

Join us for District Conference July 24-25, 2015 at the Mohican Church of the Brethren The Conference Theme is: Hear His Voice . . . Seek His Face . . . Answering the Call of Jesus

Did you hear that?

How many times have we encountered a situation where we felt the call to react or step up, to help someone, only to rationalize that we don't have the time or the expertise to do what is needed?

We have all been in this situation and after the fact have felt ashamed that we did nothing. We may even call to mind the acronym that many of us grew up with: WWJD?

As we come together for Northern Ohio District Conference July 24 and 25, this is one of the questions we will explore. As a people; as children of the Most High, we will look at recognizing the Voice of God and considering our own response to His voice; His call.

At our conference we will hear from some who have heard the Call and learn about their response. My prayer is that we all learn to react to our own hearing of the Call



of God. I pray we will also learn to recognize the gifts and call of those around us and learn to encourage others in their own response.

I encourage all pastors and church leaders to attend the Pre-Conference Workshop that begins at noon on Friday where we will explore our own Spiritual Gifts and recognition of Spiritual Gifts in others as well as ways to encourage the development of those gifts. Pastors will earn contact hours for continuing education but all are encouraged to come and share.

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#### Mark Your Calendar

June 25, 7 p.m.
EYN Women's Fellowship Choir
Appreciation Concert
Maple Grove CoB
Ashland, Ohio

June 28, 3-5 p.m.
Annual Conference Moderator
Reception & Delegate Briefing
Mansfield First CoB
Mansfield, Ohio

July 11-15 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Tampa, Florida

July 24-25 Northern Ohio District Conference Mohican Church of the Brethren West Salem, Ohio

### Hear His Voice... Seek His Face... Continued

We begin conference Friday evening hearing from Carl and Roxane Hill as they share their call and where it has led them in their service. They will share their involvement with the Nigerian Disaster Response in an insight session after dinner. Roxane and Carl will then lead us in our opening worship that evening.

Our Friday evening worship offering will be going to Nigerian Crisis Fund along with a gift from the District Board. I ask that each congregation in the District consider taking a special offering for the work in Nigeria that can be brought to conference and added to the gift. We have all heard the reports of kidnaping, murder and destruction carried out by Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria and neighboring countries. We have heard of the devastating impact Boko Haram attacks have had on the Nigerian Brethren, the largest Christian group in Northern Nigeria. Here is an opportunity for us to help in the effort to encourage and support those at the front of the effort for peace and renewed faith in the region.

As we prepare to gather for Conference this summer let's keep in mind the admonition found in Psalms 105:4 "Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!"

The Lord's Blessings upon each of you,

Mike Zellers

### 2015 Conference Schedule

2013 Con	ici chec Benedule
	Friday, July 24
12:00-5:00pm	Preconference workshop for pastors and church leaders
3:00pm	Registration Begins
3:00pm	Exhibit Set-up Lobby
3:00pm	Peace Auction Set-up Around
	Fellowship Hall
5:00pm	Dinner
6:15pm	Insight Session in Sanctuary
	Carl & Roxanne Hill, Co- Directors for
	Nigerian Crisis Response
7:30pm	Gather for Worship – Transition from
	Sanctuary to Fellowship Hall
9:00pm	Ice Cream Social & Entertainment
	Saturday, July 25
8:00am	Business Session Begins
11:50am	Lunch
12:30-1:30pm	Insight Sessions
1:40pm	Business Session Resumes
3:40-5:10pm	Insight Sessions
5:15pm	Dinner
6:30pm	Worship/Installation of New Officers

# Pre-Conference Workshop Thrive: Living Your Spiritual Gifting and Strengths

People want to be part of something larger than themselves. We want to know what God has gifted us to do. How God has gifted us, and who and where to serve.

You have a unique combination of spiritual gifts, strengths, personality, and passion and life experience. God created each of us for a purpose. Discovering your spiritual gifting encourages you to live out your unique purpose, and serve so that the Body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:12).

The "Thrive" workshop integrates interactive activities demonstrating spiritual gifts and strengths in action. You will be amazed at how much you can learn in an afternoon.

### **Guest Speaker: Stan Dueck**

Stan Dueck is Director for Transforming Practices with Congregational Life Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. An ordained minister, Stan having pastored two congregations, both started in 1724 Stan is a coach, consultant, mentor, and teacher. He has

developed resources and presented workshop topics pertaining to church leadership, congregational vitality, transitional ministry, strategic planning, evangelism, coaching and emerging missional

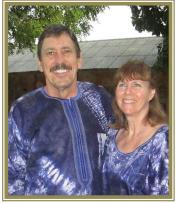


church movements. Stan has a passion for cultivating healthy congregations and developing effective leaders.

