

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Board Meeting DRAFT

01-13-2024

Present: Jon Keller, Mary Boone, Todd Reish, Sie Brock, Nick Beam, Mike Yingst, Becky Maurer,

Present via zoom: Sarah Friedrich, Laura Sollers, Ty Pyles, Dottie Woodard, Gary Crim, Phil Dell, Mike Meade

Guests present: Ron Mack, Karen Garrett (zoom)

Absent: Trent Smith, Mindy Tipton, Carrie Drees, Fred Circle, Amy Hager, Rick Polhamus

Board Chair, Todd Reish opened with devotions and prayer concerns.

Email from Bruce Rosenberger regarding Standing with People of Color training sessions. Concern expressed that SOKD task team has fallen silent. How can we re-energize the group in our district? Board will ask Bruce to clarify what he would like to see happen and continue to think about Board involvement in this process.

Approval of Agenda and minutes of 2023 Board Retreat— Moved acceptance by Jon Keller, seconded by Sie Brock. Accepted unanimously.

Staff Reports—

DE Report—

Church Funerals Direct Network— Offers funerals at a reduced price.

New Treasurer—Scott Fitzgerald has resigned—has served the board well. We will formally recognize him at the March board meeting. New Treasurer prospect introduced. Stuart Beisner has BA in accounting from Anderson University. Does accounting for three churches and several other non-profits. Wife Alisa is pastor of Administration at Salem Church of God. Two children 3 and 1. Interim DE Nick Beam moved to hire Stuart as Treasurer. Seconded by Mike Yingst. Vote unanimously approved. Salary will remain the same as what Scott was receiving.

Studying book “Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World” by Gil Rendle— addresses changing culture— needs. Stan Dueck will attend our next board meeting to talk about visioning process. Homework for the board—think about “Who are we now?” Not who do we want to be? Or who were we? But “who are we now?”

Outdoor Ministries Report— Report is posted online. —Carrie Drees is at Winter Retreat

Director of Communications Report—Posted online. Three people assigned to have access to all online communications— Those three will be Ad Asst, DE, and Chair of Communications Commission. Mary will submit list of all accounts, along with their login information to both.

Concern raised that we need to appoint a back up signer for checks. Also need to appoint someone other than the treasurer to reconcile the bank statement with checkbook other than the treasurer—Possibly chair of Resource Development Commission?

Mike Yingst moved to accept staff reports. Dottie Woodard and Jon Keller both second. Reports accepted unanimously

Commission Reports:

Gifts Discernment Commission — has not met—Who is on the committee? Charlene Foster, Justin North, Thomas Reid are the current members.

Ministry Commission Report— has not met yet this year.

Missional Renewal Commission—has not yet met this year. Hope to meet in February

Shared Ministries Commission — Commission chair was not present since she was assisting with Winter Blast. At last meeting they heard updates from OM and BDM. Looking for projects.

Resource Development Commission— Met Thursday, January 4. Have given 6500 in grants including \$3000 to Troy for laundry ministry and \$325 for Eric Schmidt to attend classes at Bethany. Discussed criteria for Emerging Ministries Fund. Discussed about fundraising. Maybe need to appoint an individual or committee specifically for Fundraising. Congregational has increased. Question presented as follow-up from a comment made at district conference Has anyone reached out to Tony Price or other congregations who are not giving? No one has. Todd stated that he received a call from Trinity Church about why they are not giving to the District Ministries. They are getting small and older, and they do not have the funds. Should cause us to stop and ponder. We have a lot of older, dwindling congregations.

Communications Commission: Went over Amy's report from online. Board members are encouraged to brainstorm with the commission.

Program and Arrangements Commission: Events coming up leading up to Conference: Ash Wednesday at East Dayton Fellowship, June 15 at Cricket Holler, and July 14 combined with Family Picnic at Salem Church of the Brethren. We will be using the 7 Conversational Prompts to share stories of congregations. Board is asked to help Program and Arrangements brainstorm who we should ask to be a part of these meetings and to encourage participation within each board member's congregation.

Mike Yingst moved to accept reports, Mike Meade seconds— Reports accepted.

Lunch break from noon to 1:00 PM

Old business:

Present: Jon Keller, Mike Yingst, Todd Reish, Sie Brock, Phil Dell, Mike Meade, Sarah Friedrich, Dottie Woodard,

Update from church sales:

Bear Creek—Sale Finalized—\$203,653.97 deposited into checking account on December 16, 2023

Prices Creek—District has received an offer from Kevin and Kelli Ott for \$75,000 that the board had decided to accept. We were also contacted by Old GB branch. They came and saw the church and are not interested due to location being too far south. \$75,000 offer is being negotiated. We have decided we need to have an appraisal done to assure the district that we have done our due diligence. Hoping to close escrow by April 1, 2024. Sale is contingent upon satisfactory inspection of septic and well and wood boring insect inspection.

West Alexandria— Gary is in conversation with the West Alexandria Congregation attorney. Money from this departing congregation will go to East Dayton Fellowship.

Visioning Team Update

Stan Duek will be meeting with the team on January 28, 2024. Stan will meet with the district board at the March meeting. The Visioning Team is working to develop a list of questions for the district to process. More information will be forthcoming as this process moves forward.

District History Book: Dean Garrett has done a tremendous job of putting our history together. Problem is that the book has become humongous. 30 years ago there was seed money raised through presale of the history book. However, current costs to print this book is cost prohibitive. The Board needs to contact the Historical Committee to determine their needs. It may make sense to ask the Gifts Discernment Commission to find some individuals who may want to form a new Historical Committee to make decisions about the project. We will address this at an upcoming meeting.

Clarifying Emerging Ministries Fund— An individual has asked how this fund can be accessed by folks who have a need. This fund has been a Board Discretionary Fund. Past uses have been the Generosity Project, Racial Justice Team, Together Magazine to name a few. This is not a grant and is not available to congregations or congregational ministries. Sarah Friedrich made a

motion that we change the name of the budget line item from “Empowering Emerging Ministries” to “District Project Fund” . Seconded by Mike Yingst. Motion passed.

New business

Wolf Creek, Kentucky—We have been contacted by an individual concerning the Wolf Creek in Kentucky. There is interest in possibly reactivating the Wolf Creek Congregation. What they are asking is somewhat unclear. Decision was made to contact them with the following message, “The district would be happy to help you with reforming a fellowship, which would be a first step toward becoming a congregation. We can not help you clarify ownership of the property. Nick Beam and Todd Reish will communicate this decision to them.

Policy for Dual membership in Church of the Brethren and Covenant Brethren Church—Do we want to set a policy for individuals who are seeking dual membership in Church of the Brethren and Covenant Brethren Church? We feel that we do need some sort of policy. Nick will get a copy of policy from other districts for us to look at. We will take further action in March.

Next meeting will be March 2, 2024 beginning at 10 AM at the Painter Creek Church of the Brethren.