our world</p>
6)	<p>RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM / ANNOUNCEMENT/UPDATE</p> <p>Todd: Jon Keller’s son, Lucas Keller will take over as chair of this meeting.</p> <p>Dottie reviewed the team’s written report (attached).</p> <p>National group (Standing With People of Color Committee-SWPoC) and the District group (Racial Justice Team) met – are we duplicating efforts? Thought was no – there would be a partnership.</p> <p>Staci: a person (of color in the District) asked her if there were people of color on the District team?</p> <p>Mike Yingst = yes, 3, Gale Stephenson, Victor Thomas, Robert Jackson</p> <p>Mike Yingst has heard 2 messages from people of color: 1) this is a white problem that white people need to solve, 2) white people cannot solve this without including people of color.</p> <p>Dottie: this is an open committee and welcome others (Staci will let this person know that.)</p> <p>Staci: we have to do more than invite in people of color, we have to be willing to change.</p>
7)	<p>MODERATOR-ELECT REPLACEMENT</p> <p>Paula Ulrich, elected at Oct. 2022 District Conference as Moderator Elect, has accepted a call to Beacon Heights COB in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.</p> <p>By Laws/Code is not clear on how to replace this position.</p> <p>Nick recommendation: Gift Discernment Committee could Nominate a person and have delegates from last District Conference affirm via email.</p> <p>Todd: Moderator-elect is decided by District Conference as are Board members. When a board member is replaced, the District Board replaces them.</p> <p>Becky – the Gifts Discernment Committee may have had other people in mind when asking Paula.</p> <p>Nick is going to check with his DE colleagues of how they may have handled this.</p>
8)	<p>DISCUSSION OF FINANCES</p> <p>Todd: Wants the District Board to start thinking about how to spend the funds from sales of Mack Memorial and Bear Creek (\$430,000). Perhaps give grants to congregations - \$5,000 for outreach activities being Jesus in the Neighborhood.</p> <p>Dottie: At Happy Corner, we did a “Multiply Love” – gave each congregant \$10 and challenged them to grow \$10</p> <p>Sarah: Scott would want me to say, we cannot just silo away our assets when we need to meet operating needs, when asking funds from the churches isn’t working.</p> <p>Mike Yingst: How do we balance keeping staff as we have it now for a certain number of periods and spending the rest on other ideas.</p> <p>Sarah: Northern Ohio has changed the use of their endowments to allow use for operations.</p> <p>Dennis: Perhaps we need to take a leap of faith. If the churches trust the district, perhaps we will earn the trust and support from churches.</p> <p>Amy: we need to show leadership, discernment, improve communications.</p> <p>Dennis: Racial Justice and Climate change – yes they exist, but is it our congregants’/congregations’ biggest concerns? I don’t hear about Christ being the center of our conversations.</p> <p>Nick: what kind of gathering could we have, without an agenda, to just celebrate Jesus.</p>

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	<p>Todd: Lets get back to "how to use the \$430,000 we will have." Becky: Let's make sure that all the churches can connect, technologically. Amy: How about a district-wide jeopardy game, with ice cream, congregations/people can send in questions. This could be a fund-raiser. Phil: How about having a district meeting of pastors asking ideas, getting different viewpoints Dottie: What if we provide for pastors who cannot afford Annual Conference this year, and then facilitate a meeting of our pastors while at Annual Conference. Todd: We will continue this conversation. We are the stewards of this district and need to figure out how to best minister to this district. Mike Yingst: Two major themes: Be about Christ, better communication Todd: How do we love better? Love your neighbor as yourself. Tom: How do we toot our own horn. Dottie: Perhaps creating a video of all the things going on in District to share with other churches.</p> <p>HOMEWORK FROM TODD: FOR NEXT MTG on May 20, 2023. Come back with more thoughts about how we can use this money, \$430,000, to build bridges with the congregations.</p> <p>Amy asked what financial resources would be available for making videos etc. Todd: Would like the Communications Team to put together a budget for this.</p> <p>Dennis volunteered to bake wood-fire pizzas at district events. The District Board is looking at June camp retreats at Salem COB.</p> <p>Adjourned 2:24pm</p>
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Item	Decisions
D1	Approved agenda and Jan. District Board minutes.
D2	Approved commission reports.
D3	Approved termination of Ron Sherck's ordination in the COB denomination due to his membership in the CBC denomination (3a).
D4	Accepted staff reports.

