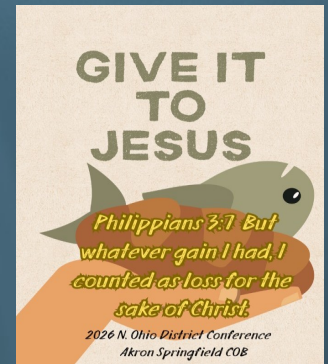




District Conference 2026

Wrap Up

2026 Conference Highlights

Our Northern Ohio District Conference was held August 14-15 at the Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren. It was a great joy to have all the congregations come together.

Moderator Cindy Peel, chose “Give It To Jesus” (Philippians 3:7) as the theme.

Friday’s schedule began with a pre-conference workshop on ‘Five Core Principles for Missional Movement’ led by Ryan Braught, the Program Director of the Part Time Pastor: Full Time Church program.

The Friday evening worship service included music from the Painesville Church of the Brethren praise band and a message from Ryan Braught about Exiles in Babylon are another like us today. Three insight sessions were offered after worship.

Friday evening concluded with an ice cream social sponsored by Eder Financial.

Saturday’s schedule included business sessions (see pages 2-3 for elections and business item results), opportunities for afternoon insight sessions a wide variety of topics.

The Akron Springfield volunteers were wonderful hosts! Rita Snyder and Teri Tucker served as on-site coordinators working closely with Conference staff to make sure everything was covered.

Saturday afternoon’s closing worship service included music from the Painesville Church of the Brethren praise band and the Akron Springfield choir and a message from Moderator Cindy Peel. The worship services were rich in music and teaching.

The service concluded with consecration of 2027 Moderator Paul Bozman, Pastor of the Reading congregation and Sherry Reese Vaught from the Paradise church as Moderator-elect.

Conference guests included Ryan Braught (Program Manager of the Part Time Pastor: Full Time Church program), Lucas Keller (Church of the Brethren Office), Loyce Borgmann (Director of Client Relations at Eder Financial), Darius Meraj (Financial Consultant (Everence Financial), Chris Widman (Good Shepherd Home Administrator), Mark Self and Kat Siegel (Chaplain and Pastors of Jonah’s People Fellowship) and Rev. Dr. Amariah McIntosh (Associate Director of Ohio Council of Churches).

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**2027 Northern Ohio
District Conference
August 27-28**

**Lick Creek
Church of the Brethren
Bryan, Ohio**

**Paul Bozman,
Moderator**

2026-2027 District Board

Chair – Mark Pollock, Brook Park

Vice Chair – Dave Bassett, Pleasant View

Secretary – Edith Kieffaber, Akron Eastwood

Congregational Commission:

Joe Routh, Chair (Black River)

Scott Brinkman, Vice-Chair (Sugar Creek West)

*Brian Layman, Secretary (Ashland First)

*Marty Brumbaugh (Eden)

Connections Commission:

Jocelyn Siakula, Chair (Hartville)

*Deb Rising, Vice-Chair (Ashland First)

Jane Matz, Secretary (Ashland Dickey)

*Abigail Gasu (Elm Street)

Ministerial Commission:

Mike Huffaker, Chair (East Chippewa)

Bill Holsopple, Vice-Chair (Lick Creek)

Candie Orr, Secretary (Woodworth)

*Mike Conner, Painesville

Stewardship and Finance:

Dave Bassett, Chair (Pleasant View)

Todd Clemens, Vice-Chair (Poplar Ridge)

*Jenny Jones, Secretary (Sugar Creek West)

Bruce Morckel (Akron Springfield)

Ex Officio Members (without vote):

Kris Hawk, District Executive Minister

Laura Huffaker, District Administrative Secretary

Linda Fry, District Peace/Conciliation Advocate

Lisa Snyder, District Treasurer, Ashland First

Nelson Hunt, District Financial Secretary, Mansfield First

Dawn Baldwin, Standing Committee, Lick Creek

Paul Bozman, Moderator, Reading

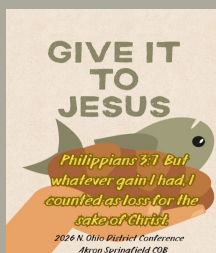
Sherry Reese Vaught, Moderator-Elect, Paradise*

