

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

District Resources 2026-2027

Our mission 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.



Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

1107 East Main Street,
Ashland, OH 44805
Phone: 419.281.3058

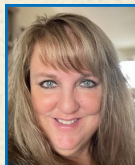
Visit us at:
www.nohcob.org



District Staff



Kris Hawk, District Executive Minister
Email: krishawk@nohcob.org



Laura Huffaker, District Administrative Secretary
Email: laura@nohcob.org



Linda Fry, Peace & Conciliation Advocate
Email: linda@nohcob.org



Lisa Snyder, District Treasurer
Email: lisa@nohcob.org



Andrew Kauffman Inspiration Hills Director
Email: andrew@inspirationhillscamp.org

35 Congregations 1 Fellowship*

Adrian	Lakewood
Akron Eastwood	Lick Creek
Akron First	Mansfield First
Akron Springfield	Maple Grove
Ashland First	Marion First
Ashland Dickey	Mount Pleasant
Bethel	New Philadelphia
Black River	Owl Creek
Brook Park	Painesville
Center	Paradise
Defiance	Pleasant View
East Chippewa	Poplar Ridge
Eden	Reading
Elm Street	Richland
Faith In Action	Silver Creek
Freeburg	Sugar Creek West
Hartville	Swan Creek
Jonah's People*	Woodworth

Church Improvement Loans Available

Church Improvement Loans are available at 0% interest to any congregation of the Church of the Brethren in the Northern Ohio District for building improvements and repairs to the main ministry property. Examples of projects would include building additions, structural repairs, adding handicap accessibility, parking lot improvements, new restroom facilities, replacing an old furnace, adding air conditioning, new lighting, roof replacement, window replacement, painting, signage, etc. Loans can be for up to \$20,000 or more on a case by case basis. Visit www.nohcob.org/loan or contact the District Office for more information.

Hottle Grants Available

Hottle Grants up to \$5000 are available to congregations for

1. Project grants within the church to expand the ministry of the church.
2. Outreach Ministry grants that impact not only the church but the community at large and may include changes to the physical plant.
3. Program Development grants within the church to stimulate growth or spiritual health and may include changes to the physical plant.

Visit www.nohcob.org/grant or contact the District Office for information.

Inspiration Hills—Events

4819 West Easton Road—Burbank, Ohio 44214
888.462.2267 www.inspirationhillscamp.org

Labor Day Family Camp is September 4-7, 2026. Faith, Fun and Fellowship with your family and other families in the district.

The Annual Fall Festival & Chicken BBQ is September 26th from 10am—3pm. Features chicken BBQ, silent dessert auction, hiking!

While IH is finishing up their 2026 summer camps, we look forward to winter camps and 2027 summer camps, which include but are not limited to: Beginners Parents (The Companion Camp), Beginners Camp, Junior Camp, Junior High Camp, Wilderness Weekend, Senior High Camp.



GOOD SHEPHERD HOME

725 Columbus Avenue, Fostoria, OH 44830
Phone: 419.937.1801 | Fax: 419.937.1800
www.goodshepherdhome.com

Discover the joys of living in a welcoming community where neighbors can share good food, good conversation, hearty laughter and Christian fellowship. Rooted in a faith-based tradition of service yet open to people of all beliefs, Good Shepherd Home is a continuing care retirement community with a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere. Within this close-knit community, people greet you by name and offer friendship freely.

WEST VIEW HEALTHY LIVING

1715 Mechanicsburg Road, Wooster, OH 44691
Phone: 330.264.8640
www.westviewhealthyliving.org

West View Healthy Living is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community offering lifestyles and care designed to make life easier for seniors. From independent and assisted living, to memory care, transitional care and rehabilitation, and long-term care, we provide everything our residents need to live well, engage, learn, contribute and play. Here, our philosophy centers around wellness and what we call the Essential Elements of Well-Being.

District Conference

Sometime we think of the “District” as being something totally separate from our congregations and Christian life. But each of us ARE the District. The District Board is made up of church members that have been called to serve in a broader role in the District.

They are elected by the delegates at **District Conference** where financial, policy, and program decisions are made by those gathered from each congregation. Each congregation can send 2 delegates (3 for congregations with more than 200 members).

District Conference is a time for **fellowship and worship** (and food, of course), in addition to providing a time for decisions to be made by the delegates. This is a time rich in being together as God’s people: learning of the work that has been done, seeking the mind of Christ, and receiving new life and hope as we gather in Jesus’ name.

Available for Pastors

- Clergy-Spouse Retreat
- Pastor’s Workshops
- Area Clergy Meetings
- Annual Clergy Visits
- Ministerial Training for licensed pastors and those exploring ministry (see right)
- Training in Ministry (TRIM)
- Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM)
- Financial Assistance for Education through the Student Minister’s Fund

Finding a Pastor

The District Executive works closely with the Pastoral Search Committee in a congregation in transition, providing pastoral profiles from across the denomination, setting up interviews, and resourcing the Committee as they discern God’s calling for their church. The District Executive can also provide possible candidates to serve as Interim Pastors, and an extensive list of those available to fill the pulpit on any given Sunday. Please contact Kris Hawk, District Executive for more information.

