



Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
DECEMBER 2020

CLERGY-SPOUSE RETREAT

Sunday through Tuesday, February 14th - 16th
Quality Inn & Suites (formerly Days Inn), Richfield, OH

"Discerning What's Best"

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless "

Philippians 1:9-10 NRSV

The Ministerial Commission remains hopeful that we will be able to gather in person for our 2021 Clergy-Spouse Retreat. Plan on joining us for the upcoming Clergy-Spouse Retreat February 14-16 at the Quality Inn & Suites, Richfield, Ohio. All ordained, commissioned, licensed clergy, interims, and spouses are invited. This is a time to laugh, time to learn, time for worship, quiet time, social time, and free time. One day registration is available and 0.5 CEU's will be issued for clergy.

The Ministerial Commission will be sharing more information on the speaker, schedule, and menus soon. But you can already register online at www.nohcob.org/retreat or contact the District Office. Cost will be the same as last year.

Trail Thoughts Fall 2020

TREKKING TOWARD GOD'S ADVENTUROUS FUTURE

A QUARTERLY PASTORAL LETTER FROM PAUL MUNDEY, MODERATOR, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

See attachment for the latest issue or click [here](#) to view online.

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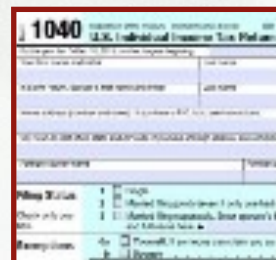
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Join us for this informational and instructive seminar! Clergy Tax Seminar January 16, 2021



Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online **Clergy Tax Seminar** - January 16, 2021. Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally; Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions; Earn 0.3 CEUs - requires attendance in the first session.

- ⇒ Session 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.
- ⇒ In Session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Registration is \$40 per person. Instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five online. Visit bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/ to register and to learn more.

Registration deadline is January 6, 2021.

Hottle Grants available in 2021 (limit one per congregation)

Hottle Operating Grants: The District Board has approved the use of Hottle Grant money for congregations for 2021 operating expenses up to \$5000. Applications are available on the district website.

Hottle Grants 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. Applications are available on the district website.

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

The **Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership** is offering **Elements of Preaching**, as a Zoom intensive, January 11-15 and 18, 2021. The instructor for this course will be Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm. **The deadline to register is December 7.** *This course is limited to 8 participants with preference given to TRIM and EFSM students.* Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820. Find the brochure attached or click [here](#) for the link.

The **Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership** is offering **Church of the Brethren Polity** from March 10 - May 4, 2021. Academy students will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion and pastors will earn 2 CEU credits. The instructor for this online course will be Torin Eikler. Please give consideration to participating in this class. The deadline to register is February 3. These online classes "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820. Find the brochure attached or click [here](#) for link.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Ashland First – Search Committee has completed the congregational profile. *Tina Hunt* bringing a message weekly via Facebook Live.

Reading – Search Committee is interviewing pastoral candidates. *Brian Layman* serving as interim.

Congregations that have completed the process:

Lake Breeze – *Stephen McLaughlin* has completed the licensing process and will be installed as pastor 12/20/2020.

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

Bristolville – *Fred Keener* has resigned effective 01/31/2021. Leadership arranging for an interim pastor.

Jonah's People – *Jerry Copeland* serving as interim pastor.

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

Mansfield First – *Tom Michaels* serving as transitional pastor.

New Philadelphia – *David Hobbs* serving as interim.

Painesville – *John Ballinger* serving as transitional pastor.

Self-Allocation Form

The Church of the Brethren has distributed the annual congregational giving packet and **self-allocation form**. Thanks to those who have already submitted their allocation forms. These are used to help both the district and denomination project their cost vs income for the upcoming year. They are asking for reports to be submitted electronically at www.brethren.org/SAreports. For your convenience, as you submit your form you will receive a confirmation email of your submission and a copy will be forwarded to the Church of the Brethren and the district office. The reporting deadline is December 31, 2020. If you have any questions, please email MA@brethren.org or call 847-429-4370.



Pastor Bill Holsopple Ordained on November 15th at Lick Creek Church

Bill Holsopple was ordained in the Church of the Brethren on November 15th during the morning worship service at Lick Creek, where he has been serving as Pastor since 2016. The church planned a special worship service, filled with music that Bill loves, and had homemade cookies/pastries for all.

Bill is the first graduate of the Buckeye Brethren Institute, our district's ministerial training program, to be ordained. Bill is bi-vocational, also working as a press operator at a local manufacturing company. His wife, Beth is an elementary school teacher at Pettisville. They have three children. Twins Bekah and Daniel both started college this fall. Their daughter Hannah and her husband, Todd, have a beautiful daughter, Aubree.

District Prayer Calendar

December

Churches/Pastors

Ross, Keith Stoller

Silver Creek, Terry Baldwin

Sugar Creek West, Michael Huffaker

Sugarcreek East, Dick Marshall

District Leadership

Camp Inspiration Hills

Other Districts

Puerto Rico, Atlantic Southeast

National Leadership

Nancy Heishman, Director Office of Ministry

January

Churches/Pastors

Swan Creek, Dick Neuwirth

Woodworth, John Polanski

Zion Hill, Scott McPeck

District Leadership

District Disaster Ministries

Other Districts

West Marva, Western PA

National Leadership

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Events Calendar

- 12.7 District Youth Games & Devotions
- 12.8 Eastern Area Clergy Meeting (Contact Mike Zellers)
- 12.9 Central Area Clergy Meeting (Via Zoom)
- 12.14 District Youth Games & Devotions
- 12.17 Urban Ministry Committee Meeting
- 12.21 District Youth Games & Devotions
- 12.24 to 1.3 District Office Closed for Christmas/New Years
- 12.28 District Youth Games & Devotions
- 1.4 District Youth Games & Devotions
- 1.6 Western Area Clergy Meeting
- 1.11 District Youth Games & Devotions
- 1.12 Eastern Area Clergy Meeting (Contact Mike Zellers)
- 1.13 Central Area Clergy Meeting (Via Zoom)
- 1.18 Nominating Committee Meeting
- 1.18 District Youth Games & Devotions
- 1.19 District Conference Central Committee Meeting
- 1.23 BBI Class-Biblical Interpretation
- 1.25 District Youth Games & Devotions

Staff and holiday hours:

Kris will be on vacation December 4 through December 20. She will be periodically checking messages. But if you need immediate assistance, please contact Julie at the District Office at 419-281-3058 or julie@nohcob.org.

The District Office will be closed December 24 through January 3rd for the holidays. Kris can be reached for emergencies during that time at 330-612-2086.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year filled with Hope for you and yours