

Director of Communications Report

March 2, 2024

As always, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you and my gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren. I see this ministry as one of my greatest blessings.

—The spring, 2024 issue of “Together” magazine is in the design phase and will be going to print on March 9. The theme is “. . . And God breathed life” and reflects the theme of this year’s district conference.

- Plans for the 2024 District Conference are underway. I’ve worked with the Program and Arrangements Committee, Tracy (Moderator) and Debbie Noffsinger to design this year’s conference logo (see below). I’ve met with the committee 3 times since the last board meeting. In addition to planning District Conference, we are organizing 3 pre-conference meetings. Since this is somewhat unusual for SOKD, the Program and Arrangements Committee asked me to mail out a “Save the Date” card to the mailing list so folks can get place the dates on their calendars. The first was of these meetings was held on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, at East Dayton Fellowship.
- Plans are moving forward for District conference. Our next meeting is March 12 and will be held at Prince of Peace.

—As I state in almost every report, much of what I do is repetitive and routine, such as the usual tasks of collecting mail, processing deposits, monthly newsletter and bulletin inserts, etc.

—I continue to work with the Communications Commission to look at ways to improve communication within the district. Some exciting things are happening as we work to improve and update our communication strategy.

1. The first project we’ve begun is video production. We have begun working with Dave Sollenbarger on two videos. We are using Matthew 22:36-40 *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself*, along with the 2024 District Conference theme, “Breathe in the Beloved” as framework for this video. It will be ready to share at district conference and send home with delegates and/or mail out to our congregations afterwards. The goal of this video is to help individuals feel good about being a part of something larger than congregation. We will do this by sharing stories of congregations across the district and of district ministries such as Camping and Retreat and Disaster Ministries. We have chosen to specifically focus on the ministries of the Potsdam, Oakland, Troy, Olivet, and Cincinnati congregations.

The second video will be a wrap up of the 3 pre-conference meetings. These 3 meetings are designed to build upon each other. Since we are aware that the attendance of each of these meetings will be different, we would need a way to allow each of the meetings to build upon what happened at the preceding meeting or meetings. Dave has started working on the video of the Ash Wednesday service and has shared a very rough recording with us.

2. Our second project is looking at the expansion of our social media. The Communications Commission and I met with Jan Fischer Bachman, Website Producer for the Church of the Brethren. She helped us look at things like “What do we want to accomplish through use of social media?” “What type of information would we want to share?” and more. She also sent us a document that the denomination has used and we also found helpful (see attached). Work on our social media strategy continues.

I remain so very grateful for the opportunity to serve Southern Ohio and Kentucky District and look forward to new opportunities to be used by God in this ministry!!!!

Respectfully,
Mary Boone,
Director of Communications,
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

