

Monday, May 22, 2017

## To All the Congregations in the Northern Ohio District

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Northern Ohio District Board, it gives me great pleasure to announce to you that **Kris Hawk** has been called as our new District Executive. Kris was presented as the recommended candidate at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the District Board by Sherry Reese Vaught, Vice-Chair of the Search Committee, and the recommendation was adopted by a unanimous vote. Kris will move from interim status to permanent status on June 1, 2017. An Installation Service is being planned as part of the District Conference to be held at the Hartville Church of the Brethren, July 28-29.

This recommendation came from the Search Committee following a diligent seven month search. The initial field of candidates was narrowed by on-line interviews, followed by personal interviews of the finalists. Kris received no preferential treatment because of her role as Interim DE; she became the recommended candidate because of her strong faith, her clear commitment to the church, and her superior administrative skills. We are blessed to have someone of Kris's caliber to be called by God to serve as our new District Executive.

Kris is a graduate of the University of Akron where she earned her Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing. After a distinguished career in the nursing field, Kris felt God's call in her life for Pastoral Ministry and was Licensed in 2003. After completing additional ministry training, Kris was Ordained to the Ministry in 2008. In addition to serving on the pastoral staff at the Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren, Kris served as Moderator of the Northern Ohio District (2010), on the District Board (1999-2006) and as District Board Chair (2002-2006). Kris and her husband, Duane, live in Akron, Ohio and she will continue to commute to the District Office in Ashland. Kris and Duane have three adult children and six grandchildren.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the members of the Search Committee for their dedication and Christ-centered focus throughout this process: Paul Bartholomew - Chair, Sherry Reese Vaught - Vice-Chair, Fred Keener - Secretary, Kerri Bailey, Fred Brinkman, Billi Janet Burkey, Jim Masten, Ben Polzin, and Mike Zellers. We also want to thank Stan Dueck, representative of the Church of the Brethren Ministry Office, who facilitated the search process.

I hope that all of you will join me at District Conference in Hartville on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate the Installation of Kris Hawk as District Executive of the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren.