

Pastor's memo

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN | JULY 2023

District Conference August 11-12 Maple Grove Church of the Brethren, Ashland, Ohio



We are blessed that Rev. Belita Mitchell will be joining us as our guest speaker for the Pre-Conference Workshop, Insights sessions, and preaching Saturday evening. (Stephen Reid, our original speaker, had to cancel due to health concerns.)

Rev. Belita Mitchell concluded an 18yr pastorate as Lead Pastor at Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren in Harrisburg, PA at the end of 2020. She served as Annual Conference Moderator in 2007.

Known as a dynamic speaker, and powerful preacher, Rev. Mitchell has shared the gospel message in pulpits across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Nigeria, West Africa. She is a Revivalist, Retreat Leader, and Workshop Presenter. She demonstrates strong listening skills and is an accomplished facilitator with proficient administrative abilities.

District Conference Registration/Lodging Information

Registration (You must register by July 28 to receive meals):

1. Register on-line at www.nohcob.org/register. You can then pay on-line with a credit card, mail a check, or bring your payment to District Conference.
2. Register by mail using the paper forms found on-line at <https://www.nohcob.org/conferences/district-conference/2023-district-conference>

Lodging (You must reserve by July 9th to receive this rate):

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wingate in Ashland. The rate is \$89/night for a king or a 2 queen bed room. Please call 419-281-2900 and mention Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren by July 9th to receive this rate.

Lodging is also available at Inspiration Hill and can be booked on your registration form or on-line as above.

Pre-Conference Workshop August 11th 1 pm—4:30 pm (0.3 CEUs for clergy)

Back To The Future: Achieving the Vision of “Separate No More”

A Pre Conference Workshop Designed to equip participants with understanding about the importance and value of establishing more ethnically diverse congregations in the United States.

In this Session, we will explore what is necessary to become an intercultural congregation and what personal intercultural competencies are needed by pastors in ministering to those from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

We will use the 2007 Annual Conference Statement “Separate No More” as a guiding resource coupled with the historical and biblical rationale to break down walls and remove barriers that hinder intercultural inclusion.

All participants are encouraged to bring their bibles and an open heart to experience a challenging and enlivened learning opportunity.

Leadership for this workshop will be provided by Rev. Belita D. Mitchell.

Owl Creek Church of the Brethren Celebrates

We celebrate with the Owl Creek Church of the Brethren as they celebrate their 200th year as a congregation! Owl Creek was first organized in Knox county in 1823 with 50-60 members. The first place of worship for this congregation was built in 1854. Prior to that time, services were conducted in private homes and in school-houses. In October of 1899 a new church building was dedicated - along with twenty-five new and well-built sheds to shelter horses. Today, Pastor Charles Barnhill serves as pastor for the Owl Creek Church of the Brethren as it continues to be a caring, vibrant congregation. The church will celebrate this anniversary with a homecoming Sunday in October.

Northern Ohio District Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Ashland Dickey – Search Committee is completing congregational profile. **Jeff Messner** has resigned effective September 30.

Bristolville (full-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **Ed Agler** serving as interim.

East Chippewa—Search Committee has been formed. **Brad Kelley** has resigned effective December 31, 2023.

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

Akron Eastwood – **Cindy Peel** serving as interim.

Brook Park – **Ryan Lopez** serving as interim.

Freeburg – **Ed Wartluft** serving as preacher.

Sugarcreek East – **Nelson Brown** serving an interim pastor.

Silver Creek – **Ric Beals** serving as preacher.

Congregations that have completed the process:

Woodworth – **Steve Simmons** called as pastor on June 25th. An installation service is planned for July 23rd.

