

# Pastor's *memo*



NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN | OCTOBER 2018

## Compelling Vision Conversation

The Church of the Brethren stands at a crossroads. Recent decades have been defined by paralyzing conflict. 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." In the Northern

Ohio District, there are four opportunities to participate in the Compelling Vision Conversations as the Church of the Brethren seeks to discern what God is calling us to do together. Rhonda Pittman-Gingrich, the chair of the Compelling Vision Process Team will provide leadership. The dates/times/locations are listed to the left. Sessions will start promptly at the times listed. Fellowship and light refreshment begin 30 minutes before the session time. **Your presence at one of these sessions is vital as we listen for God's voice and discern Christ's calling.**

### 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 Bibles.

## 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**

## 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). 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!

## Buckeye Brethren Institute Upcoming Class—Beginning October 20th. Old Testament Survey. Instructor: Tina Hunt

Meeting dates: October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018; 9:30am to 3:30pm

This class is available to those interested in the ministry and to licensed ministers moving towards ordination. Ordained and Commissioned clergy can also take this class for CEU's (1.5 CEU's for attendance at all three Saturday sessions) at a cost of \$25.00. Visit our webpage [nohcob.org/BBi](http://nohcob.org/BBi) to register or for more information.

## Articles for The Herald, Fall Issue Due October 15—Stories to Share

The Northern Ohio District Office will soon begin drafting the Fall Issue of The Herald. If you have an article you would like to contribute to The Herald, November 2018 Fall Issue, please send it to the District Office no later than October 15, 2018. Please keep your article between 150-200 words and provide a couple of pictures (digital preferably) to accompany the article if you like. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the District Office 419-281-3058 or email [julie@nohcob.org](mailto:julie@nohcob.org). Thank you!

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
Mon. 10/22	6:30 – 8:30	Elm Street
Tues. 10/23	9:30 – 11:30	Lakewood
Wed. 10/24	9:30 – 11:30	Woodworth
	6:30 – 8:30	Akron First
Thurs. 10/25	9:30 – 11:30	Brook Park
	6:30 – 8:30	District Office

## 2018 License Renewals, Approval for Employment

2018 License Renewals and Approval for Employment forms have been sent out via email to Licensed Ministers and Church Board Chairs. Please be sure to fill out your forms and return to the District Office no later than October 31, 2018. The form is available this year in a PDF-fillable format. Completion of this form requires the input of both the Licensed Minister and the Church Board so consider adding it to the agenda for your next board meeting. The Ministerial Commission will be reviewing renewals and presenting them to the District Board the beginning of November. Thank you!

## 2019 Clergy-Spouse Retreat Save this date!

Our District Clergy-Spouse retreat will be held February 17th-19th at the Days Inn and Suites at 4742 Brecksville Road, Richfield, OH 44286 (Akron area). This is a time for relationship-building, renewal, learning, and rest. A new location promises that the food and facilities will be great, but the fellowship is even greater! Single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend. More information to follow.

# Pastoral Placement

## Congregations actively in the search process:

**Akron Springfield** (full-time) – Search Committee being formed. **George O'Reilly** serving as interim.

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

**Elm Street** – **Doug Price** has resigned as pastor as of October 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**Zion Hill** – **Jason Harsh** has resigned as pastor as of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

"Qualifications of a pastor: the mind of a scholar, the heart of a child, and the hide of a rhinoceros."

- Stuart Briscoe

# District Prayer Calendar

## September 23—September 29

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

## September 30—October 6

Lick Creek CoB (Pastor Bill Holsopple) and Mansfield First CoB (Pastor Vaughn Loose)

## October 7—October 13

Maple Grove CoB (Interim John Ballinger) and Marion CoB (Pastor Rick Hicks)

## October 14—October 20

Mohican CoB (Pastor Paul Bartholomew and Pastor Chad Palmer) and Mount Pleasant CoB (Pastor Bruce Jacobsen)

## October 21—October 27

New Philadelphia CoB (Pastor Max Canfield) and North Bend CoB (Pastor Patrick Bailey)

# Mark Your Calendar

10/3—Western Area Pastor's Lunch, The Barn, Archbold, OH

10/7-13—BDM Trip, Lumberton, NC & Marion, SC

10/13-14—Sr. High Leadership Series, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

10/13—Compelling Vision Conversations, See Page 1 for locations and times.

