

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

**Date Location: BRC in Greenville**

Facilitator: **Todd Reish**

Recorder: Susan Liller

<b>Attendees</b>			
Attend ✓	Name (voting members)	Attend	Name (non-voting attendees)
✓	Todd Reish – Chair (2) 2024	✓	Tracy Knechel Sturgis (Moderator) ex-officio
	Laura Brown (2) 2024		Tom Menke (Moderator-elect) ex-officio
✓	Sarah Friedrich (2) 2024	✓	Becky Maurer (Standing committee) ex-officio (2) 2024
	- (1) 2024 (rplmnt.for Staci)	✓	Susan Liller (clerk) ex-officio (1) 2025
	Fred Circle (1) 2024		Scott Fitzgerald (Treasurer) ex-officio
✓	Mike Yingst (2) 2025	✓	Nick Beam, Interim DE (staff) ex-officio
✓	Phil Dell (1) 2025	✓	Mary Boone, Dir.Dist.Com. (staff) ex-officio
	Mindy Tipton (1)2025	✓	Carrie Drees, Dir.Camping/Retreat Ministry (staff) ex-officio
	Amy Hager (1) 2025		John Warner, BRC Administrator
✓	Mike Meade (1) 2025	✓ (zoom)	Gary Crim, District Attorney
	Sie Brock (2) 2026	✓	Guest: Bruce Rosenberger
	Dottie Woodard (2) 2026		
✓	Jon Keller (1) 2026		
✓	Rick Polhamus (1) 2026		
✓	J. Trent Smith (1) 2026		
	Ty Pyles (Past-moderator)		

### Agenda

## **2023 District Board Retreat Agenda**

November 4, 2023

- 1) 9:00                    Devotions with Bruce Rosenberger
- 2) 9:15                    Bruce Rosenberger-Standing with People of Color 7 prompts
  - 10:30    Break
  - 10:45    Standing with People of Color
  - 12:00    Noon
- 3) 1:00                    Business Session
  - a. Approval of Minutes from 09-09-2023 Meeting
  - b. Prices Creek and Bear Creek Updates
  - c. Adjustment to Carrie’s Designated Housing Allowance
  - d. Reflections on District Conference/2024 District Conference Update
  - e. Reorganization of District Board
  - f. Setting Board Meeting Dates for 2024

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Item	Discussion
1)	Todd welcomed us to BRC Bruce led us in brief worship – Psalm 103
2)	<b>Retreat</b> Standing with People of Color 7 prompts – led by Bruce Rosenberger - in small groups, then in Larger group
	<b>Business meeting began at 1:00</b>
3a)	<b>APPROVALS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Add: Prayer concerns</li> <li>ii) Sie brock's wife taken to hospital yesterday</li> <li>iii) Burt wolf open heart surgery this past wed.,</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Minutes of prior mtg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question about item on follow-up actions marked for:</li> <li>West Alex fund use – move to next mtg</li> <li>Backups – moved to next mtg.</li> <li>FYI, Scott has tendered resignation effective 1/31/2024</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mike Meade moved to accept minutes, seconded by Phil Dell. Motion passed.</p>
3b)	<b>Update: Prices Creek and Bear Creek</b> Bear creek – Getting closer to closure. Prices creek is closing – they are cleaning out the building. Nick was contacted by person who previously purchased the parsonage. They want the church for a residence at price of \$75,000. This would mean no realtors involved, no waiting on market. Kevin and Kelly Ott would be the purchaser. Would have to change zoning from church to residence.  Todd: Let's talk about the \$75,000. Getting an appraisal would cost \$1,500. It's an old building. Bear Creek is being sold for 205,000 which has acreage. Mike Y, Mike M, Sarah – 75,000 sounds like a good deal. No closing costs, no commission  Nick moved that we consider this possibility of selling to Ott's for \$75,000. Mike Yingst seconded the motion. Motion passed. Nick will accept that offer from the Otts.  FYI, Pews, projector, sound board (10-15 yrs old), big pull down screen, pulpit, etc. available to congregations if they want it.
3c)	<b>Housing Allowance:</b>

