

## Southern Ohio/Kentucky Board Meeting Minutes DRAFT

May 20, 2023

### Brethren Retirement Community

#### Private Dining Room

Present: Nick Beam, Dennis Delk, Mary Boone, Phil Dell, Carrie Drees, Mindy Tipton, Mike Yingst

Present via Zoom: Vicki Ullery, Staci Peterson, Sarah Friedrich, Tom Bowser, Sie Brock, Amy Hager

Absent: Todd Reish, Dottie Woodard, Fred Circle, Mike Meade,

Ex-officio members absent: Becky Maurer, John Warner, Gary Crim, Ty Pyles, Susan Liller, Scott Fitzgerald

**Welcome** by Mike Yingst.

**Devotions** by Tom Bowser from Acts 6—identity of the CoB—“continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply together”

**Approval of Minutes** from March 25, 2023 meeting: Amy Hager’s name is spelled incorrectly as “Hagar”. Correct spelling is “Hager”. Phil Dell moved to accept the minutes with correction of spelling of Amy’s name. Mindy Tipton seconded the motion.

**Approval of Agenda** — Sie Brock Moved to accept. Amy Hager seconded the motion. Approved unanimously

### Commission Reports

- *Ministry Commission Report* given by Sie Brock, Commission Chair

Report is posted online. Commission met on May 10. Two of our ministers are moving from SOKD to begin serving in Northern Indiana. Paula Ulrich has already begun serving at Beacon Heights Congregation in Ft. Wayne IN on May 1. Staci Peterson will begin serving the Cedar Lake Congregation in Northern Indiana beginning June 2. Two of our ordained ministers are retiring: Vicki Ullery is retiring from New Carlisle Church of the Brethren after 20 years; and Mark Bowman is retiring from Eversole Church of the Brethren after 30 years. Carrie Drees has been affirmed by the Ministry Commission for Ordination. Oakland has not yet affirmed the ordination. The board will official act on the ordination at our July Board Meeting.

- *Mission Renewal Commission Report* given by Phil Dell

Dottie Woodard, Commission Chair was not able to attend. Last meeting April 3. The commission talked about encouraging more churches to participate in Church Survey. Met with Jonathon Shively to discuss details. Did not hold regular May meeting.

- *Shared Ministries Commission Report* given by Mindy Tipton, Commission Chair

The Shared Ministries Commission has met twice since last board meeting. Laura Brown, head of the Young Adults reported that they were having a meeting on May 19.; BDM is still working in Dawson Springs, KY indefinitely. There was a 2 week temporary site in eastern KY as a trial run. People very appreciative of their work there. They took 11 more comforters down from the Olivet Church of the Brethren. Children Disaster Services recently had volunteers in Marble Hill, MO and Little Rock, AK from tornado disasters. Have had another generous donation of volunteers from Korrekt Plumbing. On May 23 at 4:00 PM the Trotwood Church of the Brethren is hosting a Seagoing Cowboys presentation. No meeting is scheduled in June due to CRM camping season. No meeting scheduled in July because of Annual Conference. Next meeting will be in August.

- *Resource Development Commission* report given by Sarah Friedrich, chair.

Have not yet met this month. Things are moving along with generosity project which will be wrapping up in another month. Good News project has not yet taken flight. Will connect with communications commission to work together. Grant requests are coming in. Please let your congregations know there is money available. Leadership Grant potential recipients are not limited to pastors, but can also be used for Sunday School teachers or other leaders. Amy Hager stated that the communications commission is willing to collaborate on the Good News Project. Would like to invite Sarah to meet with Communications Commission to talk about how we can work together.

The RDC has received a grant request from Lower Miami. They have also helped Prince of Peace with VBS, East Dayton, Potsdam, and others

—*Communication Commission report* given by Amy Hager, commission chair.

This commission has taken a slight pause to gather info from Visioning and RDC.

Tom Bowser moved to accept the reports and Dennis Delk Seconded the motion. Reports accepted

## **Staff Reports**

*Nick Beam, Interim District Executive*— written report online.

Update on Bear Creek—Potential buyer is the religious group who has been using the building. This group does not want to incorporate. Due to possibility of lawsuits, Gary Crim, District's Attorney, was hesitant to sell. However, this Group has now decided to incorporate. Resolution (see attached) drafted by Gary was read, and approved.

Happy Corner CoB Resolution (see attached) — would like to sell old Happy Corner building. Building is old and in need of repairs. Since Happy Corner remains active as CoB, they are entitled to sell property and keep proceeds but it must be approved by the board. Resolution approved.

Mack Memorial— a gift has been left in a will by Dora Morgan. The gift is contingent upon Mack Memorial still being in existence. Since Mack Memorial church is no longer a congregation a resolution was accepted by the board stating that we have no claim in the inheritance.

Nick read a letter which was mailed to the Lower Miami church from an anonymous person. The letter was shared to the board from Kathryn Reynolds and Tracy Knechel-Sturgis. Nick asked that we continue to keep this congregation in prayer as they continue to receive these attacks. Any notes or other encouragement to Tracy and the congregation would be appropriate. At this time the Lower Miami congregation has been advised not to be in the building by themselves as protection.