10/20—BBI: Old Testament Survey, District Office, Ashland, OH

10/23—Executive Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH

10/22-25—Fall Area Clergy Meetings, See Page 2 for times and locations.

10/27—SISTERS Fall Retreat, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

10/29—Central Committee Meeting, Mohican CoB, West Salem, OH

11/2-3—Recharge, Dupont CoB, Continental, OH

11/3—BBI: Old Testament Survey, District Office, Ashland, OH

## Immediate Need for Volunteers in Puerto Rico

BDM has been working with the Puerto Rico district and its Recovery Committee to plan for long-term recovery on the island. Many people have indicated an interest in working in Puerto Rico and we are happy to share that we are now ready to start scheduling volunteers. Volunteers will be scheduled in small groups of 5-7 volunteers, beginning September 1 through the middle of December (excluding the week of Thanksgiving). We are hoping that most volunteers will stay at least two weeks (10 working days). The project will initially be based in Castañer but may move to another area once the work is completed there. Anyone who is interested in volunteering in Puerto Rico, after considering the living and working conditions, should contact me ([sfranken@brethren.org](mailto:sfranken@brethren.org) or 410-635- 8731) with the dates they would be available. **No one should buy an airline tickets until they are notified to do so.**

## PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference

Hello from Manchester University!

PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference registration is live! PowerHouse is an overnight youth conference at Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana for youth in grades 9-12 and their advisors. You can find information about PowerHouse here: [www.manchester.edu/powerhouse](http://www.manchester.edu/powerhouse). The speakers this year are David and Maria Huber, Jed Freels, and Jeanne Davies. The weekend will include worship, workshops, recreation, yummy camp food, new friendships, and fun! This year's event is November 10-11, 2018. Costs are \$90 youth/\$80 advisors - save \$10 by registering by Oct. 29.

## ATTACHMENTS

- Compelling Vision Conversation flyer.
- Sr. High Leadership Series flyer.
- SISTERS Fall Retreat flyer.
- Spiritual Disciplines Folder from Springs of Living Water.
- Kingdom Building, An Evangelism Conference with keynote speaker, Paul Munday.
- Recharge youth event flyer.
- October church bulletin insert.

SiSTERS Fall Retreat  
Inspiration Hills Camp, October 27th  
"The Touch of the Master's Hand"  
Nurturing the Gifts & Talents God Gives Us  
I Corinthians 12:4  
Speaker: Carol Kuryn



Our weekend retreat will include time to get to know each other better: by sharing stories, blogs or poetry you've written, through music, or photos. What to bring? Bible, A photo of yourself, (bedding if staying overnight). Maybe craft projects that you have done, stories/blog you have written, music, etc for the sharing time. Carol Kuryn is married to Brian (49 years), with a daughter Teresa married to Bart Kohler and grandson John married to Katie. She was licensed to ministry in 2005. Currently Visitation Minister at East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren, Worship Leader, Sunday School teacher, enrolled in BBI (Brethren Buckeye Institute), and on District Nominating Committee. Previous work experiences in Banking, Hospice Social Worker, Legal Guardian, and Interim Pastor

Cost for day is \$20 per person which includes lunch, building usage, and craft supplies. We will be in Cherry Lodge for programs. If you would like stay overnight Friday, there is an additional \$25 cost. To register call 330-418-1148 or email [sistersnorthernohio@gmail.com](mailto:sistersnorthernohio@gmail.com) or on line at [www.nohcob.org](http://www.nohcob.org).