Follow-up Actions				
Item	Action	Due mm/dd/yyyy	Status	Owner
	HOMEWORK FROM TODD: FOR NEXT MTG on May 20, 2023. Come back with more thoughts about how we can use this money, \$430,000, to build bridges with the congregations.			Todd

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Parking Lot					
No.	Item	Requester	Disposition	Comments	Date
1					
2					
3					

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Liller, clerk



Next Meetings:

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Saturday, July 22, 2023

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Saturday, November 4, 2023 (Board Retreat)

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Board Meeting
March 25, 2023
Potsdam Church of the Brethren

10:00 – Welcome

10:05 – Devotions

10:15 – Approve Agenda

- Approve Minutes

10:25 – Commission Reports

- Ministry
 - Sie Brock
 - Action on Ordination Termination
- Mission Renewal
 - Dottie Woodard
- Shared Ministries
 - Mindy Tipton
- Resource Development
 - Sarah Friedrich
- Communication
 - Amy Hager
 - District Tech Team

11:00 – Staff Reports

- Nick Beam DE
 - Updates on Bear Creek and Mack Memorial
- Scott Fitzgerald
- Mary Boone
- Carrie Drees

11:30 – Visioning Committee Update

12:00 – Lunch

1:00 – Racial Justice Team / Announcement

1:30 – Moderator Elect replacement

2:00 – Discussion of finances

March 25, 2023

3b

The Missional Renewal Team met virtually on Monday, February 6th & Monday, March 6th. Mike Yingst, Phil Dell, Nick Beam, Mary Boone, Dottie Woodard, and Tara Hornebacker (3/6) attended.

- The team brainstormed different ways to re-engage with congregations to determine needs.
- The team discussed bringing back the Congregational Vitality Survey opportunity for the district. After the February meeting, Dottie contacted Jonathan Shively to gauge his willingness to work with us again. In his reply, Jonathan shared he is interested in re-engaging with the District to support churches and pastors through the survey. Jonathan will be joining our meeting next month to discuss the possibilities.
- Tara and Mike shared a successful program from South Central Indiana called The ACTS (Academy Certified Training System), an internal leadership program. The team discussed the possibility of partnering with them to learn and grow.
- Mike provided information regarding the possible movement with the Racial Justice sub-team. More to come soon.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.

Shared Ministries Commission

Update to District Board 3-25-2023

3c

We welcome Carrie Drees as the new Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries for the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. We reiterate our purpose to share ministry opportunities across the district. There are many ways we can be stronger together. Our commission is in the process of searching for more of these opportunities.

BDM is currently working in Dawson Springs, KY on tornado recovery one trip per month, however in February took more volunteers a second week. They were blessed that Korrekt Plumbing sent two plumbers and two helpers - what a blessing. There are enough volunteers denomination-wide for two sites at times. Eastern Kentucky will open as a short term site for two weeks in Campton, KY. Earlier this week BDM put out a plea for one more volunteer for their trip April 23-29. BDM is continuing partnerships that opened up after the 2019 Memorial Day Tornadoes. MVRPC is organizing a network to get immediate responses quicker. Children's Disaster Services workshop was held March 17-18 at Oakland church.

CRM is gearing up for the summer camping season. Camp Ambassadors meet on Sunday, March 26th, 2:00PM at Salem to hear the details about the schedule and bring word back to each congregation. A women's Zoom event is being planned for late April. Carrie is also working on putting together a promotional video to highlight the camping programs held at Cricket Holler.

