

Church of the Brethren
Southern Ohio & Kentucky District
District Board Meeting

Date: 7/22/23 Location: Happy Corner COB
Facilitator: **Todd Reish** Recorder: Susan Liller

Attendees			
Attend ✓	Name (voting members)	Attend	Name (non-voting attendees)
✓	Todd Reish – Chair (2) 2024	✓	Ty Pyles (Moderator) ex-officio
	Tom Bowser (2) 2023	✓	Tracy Knechel Sturgis (Moderator-elect) ex-officio
✓	Dennis Delk (2) 2023	✓	Becky Maurer (Standing committee) ex-officio (2) 2024
	- (2) 2023 (rplmnt.for Carrie)	✓	Susan Liller (clerk) ex-officio (1) 2025
	Sie Brock (1) 2023	✓ (zoom)	Scott Fitzgerald (Treasurer) ex-officio
	Dottie Woodard (1) 2023	✓	Nick Beam, Interim DE (staff) ex-officio
✓ (zoom)	Laura Brown (2) 2024	✓	Mary Boone, Dir.Dist.Com. (staff) ex-officio
	Sarah Friedrich (2) 2024	✓	Carrie Drees, Dir.Camping/Retreat Ministry (staff) ex-officio
	- (1) 2024 (rplmnt.for Staci)		John Warner, BRC Administrator
	Fred Circle (1) 2024		Gary Crim, District Attorney
✓	Mike Yingst (2) 2025	✓	Guest – Karen Garrett
✓	Phil Dell (1) 2025	✓	Guest – Caleb Kragt
	Mindy Tipton (1)2025	✓	Guest – Glenn Timmons
✓	Amy Hager (1) 2025	✓ (zoom)	Guest – Deb Oskin
✓ (zoom)	Mike Meade (1) 2025	✓ (zoom)	Guest – Bruce Rosenberger
	Vicki Ullery (Past-moderator)		

Agenda

**Southern Ohio/Kentucky Board Meeting
July 22, 2023
Happy Corner Church of the Brethren**

1. 10:00 – Welcome
10:05 – Devotions
2. 10:15 – Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes
3. 10:25 – Commission Reports
 - a. Ministry - Sie Brock
 - Action on Ordination
 - b. Mission Renewal - Dottie Woodard
 - c. Shared Ministries - Mindy Tipton
 - d. Resource Development - Sarah Friedrich
 - e. Communication - Amy Hager
 - District Tech Team
4. 10:45 – District Conference Update – Ty Pyles
5. 11:00 – Staff Reports
 - a. Nick Beam DE
 - Updates on Bear Creek and Mack Memorial
 - Visioning Update

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- b. Scott Fitzgerald
 - c. Mary Boone
 - d. Carrie Drees
 - 6. 11:30 – Query from Living Peace Church of the Brethren (Order of the Day)
12:00 – Lunch
1:00 – Continued conversation of Query/Action
 - 7. 1:30 – Standing Committee Request for Nominations
 - 8. 2:00 – Discussion of finances
- 2:30 – Adjourn

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Item	Discussion
1)	<p>Pastor Trent Smith welcomed us to Happy Corner COB. Todd led us in a devotion on the Parable of the Sower.</p> <p>The goal of the board is to “plant seeds.” We cannot make everything in the District “good,” but we can plant seeds in good soil and let the congregations nurture the seeds. What kind of seeds do we want to plant? Todd led us in prayer.</p>
2)	<p>APPROVALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agenda Recommended change: move Scott to after approval of minutes due to his need to leave mtg. Amy moved to approve the agenda with the one change, Dennis seconded. Motion passed. b) Minutes of prior mtg (May 20 mtg, and Special June 15 mtg) Phil moved and Mike Y. seconded to accept minutes. Motion passed.
5 b)	<p>Scott Fitzgerald – Treasurer Scott reviewed June 30, 2023 Financial stmts. (attached) Doing well with expenses, but revenue is lagging greatly, mostly due to low giving by churches/individuals. Susan Liller from East Dayton Fellowship: On page 7, East Dayton Fellowship should be listed with receipt of \$1,488 while East Dayton COB should show 0. Scott will correct for Financial Statements that will be posted for 2023 District Conference. Scott presented working budget numbers for 2024 which mostly mirrors 2023. Annual Conference recommended 5.3% increase for staff which is not shown in the prelim budget numbers. This and other items of discussion for 2024 budget were reviewed by Scott (see attached list, “Items of Discussion”). Todd asked how investments have performed this year. Scott says they have increased over 75,000 so far this year, even after including the decrease of Mack Memorial property value when sold. Todd would like to investigate how to increase giving from congregations rather than put guilt on individuals. Scott will bring 2023 Budget to Sept. meeting for action. Mike Y. moved to accept Scott’s report with the one change regarding East Dayton on page 7, Phil seconded. Motion passed.</p>