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	<p>---Carrie – would like her housing allowance increased to \$13000 per year                  ---Todd moved that we increase Carries housing allowance to 13,000 per year and continue this amount each year until changed.                  Mike M. seconded.                  Motion passed.</p>
<p>3d)</p>	<p><b>Reflections of District Conference / 2024 District Conference Updates</b></p> <p>Take aways:                  Sarah – afternoon went better than I expected.                  Trent – was there an increase in the number of registered delegates?                  Mary - 91 registered – many congregations sent all 4 delegates when they normally send only 1 or 2.                  Trent – Thankful for Ty’s leadership through the handling of District Conference (DC), especially the query.                  Trent: next DC may be at Salem – how do we get it at other places.                  Tracy – Prog &amp; Arrangements is working on a model for alternative ways to handle/host District Conference.</p> <p>How did you feel about the East Dayton Presentation?                  Sarah and Trent = Super excited, Happy Corner looking at partnering with them.                  Trent. – How Can we be a part of this?                  Todd – Nick and I were very excited about EDF presentation and the excitement it brought.                  Discussion continued about how EDF brings different congregations together. More detail was shared on the newly created Community Development entity arm of EDF with hopes of it becoming a separate 501c3 non-profit to create/work on housing in East Dayton.</p> <p>Booths/displays at District Conference didn’t appear to be well visited.                  Phil – I have problems getting others interested in District Conference in general.                  Tracy – How do we get people interested?                  Perhaps encourage them to bring something for hygiene kits, or a special desert to bring, which church makes the best pies, communion bread baking contest, have congregations share their stories,</p> <p>2024 update for District Conference                  Location / date should be known by end of December.                  May be last weekend in Sept to avoid Manchester’s homecoming.</p> <p>Todd: Visioning Team wanting to put together a Worship service.                  Conversation moved to possibly being potluck.                  At today’s lunch, Todd, Nick, Tracy talked about using 4 of the racial justice prompts at this gathering and the other 3 prompts be used at District Conference. The ancestry part could ask people to bring the congregation’s ancestry, bring your congregation’s favorite hymn.</p>

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3d)	<b>Reorganization of District Board</b> The board reorganized as follows:
	Chair - Todd Reish
	Vice Chair – Mike Yingst
	Gifts Discernment – Ty Pyles
	Ministry Commission – Sie Brock, Mike Meade, Todd Reish
	Missional Renewal – Dottie Woodard, Trent Smith, Rick Polhamus
	Shared Ministries – Mindy Tipton, Laura Brown, Phil Dell
	Resource Development – Sarah Friedrich, Jon Keller, Fred Circle
	Communication – Amy Hager, Mike Yingst
	<b>Setting Board Meeting Dates for 2024</b> Saturday January 6, 2024 (10am start) Troy COB Saturday March 2, 2024 Painter Creek COB Saturday May 4, 2024 KY - Mudlick/Flat Creek Saturday July 13, 2024 Stonelick COB Saturday September 7, 2024 Lower Miami COB Saturday November 9, 2024 – Board Retreat - BRC
3e)	Nick suggested we give Bruce an honorarium of \$250 Board came to consensus to do this.
	Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Item	Decisions
D1	Board reorganized as above in 3d.
D2	Board agreed to pay Bruce Rosenberger \$250 honorarium for leading the Board Retreat.

Follow-up Actions				
Item	Action	Due mm/dd/yyyy	Status	Owner
4a	At reorganization mtg, can we discuss the process of clarifying roles and backups? - When DE is unavailable? - Backup logins to website, FB, etc. - Backup check signer?  (FYI: from ByLaws: § 5.2 Checks, drafts, and other instruments. All of the District's checks, drafts, and other instruments shall be signed as shall from time to time be determined by resolution. In the absence of such resolution, the Treasurer or the Clerk shall sign.)	01/6/2024 revised 11/4/2023		
7	Use of West Alex funds to be discussed at Board's November reorg meeting.	01/6/2024 revised 11/4/2023		Board

