



Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
NOVEMBER 2020

Annual Conference Moderator Q & A for Northern Ohio District

Thursday, November 12th, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Via Zoom

Thursday, November 12th, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Via Zoom

Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday is hosting a ZOOM session in districts, focusing on the "state of the church." Both laity and clergy are urged to participate. The ZOOM session will use a Q&A format; any and all questions are invited. Joining Moderator Paul will be the other Annual Conference Officers: Dave Sollenberger, Moderator Elect, and Jim Beckwith, Annual Conference Secretary.

The Moderator's District Q&A sessions for the Northern Ohio District will be November 12, at 10 a.m. and at 7 p.m. Please share with your congregation. All are encouraged and welcome to participate!

10:00 AM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86993235789?pwd=N25ybFIOSEp3MmsycHI4aTlBeFFJQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 9323 5789# / Passcode: 091220

7 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87609801978?pwd=TCtDb2pMQjJKQmNXN3FjSzJ1cM3dz09>

Meeting ID: 876 0980 1978# / Passcode: 071226

You may also visit www.nohcob.org/acmod for the links or dial in numbers.

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District Prayer Calendar

Visit our weblink: www.nohcob.org/prayer

District Self-Allocations

Visit our weblink: www.nohcob.org/sa

Pastor's Workshop—November 17th

9am – 11 am or 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm via Zoom

“Caring for yourself and others as the COVID-19 pandemic continues”

As pastors, you have put much on hold to help your congregation through these unusual times. But the ongoing pandemic requires being intentional about self-care in order to care for others in a healthy way. Kyle Kershner LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS will provide insight and practical application on November 17th. You are invited to join workshop from 9am – 11 am or 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Kyle will be presenting live at each session by Zoom. (You may remember Kyle Kerschner from the Pre-conference workshop he provided at District Conference at Hartville CoB on Addictions). 0.2 CEU's will be provided. Please email Kris Hawk at krishawk@nohcob.org to receive a copy of the meeting links.



*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22, 23

Moderator's Town Hall - “Innovative Ideas for a Hard Season”

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7pm EST

The featured resource person will be Mark DeVries, founder and president of Ministry Architects, a nationally acclaimed church resourcing organization.

Multiple factors press in on churches and their members during this difficult time. As a result, it is easy to become immobilized by the gravity of weighty issues and emotions. This event will share practical ideas for flourishing in a hard season, and for being adaptable and innovative despite the challenges. The event is applicable to clergy, laity, and congregations.

Register at tinyurl.com/modtownhallnov2020. The event is limited to the first 500 registrants. Questions can be emailed to cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com.

For more videos and articles from moderator Paul Munday, go to: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/moderator/>

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Be a Volunteer!

Love is action! Take your skills – or just your servant heart – to those in need! Be a response volunteer for Brethren Disaster Ministries! It's so easy and the reward is immeasurable! Brethren Disaster Ministries work sites are now open and ready to receive volunteers. Now that the sites are open again, there is a significant shortage of volunteers to serve at these work sites. Persons in the Northern Ohio District who would like to use their gifts to serve at a Brethren Disaster Ministries work site are now being encouraged to volunteer. There are openings for work weeks in the upcoming weeks of 2020. And there are also lots of openings for your church group to volunteer for a week in 2021. Now is the time to begin to schedule those trips.

Disaster Response volunteers:

- Have a keen desire to share the love of Christ by helping others
- Have compassion toward those who have lost a great deal
- Work cooperatively with others
- Are willing to act as a representative of the Church of the Brethren

To sign up as a volunteer, contact our District Disaster Coordinator, Brenda Hostetler at Hjbrenda@aol.com.

CLERGY-SPOUSE RETREAT

**Sunday through Tuesday, February 14th - 16th
at 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

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. Scholarships are available. Please contact Kris Hawk at krishawk@nohcob.org.

STANDING COMMITTEE

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE POSITIONS

The Nominations & Personnel sub-committee of the Standing Committee is currently accepting nominations for Annual Conference positions on the 2021 ballot.

For more information or to make a nomination go to: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/> or contact our Northern Ohio District Standing Committee Rep. Ben Polzin at benpolzin@hotmail.com

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 seminar.

- Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally.
- Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.
- Earn 0.3 CEU's - requires attendance in the first session

A thumbnail image of a 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return form. The form is white with blue and red text. It includes fields for 'Your first name and initial', 'Last name', 'Filing status', 'Check only one', 'Exemptions', and 'Spouse'. The form is titled '1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return'.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

- **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.
- **Session 2**, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's 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.

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary

Seminar Schedule

- 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. EST: Morning session
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. EST: Lunch on your own
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. EST: Afternoon session

Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally non-refundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Bethany students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to reserve space and will allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar. 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 persons online. Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 6, 2021.

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

Bristolville – **Fred Keener** has resigned effective 01/31/2021.

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

Lake Breeze – **Stephen McLaughlin** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

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 11/03/2020