

**Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky
Church of the Brethren
District Conference
Saturday, October 8, 2022
168th District Conference
Happy Corner Church of the Brethren**

Vicki Ullery, Moderator
Ty Pyles, Moderator Elect
Nick Beam, District Executive

Announcements 59 delegates

Opening Devotion Scripture Psalms 145

Recognizing East Dayton as a Fellowship

Susan Liller is representing the East Dayton Fellowship with the blending of the 2 congregations (Shepard's Table and the East Dayton COB) into one entity. This recognition means that they can now have representation at district conferences and the annual conferences.

Seating of Delegates lead by Ty Pyles

Approval of Agenda and acceptance of the minutes from the 2021 conference. Motion by Dawn Wojcik (Trotwood) and second by John Kinsel, (Beavercreek).

Lee Saylor (Salem) and Tony Price (Cedar Grove) moved and seconded the approval of the minutes from the 2021 district conference.

Affirmation of the 2023 Slate was supported by majority vote:

Paula Ulrich, Moderator elect

Susan Liller, Clerk

Karen Garrett, Program and Arrangements

Geneva Price,

Phil Dell

Mindy Tipton

Amy Hager

Mike Yingst

Mike Meade

District Commission Reports:

Shared Ministries: Camping Ministries and Retreats: Karen Dillion report online. The most important thing about this ministry is the people who serve and are served. Charlene Foster has served this ministry for 60 years. She was given a Charlene Book which is a compilation of the things people have written to thank her for the great moments they had thanks to her dedication. Additionally, she was given a well wrapped gift of wind chimes.

Presentation: Outdoor Ministries Association Staff Member of the Year Award presented to Karen Dillion by Charlene Foster and Nick Beam. This should have been given to her at the Annual Conference, but she was unable to attend.

Brethren Disaster Ministries: Helen and Burton Wolf:

The teams have gone to Nashville site for 10 months of the year, North Carolina with Mr. Sam's house. In July they went to the flood area in July. Sandy Doberstein, shared about the work they did in the flood area of Kentucky.

World Church Service area of work includes: 2700 school kits, 528 clean up buckets, and 1000 health kits. Several businesses donate items, space, and shipping to the warehouse in Maryland.

Children Disaster Centers are set up in the areas to support the children and families experiencing trauma. We sent 3 teams during this past year.

All this work is funded through the fund raisers that happen during the year as well as the volunteers working together to assemble the kits.

Wanda King, (Roaming Brookville and Salem) Commented that being in Uvalde brought out the challenge of being responsible for how to keep children safe. This was the greatest concern for parents as they brought their children to the team for support.

Missional Renewal report:

Dottie Woodard reporting that the commission faced many challenges due to the pandemic and look forward to the work that can be accomplished in the future when they can be in the congregations supporting missional work. They are currently working with missional coaches in 6 congregations. The Racial Justice team are a part of this team's work. They anticipate expanding the work in this next year.

Young Adult Ministry:

Laura Brown presented via video. They meet monthly and have 7-12 participants in the varied activities.

Communication Ministries:

Nick Beam presented for the team. Nick and Mary have been working to find ways to improve communication with the churches and individuals in the district. They are seeking additional members for this team.

Happy Corner, Pleasant Hill, Potsdam Stories of celebration via video.

We heard about coping with pandemic impact, ways to assist with food insecurities, and strengthening connections with members.

Racial Justice Team

John Keller, Troy, reported. The team presented the query to Annual Conference this past year and they are now challenged to work with representatives from On Earth Peace to further the self-awareness of the church to find ways to stand with people of color by developing materials to be used the denomination.

Phil Renolds, (Painters Creek) asked if John could present the study materials on a Sunday morning. Since John is a pastor, he is not able to do that but can work with local churches at other times.

Brethren Retirement Community report was presented by John Warner.

John celebrated the 120 years of service to individuals in their care at the BRC. They saw dedication to this care during the pandemic from all those associated with the BRC. As of September 30, 2022, 391 residents are currently being served. Many renovations have been completed and more are in progress. The BRC is appreciative of the ongoing support of the Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky District.

John invited everyone to participate in the Virtual Gala on October 20 at 6:00pm. This is a major fund raiser for the BRC.

Question: Karen Garrett (district at large) The Heritage Center is also celebrating 120 years. Pat Krabaugh reinforced the fact that all medical facilities are having challenges with staffing and will be putting on the center on the prayer group list. Tom Hissong (Salem) testified to the great work of the BRC.

Judy Bolden (New Carlisle) presented John with 100 handmade cards for the residents.

Greenville, East Dayton Stories via video

Denomination Reports:

Church of the Brethren Report – Traci Rabenstein

Traci could not be with us in person because she is recovering from Covid. She joined us via zoom and presented her report by a video.

Eder Financial (Formerly called Brethren Benefit Trust)

Video report

Greetings from the Annual Conference Moderator: Tim McElwee

Tim indicated that he has enjoyed learning what was happening in this district. The 2023 conference (July 4-8) will be in our district (Cincinnati) with the theme of LIVING GOD'S LOVE. He reported on the unusual tasks for the Standing Committee.