The district Young Adults continue to meet monthly. Their numbers fluctuate, yet they enjoy gathering and sharing together.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Jipton

Communications Commission Report

March 25, 2023

3e

The team agreed on a 3 prong focus for District Communication as discerned from Polity::

1. District Business
2. Nurture and Spiritual Development
3. Service

After review of the District website and written communication such as the Together Magazine insert, the DE weekly report, monthly newsletter sent to churches, and posting of Board minutes to the District website, the team identified information technology needs as a critical action item. Discussion is occurring about how best to support the individual congregations with their information technology needs - with a suggestion to communicate the availability of Faith in Action grant money from the Denomination.

Developing a virtual district wide Bible study remains in process.

The team requests awareness about the Good News Project status.

INTERIM DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT

Commission Meetings 12

Meet with Individuals 12

Churches Visited:

Emmanuel

Salem

Lower Miami

Potsdam

New Carlisle

Preached at:

Brethren Retirement Community

Olivet

OEP Lenten Series Preview

Visited Andrew Wright in the hospital

Met twice with the Eversole Search Committee

Closing for Mack Memorial

Standing with People of Color meeting

Midwest DE's meeting

Racial Justice Team meeting

Numerous Phone Calls and Emails

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren
Treasurer's Report
3/25/2023

4b

The balance in the checking accounts as of the end of February 2023 is \$37,776 and the balance in the Money Market account is \$43,118. The balance in our investments with Eder Financial as of 2/28/23 is \$1,689,939. The Budget to Actual YTD comparison shows that we are \$15,390 under budget on revenues and \$6,907 under budget on expenses. This is not uncommon as the first few months of the year are historically slower. The bottom section of the report is grayed out as additional funding is not allocated until year end. Looking forward, the net proceeds from the sale of Mack Memorial, \$226,221, were deposited in March and will be allocated to the Board Discretionary Fund for future use as determined by the board.

Scott Fitzgerald
Treasurer

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren
2023 District Budget vs Actual YTD 2/28/23

	Approved 2023 Budget	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Over/(Under) Budget
1 REVENUE				
2 Church self-allocations				
3 General Fund	55,000	9,167	6,172	(2,995)
4 Camping & Retreat	8,000	1,333	265	(1,068)
5 BDM	16,000	2,667	4,050	1,383
6 New Church Development	-	-	-	-
7 Total Church Self Allocations	79,000	13,167	10,487	(2,680)
9 Donations from Individuals				
10 General Fund	25,000	4,167	300	(3,867)
11 Camping & Retreat	1,000	167	-	(167)
12 BDM	20,000	3,333	20	(3,313)
13 Empowering Congregations	-	-	-	-
14 Empowering Emerging Ministries	-	-	-	-
15 Total Individual Donations	46,000	7,667	320	(7,347)
16 Donations from Businesses				
17 General Fund	-	-	-	-
18 BDM	500	83	-	(83)
19 Total Donations from Businesses	500	83	-	(83)
21 Total Donations	46,500	7,750	320	(7,430)
23 Camping Registrations	10,000	1,667	550	(1,117)
24 District Conference Income	6,500	1,083	-	(1,083)
25 Other Income				
26 Women' Retreat	4,000	667	-	(667)
27 Men's Retreat	1,500	250	-	(250)
28 Special Events & Misc	10,000	1,667	184	(1,483)
29 Mack Memorial Revenue	6,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
30 Bear Creek Rental Income	6,000	1,000	400	(600)
31 Total Other Income	27,500	4,583	584	(3,999)
33 Interest & Dividend Income	32,000	5,333	6,252	919
35 TOTAL REVENUE	201,500	33,583	18,193	(15,390)
38 EXPENSE				
39 Payroll Expenses				
40 Salaries & Benefits				
41 General Fund	111,225	18,538	18,111	(427)
42 Camping & Retreat	35,757	5,960	8,159	2,200
43 District Ministry - History Book Editor	-	-	384	384
44 Total Salaries & Benefits	146,982	24,497	26,654	2,157
45 Payroll Taxes				
46 General Fund	3,299	550	136	(414)
47 Camping & Retreat	2,935	489	993	504
48 Total Payroll Taxes	6,234	1,039	1,129	90
50 Total Payroll Expenses	153,216	25,536	27,783	2,247
52 Office & Administrative Expenses				
53 General Fund	25,300	4,217	1,553	(2,664)
54 Camping & Retreat	2,650	442	-	(442)