District Prayer Calendar

July Prayer Calendar

Churches/Pastors

Freeburg, Ed Wartluft / Hartville, Anthony DiMarco

Jonah's People, Bob Simonsick /

Lake Breeze, Stephen McLaughlin

District Leadership

Congregational Commission—Mark Pollock, Chair

Sister Districts

Southern Plains/Western Plains

National Leadership

Annual Conference July 4-7 in Cincinnati

CoB in Brazil

August Prayer Calendar

Churches/Pastors

Lakewood, Gene Wyse / Lick Creek, Bill Holsopple

Mansfield, Tina Hunt / Maple Grove, Stephen Keib

District Leadership

Pray for our District Conference August 11-12, Pastor James Washington, Moderator

Sister Districts

Illinois/Wisconsin/Michigan

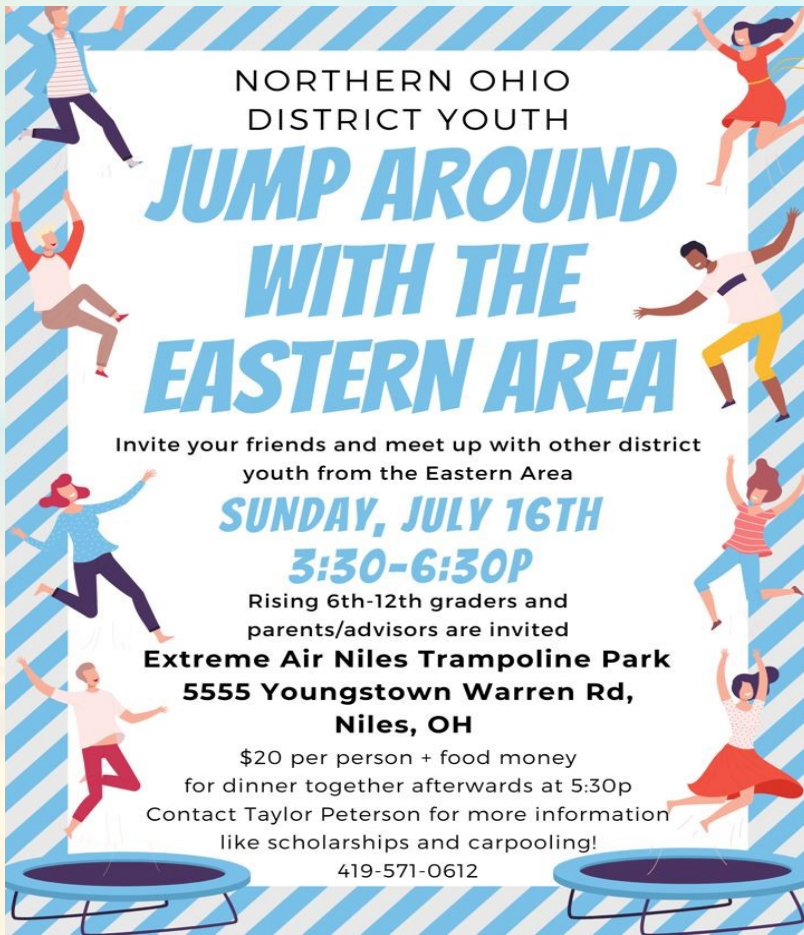
National Leadership

Carl Fike, Chari of Mission & Ministry, CoB in India

District Events Calendar

- 06.20 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering (Zoom)
- 07.04-08 Annual Conference in Cincinnati
- 07.12 Central Area Clergy Breakfast at Tim Horton's
- 07.13 Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering
- 07.18 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering (Zoom)
- 07.27 Camp Administration Committee Meeting
- 08.11 Pre-Conference Workshop 1:00-4:30 pm
- 08.11-12 District Conference at Maple Grove CoB

Upcoming Youth Events



NORTHERN OHIO
DISTRICT YOUTH

JUMP AROUND WITH THE EASTERN AREA

Invite your friends and meet up with other district youth from the Eastern Area

SUNDAY, JULY 16TH
3:30-6:30P

Rising 6th-12th graders and parents/advisors are invited

Extreme Air Niles Trampoline Park
5555 Youngstown Warren Rd,
Niles, OH

\$20 per person + food money for dinner together afterwards at 5:30p
Contact Taylor Peterson for more information like scholarships and carpooling!
419-571-0612

DISTRICT YOUTH: WESTERN

FREE EVENT!