12:05 Troy, Olivet, Flat Creek /Mud Lick, Stonelick Stories

Presentation of "Witness to the Host Communities" Donations

New Carlisle, Trotwood thanked for the books and donations of under ware for the schools. Happy Corner for the blessing box donations, Good Shephard food for community meals, Lower Miami is working with the Miami Valley for people seeking asylum. They are working with 3 families currently.

Lunch / Fellowship

Pastor Anniversaries

Lisa Baker 15

Todd Reish 10

Tyowen Pyles 20

Bob Bitner 25

Mark Bowman 25

Sheila Shumaker 25

Leland Clasper-Torch 35

Bruce Rosenberger 55

Ministry Commission, Carrie Drees, (Oakland) shared that 2 individuals were completing the licensing process and one the ordination process.

Congregation Updates, Nick Beam:

The church property Bear Creek and Mack Memorial properties have parties interested in purchasing them. The hope is that they will be sold by the end of 2022.

West Charleston, Harris Creek, Oakland Stories

District Board Report – Todd Reish (Oakland)

Todd thanked the members of the board who are leaving the board. Jill, Kristen, and Ron. Todd discussed the work on a new vision for the district. A group has been tasked to begin the process with the help from the brotherhood. The goal is that in a few years we will have defined a new vision for Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky District Church of the Brethren.

District Staff Reports – Nick Beam and Mary Boone

Mary Director of Communication: first thing that Mary is responsible for is the electronic newsletter each month, the PDF for the list of events/calendar. It is important that churches share information with her so she can share them. The third thing is the work she has done in redesigning the website. She is responsible for working with and submitting the Together magazine that is included in the Messenger. Facebook page for the district also shares information. Mary interfaces with the Office of Ministry to keep them up to date with the ministers in this district. Mary attends all the commission meetings and takes notes for the commissions. Lee Saylor (Salem) stated that the website is vastly improved and he thanked Mary for this.

Nick Beam: Thanked Dave Shetler for his support during this transition. Thanks to Mary for keeping him on task. The challenging task is matching pastors and open congregations. This is the challenge across the denomination. Nick is challenging everyone to look at their congregations and supporting individuals to explore the ministry by suggesting them and supporting them to become set aside ministers.

Resource Development Report:

Sarah Freidich shared a video report from youth who were able attend National Youth Conference thanks to receiving one of the grants offered by the commission. Every youth, every advisor who requested help received \$500.00. Next summer there will be a National Youth Conference for Junior High. The financial help will be extended to everyone who reaches out.

Outreach grants have been funding projects in many congregations.

Generation Project has been working to teach what stewardship is in the district.

Good News Project to assist in improving communication from the district to the congregations and from the congregation to the district.

The commission also reviews the financial issues with the treasurer and makes recommendations.

Question from Kathy Reynolds asked Sarah to repeat what the Good News Project is and how it works.

The district Conference voted to approve all the reports as presented.

Business Item:

Budget report · Discussion and Vote

Scott Fitzgerald reviewed the end of the year report for 2021.

Lee Saylor (Salem) The last page represents giving by congregation and the membership number. Where does that number come from? Response: It is given to the district by the general board.

Scott reviewed the first half of the 2022 budget report.

He reviewed the additional information sheet that summarized the investments, the growth, and transfers as a part of looking at the 2022 financials.

Proposed budget for 2023 format is different so that it is possible to visually see how the funds General Board and Camping and Retreats work together.

Susan Liller (East Dayton Fellowship) How much is being brought in to cover short fall? It looks like there will be nothing left in the board discretionary fund at the end of next year. There will be only 62K at the end of next year. Karen Garrett (district at large) this budget is proposing an 8.2% increase in cost of living. What was the rationale? Response: It was the amount given from the brotherhood. Tony Price (Cedar Creek) it was annual conference recommendation. Susan Liller (East Dayton Fellowship) hard to tell congregation it is recommended that high. Mentioned number of congregations that are not contributing why not go them to insist of their money/contributions. Bruce Rosenberg: Many individuals work far more than typical hours. If we want to maintain professional staff, we need to be willing to pay them. Pat Kraubaugh was a delegate to the Annual Conference. It was a very close vote. But it is important to decide if you want to maintain staff it is important.

Michael Trout (Brookville): Current state of inflation and the rate of social security recommendation increase contribution increase were considerations in setting the 8.2%

Dale Honeyman asked about the money for the Heritage Center Book. It is a continuing work.

The budget comes as a recommendation from the board. Delegates will use a ballot to vote. 36 yes and 14 no votes for the budget 1 abstention

Moderator Reflections/ District, Congregation Celebrations Presentation

Thank you to the Happy Corner, Good Shephard, New Carlisle, Lower Miami, and Trotwood. Thank you to Everyone who made this conference a celebration of success.

Vicki reminded each congregation that it's important to work to keep Christ at the center of everything they do and celebrate.

Passing of the Gavel / 2023 District Conference Theme /Closing and Prayer:

Ty Pyles theme for the next year is:

GROW.... with a growth that is a growth from God.

Colossians 2:19

Submitted by clerk

PJ Armdts