

Draft Minutes

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Board

09/19/2020

Welcome, Announcements, Tech Orientation:

Reminder to prayerfully complete nominations for Annual Conference

*How to Mute and Unmute*

*How to use the Chat Box*

*How to raise a hand and use reaction buttons*

Opening Devotions Jennifer Scarr

Philippians 1: 27 Only live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ ... this is Paul's vision for the church in Philippi. Jen feels it is the means to the end for our church also. We must stand firm as one in our faith of the gospel.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

It was decided to move the Resource and Development report will be given prior to the staff reports at the District Conference.

Minutes approved as presented

Brethren Retirement Community - John Warner

John was not able to be with us but Carl and Todd tried to fill those shoes. 2020 has a challenging time for BRC also. There is extensive testing. One staff in Rosewood tested positive (testing is 2x a week). And this week 2 residents and 3 staff in assisted living have tested positive. All individuals are non-symptomatic. Becky and Dave assisted in providing donations to give each staff member a \$50.00 for Bob Evans and that has been greatly appreciated. Todd added that the testing is feeling burdensome. Pastor Paula has resigned so Todd is fielding the full responsibility for pastoring as well as his other responsibilities. Covid-19 fatigue is intense.

Resource and Development Commission: Glenn Timmons

In preparation of District Conference, the R&D video clips focused on 3 recipients of grants. The commission is presenting a new format for the budget to increase the ease of understanding of the financial status of the district.

The commission is hoping to have a format to appeal for financial gifts to be given to the district. The key is to facilitate the building of trust relationships within the district for the work of Christ.

Zoom Listening Sessions for the financials will be:

Sept 29 at 7:00 p.m. and Oct 3 at 10 a.m.

## Staff Reports:

### District Executive Dave Shetler

Dave has not prepared a written report but reflected how many events had to be postponed or cancelled and or transitioned to a Zoom format. In person church is slowly returning with many modifications. Pastoral placements have been difficult to make considering the restrictions made necessary because of the pandemic. Dave has had many meetings with individual pastors. Dave also helped with the camping program. The last 6 months have been difficult. BDM and Young Adults have also used the Zoom account to hold meetings. Dave is encouraged by some of the creativity that has been used to keep things positively moving forward but there have been some individuals that have been very angry and frustrated by what has been happening. Dave expressed how difficult this time has been for him as well. He is appreciative of the support of the Board.

### Communications: Mary Boone

Written report is online. Mary has been focused on how to make certain that details are ready for district conference. Collecting all the needed information needed has been a challenge. TOGETHER is at the printer. Ordination paperwork is progressing.

### Camping and Retreat: Karen Dillon

Karen has had to cancel some things and Cookie Camp is one of things that had to be cancelled. Karen thought we should sell emoji sticks to be used for Zoom meetings.

Women's retreat has been delayed by a month and it will be held on Zoom. The theme will be "This is our prayer". Invitations will be ready in a week. Winter Blast has been cancelled. In planning and reviewing the CDC information they are planning another year of camping experience on Zoom.

### District Mission Ambassadors: Andrew and Debi Wright

Have met with 5 congregations that are meeting in person. They have completed 7 video reports as well as a video of the slate so that delegates can see the pictures. They have been traveling many miles for the District. BDM was recognized by Dayton's Mayor Nan Whaley so that was exciting news.

### Treasurer: Scott Fitzgerald

2019-year end financials have been reformatted into the new format for the district conference. Scott has updated the year to date information also. He also has a 10-year history of congregational and individual gifts which shows that an average of 35K has had to come from other sources to compensate for the short fall of giving. His report is online. Scott has the year by year information of the spending of the money for Woodland Alter maintenance.

Property Updates: Dave Shetler

Bear Creek Property:

Appraisal is completed. The group who has been meeting there have expressed an interest in purchasing the property. Dave would suggest a negotiation team to work with this process.

Mack Memorial:

The insurance company has let them know that they will no longer cover the property as is. The insurance requested an upgrade to the electrical and parking lot and since the congregation knew they were closing; they didn't do this. Several parties have expressed an interest in purchasing the property, but an appraisal needs to be completed first.