Rock the Lake!

August 5th @4pm
Indian Lake State Park
11300 St. Rt. 235, Lakeview, OH

What to Bring:
-Lawn Chair
-Money for Food

RSVP to 419.571.0612



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF
FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

August 11-12
4pm Fri.- 7:30pm Sat.

Maple Grove CoB
960 Township Rd 964,
Ashland, OH 44805

Register at nohcob.org/youth
Contact Taylor Peterson with questions:
419.571.0612 or taylor@nohcob.org

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

FREE EVENT!



AUG. 18-19 7PM-9AM

FELLOWSHIP . GAMES . FOOD
NORTH BEND COB
1787 SNYDER RD, BUTLER, OH 44822

RSVP TO 419-571-0612

nohcob.org/youth

2023 Annual Conference Information

Annual Conference worship services

Annual Conference worship services can be viewed online at www.brethren.org/ac2023/webcasts live or later via the recording. Services start Tuesday evening, July 4 at 6:45 Eastern Time. They continue at the same time on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings as well as Saturday morning at 8:30 am Eastern Time. A livestream of the worship services, as well as recordings, will also be available in Spanish. There is no fee to watch the worship services although donations are appreciated.

Annual Conference Business Agenda

Unfinished Business

- UB 1. Query: Standing with People of Color
- UB 2. Query: Breaking Down Barriers – Increasing Access to Denominational Events

New Business

- NB 1. Request for an Annual Conference Study on Calling Denominational Leadership
- NB 2. Recommendation Regarding Nominations from the Floor of Annual Conference
- NB 3. 2023 Guidelines for Continuing Education
- NB 4. Restated and Amended Articles of Organization for Eder Financial
- NB 5. Recommended Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors
- NB 6. With Actions and in Truth: A Lament of the Doctrine of Discovery

Song and Story Fest

The 2023 Song and Story Fest family camp co-sponsored by On Earth Peace will be hosted at Camp Peaceful Pines, in California, on July 29-Aug. 4.

The theme for this year's Sierra Wildfire Song and Story Fest is "After the Fire..." (Psalm 19:1-3). The event is billed as an intergenerational camp for all ages, individuals, and families.

Registration includes all meals, on-site facilities, and leadership, and is based upon age—adults \$370, teens \$240, children age 5 to 12 \$150, children 4 and under free—with a maximum fee per family of \$1,000. Daily fees are available. Registrations after July 1 add 10 percent as a late fee.

Register online at http://onearthpeace.org/song_and_story_fest_2023. Contact Rachel Long at raquellita.long@gmail.com if you need financial help. Additional information about Song and Story Fest can be found here: https://www.onearthpeace.org/song_and_story_fest_2023.

“Living God’s Love” is the theme for the 2023 Annual Conference to be held on **July 4-8, 2023**. The moderator for the conference is Tim McElwee.

Onsite delegate registration will be available in Cincinnati for delegates (\$395) and non-delegates (\$175). Single day registration is also available for \$60 (Adults), \$25 (18-21), no cost for youth.

Check out the Annual Conference webpage at www.brethren.org/ac2023.

Mission and Ministry Board and Agency Reports

This year, the Mission and Ministry Board and the three Church of the Brethren Agencies (Bethany Theological Seminary, Eder Financial, and On Earth Peace) have prepared written reports. The reports are available in the Conference book and posted at www.brethren.org/ac2023/business. During their live reports, delegates will have an opportunity to engage in table conversation and ask questions from the microphones.

National Older Adult Conference

NOAC registration is open NOW at www.brethren.org/NOAC.

You may register for in-person NOAC to be held at Lake Junaluska, NC or Virtual NOAC on your computer screen at home, September 4-8, 2023.

If you need a paper registration form, please call Randi Rowan at: 847-429-4303

For more information look at the NOAC website: www.brethren.org/NOAC -or- check out our Facebook page: [Church of the Brethren NOAC](#).



