

**November, 2023**  
**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**



## **2023 SOK District Conference**

Another successful District Conference is now a part of our history. Thank you to the West Charleston congregation for sharing their space with us, to the Program and Arrangements Committee for planning and implementing, to Jonathan Shively and Nate Polzin who shared gifts of leadership, to the staff and District Board who shared many exciting things that are happening in the district, to our Moderator, Ty Pyles who led the conference gracefully, yet firmly and finally to all of the delegates and non-delegates who spoke respectively from their hearts, voted according to how the Spirit led them, and engaged in Christian fellowship with each other.

There were 91 delegates present, and 123 total registrants as well as several attendees who were not required to register. We welcome our new board members: Dottie Woodard, Trent Smith, Sie Brock, Jon Keller, and Rick Polhamus. New Program and Arrangements members are Kathy Reynolds and Isaac Zika. Our Moderator-Elect is Tom Menke.

The budget for 2024 was passed after minimal discussion but also with the ongoing concern for a continual decline in congregational and individual support. We recognized the East Dayton Fellowship as an official congregation and heard of the wonderful ministries they are providing in their neighborhood. We also said goodbye to the West Alexandria Congregation who is leaving the denomination and to the Prices Creek Congregation who is closing after 189 years of faithfully serving their community.

Finally, we discussed the proposed query: Setting Aside the "1983 Paper on Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective". After 16 heartfelt but respectful speeches, 8 for and 8 against, the vote was taken paper ballot. 44 voted in favor of sending the query and 44 voted against. This means the query will not be passed on to Standing Committee.

We are so grateful for our wonderful district full of talented, passionate, and devoted members serving God and following Christ the best we can.

## **Standing With People of Color Organizational Events**

The Church of the Brethren Annual Conference has called for a three-year denominational process to move toward more vibrant and effective solidarity with communities of color. You are invited to join the efforts of the Standing With People of Color Study/Action process by attending an online meeting **either** November 6th (Monday) **or** 18th (Saturday) to get connected and find your role in our efforts.

The initial planning committee is reaching out across the denomination seeking volunteers and helpers to bring this process to life. We need many kinds of assistance - networkers, facilitators, interviewers, writers, etc. and people to pray.

On **Monday, November 6th at 7:30 pm Eastern (6:30 Central/5:30 Mountain/4:30 Pacific) AND**



repeated on Saturday, November 18th, 2023 at 4:00 PM Eastern (3 pm Central/2 pm Mountain/1 pm Pacific), we will meet via Zoom in a live session to help plug people into roles, get connected and thus creating a web of leaders at local, district and denominational levels. More information, including how to register for one of these meetings and receive your participation link can be found on the district website or check with your church office.

## **Camp Sugarwood Updates**

### **Cookie Camp is Coming!**

Cookie Camp is a fundraiser to help keep the cost of Winter Blast down. Orders for cookies are due November 19 and can be made through each church's camp ambassador or by calling Carrie Drees at 937-564-7346. Cookie Camp will be held at Salem Church of the Brethren December 1, first shift 12-5pm, second shift 6-9pm. December 2, third shift 9-1pm with cookie order pick-up from 2-4pm. [Click here](#) to download a description of cookies available. [Click here](#) to download an order form.

Lots of volunteers are needed to make cookies on Friday and Saturday. Anyone can come, even just for a short time. Many hands make light work. The only thing needed are mixers for the cookie dough. All other supplies will be provided.

Cookie camp is an opportunity to share in the work of this fundraiser while having time to chat with new and old friends. There will be milk, coffee, and tea to go with all the sampling of cookies. Come join the fun! Any questions please contact Carrie by text or call at 937-564-7346 or email [cdrees23@gmail.com](mailto:cdrees23@gmail.com).

### **Winter Blast is on the Way**

Two weekends of Winter Blast at Cricket Holler will be held in January. Winter Blast for children in grades K-5 and their adult will be January 12 and 13. Winter Blast for youth in grades 6-12 will be January 19 and 20. Winter Blast includes swimming, a movie, devotions, bible study, games and more. The cost is \$25 for each attendee. Registration opens December 1 and are due by December 31. Registration forms can be found on the district website or contact your camp ambassador or church office.

## **Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates**

**BDM Meeting** – There will not be a monthly BDM meeting in November or December. Plan to come to the next meeting which will be on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at Mill Ridge Village Community Center. Fellowship Time is at 6:30 PM and the meeting is at 7:00 PM.

**BDM Appreciation Dinner** – You're invited! Come to the annual BDM Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 6:00 PM. This year the dinner is hosted by Brookville Church of the Brethren, 220 Western Avenue. We will thank our volunteers, recognize new volunteers, and share information about the work of S. Ohio/KY BDM. There will be music shared by Brookville's musical group, "Joyful Noise". Please RSVP by Nov. 1 to Burt and Helen Wolf at [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com) or call/text 937-287-5902.

**Rebuilding Opportunity** - The November 5-11 crew will go to eastern Kentucky to repair homes that were damaged by flooding. There are openings for two more volunteers. Transportation, lodging, food, and tools are provided. Lodging is in Campton, KY with work about 30 minutes away in

---

Jackson. Contact Burt Wolf (937-287-5902) for more information or to volunteer.

**2024 Rebuilding Trips** – S. Ohio/KY BDM has a rebuilding trip scheduled for most months of 2024. January through June will be to Dawson Springs, KY, where we will continue to work with Habitat for Humanity. No location has been determined for the last half of 2024. [Click Here](#) for a flyer with trip dates. Now is the time to join a crew! Call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Donations to support the work of S. Ohio/KY BDM are greatly appreciated. Checks to S. Ohio/KY District COB need to be footnoted BDM and sent to PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

## **Eversole Church of the Brethren Chicken and Noodle Dinner**

11414 Old Dayton Rd  
New Lebanon, OH 45345

The Eversole Church of the Brethren would like to invite all to their Chicken and Noodle Fundraising Dinner. It will be held Saturday, November 11, 2023 drive through only from 4-6 Pm or until sold out. They are asking for a \$10.. cash donation per dinner.

Included are: Chicken and noodles, green beans, mashed potatoes, dinner roll, and pumpkin pie.

## ***Prayer Needs***

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2023 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

-**Mary Ann Guthrie**, DE Nick Beam's sister, and who lives in Illinois, suffered a heart-attack this past Saturday evening and is in intensive care at a hospital in Springfield, IL, waiting to see what the next steps will be.

-For the **violence and war in the Middle East**. May the God of peace prevail and lead those on both sides to ending the conflict.

-**Cleve Bowling** passed away Thursday, Sept. 28. Please hold Cleve's family and friends as well as the Flat Creek community in prayer.

-**Chuck Cupp** fell at his home at the BRC and is now in the medical wing recovering and receiving rehab

-**Willie Lynam**- 35 year-old grandson of Sue Huffaker and cousin to DE Nick & Annette was struck while riding his bicycle to work in Texas a couple of weeks ago- passed away this past Tuesday.

-**Larry and Cathy Lutz** - Larry is pastor of the Piqua COB -- wife Cathy has returned home from the care center but still in need of prayer.

-**The Standing With People of Color Annual Conference study/action committee** as they continue their important work.

-For the people in **Ukraine**.

-May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition

- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Donnels Creek**-- Jim Chronister, Interim
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill**--Fred Bernhard, Interim
- ◆ **Trinity**-- John Edwards, Interim
- ◆ **Eversole**-- Mark Bowman retired, April 30
- ◆ **Circleville**--Roger Cruser retiring Dec. 31, 2023

- 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.