Stan has been instrumental in the development of the congregational vitality process known as Vital Ministry Journey (VMJ). He produces webinars for pastors and congregational leaders, hosted by the Church of the Brethren.

Stan is a graduate of Fresno Pacific College (Fresno, CA) and Lancaster Theological Seminary (Lancaster, PA). In recent years, Stan has completed extensive training with the Center for Parish Development, Multiple Health Systems and the College of Executive Coaching, attaining certification with the International Coaching Federation as a leadership and personal coach.

# Friday Evening Insight Session with Carl & Roxanne Hill, Co-Directors for Nigerian Crisis Response



Carl has an M.Div. and is an ordained minister with pastoral experience. He is a people person with a passion for learning and teaching about Jesus.

Roxane is a "Missionary Kid" who grew up in Nigeria. She is the detail/numbers person behind Carl. She has been a teacher, bookkeeper, and Children's Director at a large church in California.

Both Carl and Roxane are McPherson College graduates; they have been married for 37 years. They are the parents of three grown children and five grandchildren. Through their 2 years teaching at Kulp Bible College, they have come to love the Nigerian people. News of the destruction of the EYN (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria) area (where they lived) is heartwrenching. The two of them recently took the position as Co-Directors for Nigeria Crisis Response.

They feel privileged to serve Church of the Brethren, both in Nigeria and America.

### **WORSHIP TIMES & SPEAKERS**

Friday Evening—7:30pm

Carl & Roxanne Hill, Co-Directors for Nigerian Crisis Response

Church of the Brethren General Offices, Elgin, IL

(See bios above)







Mike is a retired high school math teacher and has been in the pulpit at Freeburg for 20 years. He grew up in the church at Freeburg CoB and was called to serve after being licensed for ministry and filling the pulpit during a pastoral vacancy for several months. He served on the District Board, one year as chair and is the 2015 District Conference Moderator.

He is married to his wife Connie for almost 36 years, they have 3 grown children and 6 grandchildren. He enjoys hunting and fishing but spends more time now reading and watching his grandkids grow.

### Ice Cream Social, Friday 9pm



Please join us Friday evening for an Ice Cream Social. Cost is included with your registration fee. Make your own sundae and have a time of fellowship with your brothers and sisters while enjoying musical entertainment.



### **Insight Sessions**

### Friday Evening, 6:15pm

"Nigerian Crisis Response" Speakers: Carol & Roxanne Hill (Co-Directors for Nigerian Crisis Response, Church of the Brethren). Through their 2 years teaching at Kulp Bible College, they have come to love the Nigerian people. News of the destruction of the EYN (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria) area (where they lived) is heart-wrenching. The two of them recently took the position as Co-Directors for Nigeria Crisis Response. They feel privileged to serve Church of the Brethren, both in Nigeria and America. They will share the story of the Nigerian church's struggle to be faithful and continue in ministry during this time of crisis for the church and their country.

### Saturday Afternoon, 12:30-1:30pm

"Destiny Rescue, Working Against Human Trafficking in Thailand" Speakers: Alison Bartholomew (Mohican CoB) & Rachelle Nicholson (Mohican CoB). Details to follow on District Website.

"Report on Mission Trip to Sudan" Speaker: Bruce Jacobsen (Pastor, Mt. Pleasant CoB). Details to follow on District Website.

### Saturday Afternoon, 3:40-5:10pm

"Presentation By Brethren Benefit Trust" Speaker: Loyce Borgmann (Assistant Director of Client Relations, Brethren Benefit Trust). Details to follow on District Website.

**"Transforming Conflict"** Speaker: Rick Polhamus (Conflict Transformation Trainer, Volunteer On Earth Peace). In the Epistle of James, we are admonished to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger." Learn how to use these dynamics to work through conflicts faithfully and successfully. The session is planned for deacons and church leaders as well as anyone else who has ever been touched by conflict.

### **Pastoral Placement Calendar**

**Akron Eastwood** – Paul Bozman called as pastor on April 19, start date August 3. Cindy Peel serving as interim.

**Akron First** – Search Committee conducting pastoral interviews. Tobin Crenshaw serving as interim.

**Akron Springfield** – Search committee preparing congregational profile. Tom Michaels serving as interim.

**Baltic** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**Bethel** – Woody Johnson retiring as pastor effective May 31.

**Center** – Paul Bozman resigning as pastor effective July 26.

**Chippewa** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**East Nimishillen** – Search Committee preparing congregational profile. Matthew Reed serving as interim.

