



August 2018

Pastor's Memo

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Compelling Vision Dates and Locations

Four sessions have been scheduled
for Northern Ohio

Saturday Oct. 13
10 am - 12 pm
Poplar Ridge CoB

Saturday Oct. 13
3 pm - 5 pm
Sugar Creek West CoB

Sunday Oct. 14
2 pm - 4 pm
Maple Grove CoB

Sunday Oct. 14
6 pm - 8 pm
Akron Eastwood CoB

To prepare for these sessions:

- Visit <http://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision.html>
- Reflect on scriptures that inform our life together as the body of Christ.
- Bring your Bible

Compelling Vision Conversation

The Church of the Brethren stands at a crossroads. Recent decades have been defined by paralyzing conflict. In response to the ongoing conflict, at the 2017 Annual Conference, the delegate body affirmed a report from the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives regarding "The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts." That report concluded with this assertion: "To stay on the journey together, it is also crucial that the church discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue." Leadership, at both the denominational and district levels, has affirmed calling a team to guide the denomination through a process of conversation and discernment in an effort to arrive at a compelling vision rooted in our shared commitment to live as Christ's disciples. It is an invitation to place our trust in God's Spirit and engage in a visioning process to discern what God is calling us to do together with the fervent hope that our commitment to one another and to serving our God as the body of Christ might be renewed through this shared journey and a sense of shared mission. For as Eugene Peterson says in his paraphrase of Proverbs 29:18: "If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what (God) reveals, they are most blessed." Conversations began at Annual Conference this summer, will continue in districts through the fall and winter, and be a large part of Annual Conference in 2019 where new business items have been set

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Compelling Vision Conversation (cont'd from Page 1)

aside. These conversations will be held in the Northern Ohio District on October 13-14 (see side bar and attached flyer for dates/locations). These sessions are a time for engaging as many people as possible in the process, providing opportunities for individuals to give voice to their passions and concerns, listen to one another, and work together to identify common threads and themes that might point to a shared and compelling vision. As we embark on this journey together, it is our prayer that: our relationships with one another will be strengthened and deepened, transcending points of disagreement; we will be able to celebrate the ongoing presence and activity of God's Spirit at work among us; we will be open to what God is calling us to do together as Christ's disciples; the vision ultimately articulated will lay claim to our hearts and our minds, our imaginations and our spirits, inspiring our ministry at the congregational level, the district level, and the denominational level.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron Springfield (full-time) – Search Committee being formed. **George O'Reilly** serving as interim beginning September 2nd. **Alan Brumbaugh** resigned as pastor effective August 31st.

Brook Park (3/4-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **Tom Michaels** serving as interim.

Maple Grove (full-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **John Ballinger** serving as interim.

Pleasant View (part-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim.

Congregations that have completed the search process:

Ashland Dickey – **Jeff Messner** called as pastor beginning October 1st. **Tom Zuercher** retiring August 31st.

Bethel – **David Wyant** called as pastor. Ordination and installation service was held on June 26th with Steve Simmons officiating.

County Line – **Chris Ewing** called as pastor and an installation service was held on August 5th.

East Nimishillen – **James Lee** called as pastor on June 10th and began serving July 1st. An installation and commissioning service will be held on August 19th.

Congregations that have not yet begun the Search Process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

Lake Breeze – **Stephen McLaughlin** serving as interim.

Lakewood – **Gene Wyse** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

District Prayer Calendar

August 19—August 25

Defiance CoB (Pastor Eugene Yenser) and Dupont CoB (Pastor Steve Heilshorn)

August 26—September 1

East Chippewa CoB (Pastor Brad Kelley) and East Nimishillen CoB (Pastor Jim Lee)

September 2—September 8

Eden CoB (Pastor Wayne Scott) and Elm Street CoB (Pastor Doug Price)

September 9—September 15

Faith In Action CoB (Pastor Jim Gorrell) and Freeburg CoB (Pastor Mike Zellers)

September 16—September 22

Hartville CoB (Pastor Anthony DiMarco) and Jonah's People Fellowship (Pastor Barry A. Belknap)

September 23—September 29

Lake Breeze CoB (Interim Stephen McLaughlin) and Lakewood CoB (Interim Gene Wyse)

WELCOME NEW PASTORS



**Jim Lee called as
Pastor to East
Nimishillen**

Jim Lee has been commissioned in the Church of the Brethren and called as Pastor for the East Nimishillen congregation beginning his role on July 1st.

Jim received his Master and Doctorate of Theology degrees from Andersonville Seminary. Jim has been a church planter and has served in pastoral roles in several denominations, previously serving as pastor at Center CoB. Jim is bi-vocational, assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment in their area of interest and providing job coaching.

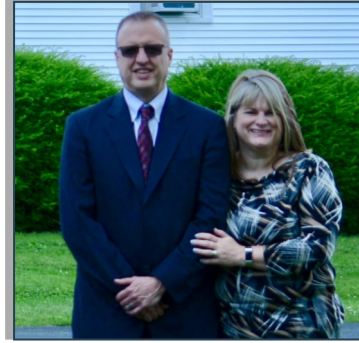
Jim also a singer and musician and loves spending time with family. His wife Michelle runs the snack shop at Alliance Hospital. They have 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren.



