

District Board Meeting

Feb. 24, 2018

Those attending:

Jim Baker, Jenn Scarr, Ron Mack, Charlene Foster, Carrie Drees, Ann Stackhouse, Phil Dell, Julie Brewer, Dave Shetler, John Warner, Pastor Michael Yinst, Mary Boone, Ty Pyles, Linda Bandon, Dennis Delk, Tom Bowser, Jim Moore, John Kinsel, Shelia Schumaker

Pastor Yinst welcomed us to the Covington Church of the Brethren.

Covington outreach organization is housed in this building. They have an extensive food program, utility, rent, as well as back to school help. The 2017 food, assistance and Christmas presents was approximately \$16,000.

The upstairs houses Miami County Preschool program. They have a Covington ministerial group that meets here once a week through Lent for a lunch. They have community services 4 times a week. There is a community Bible School housed here each summer and the different churches run it each year.

Chair Phil Dell lead the Board in a time of devotions by sharing Ephesians 2: 13-20. He talked about one of his experiences from Seminary.

Community Sharing:

- Warehouse for immigrant is coming along well, but there is still work to do.
- March 24 Bake Off Sale at 6:00pm at Potsdam Church of the Brethren with proceeds to benefit Brethren Ministries.
- Dennis Delk brought up the challenge of how do we work prayerfully when we are facing constant road blocks without losing the focus on Christ.
- Jim Moore shared that he and his brother are both battling cancer.
- Dave Shetler's parents are coming to the realization that they need to relocate.
- Linda Bandon's father is in a facility that has help available but he will not use it but will call one of his children who are a distance away.
- Carrie Drees's asked for prayers for her family due to the death of her dad.
- Dennis Delk asked for prayers for his family.
- Phil brought up the need for his neighbor who is a former pastor to be held in prayer.
- Ann Stackhouse's husband is having a kidney biopsy Monday. He had a kidney transplant a year ago.
- A time of prayer followed our sharing time.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved with the correction of Ron's last name

BRC:

John Warner presented a written report. Fiscal year-end audit was completed. Surge in census occurred in the last half of the year 2017. The BRC is under taking an expansion of the independent living area with the establishment of Oakwood Village on the North end of the parcel. That would make 93 independent units.

Capital improvement campaign is beginning for some of the older facilities.

BEC is expanding to Grace Village on Taywood Rd, Englewood by taking over management of the facility. This takes BRC out of the Darke County area.

Starting a pulmonary rehab service but there is no reimbursement for this so they are not certain how long they can sustain it.

Challenges facing BRC:

- Hiring

- Navigating the changes in health care provision

- Balancing the business and the care for charity needs

- Camping Report is on line.

Linda Bandon requested that a line item be added to the budget for receipt of donations for refugees so that they can be dedicated for that project. Dave thought it could.

Mary Boone reported that Connections is off to the printer for the first edition on time and they had a plethora of information. She is working to enter addresses provided by the churches for the mailing.

Mary is the coordinator of ticket sales at Annual Conference in Cincinnati and is looking for volunteers.

Deb Noffinger has been working with Mary on designs for a different logo for the district. Mary uploaded suggestions and wants to hear our opinions.

Dave Shetler's report:

Painter Creek pastor is retiring. They wondered about what their next steps are to be. Across the denomination is that there is a shortage of pastors to fill the needs. A large number of those available are also older. Dave wonders if there is a chance to share ministry with Potsdam and Oakland. There will be a meeting Tuesday night with the three churches to begin exploring this as an option. They thought about perhaps doing Bible school or senior citizens drop in with the offer of a meal.

Bear Creek, Mack Memorial and West Milton will meet early in March with BVS and hopefully On Earth Peace. They are also exploring Bethany as a partner in this.

Gifts discernments:

Any positions have been filled but John will be working to fill a slate for the next conference.

Ministerial Leadership:

Aaron Helman interviewed for licensure. He was encouraged to go back to his West Carrollton congregation.

Missional Renewal:

Ty Pyles reported that they had a teleconference with Jonathan Shively about a survey for congregational health at our request.

Shared ministries:

Winter Blast was exciting and there is a camp ambassadors' meeting in March.

Disaster's report: is always looking for additional volunteers especially for the child care portion. Southern Ohio did 12 trips for Brethren Disaster. The upcoming training in Trotwood is full!

Two suggestions made for district wide events: fraud prevention and health care. How do we position ourselves to have a district wide meeting when folks are so busy?

If you cannot go on a trip, you can help with putting together the kits.

Resource Development:

They have yet to meet in 2018. Jim will schedule a meeting in March. There are some grant opportunities to be reviewed.

Connections:

Jen is taking care of deacons and Mary the Together Magazine.

Listening Sessions

We had discussed having an informal meeting with folks to hear issues for a Saturday in April at East Dayton. The purpose is to hear ideas for the board and to gain input from the district.

Program arrangements:

The meeting is arranged for March to get the process established for the 2018 District Conference. We are One Body based on 1Cor. 12. Location and date not yet established.

All reports received as presented.

Old business:

Meeting for Brethren Authority

- Want more support from district/communication. The board also requested that they keep the board informed about their events so they can be advertised in the monthly calendar.
- Want to have Bible Study and Support for their perspective
- They would like some CEU offerings for Biblical Studies vs some that have been offered in the recent past.

How should Dave and Mary decide what should be included in the district communications? Historically they have communicated only the district approved meetings and or congregational events. Usually the items that have been included have been things that groups who have come through the board for recognition not just for an item that was sent as an email. Suggestion is that the group who initially met with the group reaches out to them again.

Phil also had lunch with another pastor who indicated that if you want to get more conservative pastors excited then plan a training/conversation on evangelism to grow congregations. Maybe Missional Renewal might want to consider this.

Phil received a letter from another woman who has chosen to stop supporting the district. He mailed a response thanking her for her support in the past.

Compelling Vision:

Dave's hope is that the March 17 meeting will assist in establishing a vision. Should a congregational leadership chose to leave the church of the brethren, then the District responsibility is to provide support to the members who wish to stay.

Need a group to work on the agenda for the March 17 meeting. Jen, Char, Phil, John, and Dave are the selected group to put the agenda together.

The meeting concluded with lunch provided by the Covington congregation and a baby shower for Carrie.

PJ Arndts, Recorder