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3)	COMMISSION REPORTS
3 a)	Ministry Commission – Sie Brock Sie was not here. Nick reported and reviewed Sie’s written report. Carrie has been presented for ordination by the Oakland congregation. On behalf of the Ministry commission, Nick recommended Carrie for ordination. Motion passed.
3 b)	Missional Renewal – Dottie Woodard Dottie was not present at this Board meeting. Mike Y. presented on her behalf. Dottie and Nick had lunch with Jonathon Shively. Todd: Enthusiasm for racial justice has grown in the denomination after SODK presented the query to Annual Conference. Racial Justice will meet this Thursday July 27 at 7pm.
3 c)	Shared Ministries – Mindy Tipton No report submitted.
3 d)	Resource Development – Sarah Friedrich Sarah was not present. Nick read Sarah’s report. (Attached) The recommendation on use of funds from sales of property will be dealt with at Sept mtg with the Budget discussion. Annual conference salary increase recommendation should be 5.3% not 5% (in Sarah’s report).
3 e)	Communication – Amy Hager Behind the scenes work analyzing communication needs of congregations and what can be done to help congregations and what resources are available. Possibly a staff position. This may be a discussion during the development of the 2024 budget. Mary – some congregations are not interested in technology.
	Mike M moved and Dennis seconded to accept all the commission reports with change in AC increase from 5% to 5.3. in Resource Dev. report. Motion passed.
4	District Conference (DC) update – Ty Pyles Ty updated the board on DC plans. Planning & arrangements have met twice onsite at WCcob, met some by Zoom. Nate Polzin will preach Friday evening. Jonathan Shively will lead 2 CEU workshops on Friday and may help with music Friday evening. Volunteers are thin. Help is needed in all areas of DC. – Contact Ty or Nick. District Board is invited to usher on Friday evening, setting up, etc. P&A committee is one person short – Geneva Price has resigned. PJ Arndts has been helping a lot in an unofficial capacity.
5)	STAFF REPORTS
5 a)	Nick Beam - Interim District Executive: Nick reviewed his written report (attached). West Alex has voted (100%) to leave the denomination (and district). \$13,100 will be received from West Alex. Nick proposed that the \$13,100 be turned into a positive situation helping East Dayton Fellowship’s Community Development Director. – to be discussed later in meeting during discussion of Finances.
5 a i)	Updates on Bear Creek and Mack Memorial No new updates.