**Chris Ewing called as
Senior Pastor
at County Line**

Chris Ewing was installed as Senior Pastor for the County Line congregation on Sunday, August 5th. Chris has been on the pastoral staff at County Line since May 2013 when he began serving as Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor. He was ordained in the Church of the Brethren in 2015. Chris served as interim pastor beginning in March of this year and was called by the congregation to become Senior Pastor in July.

Chris received a BA in Religious Studies from Regent University and a Master of Arts in Biblical interpretation from Regent University School of Divinity. He and his wife Anna have three children, Kynzie, Jax, and Declan.

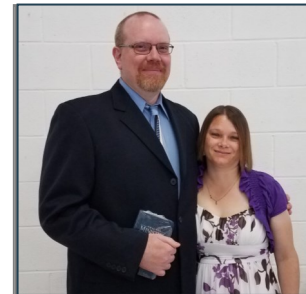


**David Wyant called
as Pastor at Bethel**

David Wyant was ordained in the Church of the Brethren and installed as Pastor for the Bethel congregation Sunday, June 24. Steve Simmons, chair of the District Ministerial Commission officiated at the service.

Dave received his Master of Divinity from Moody Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill. Currently he is pursuing a PhD in Old Testament Studies from Piedmont International, Winston Salem, N.C. Previously he served as interim pastor at Zion Hill Church of the Brethren and has been serving in a volunteer capacity since 2008 at Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley where he continues to hold a weekly service for the homeless shelter clients.

A full-time commercial airline pilot with United Express in Cleveland, Dave resides in Austintown, with his wife, Lynn.



**Cliff Heath called as
Associate Pastor at
Akron Eastwood**

Cliff Heath was ordained in the Church of the Brethren and installed as Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults for the Akron Eastwood congregation on Sunday, July 29th. Cliff has been serving in that role since October of 2017 and recently completed the credentialing process for ordination in the CoB.

Cliff completed his training at the Ohio School of Ministry and had been ordained in the Assemblies of God working in youth ministries for many years.

Cliff and his wife, Janet, have 2 sons Darren and Nathan.

Fall Area Clergy Meetings

As I have travelled the District, one of the things I have heard from clergy is the desire to have more opportunities for fellowship with each other... providing and receiving support, encouragement, and inspiration. One of the things I have felt is a deep calling to pray together...for our churches, our communities, our district, our denomination, and our world.

These two things have guided the planning of our Fall Area Clergy Meetings (see schedule below). There will be a short time set aside to hear about what is going on in the district/denomination and provide feedback. But the bulk of our time will be praying together and spending time in fellowship with each other.

I hope that this time will allow pastors new to ministry and new to our District to develop connections, and to establish deeper relationships among those who already know each other. And we need to be in prayer together – the strength, focus, power, and transformation that is needed will not come from within ourselves!

This is not a CEU event, but those that attended last year's Fall Area Clergy meetings in this same format affirmed that the opportunity to pray and fellowship

together provided a reward even richer than CEU credits!

Please plan on sharing in one of these times. Renewal, rest, refreshment, and revival can come as we wait upon the Lord together. Praying for you all in the love of Christ, Kris Hawk.

Date	Time	Location
Tues. 10/23	9:30 – 11:30	(Western Area)
	6:30 – 8:30	(Western Area)
Wed. 10/24	9:30 – 11:30	(Eastern Area)
	6:30 – 8:30	(Eastern Area)
Thurs. 10/25	9:30 – 11:30	(Central Area)
	6:30 – 8:30	(Central Area)

Thank you

Dupont Church of the Brethren!

Dupont did an amazing job hosting our District Conference at the church on August 3-4th.

Stay tuned for all the details in the District Conference Wrap-up edition of the Herald coming the week of August 27th!

OFFICE & STAFF SUMMER HOURS

Kris Hawk will be on vacation the week of August 20th through August 27th.

District Executive, Kris Hawk takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

Administrative Secretary, Julie Watson is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 am—3 pm. She can be reached at 419-281-3058 or julie@nohcob.org.

Youth Coordinator, Esther Harsh is in the office on Mondays. She can be reached at 330-880-7161 or esther@nohcob.org.

Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ⇒ August 25 – BBI—Introduction to Worship, District Office, Ashland, OH
- ⇒ September 1 – Eastern Area Clergy BBQ, Freeburg CoB, Paris, OH
- ⇒ September 5 – Western Area Clergy Lunch, The Barn Restaurant, Archbold, OH
- ⇒ September 8 – BBI—Introduction to Worship, District Office, Ashland, OH
- ⇒ September 9 – Nominating Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH
- ⇒ September 12 – Central Area Clergy Breakfast, Tim Horton's, Ashland, OH
- ⇒ September 15 – Inspiration Hills Fall Festival & Chicken BBQ, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH
- ⇒ September 17 – Central Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH
- ⇒ September 21-22 – District Board Orientation & Meeting, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH
- ⇒ September 22 – BBI—Introduction to Worship, District Office, Ashland, OH