The Living Peace Congregation will be sending a query to Annual Conference addressing 1983 paper on human sexuality. This be discussed further at July Board Meeting. Query will be sent out for the board to read before the July board meeting.

*Treasurers report* — Financials posted online—

Scott Fitzgerald was unable to be at the meeting. Sarah Friedrich, Chair of the Resource Development Commission pointed out that this is only through the end of March. Additional high points of the report can be read on the first page of the online report I the "Treasurer's Notes".

*Mary Boone, Director of Communications* report online

*Carrie Drees, Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries*, Report is posted online

This is Carrie's first meeting as director. She would like to thank the board for the opportunity. She has been meeting with Karen to talk about what things she needs to be doing. 13 attended women's event. Camp is well underway. Theme is Fruitfull Living. Need male counselors for Creative Arts Camp— report online. For the remainder of her first year she is following what Karen has been doing in the past. She will begin to tweak the program as she feels is needed in upcoming years. The Camping and Retreat Commission will meet Tuesday, May 23 to look at camp registrations and make decisions about whether to cancel or adjust camp schedule.

Sie Brock moved to accept staff reports; seconded by Phil Dell  
Staff reports accepted unanimously

**Visioning Committee Update** given by Nick Beam. The Visioning Team has met a couple of times. They are still in the process of trying to chart their path. Much of the meeting time has been spent looking back. They have talked quite a bit about the listening sessions that were held 6-8 years ago. The Committee plans to meet on May 21 in person at Cincinnati Cob. They will worship with Cincinnati as they celebrate with Staci Peterson her recent graduation from Bethany. The committee will meet in person in the afternoon. Stan Duek has been giving valuable assistance in the form of direction and things to think about. Amy Hager shared that as communications commission we are talking about ways we can create two way communication. Asked if this could also be a focus of the Visioning Committee.

**Gifts Discernment Team report** given by Vicki Ullery. The Team has been meeting to work on open positions for District Conference Slate. To date we have no moderator elect for this 2024 or 2025. They also have one district board position yet to fill . Dottie Woodard and Sie Brock have agreed to serve a second term. Jon Keller and Trent Smith will be on the slate serving first term. Isaac Zika has agreed to serve a second term on the Program and Arrangements Commission.

Question posed to board over how new members of Gifts Discernment are chosen. Based on how other commissions choose members, the commission may approach individuals on their own.

The incomplete terms on the board vacated by Staci Peterson and Carrie Drees will be filled by the board.

**District Conference will be Oct 6&7 at West Charleston CoB**

**Annual Conference Delegate briefing** will be Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 Pm via Zoom. We will send out an invitation next week requesting RSVP so we have email addresses.

**Homework from last meeting.** Ideas for using the money from the sale of Mack Memorial and Bear Creek.—  
Looked at minutes from last meeting brainstorming. Further discussion of what to do with the money from Mack Memorial and Bear Creek until Sarah and Scott can be present.

Mike Yingst ended meeting with this poem:

### The Holy Spirit

This is the blessing  
we cannot speak  
by ourselves.

This is the blessing  
we cannot summon  
by our own devices,  
cannot shape  
to our own purposes,  
cannot bend to our own will.

This is the blessing  
that comes  
when we leave behind  
our aloneness,  
when we gather  
together,  
when we turn  
toward one another.

This is the blessing  
that blazes among us  
when we speak  
the words  
strange to our ears,

when we finally listen  
into the chaos,

when we breathe together  
at last.

Closing Prayer by Mike Yingst

Motion to adjourn by Mindy Tipton  
Seconded by Dennis Delk

Meeting adjourned

NEXT MEETING JULY 22

## Resolutions for Board Meeting May 2023

### Dorla Morgan Estate

Whereas the Will of Dorla Morgan gives approximately \$3,000 to Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren. The gift is contingent on Mack Memorial's existence. However, the Mack Memorial stopped worshiping over two years ago, and the District Board sold the Mack Memorial property earlier this year. The Probate Court is asking for documentation on the contingency.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the District Board will pursue no claim to a gift to the Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren from the Estate of Dorla Morgan.

### Happy Corner sale

WHEREAS the Happy Corner Church of the Brethren wishes to sell its old church building.

IT WAS RESOLVED to consent to the sale of the old church building by the Happy Corner Church of the Brethren and authorizes Nick Beam, Interim District Executive, or Todd Reish, Board Chair, to execute the necessary documents to complete this transaction.

### Bear Creek Sale

WHEREAS the transfer from the Bear Creek Church of the Brethren to the District Board of the Church of the Brethren of Southern Ohio has not been completed, but it is anticipated that the transfer will occur before the next regular board meeting;

WHEREAS the District Board desires to complete the sale of the property at 3500 West Third Street to the congregation currently meeting in the building,

IT WAS RESOLVED to sell the property at 3500 West Third Street to the entity designated by the congregation currently meeting in the building for \$205,000 and authorizes Nick Beam, Interim District Executive, or Todd Reish, Board Chair, to execute the necessary documents to complete this transaction.