Ashley Harris, District Conference Clerk, Freeburg

Andrew Kauffman, Camp Executive Director

Russell Matz, Camp Administration Committee Chair,
Ashland Dickey

* Denotes newly elected at District
Conference



Other Election Results

Moderator Elect

Sherry Reese Vaught, Paradise*

District Conference Central Committee

Erin Beebe, Maple Grove*

Nominating Committee

Sierra Swanson, Brook Park*

Camp Administration Committee

Dean Foster, Black River*

Chris Snyder, Hartville*

Terry Vaught, Paradise*

Conference Statistics

Attendance

Registration—128

Delegates—48

Pre-Conference Workshop—40

Insight Sessions—133

Insight Sessions Offered—6

Worship Friday—81

Worship Saturday— 79

Offerings and Other Giving

Friday—\$499.00

(for conference expenses)

Saturday—\$795.00

(Camp Inspiration Hills)

Peace Auction---\$1111.00+

Kid's Closet at Akron Springfield---\$100

+ donations of new or gently used clothing for toddlers, and elementary aged children and new socks and underwear.

Total—\$2,505.00+

Information Provided by Conference
Manager, Linda Fry

2027 Budget Approved

**The 2027 District Budget was
approved by the delegates as
presented.**

**The total amount budgeted for 2027 is
160,936 a decrease of \$5,130 over the
2026 budget.**

District Conference Central Committee

Cindy Peel, Moderator (Akron Springfield)
Paul Bozman, Moderator-Elect (Reading)
Mike Conner, Past-Moderator (Painesville)
Ashley Harris, Clerk (Freeburg)
Michelle Brumbaugh, Member (Eden)
Deb Rising, Member (Ashland First)
Moses Siakula, Member (Hartville)

District Conference Personnel

Akron Springfield Church On-Site Coordinators:

Rita Snyder & Teri Tucker

Worship Coordinators: Cindy Peel and Andrew Wenger (Akron Springfield)

Meal Coordinators: Ranay Cowie & Sam Courie (Akron Springfield)

Children's Program Coordinators: Joyce Mohler, Karen Beaty, Trish & Gary Griffith, & Christen Stockdale (Akron Springfield & Akron Eastwood)

Display Coordinator: Kim Morckel (Akron Springfield)

Hospitality Coordinator: Jane Matz (Ashland Dickey)

Time Keeper: Edith Kieffaber (Akron Eastwood)

Sound & Media Technicians: Mark Conner, Glen Grunder (Akron Springfield), Mike Conner (Painesville)

Teller: Brian Layman (Ashland First)

Conference Manager: Linda Fry (Mansfield)

Continued...

- E. **Board Appointments**-all appointed terms continue to be for three years, but the limit of two terms is lifted.
- F. **Flexibility in Structure for the Camp Administration Committee (CAC)** - Rather than naming specific committees for the Camp Administration Committee, simple changes in the language ensure that all necessary areas are covered while allowing CAC to determine the best way to organize around those areas.
- G. The District Board already has flexibility in the organization and naming of commissions in the current bylaws, as long as they meet the areas outlined for their work. The simple change in wording here (from "around" to "ensure coordination of") is to provide clarity and consistency with the language that used for CAC.

Conference Business Items

It was a full day the delegates worked their way through the business agenda on Saturday at District Conference. In addition to receiving reports from the board, commissions, treasurer, camp, and national representatives, and others, the delegates:

1. Approved the 2027 District Budget as recommended by District Board in the amount of \$160,936—\$5,130 less than the 2026 budget.
 2. Approved the 2027 Inspiration Hills budget as presented in the amount of \$382,045—a balanced budget!
 3. Approved the motions to finalize the withdrawal from the denomination of the Chippewa and Sugar Creek East Church of the Brethren congregations. A litany of blessing forward reminded us that we continue as brothers and sisters in Christ, even as the churches are no longer part of our district. Prayer was offered for the ministries of these churches and of our district as move forward.
 4. Approved Constitutional Changes. As part of the Strategic Planning Committees work recommendations were made that require changes to our Constitution and Bylaws. Some of these changes reflect a smaller district with fewer available/ fewer willing to serve in elected positions as we acknowledge the difficulty of filling a ballot or sometimes even a slate for the delegates to act on at District Conference. But all these changes reflect a commitment to continue ministries to our churches, pastors, and individuals within the district through Spirit-led ministries, with a structure that will help us serve well.
- A. Mission Statement : "The mission of the Northern Ohio District is to **connect and support** congregations, ministers, and individuals in all aspects of Christian life so that we might continue the work of Jesus Christ in our world today - peacefully, simply, together."
- B. Nominating Committee will now be led by the past moderator with the moderator-elect serving as a member of the committee. This will allow the moderator-elect opportunities to learn to know more people and more about the district and before stepping into the chairperson role.
- C. In addition to the past moderator and moderator-elect, one representative will be elected from each of our district areas (west, central, east), instead of two, reducing the nominating Committee to 5 members, down from seven.
- D. Changing the current board structure of 18 voting members, six (6) from each geographic area to a board of ten (10) voting members—three (3) from each geographic area plus one at large member. **(Continued to the left.)**