**Lake Breeze** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**Lick Creek** – Search Committee preparing congregational profile. Dr. Nancy Berkheiser serving as interim.

**Maple Grove** – Search Committee reviewing pastoral profiles and résumés for associate pastor.

**Marion First** – Rick Hicks serving an interim.

**Owl Creek** – Charles Barnhill serving as interim

Painesville – Interims John and Sondra Bocchieri called as pastors May 31. Installation date to be scheduled.

**Richland** – Search committee conducting pastoral interviews. Jim Frado serving as interim.

Ross – Keith Stoller serving as interim. Sugar Creek West – Search Committee preparing congregational profile. Dr. Byron Hawbecker serving as interim.

**Swan Creek** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**Woodworth** – Mitch Funkhouser serving as interim.

# Coming At the 2015 District Conference!

Northern Ohio District Conference; July 24-25, 2015, West Salem, Ohio



## A Silent Auction For the Peace Endowment Fund

# Support District Peace Education Efforts!

The Silent Auction at District Conference is organized by the Peace Task Team to raise money for the District Peace Endowment Fund. This fund supports peace education efforts in the District.

As one of the Historic Peace Churches, we are committed to teaching Christ's message of peace – peace within ourselves as we make our peace with Jesus; peace within our families, our congregations, and with our friends; peace in our communities; and peace in the world between nations and factions within nations. The Peace Endowment Fund was established in 1988 to support efforts in the District to teach the things that make for peace!

### **DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!**

We need you

to bring handmade items and goodies for auction!

Donate:

Handcrafted items Artist's Work Homemade Food

Take part in the Peace Auction Have a little fun donating to a good cause! Take home something special too!

### How to Donate Items:

- Please bring your donated items to the Exhibit Area Friday, July 24 by 5 p.m.
- Give us an estimate of their value
- Please note what a minimum starting bid should be

We appreciate all those who contribute item for the Auction!

# need you

We also to come prepared to bid on the donated items in the auction!

### How the Auction Works:

- The Silent Auction runs from 5 p.m. Friday to 6:30 p.m. Saturday.
- The person with the highest bit on an item at 6:30 p.m. Saturday takes the item home in return for their contribution to the Peace **Endowment Fund!**
- All items should be picked up on Saturday evening.

We appreciate all those who contribute to Peace Endowment Fund peace education efforts by biding on items in the auction!

Come, contribute generously, and take home a hand crafted item or two!

# Children of All Ager ARE Welcomed



for infants
through
kindergarten is
provided during
worship.

Diane Johnson (Mohican CoB) is in charge of Child Care

### Children's



### Activities

for children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades are provided during business sessions on Saturday.

Frankie Graber (Hartville CoB) is in charge of Children's Activities

### Adult Registration Form

July 24 – 25, 2015 Northern Ohio District Conference YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 17 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS.

#### IF YOU ARE REGISTERING CHILDREN SEE BACK

Send Registration Forms and checks to: (Make checks out to "Northern Ohio District") Ginny Herbert 7082 State Route 97, Mansfield, O. 44903 419-462-3203 cherb7082@gmail.com Send Authorization forms without payment to: Jeanene Pifer 3546 Denise Dr., Toledo, O. 43614 419-344-4006

To save printing cost and trees, only a limited number of conference books will be printed. Conference materials can be printed from the District Website: www.nohcob.org.

REGISTER BY JUNE 29 AND CHECK YES, IF YOU WANT A PRINTED BOOK

Congre	gatio	n Nar	me:			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Congregati	on Name:			
Your Na	me					M/F	Your Name	Your Name M/F			
Address	S (Stre	eet)				<del> </del>	Address (S	treet)			
(City, Sta	ate, z	ip cod	de)				(City, State,	zip code)			
Phone Number E-mail Is this your first conference? Yes □						<del></del>	Phone Nun Is this you	nber ur first conference? Y	E-mail es □		
Do you	want	t a pı	rinted C	onference	Book?	′es 🔲 No 🖵	Do you wa	nt a printed Conference	Book?	res 🔲 No 🗆	]
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				Meal Pla	ın			Meal Pl	an		
		nner, S	aturday lun	ch & dinner)	\$24.00			dinner, Saturday lunch & dinner)	\$24.00		
Sat. lunch o Vegan?	nly		_		\$8.50		Sat. lunch only		\$8.50	Total	
		Yes				Total	Vegan?	Yes 🔲		10101	

Total

Yes 📮 Please bring your own pillow/ bed linens. If tent camping, please bring your own tent.

