



Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
AUGUST 2016

Pastors' Salaries and Benefits Information

Each Pastor and Church Board chair will be receiving information and renewal agreements to use as you work through your budgeting process for 2017. There are separate renewal agreements for those serving part-time and those serving full-time in a congregational context with or without insurance reimbursement. Please use the form that is appropriate for your situation. All forms are also available in fillable format at <http://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/forms.html>

These forms are going out via email. Paper copies will follow. If you will not require a paper copy, please contact the District Office. That will allow us to cut down on unnecessary postage.

Please complete and return a signed copy of the appropriate Renewal Agreement to the District Office no later than **December 31, 2016**. This is an important document for your insurance, pension, and ministry records.

Self-Allocation Packets

Each church should have received 3 self-allocation packets (for Pastor, Board Chair, Treasurer/Finance Chair) containing information on each of the denominational agencies and worksheet for budgeting outreach for 2017. These were distributed at District Conference and mailed to those who didn't pick them up there. This includes giving to the District, Inspiration Hills, the Brethren Homes, as well as to the denomination. Please prayerfully consider your giving to the broader church as you plan your budget for 2017.

We are requesting that allocated money be sent directly to each receiving agency – rather than to the District Office to distribute. Mailing labels were included with packets. They are also attached in electronic form to this Pastors Memo for printing. This will streamline the work of our volunteer treasurer and financial secretary and streamline the process. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Mark Your Calendar

- **August 9—Transition Team Listening Session 7pm-9pm, Poplar Ridge CoB, Defiance, OH**
- **August 10—Transition Team Listening Session 7pm-9pm, Reading CoB, Homeworth, OH**
- **August 11—Transition Team Listening Session 7pm-9pm, Ashland First CoB, Ashland, OH**
- **August 27—Deacon Training, Mansfield First CoB, Mansfield, OH**
- **September 17—Inspiration Hills Fall Festival & 50th Anniversary Celebration, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH**
- **September 23-24—District Board Orientation Meeting, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH**

Jonah's People recognized 21 Charter Members

Jonah's People in Fostoria recognized 21 Charter Members during worship on May 15, 2016. Pictured from top left: Bob Kline, Alice Shammo, Shirley Eidenour, Rick Eidenour, Pat Beeson, Betty Hartsel, June Harrison, Barry A. Belknap. From bottom left: Pat Kline, Dorothy Bowman, Virginia Stull, Sandra Fiedler, Doris Barlekamp, Herbert Havens, Lois J. Oberst, Frank Harrison, Janice McCoy. Not pictured: Donna Belknap, Shirley McLaughlin, David Meyer, Nikki O'Dell.



District Prayer Calendar

July 31—August 6

East Nimishillen CoB (Interim Matthew Reed) and Eden CoB (Interim Wayne Scott)

August 7—August 13

Elm Street CoB (Pastor Doug Price) and Faith in Action Fellowship (Pastor Jim Gorrell)

August 14—August 20

Freeburg CoB (Pastor Mike Zellers) and Hartville CoB (Pastor Anthony DiMarco)

August 21—August 27

Jonah's People Fellowship (Pastor Barry Belknap) and Lake Breeze CoB (Interim James Washington)

August 28—September 3

Lakewood CoB (Pastor Bill Holsopple) and Lick Creek CoB (Interim Dr. Nancy Berkheiser)

Mark Kell installed as Pastor at Center

Mark Kell was installed as Pastor at Center Church of the Brethren July 10. Members of the church gathered early that day for prayer as he had requested, and closed the service gathered in prayer together at the start of



this new time of ministry together. Mark teaches science in Lake Schools in Hartville, Ohio. He and his wife Laura have two sons – Benjamin and Jonathan – and a third child due in February.

Youth Advisers Team and Youth Cabinet Team

The Fellowship Commission of the Northern Ohio District is rebuilding the Youth Advisers Team and Youth Cabinet Team. We would like for Pastors and church leaders to be in prayer as we seek adults and youth (grades 9-12) in the congregations who the spiritual gifts to serve these positions. More information and nomination forms will be available on the District web site. If you have questions, please contact Billi Janet Burkey at (330) 418-1148.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bethel – Congregational profile completed. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Brook Park – Interim Pastor Search Committee has been formed and is interviewing candidates. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Dupont – Negotiations complete. Congregational call meeting August 11. **Bill Helmlinger** has resigned as youth pastor effective August 7th.

Lakewood – **Bill Holsopple** has resigned effective September 4th. Search Committee formed. Congregational Profile Complete.

Lick Creek – **Bill Holsopple** called as pastor. Installation service scheduled for September 18th. **Dr. Nancy Berkheiser** serving as interim.

Moving forward towards calling:

Adrian – **David Morton** now serving as pastor.

