

Pastor's memo

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
JULY 2016

District Conference

July 29-30, 2016

Maple Grove Church of the Brethren, Ashland, OH

Mark your calendars and be sure to attend this year's District Conference, July 29-30. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Registration and Delegate forms are available as well as online registration at www.nohcob.org/district-conference.

Publicity packets are being sent to each church with detailed information about worship, insight sessions, pre-conference workshop, and other events. Paul Bartholomew serves as moderator for this special event in the life of our District.

Deacon Training

August 27, 2016

Mansfield First Church of the Brethren, Mansfield, OH

Mark your calendar for August 27 at Mansfield First Church of the Brethren for a networking/training for deacons (but not limited to deacons) Rick Polhamus of the Christian Peacemaker Team will join us and share about conflict resolution techniques.

Mark Your Calendar

- June 26-July 1—Youth Summer Mission, Chicago, IL
- June 28-July 3—Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC
- July 29-30—District Conference, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH
- July 30—District Board Reorganization Meeting, Maple Grove 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

PEACE DAY 2016—How Are You Called to Build Peace?

On Earth Peace invites churches, peacebuilders, and seekers of justice to participate in Peace Day 2016. Plan a prayer service or community action event and reflect on how you and your community are called to build peace during the week surrounding September 21, 2016.

We are all called to build peace in unique and transformative ways. Some are called to resist and undo racism, some to pray without ceasing, others to heal God's creation, and others to stop war.

Some are called to build peace in their neighborhood, in their church congregation, in their local community, or somewhere across the world.

This Peace Day we invite you to follow God's call to wherever you and your church community can build peace together to God's glory and your neighbor's good.

Learn more about Peace Day and get involved:

- Tell us what you're planning and how we can help!
 - E-mail us: peaceday@onearthpeace.org
- Visit our website at <http://peacedaypray.tumblr.com>
- Follow us on Twitter [@peacedaypray](https://twitter.com/peacedaypray)
- Join the [Peace Day Facebook Group Conversation](#)



Transition Team 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 and 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.

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

Mark your calendars... Here are the confirmed sessions:

- 1) District Conference Insight Session, July 30, 3:40 pm
- 2) Poplar Ridge, August 9, 7-9 pm
- 3) Ashland City, August 11, 7-9 pm
- 4) Akron Springfield, October 8, 9-11 am
- 5) East Chippewa, October 9, 3-5 pm

Join us as we "SOAR" into the exciting future of the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren.



Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bethel – Congregational profile completed. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Brook Park – **Dan Johnson** resigned effective July 31st. Search Committee being formed.

Center – **Mark Kell** called as pastor at June 19th congregational meeting. Installation service scheduled for July 10th. **David Hall** serving as interim.

Dupont – Search Committee conducting interviews. **Bill Helmlinger, Doug Price, Terry Porter** serving as interim pastoral team.

Lakewood – **Bill Holsopple** resigned effective September 4th. Search committee being formed.

Lick Creek – **Bill Holsopple** called as pastor at June 5th congregational meeting. **Dr. Nancy Berkheiser** serving as interim.

Sugar Creek West – **Michael Huffaker** installed as Pastor on June 26th.

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

Adrian – **David Morton** serving as interim

Chippewa – **Bill Eley** serving as interim.

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

Eden – **Wayne Scott** serving as interim. (waiting 6-12 months to begin the search process).

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

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

Marion First – **Rick Hicks** serving as interim.

Owl Creek – **Charles Barnhill** serving as interim.

Ross – **Keith Stoller** serving as interim.

Woodworth – **John Polanski** as interim.

*Some of these “interim” pastors have been faithfully serving their congregations for many years. While they are ordained in other denominations, the Ministry Commission is actively working with these individuals so they can be credentialed also in the Church of the Brethren and called by their churches for ongoing ministry.

District Prayer Calendar

June 26—July 2

Bethel CoB (Pastoral Vacancy) and Black River CoB (Pastor Mark Teal)

July 3—July 9

Bristolville CoB (Pastor Fred Keener) and Brook Park CoB (Pastor Dan Johnson)

July 10—July 16

Center CoB (Interim David Hall) and Chippewa CoB (Interim Bill Eley)

July 17—July 23

County Line CoB (Pastor Tom Dearth and Associate Pastor Chris Ewing) and Defiance CoB (Pastor Gene Yenser)

July 24—July 30

Dupont CoB (Interim Team, Bill Helmlinger, Doug Price, Terry Porter) and East Chippewa CoB (Pastor Brad Kelley)

Welcome Pastor Michael John Huffaker, Sugar Creek West CoB

A service of consecration/installation was held June 26th as Michael Huffaker began serving as pastor at Sugar Creek West Church of the Brethren. He and his wife Laura moved here from Kansas, where Mike served as pastor at the Osage Church of the Brethren. They have four children; Ashley and Lauren are adults and both reside on the east coast. Kamryn and Jarred are 14 and 12. Mike can be reached at 620-238-9465 (cell) or by email at sugarcreekpastor@hotmail.com. We are blessed to have Michael and Laura providing ministry at Sugar Creek West.



Announcements

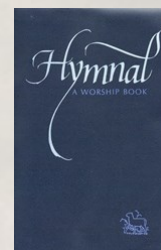


Youth Advisers Team and Youth Cabinet Team

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 at District Conference and on the District web site. If you have questions, please contact Billi Janet Burkey at (330) 418-1148.

Attention Congregations:

Red and blue hymnals from the Church of the Brethren are available from the former Baltic congregation. If your congregation is interested, please contact the District Office at (419) 281-3058 or email julie@nohcob.org. We can make arrangements to deliver them to your congregation. Thank you!



District Youth Coordinator Position

We are currently interviewing for a District Youth Coordinator. This person will coordinate District ministries to Junior High, Senior High, and Young Adults. The Youth Coordinator will also provide training to youth leaders and work closely with the Fellowship Commission and Youth Cabinets/ Adviser Teams. The Youth Coordinator reports directly to the District Executive. This is a part-time position (averaging 20 hr/week), 2 weeks paid vacation. If you or someone you know has a passion for youth, and gifts that are both relational and administrative, please contact Kris Hawk at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

Northern Ohio District Disaster Volunteer Reunion

Saturday, October 22nd, Mohican CoB

Coming Soon! Northern Ohio Disaster Volunteer Reunion! Attention volunteers who have traveled and assisted in a week of disaster service through the years, no matter how many times you have participated; we invite you to come to the 3rd Annual Northern Ohio Disaster Reunion October 22, 2016. We want to honor our volunteers. Please bring your significant other or a friend. Contact Brenda Hostetler (330) 682-9123 or hjbrenda@aol.com for more information.



Disaster Ministries Trip May-June 2016 Detroit, MI