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren
2023 District Budget vs Actual YTD 2/28/23

	<u>Approved 2023 Budget</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Over/(Under) Budget</u>	
55	BDM	6,000	1,000	211	(789)
56	Total Office & Administrative Expenses	33,950	5,658	1,764	(3,894)
57					
58	District Ministry	21,315	3,553	8,686	5,134
59	Outreach				
60	BDM	50,000	8,333	4,112	(4,221)
61	National Youth Conference Grants	500	83	-	(83)
62	Empowering Ministries Grants	14,620	2,437	-	(2,437)
63	Empowering Congregations Grants	29,240	4,873	4,500	(373)
64	Empowering Leadership Grants	14,620	2,437	-	(2,437)
65	Total Outreach	108,980	18,163	8,612	(9,551)
66					
67	Camping & Retreat Expenses	14,800	2,467	1,494	(973)
68	Women's Retreat Expenses	4,000	667	-	(667)
69	Men's Retreat Expenses	1,500	250	-	(250)
70	Bear Creek Expenses	12,000	2,000	1,916	(84)
71	Mack Memorial Expenses	1,800	300	2,432	2,132
72	Investment Fees	6,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
73					
74	TOTAL EXPENSES	357,561	59,594	52,687	(6,907)
75					
76	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM CURRENT OPERATIONS	(156,061)	(26,010)	(34,494)	(8,484)
77					
78	Transfers from Endowments				
79	District & Hartle Endowments (General Fund)	2,600	433	-	(433)
80	Nature Conservancy Fund				
81	General Fund	14,620	2,437	-	(2,437)
82	Outreach (Empowering Grants)	58,480	9,747	-	(9,747)
83	Total Nature Conservancy Fund	73,100	12,183	-	(12,183)
84					
85	Total Transfers from Endowments	75,700	12,617	-	(12,617)
86					
87	Additional Funding				
88	Congregation Separation Fund (final year 2023)				
89	General Fund	20,600	3,433	-	(3,433)
90	Camping & Retreat	5,900	983	-	(983)
91	Total Congregation Separation Fund	26,500	4,417	-	(4,417)
92					
93	Board Discretionary Fund				0
94	General Fund	36,500	6,083	-	(6,083)
95	Camping & Retreat	25,500	4,250	-	(4,250)
96	Total Board Discretionary Fund	62,000	10,333	-	(10,333)
97					
98	Total Transfer of Other Funds	88,500	14,750	-	(14,750)
99					
100	TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	8,139	1,357	(34,494)	(35,851)

Director of Communications Report

March 25, 2023

As always, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you and my gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren. I see this ministry as one of my greatest blessings.

—The spring, 2023 issue of “Together” magazine is at the printer. The theme is “Hearing God’s Voice within Community” and it will arrive in homes sometime during the week following Easter. The fall, 2023 theme will mirror our District Conference theme which is “Grow with a Growth that is of God”. We have a meeting of the editorial staff scheduled for April 12 to begin working on the fall edition and look at themes for upcoming issues.

—Met with Program and Arrangements Commission met to begin making plans for 2023 district conference.

—I continue to work with the Communications Commission to look at ways to improve communication within the district.