Chippewa – **Bill Eley** serving as interim and beginning the Commissioning process.

Marion First – **Rick Hicks** serving as interim. Commissioned pending congregational call vote.

Owl Creek – **Charles Barnhill** serving as interim. Commissioned pending congregational call vote.

Ross – **Keith Stoller** now serving as pastor.

Congregations that have not yet begun the search process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

East Nimishillen – **Matthew Reed** serving as interim. Congregational profile complete, but not actively seeking at this time.

Eden – **Wayne Scott** serving as interim.

Lake Breeze – **James Washington** serving as interim.

Maple Grove – **John Ballinger** serving as interim until 2/2018.

Paradise – **Allen Kahler** resigned as pastor effective August 28th to take a full-time interim position in a UCC church. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Woodworth – **John Polanski** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

Dan Johnson began serving as pastor at the Copper Hill Church of the Brethren August 1st. Their new address is:

Dan and Harmony Johnson
8836 Floyd Highway, North
Copper Hill, VA 24079

Esther Harsh called as District Youth Coordinator

It is with great joy that we announce the calling of Esther Harsh as our Northern Ohio District Youth Coordinator.

Esther is a graduate of Malone University (2005) with specific training in Youth Ministry, and she brings a wealth of experience to the task. She served as a missionary in Ukraine for over six years, teaching life skills to orphans and orphanage graduates through personal relationships. As part of that role, Esther organized and hosted recreational and relational activities for children ages 8 to 16. She also coordinated short-term mission trips in Ukraine and taught English lessons. Esther's experience also includes working as the Educational Director for the Boys and Girls club of Massillon.

Esther brings strong relational and administrative gifts to this role. She also brings a depth of faith and a gift for communicating that faith – and instilling a desire to grow in discipleship and ministry. She identifies bringing youth to new and deeper relationships to Jesus as priority for youth ministry. Esther plans to connect with youth and advisors, seeking a team approach to planning and implementing youth ministry within the District. She has a wealth of possibilities in mind and is excited to see where God will lead.

Esther has a Methodist background, but developed spiritually at the Hartville Church of the Brethren as part of their active youth group. She was involved in our District Youth activities at that time and also worked on staff at Camp Inspiration Hills. She and her husband, Jason (Pastor of the Zion Hill Church of the Brethren) have two teen-age daughters, Kristina and Olya from Ukraine that became part of their family two years ago.

Esther will spend some time in orientation the week of August 15th and will begin her ministry August 29th. She will be working part-time. Esther will be in the office on Mondays with additional office time as needed. She will also be working from home and visiting within the District. Esther can be reached by email at esther@nohcob.org or by phone at 330-880-7161.



All Are Invited To Northern Ohio District Transition Listening Sessions

As you know the Northern Ohio District is in "transition" between District Executives. Transition is defined as the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another. Some see transition as a bad thing, not necessarily. Transition is a time when people and organizations can reevaluate what their direction and mission should be. A synonym for transition is conversation.

So... The District Board would like to invite you to help in the conversation. We will be holding multiple listening sessions through the next couple months. These sessions will be a time where members of the district can join together and work through a series of questions to then send information back to the District Board. The board will use this information as we make plans for the future of the district and hiring of a new District Executive.

We will be using the strength-based focus of "SOAR" which provides an important opportunity for participants to have meaningful, positive and solution-focused conversations related to the district's potential, and provides a direction upon which to create a desired future.

Strengths: What can we build on?

Opportunities: What are our best possible future opportunities?

Aspirations: What do We Care Deeply About?

Results: How will we know we are succeeding?



"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Multiple (identical) sessions will be held to help minimize travel:

- 1) District Conference Insight Session, July 30, 3:40 pm
- 2) **Poplar Ridge, Tuesday, August 9, 7-9 pm** (6970 Domersville Road, Defiance, OH 43512)
- 3) **Reading, Wednesday, August 10, 7-9 pm** (25418 Georgetown Road, Homeworth, OH 44634)
- 4) **Ashland First, Thursday, August 11, 7-9 pm** (122 East 3rd Street, Ashland, OH 44805)
- 5) **Akron Springfield, Saturday, October 8, 9-11 am** (3500 Albrecht Avenue, Akron, OH 44312)
- 6) **Pleasant View, Saturday, October 8, 10 am-Noon** (4950 North Thayer Road, Elida, OH 45807)
- 7) **East Chippewa, Sunday, October 9, 3-5 pm** (7207 Chippewa Road, Orville, OH 44667)

For questions, feel free to call Billi Janet Burkey at 330-418-1148 or email billijanet@aol.com.

Hope to see each of you at one of the Listening Sessions.

District Office Staff Schedule

Interim District Executive Kris Hawk takes Wednesday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or krishhawk@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

