

Board of Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky District

Church of the Brethren

August 24, 2019

Dave Shetler, Jen Scarr, Mary Boone, Carrie Drees, Jim Baker, Ron Mack, Phil Dell, Becky Mauer, Nick Beam, John Warner, Carl Eubank, Linda Brandon, Scott Fitzgerald, Karen Dillion, Ty Pyles, Julie Brewer, Tom Bowser, Sandy Jenkins joined us by Zoom

John Warner provided a welcome to the Brethren Retirement Center!

Announcements:

BRC Gala is coming. We would like to have a gift basket again this year. Please donate money to Scott who will get it to Karen Dillion who will build the basket for the Gala auction.

Waterstep shoes are being donated and we were asked to contribute to this project.

Happy Corner Church of the Brethren annual picnic in the park is today. Salem Church of the Brethren is also assisting in this project.

Joys and Concerns:

Deb Oskin is not feeling well. Carl Eubank is recovering from his recent surgery. Gary Crim had a similar surgery and is battling fatigue. Angela Asamond's husband's job has kept him in North Carolina. Angela has resigned and will be moving back.

Ty and Linda's terms on the board are finished this year so this will be their last meeting.

Phil asked for prayers for his daughter.

NOACC is coming up soon. Jen is helping as are Paula Bowser, and Fred Bernhard.

Jen brought greetings from the team in Columbia and she is thankful for the support she is given from the district. Christian Peacemakers

Karen shared that Ron McAdams's celebration of life was such a joy.

Jen lead us in prayer to transition into our devotional time.

Devotional

Ephesians 5: Live as children of the light

Approval of the agenda

Minutes of the May meeting were accepted by the Board.

Reports:

BRC Report:

- Carl mentioned in the report that the Darke County Fair has been this week and it is a mainstay of this area. The staff and residents all want to attend. Nick Beam expressed that he was not happy about the cancellation of the concert due to the lightning!

Dave's report:

- Highlighted an article in the USA today that focused on our attitudes toward others and especially youth. The acceptance of them where they are and allowing them to ask questions and explore the faith community is critical.
- We are fortunate to have some good interim individuals in the pastorates. There are not enough individuals to fill the traditional pastoral positions.
- Compelling Vision discussions were both positive and tense dependent upon the individuals gathered the tables at Annual Conference.

Mary:

- The background checks that are needed have been done through the denominational account. It used to be done on a hard copy. Now there is a link that can be emailed directly to the individual and it feels as if there is more confidentiality and accesses a broader state base now that they have changed companies.
- Mary will send the passwords for several resources that can be utilized through Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The board members will be receiving in the email.
- Resource Development is making available several additional resources for each congregation about where we are with our money.
- Together Magazine is in process. It should be out before District Conference.
- Our data base locked Mary out for a few weeks. The data base program had a glitch in it and so they are in the process of transitioning to a new data base. The conversion is a new learning process and it is taking time to plan the entry.
- District conference registration is now online.

Camping and Retreats:

- Karen's report is online now
- Camping season was exciting and though our numbers were down a bit because of Annual Conference we had some new campers.

- Charlene Foster signed up for the first time and learned to sew! She then came back for the quilting camp and finished her table runner and is so proud.
- At camp there always a few challenging moments and this year was no different. But, throughout the week there were noticeable changes that were visible. CAMPING CHANGES LIVES
- Flight Lessons were offered at camp this year. The kids went up four at a time taking turns flying if they wanted at no charge because one of the counselors is a pilot and had connections that allowed several planes to be used.
- Dave shared that there is a Bethany student who will be doing his student ministry with the Dayton Mediation Center.

Budget items:

- General Fund Deficit is \$62, 342
- Camping fund deficit is \$4,939 not including the golf outing
- Empowering congregations fund and empowering leadership fund will be transferred to a NYC Fund.
- Current fair share is \$33 per member but with the withdrawing churches, this will increase per member. Most recent numbers are only as current as 2017. We need to invite congregations to look at their membership roles, clean them, and send more accurate numbers to the brotherhood.

Proposed budget:

- Salaries reflect the 2% increase from the brotherhood.
- As it is presented, we need to be prepared to answer questions about how long our reserves last. We need to be clear on what we are doing with the money received from the departing districts. Perhaps we need to do a forecast of how many years can we go before we shut down. Do we need a subcommittee to explore what we do if things do not change?
- Dave brought up that the 3 individuals that are on staff are all in their 60's and in the coming years there may be changes in the salaries IF younger/less experienced individuals. This might impact the budget of the future.
- IF we are doing an ad hoc committee, it must be presented at the conference. We recommend non board members on the committee. Maybe a visioning team to look at what is church in our district is what we need. Giving is only a piece of the puzzle. Ty's suggestion is to focus on the people part more than the dollar parts.
 - Do we accept this budget to District Conference? Fair share will change. We will approve it in principle and charge Scott to make the changes, email it to the board, and we will then accept it via email vote. Approved in principle.