Ministerial Training Program available within our District

Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI) has been developed in our district. This provides an education option for ordination for licensed ministers and/or those considering a call to ministry. BBI is designed to be a three year program that consists of 12 classes and additional training activities. Instructors are Master’s prepared pastors from within our district. BBI was developed for those students whose life circumstances prevent them from participating in seminary or other traditional ministry training sessions. For more information, please contact Tina Hunt, coordinator at tmh4957@gmail

The District Board *is organized with four Commissions that have the following responsibilities:*

Congregational Commission:

(“believing on” Jesus, Acts 16:31)

- Encouraging and assisting new church plants and training leaders
- Encouraging and assisting church vitality/revitalization
- Providing guidance in congregational mergers
- Assisting with disorganization of churches when necessary
- Overseeing financial resources to assist church revitalization and church plants
- Educating for peace and other justice concerns

Connections Commission:

(“koinonia” joint participation and sharing in community with Christ and each other, Luke 2:42-47)

- Promotion of age-specific programs for all ages
- Providing resources for family ministries
- Education for retirement
- Lay leadership development
- Training Sunday School teachers and church workers

Ministerial Commission:

(“kerygma” proclamation, announcement or preaching of the Good News, Luke 4:16-21)

- Instructing churches in identifying, calling, and caring for those in ministerial leadership
- Licensing, Ordaining & Commissioning ministers
- Leadership training/continuing education for ministers
- Conducting annual licensing renewal and five-year ordination renewal

Stewardship & Finance Commission:

(“following after” Jesus, Matthew 4:18-22)

- Stewardship education and enlistment of churches
- Supervising the financial interests of the district
- Organizing appropriate response to disasters
- Maintenance of district property
- Oversee the Church Improvement Loan Fund Process

Becoming a Pastor

The District Ministry Commission work closely with the District Executive in the credentialing of ministers. They provide testing, background checks, and education on Church of the Brethren beliefs/practice (for those coming from outside our denomination). The Commission members interview each candidate making recommendations to District Board for licensing, commissioning, and ordination. They work to provide each new clergy with a mentor as they move through the process. If you sense a calling to ministry and that call is affirmed by others, please contact the District Office to talk about next steps.

District Publications

Pastor's Memo—Published each month and emailed to ordained, licensed, interim, retired pastors, board members, lay leaders, friends of the Northern Ohio District.

The Herald—Published quarterly, with a quantity mailed to each congregation, to be distributed to those who do not have online access.

Peace Advocate News—Published quarterly.

Creation Care Newsletter—Published periodically.

These are all available on the District Website.

Please contact the District Office if you would like a copy mailed to your home.



Peace begins when you make your peace with Jesus, accept Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord.

The Peace and Conciliation Advocate works with the Peace Task Team to plan peace education programming in the district.

The Peace Advocate works with pastors, congregations, and the District youth to help support the peace of Jesus. That is, helping people of all ages live out Jesus' calling to treat all people as God's children. Jesus has given us his example through His life of shalom to help us respond with love and forbearance to both friends and foes alike. Teaching Biblical peace principles, listening skills, conflict resolution skills, and offers support to those who are oppressed by the many forms of violence that are common in our society is part of the peacemaking task.

Preaching, leading workshops, creating peace education materials for all ages, and publishing the quarterly Peace Advocate News are part of carrying out that task.

Linda Fry, District Peace & Conciliation Advocate

492 Connor Drive, Mansfield, OH 44905

Phone: 419-589-7719



Inspired by Jesus, Brethren Disaster Ministries focuses on rebuilding homes, caring for children, and providing international relief by engaging our volunteers, supporters, and partners to serve communities recovering from disaster.

Brethren Disaster Ministries engages a network of volunteers to repair or rebuild damaged homes for disaster survivors who lack sufficient resources to hire a contractor or other paid labor. BDM's goal is to ease the trauma and foster recovery in disaster-stricken communities across the United States.

Children's Disaster Services meets the needs of children impacted by disaster. Specially trained and certified volunteers provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence for children, as well as individualized consultation for parents about their child's unique emotional needs. Visit <http://www.brethren.org/bdm/> or our coordinators: Kim Morckel at kmorckely@netscape.net, Sandra Humphrey at sann-diques@hotmail.com, or Pete Snyder at pwsnyder@bright.net.

Other Events in Our District



Our SiSter's Retreat is in the Spring. For more information contact :

- Crystal Zellers
crystal7605@live.com
- Jane Matz
matzna@zoominternet.net
- Linda Smith
lworth.reliv@gmail.com
- Meralyn Zigler
rzigler@gmail.com



Men's Ministry

Our Men's Retreat is in the Fall. For more information contact:

- Jocelyn Siakula (Connections Commission)
siakula2018@gmail.com
- Dean Foster (Men's Ministry)
disciple@zoominternet.net
- Mike Conner (Men's Ministry)
micalert75@gmail.com