Adult

\$25.00 each

 $M \square F \square$ 

M □ F□

Housing

at camp Friday

Saturday

For those seeking other housing, there are hotel and bed & breakfast options in the Ashland Wooster area. See a list of some options on the district website: www.nohcob.org. You will need to make arrangements with a hotel or bed & breakfast on your own.

Family

\$50.00

Breakfast

\$7.00

Sat.

Sun 🗖

There is	an <u>Ice Cr</u>	eam Socia	<u>l</u> Friday	after worship.
The cost	is include	ed in regist	ration fe	es. Will you
attend?	Yes 🗆	No 🗖		

Please add together your registratio	n fee, meal
and housing costs: Total costs:	

### **Housing at Camp Inspiration Hills**

Housing	Adult \$25.00 each	Family \$50.00	Breakfast \$7.00	Total
at camp	\$25.00 each	\$50.00	\$7.00	
Friday	F M		Sat. 🗖	
Saturday	M 🗆 F 🗆		Sun 🗖	
Tent	Yes 🗖			

Please bring your own pillow/ bed linens. If tent camping, please bring your own tent.

For those seeking other housing, there are hotel and bed & breakfast options in the Ashland Wooster area. See a list of some options on the district website: www.nohcob.org. You will need to make arrangements with a hotel or bed & breakfast on your own.

There is an Ice Cr	eam Social Friday afte	er worship
The cost is include	ed in registration fees.	Will you
attend? Yes □	No 🗖	

Please add	together	your reg	istrat	ion f	ee,	mea
and housin	g costs:	Total cos	ts:			

### Child Under 12 Under Registration Form

July 24 – 25, 2015 Northern Ohio District Conference YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 17 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS.

#### IF YOU ARE REGISTERING ADULTS, SEE PAGE ONE

Make checks out to "Northern Ohio District"

Send registration forms to: Ginny Herbert, 7082 State Route 97; Mansfield, Ohio 44903. Phone (419) 462-3203.

Child 1	Child 2			
Congregation Name:	Congregation Name:			
Child's Name M/F Age/Grade	Child's Name M/F Age/Grade			
Address (Street, City, State)	Address (Street, City, State)			
Parent's Name	Parent's Name			
Parent's Phone Number Is this your child's first conference? Yes □	Parent's Phone Number Is this your child's first conference? Yes □			
Parent's contact information at conference	Parent's contact information at conference			
Who will pick up children from their activities?  Children under 12 do not pay registration fees.	Who will pick up children from their activities?  Children under 12 do not pay registration fees.			
Child Under 5 Meal Plan	Child Under 5 Meal Plan			
Three meals (Fri Dinner, Sat Lunch & Dinner) \$10.50	Three meals (Fri Dinner, Sat Lunch & Dinner) \$10.50			
Sat. Lunch Only \$4.25	Sat. Lunch Only \$4.25			
Child Over 5 Meal Plan	Child Over 5 Meal Plan			
Three meals (Fri Dinner, Sat Lunch & Dinner) \$24.00	Three meals (Fri Dinner, Sat Lunch & Dinner) \$24.00			
Sat. Lunch Only \$8.50	Sat. Lunch Only \$8.50			
SEE ADULT FORM FOR HOUSING INFORMATION	SEE ADULT FORM FOR HOUSING INFORMATION			
There is an <i>Ice Cream Social</i> Saturday after worship. The cost <i>is included in registration fees</i> .  Will your child attend? Yes \( \subseteq \text{No} \( \supseteq \)	There is an <i>Ice Cream Social</i> Saturday after worship. The cost <i>is included in registration fees</i> .  Will your child attend? Yes □ No □			
Preschool Children: Child care is provided during	Preschool Children: Child care is provided during			
worship on Friday and Saturday & during Saturday business sessions. Register children who will be in Child Care.	worship on Friday and Saturday & during Saturday business sessions. Register children who will be in Child Care.			
Will your child be in Child Care during Worship or Business Sessions? Yes □ No □ Check When Below	Will your child be in Child Care during Worship or Business Sessions? Yes □ No □ Check When Below			
Friday Worship Saturday Business Saturday Worship	Friday Worship Saturday Business Saturday Worship			
Grade School Children: Children's activities are provided for children in grades 1 through 6 during the Saturday business sessions. Register children who will participate in Children's Activities. Will your child attend Children's Activities on Saturday? Yes □ No □  Does your child have any special needs, food allergies, etc? Yes □ No □ Explain:  Parent or Guardian's Signature:	Grade School Children: Children's activities are provided for children in grades 1 through 6 during the Saturday business sessions. Register children who will participate in Children's Activities. Will your child attend Children's Activities on Saturday? Yes □ No □ Does your child have any special needs, food allergies, etc? Yes □ No □ Explain:  Parent or Guardian's Signature:			
Please add together your child's Meal Cost:	Please add together your child's Meal Cost:			
Total Costs: \$	Total Costs: \$			