Congregational withdrawal updates:

Bradford Church of the Brethren will become the Common Ground Christian Church. They have yet to have their final vote.

Castine Church of the Brethren has set Sept 15 for their final vote.

Eaton Church of the Brethren is voting Aug 25. They will become Eaton Community Church

Stoney Creek Church of the Brethren has indicated that they would like to enter the process. Initial meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Bear Creek Church of the Brethren pastor is relocating to North Carolina. The congregation has indicated that it is tired and thinking that they might want to close. The property and assets would become the Board's responsibility. There are interested groups in the property.

Urban Ministry Update:

American Baptist Church, Church of the Brethren, Brethren Church, Brethren in Church all meeting. Appointed a subcommittee of pastors to define what they really need. They identified housing and food as the greatest needs. Dayton has a homestead program where you live in a house, fix it up, and live there and the city will transfer the property to you. The area of these churches is a food desert. So they are looking at how to provide food there. Do we look to a business to do this or do we open a grocery in a building, or run a farmer's market. There is the St. Mark's gleaning. Dave has met with the representative from Cincinnati who is excited about helping this start for Dayton.

Chambersburg Meeting:

Implications for our district:

Our district was one of the 12. We have been invited to a love feast on September 12. We are concerned about attending an event sponsored by the group advocating separation.

Recommendation is for our leadership team to meet with their leadership team and be clear that we cannot support this type of separation. This needs to happen prior to the Love Feast on September 8. Dave will arrange this meeting.

Nick informed the board that standing committee members may need to send a second letter to the denominational leadership that the members of standing committee should not be part of a group advocating separation and should resign from standing committee.

The other implication for this board is that if the individuals who attended are ordained, the Ministry Commission need to hold them accountable. (Remove credentials and recommend the congregation to not continue the relationship with them).

District Conference:

Training sessions focus on Stewardship. There are CEU's for ministers.

On Saturday, everyone can choose to hear pieces of the sessions from Friday.

District Conference 2020:

October 9 and 10, 2020 at New Carlisle with the scripture of Second Corin 5:16-21.

Commission Reports:

- Connections: Linda Bandon

May 18th Dessert and Dialogue was a bit testy so the next time John Kinsel will attend

District Deacons have only 5 pairs and we need to recruit more.

Refugee is now in Habitat Warehouse. Still need to have shelving. Bequeath Lumber will donate materials but we need to have design and putting together. It was recommended to do a grant to purchase shelving from Sam's. Since Linda is finishing her term on the board, she is asking to stay on with the Refugee Resettlement as a non member and will submit reports to the board.

Resource and Development: Sarah Friedrich

Sarah not here but Karen reported that they reviewed several grants and will meet this week to review a few more.

Shared Ministries: Carrie Drees

Carrie shared that we have heard from Camping, BDM, Pat Krabacher will have plants to sell at District Conference to raise money.

Ministry Commission: Tom Bowser

They met with Michael Gates on July 15 and recommend that he be approved to be ordained. The motion that Michael Gates be ordained passed. Michael currently is serving the Covington Church of the Brethren.

All ministers must be reviewed and must have 5 CEUs filed with the Ministry Commission before end of 2020. On Oct. 26 there will be an ethics training.

Recommendation that the Ministry commission send out an email for how newly ordained folks submit their paperwork. All ministers will need a background check.

It was suggested that Todd Reich must have a background check of 30 years since he did not attend the 8/24/2019 meeting.

Missional Renewal: Ty Pyles

Several congregations have completed or are hoping to complete the survey. There was a coach training so that a coach can be assigned to each congregation.

All commission reports are accepted.

Gifts Discernment will be meeting Wed. to fill the slate of individuals for positions and for the District Conference for approval.

New Business:

Mark Lancaster:

1. Climate Change: Do we as a board wish to appoint a task team for the SODCOB. There was an Annual Conference statement in 2008 on climate change. He is willing to be on the task team. This was approved by the board. We will put an open invitation to the district for volunteers for the team.
2. Task team for visioning for the future of the church. It was agreed to move the task team to the new business section of the District Conference agenda? Ty Pyles is willing to work with this task team. Several other names were also raised. Dave and Ty will work together to get this group together.
3. District Board Retreat:
November 8/9 will be at the BRC. The board will cover the rooming for out of town members. Perhaps we could get someone to address the changing church and what it could look like.

Karen thanked the board for seeing that not all things need to be about dollars and cents and to continue the camping program. Dave thanked us for working and tackling tough issues.

Jen lead us in prayer as we ended the meeting.

Submitted by
PJ Arndts