A negotiation team: Should handle both negotiations and then bring a recommendation to the board. This team will be appointed. The team will be Dave, Todd, Mary, and Fred.

Congregational updates:

Stoney Creek: has their incorporation in place and are ready for them to have their second vote. Dave suggests that the board call in for that vote rather than being there in person. Would they be open to that? If so, then make certain they understand it is a virus driven decision not a disinterest on the part of the board. How do we verify the vote? If it is done by Zoom then if they can show it to us and we can verify it or we can have them mail the signed ballots to us for verification. Dave has been supported in this suggestion. The date for this is yet to be determined.

Oakland: Pastoral Change Pastor John is leaving, and Andrew Wright has agreed to be the interim pastor. There will be some healing that will need to occur.

Donnels Creek: They had requested that the board provide a statement regarding LBGT. The board invited them to attend and the invitation was not shared. A new board chair has been chosen. They have developed a working relationship with Dave now and are working to find a new pastor. The opening of of communication has been positive.

Program and Arrangements: Sandy Jenkins

Sandy is very appreciative of Mary, Andrew, Lee Saylor, and Mike Sever for their technology creativity and hard work to make this conference work by Zoom.

Commission reports:

Connections: Ron Mack

They have not met.

Shared Ministries: Ann Stackhouse

The young adult group has met and are continuing to do so. No information on district workshops. BDM is hard at work in the tornado recovery. Still need volunteers for putting

together clean up buckets and sewing bee. The annual trip to the service center has been cancelled.

Ministry: Tom Bowser

Have not met since last time. They need to meet to approve the CEU's for district conference.

Missional Renewal: Phil Dell

Most recent meetings have focused on congregations who are going through the survey process and who are going to need coaches.

And the group who are working on anti-racism in our churches. They are working on a vision statement and determining smaller groups to work on this task.

#### Task Team Updates:

Refugee Resettlement: No report given

Climate justice: Working on providing an online series of seminar. Registration is open. Mary has been having an issue with the registration website but should have it resolved in the next week.

Gifts Discernment: Carl Eubanks

Slate has been submitted

#### Update on Covenant Brethren Church:

There was an update from the brotherhood. To date no congregations in our district have expressed an interest in this transition. There have been a few in the east and south areas. There is concern that in the LT letter there was not mention of the withdrawal process. It was an oversight in the letter. There will be a letter from Leadership regarding dual ordination and the withdrawal process to be shared with the congregations.

Guidelines and Recommendations for Resuming in person church gatherings: reaffirmed the last letter.

#### New Business:

##### Historical Commission:

This is technically a committee of the board. They have not really reported to the board. There was an effort to do prepublication sold and the money invested. We need to review who is on the committee and the document may need to be reviewed and may need to be professionally edited.

Larry Heisey and Gale Honeyman are the only remaining members of the committee. The suggestion is for there to be a preliminary conversation with the remaining committee. Leadership team should initiate a conversation as determined by the board.

A huge thank you to Carl who has been on the board for 18 years and is concluding this commitment as of the conclusion of this meeting. It also is the last meeting for Phil and Julie! Participation on the board requires a great deal of time in meetings as well as in pray support for all the work of the churches in the district. All three will be missed.

Next meeting will be the October 31 Board Retreat which will be Zoom with an agenda that includes organization. We may need to do unmuted and sidebar or break out conversations. Karen volunteered to assist in the planning.

The board was lead in prayer by Dave as it concluded its meeting.

Individuals attending this Zoom meeting: Dave Shetler, Becky Maurer, Jen Scarr, Andrew Wright, Debi Wright, Ann Stackhouse, Glenn Timmons, Gary Crim, Jim Baker, Carl Eubank, Carrie Drees, Julie Brewer, Karen Dillion, Michael Yingst, Nick Beam, Phil Dell, Todd Reish, Tom Bowser, Ron Mack, Scott Fistgerald, Sandy Jenkins, Fred Bernhard, Mary Boone, 937-846-0880, 937-832-2630