### **Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren** 2015 DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATE AUTHORIZATION FORM

Mail the form to:	ease do not include any payments with this form.
Jeanene Pifer A	Il payments should be sent with the Registration
3546 Denise Dr. <u>Fo</u>	orm along with any choices for meals and lodging.
Toledo, Ohio 43614	
CONGREGATION NAME:	
Delegate 1	
Name	
Complete Mailing Address	
Phone Number:	E-mail Address:
Delegate 2	
Name	
Complete Mailing Address	
Phone Number:	E-mail Address:
Delegate 3	
Name	
Complete Mailing Address	
Phone Number:	E-mail Address:
Delegates Authorized by: (Pastor, Clerk, or Me	oderator) Sign below, name and title

Number of Delegates: District Polity says: "There shall be two (2) for each member church or fellowship with 200 or fewer members. Larger churches shall have one (1) delegate for each additional 100 members or fraction thereof. One delegate should be a church board member. No elected delegate shall serve more than two years in succession, except in those congregations where the average weekly worship attendance is (35) or less.

# Nigerian Women's Choir and BEST Group Coming to Northern Ohio!

When: June 25, 7pm

**Where:** Maple Grove Church of the Brethren

What: An Appreciation Concert to express EYN's appreciation for all the support given by the American Brethren during a time of persecution, violence, and hardship in Nigeria.

### Come

Meet Brothers and Sisters from the Nigerian Church.
Hear their stories.
Listen to the Women's Choir.
Enjoy Christian fellowship together.



photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford (This is a cloth worn by the ZME women's group of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

The two groups coming are from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria): the Brethren Evangelism Support Trust (BEST), a group of business people and professionals; and an EYN Women's Fellowship Choir.

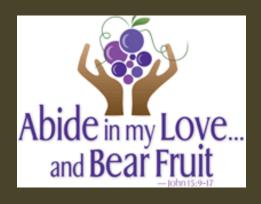
BEST regularly sends groups to visit with the American Brethren. They invite the EYN Women's Fellowship Choir to join them. The choir will be performing 28 "Appreciation Concerts" during their three-and-a-half-week U.S. visit.

### **Annual Conference**

Online Advanced Registration and Housing Reservations end June 10! If you have not registered for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference now is the time to do so! Advance registration ends on June 10.

The next time to register will be on-site where the registration fees increase. Annual Conference will be held July 11-15 in Tampa, Florida. Click here or go to brethren.org/ac and follow the steps to complete your registration.

Dave Sollenberger has produced a DVD containing information about the business of Annual Conference this summer in Tampa. The Northern Ohio District has a copy available for loan. However, please note that a link to this DVD is also posted on the Annual Conference homepage brethren.org/ac.



Annual Conference Moderator District Visit



Sunday, June 28, 2015, First CoB Mansfield Worship,10:30 a.m. Speaker, David Steele Reception & Delegate Briefing, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

Annual Conference delegates, pastors and church members from across the district are invited to meet Annual Conference Moderator David Steele, learn about all that's going on in the Church of the Brethren in America and around the world, and chat about the 2015 Annual Conference and business items to be considered.

### **District Prayer Calendar**

May 31—June 6, Reading CoB (Pastor Larry Bradley) and Richland CoB (Interim Jim Frado)

June 7—June 13, Ross CoB (Interim Keith Stoller) and Silver Creek CoB (Pastor Terry Baldwin)

June 14—June 20, Sugarcreek East CoB (Pastor Dick Marshall) and Sugar Creek West CoB (Interim Byron Hawbecker)

June 21—June 27, Swan Creek CoB (Pastoral Vacancy) and Water Street CoB (Pastor Denny Fox)

June 28—July 4, Woodworth CoB (Pastor Mitch Funkhouser) and Zion Hill CoB (Pastor Jason Harsh)

### **Special Thanks**

The District Office gives special thanks and shout outs to Mike Zellers, Linda Fry, Ginny Herbert and John Ballinger for providing content and editing for The Herald, District Conference Issue 2015. Your contributions and dedication are very much appreciated!

THE NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 1107 East Main Street Ashland, Ohio 44805 Phone 419.281.3058 Fax 419.281.8194 www.nohcob.org