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Parking Lot					
No.	Item	Requester	Disposition	Comments	Date
1	It was decided to meet with Dean Garrett at a future Board meeting (1st or 2nd of 2024) to discuss future of history book.	From discussion of 2024 Budget.			From 9/9/23 Dist. Bd. Mtg.
2	Resource Development needs to clarify the Emerging ministries fund (how to apply and for what purposes).	From discussion of 2024 Budget & use of Grants.			From 9/9/23 Dist. Bd. Mtg.
3					

Next Meetings:

Saturday January 6, 2024 (10am start) Troy COB

Saturday March 2, 2024 Painter Creek COB

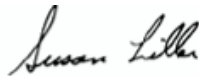
Saturday May 4, 2024 KY - Mudlick/Flat Creek

Saturday July 13, 2024 Stonelick COB

Saturday September 7, 2024 Lower Miami COB

Saturday November 9, 2024 – Board Retreat - BRC

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Liller, clerk



# SEQUENCE CHART SWPOC 7 PROMPTS WORKSHOP

## *Standing with People of Color*

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 9am – noon BRC/Zoom/Hybrid

TIME and Time range	PURPOSE/PROCESS	LEAD	ACTIVITIES/ NOTES
9:00 am	Welcome & Announcements	Todd	
9:05 - 9:15 am	A time of worship and prayer.	Bruce	
9:15 – 9:20 am (5–10 minutes)	Introductions (Who's Who) and Check-ins (1 sentence each)	Bruce	Intro: Name, Congregation and 1 sentence check in each. Purpose is so everyone hears everyone's voice.
9:20 am to 9:22 am (2 minutes)	DUAL PURPOSE statement: 1. Experiential sharing of the 7 Prompts 2. How can this be used in your congregation, family?	Bruce	
9:22 – 9:25 am (3 minutes)	PREPARATION: 1-You each have in front of you in paper or on a screen, the two-page 7 Prompts handout. 2-This Workshop Sequence Chart (4 columns)	Bruce	Review the Sequence Chart Overview
9:25 – 9:40 am (15 min)	The Beloved Model for reflection and inspiration – Reminder QUOTE: human PAIN ...	Bruce	"What did you hear?"  What caught your attention?
9:40 – 10:15 am (35 minutes)	<u>SHARING the 7 prompts page</u> (portraits at top of page)  1. Family Tree (15 min.) 2. Cultural awareness (10 min) 3. Message Jesus has for you. (10 min.)	Bruce	In <b>TRIAD</b> groups (breakout rooms)  Alerts will be given to move to the next person to share and also when to move to the next prompt.
10:15 – 10:30 am	<b>BREAK (15 min.)</b>		Please be ready to resume at 10:30 am in your triad locations.

TIME and Time range	PURPOSE/PROCESS	LEAD	ACTIVITIES/ NOTES
10:30 – 10:40 (10 min)	Reflecting as a total group. What did you experience? How did you feel?	Bruce	Total Group discussion (stay in your triad location)
10:40 – 11:00 (20 min)	Sharing prompts 4 and 5 <b>(10 minutes each)</b> 4. Spiritual healing/growth 5. How to support POC		A bell or chime will indicate to move to the next Prompt.
11:00 – 10:10 (10 min)	Reflecting as a total group. What did you experience? How did you feel?	Bruce	Total Group discussion (stay in your triad location)
11:10 – 11:20 am (20 min)	Sharing prompts 6 and 7 <b>(10 minutes each)</b> 6. Your Vision of justice 7. Your sacrifice...?		A bell or chime will indicate move to the next Prompt.
11:20 am	Please reconvene around the original meeting tables.		
11:25 – 11:40 am	BRIEF Observations from each participant: 1) what you experienced, or 2) How do you feel about this process	Bruce	
11:40 – 11:44 am	Each to share either a GEM or something especially appreciated (1 word to 1 sentence)	Bruce	
11:44 - 11:45 pm	REMINDER: Please return the Feedback Circle/form. THANK YOU!	Bruce	
11:45 - 11:55 am	As a District Board how can we encourage the use of this process in congregations, family groups, and other district events?	Todd	Reminder: This process began with our district. May we not drop the ball.
11:55 - noon	Announcements & Prayer of Thanksgiving for the noon meal.	Todd	



*Standing with  
People of Color*

## **CRUCIAL CHRISTIAN CONVERSATIONS**

*We are asking the entire Church of the Brethren to engage in conversations in various settings in the next year, using the discussion prompts below. We hope the church will share together around the family table, in Sunday School or other congregational settings, in districts, and in other Brethren agencies and venues.*

### **Instructions:**

Using the “BELOVED” model for Crucial Christian Conversations (on the back), share with each other your personal stories and experiences for each of the discussion prompts below.