Celebrating Ministerial Service

While each year of ministry is something to be celebrated, in the Northern Ohio District we take time at District Conference to publicly celebrate the completion of the first year of ordination or commissioning, the 5th year, then every 5 years after that. We also recognize annually those who been ordained more than 50 years. We are grateful for all who serve in the set-apart ministry in the Church of the Brethren. Those recognized this year:

Ordination

Thomas Michaels (Northern Ohio-1 year)
Moses Siakula (Hartville-1 year)
Jim Frado (Richland- 5 years)
David Hobbs (New Philadelphia- 5 years)
Bill Holsopple (Lick Creek- 5 years)
Gary Lorenz (Akron Eastwood-5 years)
Katherine Polzin (Poplar Ridge- 5 years)
Bonni Brockway (Center- 15 years)
Sherry Reese-Vaught (Paradise- 30 years)
Cindy Peel (Akron Springfield- 35 years)
Terry Baldwin (Lick Creek- 40 years)
Donald Earlenbaugh (Ashland Dickey- 58 years)
Delbert Kettering (Maple Grove- 69 years)
Carl Cawood (Ashland First- 71 years)

Commissioning

Charles Barnhill (Owl Creek- 10 years)
Rick Hicks (Marion- 10 years)
Dave Morton (Adrian- 10 years)

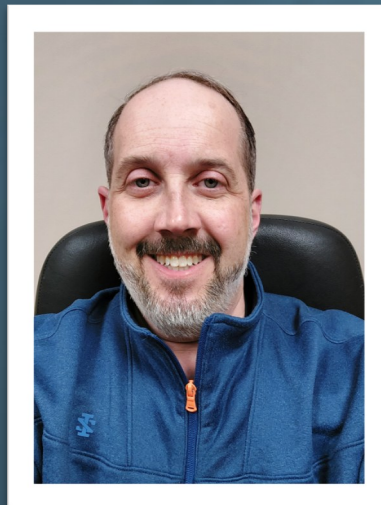


2027 District Conference August 28-27, 2027

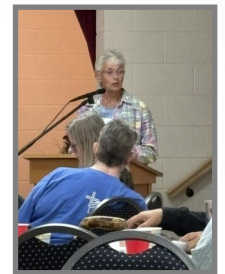
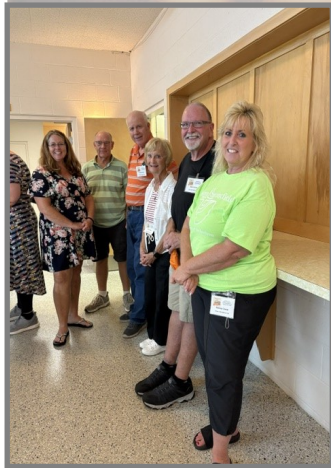
Location—Lick Creek Church of the Brethren

Moderator—Paul Bozman, Pastor of the Reading Church of the Brethren.

Paul is married to Lynne. They have one daughter, Mackenzie, who is attending Luther Seminary where she is currently pursuing her MDiv. Paul served as the Ministry Education Director for our district where he initiated the Buckeye Brethren Institute in 2014, our educational program for ministers moving towards ordination/commissioning.



Pictures from 2027 District Conference



In a season of thanksgiving and giving let us as the **NORTHERN OHIO CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CHURCHES** come together to give a life changing gift to

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL to help fight against **HUNGER, POVERTY, AND HOPELESSNESS** around the world.

Quarter and coin collection

Use your churches quarter tube, a bucket or an ark to collect coins in the hopes that we as a district will collect **\$5000** to be able to purchase an ark from Heifer International.

We will be collecting coins (and other donations) from Thanksgiving 2026 through the end of 2026. The district office will collect checks through January 15, 2027.

A friendly competition to collect coins. A joining together to purchase from Heifer International. Each Ark includes two water buffaloes, two cows, two sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more. Entire communities will have milk, eggs, honey and wool. Provide income by supplying an abundance of goods to sell. Sustain farming by providing livestock to work the land. Provide necessary training. Improve the lives of families for generations by multiplying and Passing on the Gift.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

alternative giving opportunity

