

May 12, 2018

In attendance: Karen Dillion, Charlene Foster, Ron Mack, Ty Pyles, Lindon Bandon, Carl Eubanks, Art Fourman, Phil Dell, Dave Shetler, Mary Boone, Heather Fullen , John Warner, Tom Bowser

Welcome from Host Church:

Daniel Fullen, the pastor of the Olivet Church of the Brethren, welcomed us to the church for this meeting. This is a supportive and nurturing congregation. They made blankets for local hospitals and nursing homes. The congregation hosted a Bible school last year for the community. Daniel works with the area hospice. Some of the families Daniel has worked with through hospice have come to worship with the Olivet congregation. When Daniel first arrived at Olivet, he sent letters to all the membership. Because of that letter, Olivet had the opportunity to connect with a family from Michigan who wanted to return for a memorial service for a previous member.

Announcements:

Help is needed to reinforce the shelving at the refugee center.

Devotional:

Phil opened the meeting with a reading of Jeremiah 29: 11-14. He suggest that the words " I will give you a future and a hope" is the concept that we need to capture. The word hope is used freely today. How does hope come alive for us as individuals? Hope is connected to an anticipated action. How do we sustain hope in our local congregations?

Sharing of Joys and Concerns:

Olivet had a mother daughter banquet this week.

Jim Moore was deemed cancer free after surgery. His brother, Bill, was the center of a fund raiser at the school from which he retired a few years ago.

Phil led the board in prayer for the concerns and joys.

Minutes: accepted as presented online

Treasurer's report: accepted as presented

BRC:

- John Warner thanked Olivet church for hosting. Thanked all the congregations for prayers and volunteers as well as the worship services provided for the residents each week. Thanked for Dave and their meetings.
- Reminded us to check out the Facebook page to get to know what is happening.
- Suggested to us to check out what is happening to the north of the Greenville campus. They should be starting the demolition of the buildings so they can begin the building of additional living facilities.
- The financial campaign is going on presently. They are ready to begin some of the renovations. Carl added how exciting the work has become to see the vision of 15+ years come to fruition.
- There are at least 4 residents who are at least 100 with the oldest gentleman being 104.
- With over 130 folks who are over 90.
- Senior fitness has folks over 90 who exercise multiple times a day.
- The Brethren Home is 116 years of caring individuals.

Camping and Retreat Ministries

Karen Dillion's report is not yet online but she brought it on paper. Though the deadline for camp registration was last week, registrations are still coming in at this time. Still need volunteers and donations.

Communications Director:

Mary Boone shared:

- As she updates the website she is going to try to simplify the location of information
- Has been able to update the mailing list.
- Mary is concerned that giving is down and wondered about adding an envelope to encourage folks to increase their giving.

District Executive Report:

- Dave's report was posted online
- Midwest Districts group: Biblical authority conference was held. Beth Sollenberger deserves a great deal of positive credit for this.
- Tara Hornbacker is retiring and the dinner is this evening (May 12) Dave has to leave early to get to this meeting.

Commissions:

Missional Renewal:

Continue to work on the survey with Jonathan Shively and they have a few congregations who would like to be the trial group implementation.

Art's congregation has a member who teaches at DECA (Dayton Early College Academy). The Cost of Poverty Experience Group did a presentation there that the member shared with the congregation. Their church would like to participate in this activity but need to have a larger group. In addition to the social situations, the group has a unit specifically designed for churches. This will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Missional Renewal Commission.

CONNECTIONS:

Linda Bandon reported that District has given bedding for the refugees but have not met the goals. If there are other items that congregations would like to give just call Linda for what the needs are.

Shared Ministries:

No report at this time

Resource Development:

Meet this Wednesday, May 16, to do some follow up work. They have approved several grants. Bob Gross is coming to update them. They are hoping to be able to set up a way to set aside monies for NYC. Charlene has visited several congregations in the east portion of the district.

Ministry:

Ty Pyles reported that they are reviewing processes to make certain that they are doing what they should.

Gifts:

Have yet to meet

Program and Arrangements

Met Wednesday night via Zoom. October 19-20 at the Salem COB will be district conference. Theme is we are all one body. Deb is in conversation with Bethany for leadership for Bible Study. Plans are coming together. It has been suggested that there be some time for socialization time. Nothing has come forward as business. We need to do commission reports more creatively or similar to what happened at the Eaton conference several years ago.

All reports were accepted as presented.

Old Business: none noted

New Business:

BRC proposal:

Changes in Code or Regulations and Corporal Structure:

Proposing amendment for the offices locations, trustees, keeping of the business, etc.

Want to have an affiliation model. District churches as members to the board of trustees with the majority of the membership being COB (5) and (4) community. **This change is a corporate structure that may allow a greater ease of conducting business.** Is this the case?

The final step of this will be a vote of the District Conference with the goal of implementation 01012019. IF BRC should ever have to declare bankruptcy creditors could come to the local congregations for collections. This would eliminate this. If the business goes out of business, the property must go to a similar business. This step would bring BRC into a structure similar to the others in the denomination. District Board does not need to take action on this but our support of this action will shared at the district conference.

Request the Board affirm the recommended Amended of Restating Code of Regulatons of BRC as presented. Board affirmation given. There will be an email to those members not in attendance. All 7 members in attendance agreed.

Compelling Vision:

Dave: Sent an email about the visioning process for the denomination. 1. The Board meets all members not just voting members. So unless the chair indicates that it is just voting members then it encompasses all members. 2. Vision will grow from the voices of the meetings. Recommendation is to not do this at District Conference so that we can get additional voices not just delegates. Suggestion from Program and Arrangements is that there be more regional meetings.

Dave is suggesting that the Board wants to participate and that we have several regional meetings. All districts are to engage in the process and respond. Discussion supports the concept of Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky is suggesting regional meetings to encourage additional participation: One in eastern portion, one in Kentucky area, one at BRC, and perhaps one in the Dayton area. The denomination would like to have this begin right after Annual Conference 2018 and be finished by February 2019. The board is directing Connections to coordinate this process. The Board so directs by affirmation.

Assessment and Ethics Committee

There is a process to follow if there is a complaint of any of the 26 items of the paper. If any complaints are given then the assessment meets and determines if there is a need for the ethics committee to review the issue. There are people who were appointed many years ago. The Ministry Commission is recommending that the persons who had been named are willing to continue to meet and can meet on short notice. If they are not able to continue, then the Board needs to appoint new members. Dave is suggesting that the Board review the membership every few years. (Maybe 5 years and that perhaps they serve no more than 10 years consecutively.) Dave will contact the members and report to the Ministry Commission. If they need to be replaced the Ministry Commission will bring forth names of potential members. **The commission will meet, discuss and report back to the next meeting.** This should be added as an item to the old business section on agenda for the July 14 meeting.

The Leadership Team is meeting with the 5 churches who seek explanation of withdrawal process/policies.

Dave summarized some of the guidelines being recommended for this process based on the current polity. Those in attendance affirm what they have heard regarding the policy summary they heard today.

PJ Arndts, Recorder