Grant Opportunity for our Part-Time Pastors

The Church of the Brethren's Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church program offers circuit riders/mentors, program resources, and financial support for continuing education events and self-care strategies. Visit <https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/part-time-pastor/> to learn more about the program. Contact the district office to access an application form for grants.

Church of the Brethren History

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC)
Instructor: Craig Gandy

Online from: September 11 - November 5, 2023

These online courses "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. New lessons are posted weekly, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations).

Register and pay online at [Register and pay online at https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/](https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/) There is a 3% service charge when registering online.

Registration deadline is August 1, 2023. Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820.

Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality

Online from: September 6 - October 31, 2023

This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation. Topics include the multivocational ministry of the Apostle Paul and an investigation of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus.

The deadline to register for this course is August 2, 2023.

Online TRIM classes are particularly accessible for busy pastors. If you know anyone who may be interested in these courses, please forward this email to them.

These online classes "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. New lessons are posted once a week, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/> There is a 3% service charge when registering online.

Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course

The Brethren Academy has set a date for the next training session of *Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course*, created by James Benedict. This training using Zoom, an online conferencing platform, is for newly licensed ministers and others seeking basic clergy ethics training.

The training will be held **September 9, 2023**, via Zoom, from 10:00-4:00 EDT with a break for lunch.

The registration deadline to participate is **August 30th**. There is an additional fee for those wishing to receive a CEU certificate. This allows time to mail the workbooks to participants. Registrations and payment must be received by our office by this date.

The attached brochure contains all the information and instructions for registering. Please share this information with those in your district who need to take this course.

The Brethren Academy will offer the online course *Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures* October 11-December 5, 2023

Matt Boersma will be the instructor. TRIM students will receive one credit in Bible/History/Theology upon completion. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course.

Students will work through the various books of the Hebrew Bible and look at their ancient context, and attempt to better understand how these books interact and how they influence the New Testament texts. They will also look at a number of modern theories about these texts and how these theories influence how these books are read today.

The deadline to register for this course is September 6, 2023.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register in one of two ways:

1) Mail the attached registration form with payment to Brethren Academy, 615 National Rd. W., Richmond, IN 47374.

2) Register and pay online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/> There is a 3% service charge when registering online.

District Office Hours

The District Office will be closed the week of July 2nd while Kris is in Cincinnati for District Executive Meeting, then for Annual Conference. She will be checking email/text/phone messages during that time and will get back to you as soon as possible.

The Office will also be closed the week of July 9th while Kris is on vacation—hanging out with her grandchildren. She will still be checking messages and will be returning those that are urgent.

Erin Beebe, District Administrative Secretary will be working her 16 hours each of those weeks, but her availability is evenings only. If you need something from the office, please leave a message and Erin will get back to you. Thank you.

Virtual Book Study Offered for Pastors and Church Leaders

The Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church Program is offering a ten-week book study on Steinke's book *How Your 21st-Century Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems*.

Congregations are complex, and congregational ministry can be challenging as a result. One way for leaders to navigate these challenges is to develop a deeper understanding of the patterns of behavior that impact our interactions. Knowing a little more about why we do what we do in the emotional system that we share can help pastors and congregational leaders be more carefully responsive and less instinctually reactive. Building on the principles of Family Systems Theory originated by Dr Murray Bowen and applied to religious bodies by Dr Edwin Friedman, David Steinke presents a compelling examination of the subtle and not-so-subtle ways we behave like families in the church, both functionally and dysfunctionally. Steinke discusses concepts including emotional systems, anxiety and reactivity, the desire for equilibrium, fusion and emotional cut-off, as well as other principles that impact our life together.

Our program has offered this study in the past, and it has been consistently well-received. We believe that Steinke's work and the wisdom of fellow pastors and leaders offers a very useful tool for leaders to have in their leadership toolbox. We are also pleased to offer CEUs for participation, in cooperation with the Brethren Academy. Registration, available at <https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/>, can fill quickly, so we encourage you to register soon. Sessions will begin July 11, and will be held each Tuesday evening beginning at 7 PM Eastern, 4 PM Pacific, and the Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church Program will provide a copy of the book for participants.

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