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5 a il)	Visioning Update
5 c)	<p>Mary Boone – Director of Communications Mary reviewed her written report (attached). Together Fall issue is in process. District Conference is October 6-7, 2023. Online registration is live.</p>
5 d)	<p>Carrie Drees – Director of Camping & Retreat Ministry Carrie highlighted her report (attached). Camp was great. Winter blast is already planned for Jan. Golf Scramble in Aug (for BDM & CRM).</p>
	<p>Mike Y. moved and Amy seconded that the staff reports (except Scott's – already approved) be accepted. Motion passed.</p>
6)	<p>Query from Living Peace Church of the Brethren (11:30 order of the day) Deb Oskin and Bruce Rosenberger joined us from the Columbus Living Peace COB congregation to bring a query recommending the 1983 Human Sexuality Paper be set aside and let each congregation decided how to handle welcoming everyone. Caleb of West Charleston shared how Pastor's Irv and Caleb drafted an initial query for this and then passed it along to Living Peace.</p> <p>Bruce: Shared his volunteer work with Columbus cob and Living stream cob. Lower Miami cob supports this query. WC leadership supports this query and their congregation meets tomorrow (Sunday July 23, 2023) to discuss supporting it as a congregation.</p> <p>Open time for questions. Nick: Process: the board can vote yes or no to pass on to District Conference (DC). If yes, DC then votes whether to pass on to Standing Committee of Annual Conference. If DC votes yes, then it goes to Standing Committee of Annual Conference.</p> <p>Todd: any thought of making the query shorter? Caleb: Have thought of that. There are potentially other similar queries coming and they are all longer.</p> <p>If passed, this would just remove the paper, not change our stance. Standing committee could, if so led, then say we need to replace this paper with a new paper.</p> <p>Discussion followed between board members, Deb, Bruce, and other guests. Amy brought up looking at the AC query process online (which includes recommending a Bible study). Amy asked if that has been considered – adding a bible study to that query process. Caleb mentioned the Inclusion Bible Study that West Charleson has been used several times. Karen: West Charleston and Living Peace have had Input into the query – (Lower Miami affirmed it) did you include others on the opposite theological spectrum in this conversation? Karen: there's lack of trust in the district. These may feel they were not part of this query process (blind-sided) since no one else knows of this query coming.</p>

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	<p>Glenn Timmons – relationship precedes policy. This is not ideal.</p> <p>Todd decided board would have Lunch w/ executive session discussion, then vote. 12:45 - During lunch – Executive session</p> <p>Open discussion Todd read letter from Lower Miam affirming Living Peace’s query. More discussion The individual votes will be confidential. The overall vote can be shared. Executive session Ended 1:05</p> <p>1:05 entered back into regular session. The query came from Living Peace The District Board voted on whether to pass the query to the District Conference in October 2023. The vote resulted in favor of sending the query to District Conference.</p> <p>Amy requested that Nick put the query in his next weekly note so that it could be sent out the next Monday.</p>
7)	<p>Standing Committee Request for Nominations Becky – Chair of the nominating committee (national). Six positions are needed this year. Nom. Committee will meet in January to begin sifting through nominations. Moderator-elect, P&A-1, MMB area 4 (Northern Plains, Western Plains, Missouri-Arkansas, Southern Plains), area 5 (Idaho, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest), Bethany Board (representing colleges), On Earth Peace (5 yr term) Becky encouraged everyone to nominate online. www.Brethren.org/AC click on 2024 nominations</p>
8)	<p>Discussion of Finances Discussion on Scott’s List 2024 Budget Discussion Points</p> <p>Annual Conference recommends 5.3% salary increase. Just District Executive? All Staff? Discussion: A quorum no longer existed so little discussion took place and no vote was taken on salary.</p> <p>Southern Ohio District History book: approx. 2,000-3,000 pages. Would be astronomical costs to print. Should it be electronic instead – online, CD, flash drive? What happens with the money?</p> <p>Church self-allocations continue to decrease – Do we change the budgeted amount to be close to actual?</p>

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	<p>What items/points to highlight at District Conference - bring ideas to next District Board mtg. This will also be discussed at the next Resource Dev. Meeting.</p> <p>Amy brought up the possibility that Communication committee would need a Communication person to assess needs of congregations or be a roaming reporter (videos/pics/writer) for district activities. What does she need to bring to Sept. Board budget mtg. Todd's answer – would need amount of dollars to request and from where will the funds come?</p>
2:10	Adjourned.

Item	Decisions
D1	Board voted to pass the Living Peace Congregation's query on to the 2023 District Conference.

Follow-up Actions				
Item	Action	Due mm/dd/yyyy	Status	Owner

Parking Lot					
No.	Item	Requester	Disposition	Comments	Date
1					
2					
3					

Next Meetings:

Saturday, September 9, 2023
 Saturday, November 4, 2023 (Board Retreat)

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Respectfully Submitted, Susan Liller, clerk 