Consider using a short statement prior to each person sharing their responses such as “Peace be with you” “We hold you in the Light of God,” or a gem of gratitude after each person has shared.

At various times during your sharing circle, check your feelings and emotions and check-in with others. Consider naming an emotion you are feeling while sharing your own responses or while listening to others. Use 1, 2, or 3 words to briefly describe what you understand the person speaking has shared.

### **Discussion Prompts:**

**1**

Share your family’s origin story. Go back as many generations as you know and start there. Briefly share some of your family history/tree up to your current family.

**2**

Share a compelling memory of when you became aware of cultural, racial, or color differences.

**3**

Share the message Jesus has for you or us about justice and racism. What does Jesus want you to hear or see? What does Jesus call you or us to do next?

**4**

If you listen to Jesus’ call, what spiritual healing or personal growth might you have to do?

**5**

If you are a white/dominant culture Brethren, how can you support/stand with people of color (POC)? If you are a POC, what does it mean for you to stand with other people of color?

**6**

Imagine if things were different and there were more racial justice. What do you envision?

**7**

What are you willing to sacrifice to achieve that goal?



**Church of the Brethren**  
*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*



# BELOVED Model for Crucial Christian Conversations

## Before You Share

**B** Before sharing, remind yourself of the purpose of the activity and contemplate your responses. Centering oneself can be done through a brief meditation, silent prayer or a few deep breaths. Visualize a safe space for yourself and others to become a BELOVED community.

## Empathize

**E** Empathize with others and oneself. Feel with your heart. Put yourself in the other person's shoes. Display empathy for each person as you journey together to understand your unique history, background, and experiences. Strive towards mutual trust and respect with one another while seeking justice and healing.

## Listen

**L** Listen from your heart to one another. Some may feel vulnerable especially if sharing painful experiences or memories. Paraphrase (2 or 3 words) or summarize to show that you are listening deeply and striving to understand.

## Offer Your Perspective

**O** Offer your perspective. Calmly share one's own perspective and feelings, experiences and understandings, memories, pain, or puzzlements. Speak only for yourself and about your own unique experience. Share the Truth as you have discerned and remembered it.

## Visualize

**V** Our vision of a BELOVED community is learning to nurture the Realm of God here on earth. Visualize and share what you might do differently as a result of this conversation.

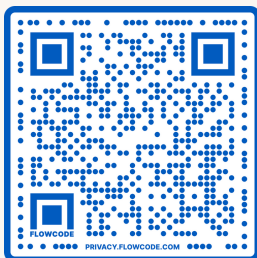
## Engage

**E** Actively participate while being aware of relationship dynamics. Remind yourself to "Step Back" if you usually get the floor and/or find yourself sharing often or too long and "Step Up" if you usually are quiet or feel hesitant to share. Be curious. Lean into listening and wondering.

## Discover and Discern

**D** Reflect on your own learning during this time of sharing together. Share what you learned with others while protecting another's vulnerability. Remember to maintain anonymity (unless the person states that it is okay to share their experiences with others). Discern your own pathway about where else you might engage in sharing or moving forward with these justice issues.

*Pain humans experience includes not being seen, not being heard, not being trusted, not being recognized, not feeling safe and secure.*  
- Sister Theresa of Winnipeg



BELOVED Model developed by Barbara Daté and Christy Schaub for the 2022-2024 Church of the Brethren Standing with People of Color process

StandingWithPeopleofColor@brethren.org  
www.OnEarthPeace.org/swpoc  
www.brethren.org/swpoc