

January, 11, 2020

District Board Meeting held at the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren

Those in attendance:

Nick Beam, Andrew Wright, Mary Boone, Dave Shetler, Fred Bernhardt, , Ron Mack, Tom Bowser, Phil Dell, Jim Baker, Laura Brown, Todd Reich, Jen Scarr, Carl Eubanks, Jill Schweitzer, Sandra Jenkins, Mike Yingist, Ann Stackhouse, Carrie Drees, Glenn Timmons, Julie Brewer, Sarah F., Scott Fitzgerald, Heather Fullen and Becky Maurer by Zoom,

Absent: Dennis Delk

Welcome to Prince of Peace by pastors Katie and Tim Heishman. After orienting us to the building and a few of their ministries, they opened our meeting with prayer.

Announcements and Prayer Concerns:

We need to change the March meeting from March 14 to Feb 29. Dennis is not here because he had a hip replaced. Remember the people of Puerto Rico, Ted and Ken will be in the Northmont Auditorium March 15. Jonathan having open heart surgery in early February, so we need to hold him and Jen in our prayers, The Dell family has a house that needs a quick sale.

Opening Devotions:

Jen spoke about vulnerable ministry based in 2nd Corinthians. Jen reflected on the Retreat she attended with the image of precious treasure kept in clay jars; John chapter 6, the fish and loaves where a small boy made a small offering and Christ made a feast out of crumbs. We are inadequate to do the tasks ahead of us but with the crumbs of our talents and work, Christ will lead us.

Agenda and Minutes:

It was suggested that we develop a "Welcome Packet" for new board members.

1. Minutes: Corrections: Correct the spelling of Carrie's name in the attendance. In Mary's report correct: I did several Background checks "for" the Brethren Heritage Center rather than "through". I do them through National Background Search using an account that is provided for us by the denomination.

In the assignments add s to Tom's name.

BRC:

Sends John Warner sends his greetings since there are several in attendance representing him. April begins 118 years of existence of the BRC. Many generous donations through the years have helped the BRC serve its residents. Financial year was very good in 2019 and they praise God for his hand in this and pray that it continues in the future.

Staff Reports:

Dave Shetler's report is online. Highlights include:

We are still challenged with the withdrawing congregations. The culture in which we operate means that when we disagree, we separate.

He is so grateful for those who will serve in interim positions.

Dave has been working to support the Donnels Creek COB and we need to continue to hold them in prayer.

Council of District Executives (CODE) meeting with Ministry and Mission continue. This has not happened often but, now the brotherhood leadership team and Annual Conference leadership are also joining the meeting.

Mary: Report online: Since the end of December Mary has been working on the ordination review. Part of her time will be upgrading/updating the website. This is a time-consuming project.

Camping and Retreat: Karen Dillion

The Day of Caring has been providing pancake breakfast to raise money to then feed people. Karen represents the Salem COB to that group. We need to support

Salem in their breakfast. Last Sunday in Feb. from 11-2. She attended that meeting before this one.

Cookie Camp made over 5000 cookies. Money raised will be used for Winter Camp.

Simple Living camp will also be supported with Cookie Camp funds!

Summer camp information has been organized and the information will be coming soon to the congregations.

Treasurer report: Scott passed around his report. First sheet is budget comparison with shaded areas being the largest comparisons. Looking at the money from the churches that left, the commission is hoping to use only 1/5 of the money each year. Not all the deposits and the money from Bradford have yet to be added in which case there might be a change to the deficit amount. The board authorized Scott to take money from the developed fund money.

The board requested that Scott put together the amount of money that was used to take care of Popular Grove property before it sold.

Bear Creek Property:

Dave Shetler indicated that Gary Crim discovered while researching the Bear Creek Church of the Brethren deed, that there are actually three separate parcels. Newer parcels are in the name of the church, but the original parcel is in the German Brethren Church and it must be updated.

Care of property, once it is turned over to us:

-We need a team to care for it once it is turned over to the board. Ivan Patterson has volunteered to arrange for a team to care for the property. The person who has been mowing has volunteered to continued. We might want to offer a stipend for this. Request that Phil represent the board. Wanda King has volunteered to assist also.

