



Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021



CLERGY-SPOUSE RETREAT

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

“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

Often, it is easy to know what is bad and what is good in our own lives. But how do we look at many things that are obviously good and discern what is best from among them? Our sessions will revolve around this question in an open forum format. The two sessions on Monday morning will be breakout sessions, with clergy meeting in one area and spouses in another. We will all gather together for the Tuesday morning session. We hope that this more relaxed format will provide much needed rest, renewed focus, and opportunities for deeper fellowship. Please see the attached flyer for retreat schedule, meals and more. You can register online at www.nohcob.org/retreat or send in the [attached flyer](#). Cost will be the same as last year. Scholarships are also available by contacting the District Office.

COVID-19 Considerations

Our 2021 Clergy-Spouse retreat will look a little different due to COVID-19 measures in place:

- Masks are required by the hotel in the common areas.
- Temperatures will be taken on arrival and daily.
- No buffet meals will be served (although the menu remains close to last year's).
- The pool and workout room are closed.
- Seating will be set up to encourage social distancing.

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Continuing Education Opportunities

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership
Church of the Brethren Polity—March 10 - May 4, 2021

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](#).

Conference for Church Planting and Church Renewal
THE REWARD OF RISK - A VIRTUAL NEW AND RENEW EVENT—May 13 - 15, 2021

The Reward of Risk- A virtual New and Renew Event from May 13-15, 2021

"The Reward of Risk" is a virtual NEW AND RENEW EVENT sponsored by Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This online event will provide a space to explore new forms of mission, church planting, church renewal and shaping community. This year, the keynote speakers will be Christiana Rice and José Humphreys. Offered in at least three languages, we will be providing opportunities to network with others as we learn and grow. An interpretive document is available - in Spanish, Haitian Creole and English. If you want a copy, please contact us at nuchurch@aol.com

Registration opens February 1, 2021. Further information will be sent in the new year. The website link for all things related to the 2021 NEW AND RENEW EVENT including registration for the conference and updates is <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenew/>.

DEFINING SET-APART MINISTRY WITHIN THE MULTIVOCATIONAL REALITY
APRIL 7 - JUNE 1, 2021

DEFINING SET-APART MINISTRY WITHIN THE MULTIVOCATIONAL REALITY - APRIL 7 - JUNE 1, 2021

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multi-vocational Reality online from April 7 - June 1, 2021. Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. The instructor for this online course will be Sandra Jenkins. Multi-vocational ministry is a reality in many denominations. It is not only a calling, but a necessity; part-time ministry placements often outnumber full-time placements. This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multi-vocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation. A brochure is available with more information by contacting the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership or by e-mailing us at nuchurch@aol.com. Please give consideration to participating in this class. The deadline to register is March 3, 2021.

Buckeye Brethren Institute: Introduction to Pastoral Care (MS), Instructor: Tina Hunt
Meeting dates: April 17, 2021, May 1, 2021 and May 22, 2021; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This course is designed to provide an overview of pastoral care from two perspectives: 1) the internal perspective of the personality traits, skills, talents, and habits of the individual as they relate to pastoral care, and 2) the external perspective of congregational routines and situations that raise expectations and assumptions of pastoral care. 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 www.nohcob.org/BBi to register or for more information.

District Prayer Calendar

February

Churches/Pastors

Adrian, David Morton

Akron Eastwood, Paul Bozman

Akron First, Tobin Crenshaw

Akron Springfield, Andrew Wenger

District Leadership

District Board - Bruce Jacobsen, Chair

Other Districts

Atlantic Northeast, MidAtlantic

National Leadership

David Steele, CoB General Secretary

EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

March

Churches/Pastors

Ashland Dickey, Jeff Messner

Ashland First, Pulpit Supply

Bethel, David Wyant

Black River, Mark Teal

District Leadership

Nominating Committee - Brian Layman, Chair

Other Districts

Shenandoah, Virgina

National Leadership

Paul Munday, Annual Conference Moderator

Church of the Brethren in Brazil

Visit www.nohcob.org/prayer for a complete copy of our 2021 District Prayer Calendar.

Internal Revenue Service Announces Mileage Rate for 2021

Beginning on January 1, 2021, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 56 cents per mile driven for business use, down 1.5 cents from the 2020 IRS rate.

District Events Calendar

1.23	BBI Class-Biblical Interpretation
1.25	District Youth Games & Devotions
1.28	Young Adult Zoom Night
2.1	District Youth Games & Devotions
2.3	Western Area Clergy Luncheon
2.8	District Youth Games & Devotions
2.9	Eastern Area Clergy Luncheon
2.9	Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom)
2.10	Central Area Clergy Breakfast
2.13	BBI Class-Biblical Interpretation
2.14-16	Clergy-Spouse Retreat
2.15	District Youth Games & Devotions
2.22	District Youth Games & Devotions
2.23	Central Committee Meeting
2.26-27	Sr. High Virtual Rally (Zoom)

Self-Allocation Form

The Mission Advancement Office of 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 due date was December 31, 2020. If you have any questions, please email:

MA@brethren.org or call 847-429-4370.

COMPELLING VISION BIBLE STUDY SERIES

The Compelling Vision Team is developing a 13-session Bible study series around the Compelling Vision. designed for use by youth and adults, the series will be available at no cost on the Compelling Vision webpage in February 2021.

Recognizing the importance of discerning the mind of Christ through communal study of scripture, it is our hope that this Bible study series will serve a two-fold purpose: to help congregations engage more deeply with the Jesus in the Neighborhood vision and to help congregations and their delegates prepare for the conversations to take place at Annual Conference as we move toward affirmation of the vision.

More information is available at <https://www.brethren.org/news/2020/themes-and-writers-compelling-vision-bible-studies/>

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., www.nohcob.org/grant.

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, www.nohcob.org/grant.

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 – Call vote scheduled for 01/24/2021. *Brian Layman* serving as interim.

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

Bristolville – Church leadership arranging pulpit supply. *Fred Keener* completed 34 years of ministry at Bristolville on 01/17/2021.

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.

Updated 01/20/2021

District Staff and Office Hours

Kris Hawk will be attending the Winter Council of District Executive (CODE) meeting from Monday, Jan. 25 through Thursday, Jan. 28 from 10 am – 6 pm daily via Zoom. Kris will be returning calls in the morning prior to the meetings or in the evening after 6 p.m. Thanks for your patience during this time.

General District Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am—3 pm.

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.

Interim Youth Coordinator, Jenny Imhoff is working remotely. She can be reached at 330-234-8991 or jenny@nohcob.org.