—Annual Conference this year will be held in our district. As in the past when this was the case, I am assisting the conference volunteers by serving as Registration Coordinator, helping with registering attendees for special meals. Coordinators are recruiting other volunteers to help in various areas. I’ve created a volunteer form and am helping to recruit as I can.

—As I state in almost every report, much of what I do is repetitive and routine, such as the usual tasks of collecting mail, processing deposits, monthly newsletter and bulletin inserts, etc.

I’m still so very grateful for the opportunity to serve Southern Ohio and Kentucky and look forward to new opportunities to be used by God in this ministry!!!!

Respectfully,
Mary Boone,
Director of Communications,
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

I want to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve the District. I have a lot to learn yet but have made quite a bit of progress in the past month and a half. I have met with Karen a couple of times to learn how she went about things. I have also been in contact with Cricket Holler and Bergamo as well as a few other places with which we do business. I have been working with Charlene Foster and learning much from her years of experience.

The camps are scheduled and we are looking for volunteers to be deans, counselors, kitchen help, workshop leaders, and bible study leaders. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered.

Camp Ambassador's Meeting is March 26, 2-4 at Salem CoB. Please send your church's ambassador to learn about camps this year. The Camp theme is "Fruitfull Faith: A Spirit Filled Life."

The camp and retreat schedule is as follows:

June 7, 9am Camp set up at Cricket Holler

June 8-11 Adult Child Camp

June 11-13 Junior Discovery Camp

June 12-15 Sewing and Crafters Day Camp

June 16-18 Family Camp

June 18-24 Creative Arts Camp

June 25 Afternoon Get-together at Salem CoB

July 30 Afternoon Get-together at Salem CoB

August 8-11 Quilt Camp at Bergamo Retreat Center

September 29-30 Women's Retreat at Bergamo Retreat Center

I have a meeting with the Women's Retreat planning committee on March 21 to work on a Women's Zoom Fellowship evening event to be held toward the end of April.

I am trying to put together a short video promoting camp. I hope to have it put together soon. If you have volunteered at camp or have children who have gone to camp and would like to send me a short video clip of you or your child telling what they value about camp or a few sentences I can put on a slide for the video I would appreciate it.

I have made contact with Outdoor Ministries Association and (with Scott's help) sent in a membership application and have had a conversation with Mike Neff who is on the OMA board and is from Camp Ithiel. He will be finding someone to be a mentor to me for the next 3 years.

I am a co-coordinator for the Junior High activities at Annual Conference.

I am also seeking ordination.

If you have not heard, Oakland is hosting a Prom to benefit BDM and CRM. Tickets can be purchased by calling Oakland.

Respectfully,

Carrie Drees
Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District
Church of the Brethren

March 25, 2023

6

Racial Justice Team Board Report

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky (SO/KY) District Racial Justice Team met on March 22, 2023 to discuss the role the team would play moving forward. Mike Yingst gave a brief report, summarizing the role the team has take in the past. Mike Yingst and Jon Keller have recently stepped aside from their roles as facilitators of this group and Lucas Keller was introduced as the new facilitator.

The team spent some time discussing how they would move forward in a sustainable way moving forward and began brainstorming the role of the team within the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

The team plans to work closely with the denomination-wide Standing With People of Color (SWPoC) Committee which was formed in response to our Districts query presented at annual conference this past summer. As the SWPoC Committee continues to develop and share resources, the SO/KY District Racial Justice Team will implement the resources appropriately based on the needs of our District.

The SO/KY Racial Justice Team will also be inviting members of the District to join them in this ongoing work. If any members of the District Board would like to join the team or attend a meeting just to learn about the work, we invite you to contact Lucas Keller at jlkeller94@gmail.com.

The mission of the SO/KY District Racial Justice team remains the same: The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Racial Justice Team seeks to raise awareness among members of the district about issues of racial justice and call them to action through education, relationship building, and advocacy. We look forward to working alongside the Board to help bring this vision for our community to fruition.