-Brethren Disaster Service has plans to work in the tornado impacted area. They are asking to use the Bear Creek property for people to stay and use while they

are here. They would take care of expenses while they are here. They would be here for 12 to 18 months. Recommendations by Dave for the committee and BDM usage is approved. The BDM will let us know soon if they will be coming.

Heritage Center has expressed an interest in the property. They have a few years in their current lease. If the Heritage Center wants it, what if we gave it to them with the caveat that if they ever want to close/move, the property be returned to the Southern Ohio Kentucky District Board. The Heritage Center needs time to raise funds to build a building. They are wanting to take the property quickly for marketing purposes but would like to wait until the BDM need has finished. Proposal approved by the board.

Congregational Updates:

Bradford: Have yet to receive the check. It will be picked up on Tuesday.

Castine and Eaton: money has been received and the deeds are being changed now. We are filing Quit Claim Deeds in the respective counties.

Stony Creek:

Have expressed an interest to begin enter into the withdrawal process. First meeting will be Jan. 19. Becky Maurer, Todd Reich and Dave Shetler will be at that meeting.

Beech Grove: have called a pastor from Eaton Community Church who is also not a Church of the Brethren pastor. Mark Ashworth leads this congregation. He agrees that this pastor will be credentialed in the COB. George Blaze is his name. Dave spoke to him and he was willing to participate in the credentialing process.

There are 2 former pastors in the congregations, so they are supportive of assisting of helping educate him.

Constance Church of the Brethren:

They moved out of the building due to safety and the Hebron Lutheran Church have allowed them to use space. The building has sold, but the core of 12 want to know how to proceed. How long can they continue? With their offering and the money from the sale they could rent a space for maybe 2 years.

Brainstorming for Constance: house church model, modular building, could BDM building a church, use passion to put a business together with the worship space, have afternoon service so that others can attend or have services on a different day, worship in a school, or have church where the Mary Rose Ministries have meals, perhaps rent a short term place, Make a takeover bid of the Lutheran church. Made with laughter.

Update on Covenant Brethren Church

ABC: The brotherhood has yet to provide to guidance on how to handle ministers who are participating in this movement. We commissioned the Ministry commission to call these folks in to a meeting. Jen asked them to postpone this until this week at the BRC. The question was raised about the blog post that contained many inaccuracies. It was suggested that we were not going to respond.

Program and Arrangements:

Meeting Jan 25 Christ Ambassadors is the theme.

Commission Reports:

Connections:

Has not yet made a connection.

Resource and Development

Glen is the chair of the commission. They have taken the ideas from the retreat:

Comprehensive congregational profile

Communication with delegates/congregations

Developing a budget

Shared Ministries

Has yet to meet. Ann shared a thanks to Carrie for her work. Women's

Ministry:

Tom Bowser, chair. Meeting 01/16/20 at the BRC

The board has approved of each of these terminations.

Martin Peacock termination of ordination

Dan Denlinger termination of ordination

Greg Hyre termination of ordination

John Shelton termination of ordination

Ministry Commission will write the letter of termination and Mary will send them.

They were pastors of the congregations that left the Church of the Brethren.

Missional Renewal

Not yet met

Task Team Reports

Climate Justice: has met 2 times. They are preparing invitations for several conferences and workshops for people to attend.

Visioning :

Ty Pyles met with Dave and is having a meeting 02-01 at Happy Corner at 10:00. It is a meeting for anyone to attend.

Refugee Task Team:

Gifts Discernment:

Has yet to meet. They will have a list of positions needing to be addressed at the next meeting.

New Business:

Discipleship and Recognition team.

New Carlisle has raised the issue that we need a process for dealing with conflict in our congregations. The question is could the district offer a team to assist congregations. The team that was organized needs to be refreshed. The new term is Shalom Team. We have our District Deacons instead of a Shalom team. Dave would like to have a proactive approach. We recommend that a team be selected/appointed to receive training. John Kinsel and Rick Polhaus will be contacted to select others to form a team.

New Board Member orientation: Julie will be happy to put information into an electronic format. Julie would ask that give her our suggestions. I suggested a list of acronyms. (I suggest we give a directory of board members with contact information.)

Next meeting: will be 02/29/2020

Closed with a blessing on mending