

Pastor's Memo

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
AUGUST 2023

Inspiration Hills Camp Seeking Full-Time Interim Camp Director

Camp Inspiration Hills is seeking a gifted and visionary individual with a passion for outdoor ministry to serve as the Interim Executive Camp Director. This full-time interim position is designed for 2 years with a possible opportunity to extend beyond. Inspiration Hills is a camp designed to allow persons of all ages to grow in awareness of God and deepen their commitment to Christ so that we might continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together. Housing on the camp property is available.

In this position you will work with our staff to manage the day-to-day operations of the camp as well as oversee all camp staff. Equally important, you will work to help restore the camp's financial stability. That will include working collaboratively to design and implement marketing campaigns for our camp to help improve continued communications with the Church of the Brethren churches in the Northern Ohio District as well as encourage camp use by independent groups.

A list of qualifications and responsibilities are available at <https://www.nohcob.org/ministries/camp-inspiration-hills> and also attached to this memo.

Please submit your resume and/or questions to krishawk@nohcob.org



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Steve Simmons installed as Pastor at Woodworth

Steve Simmons was installed as Pastor of the Woodworth Church of the Brethren on July 23rd. Steve has been an ordained minister since 2018,



providing pulpit supply for many of our congregations and serving in a variety of leadership roles at Bethel Church of the Brethren. He has served on various district committees, and currently serves on the District Executive Committee and as the chair of the District Ministerial Commission. Steve is a Bi-vocational pastor, also working as a maintenance supervisor for Courtyard-Marriott in Canfield, Ohio. He is a retired carpenter, and enjoys spending time with his wife, Pamela, who is a Trustee for Beaver Township. Together they enjoy watching old movies (or any movies), going to the gym, and traveling on vacation. Steve and Pam have two grown children.

Northern Ohio District Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron Eastwood – Search Committee formed. Cindy **Peel** serving as interim.

Ashland Dickey – Search Committee Interviewing. **Jeff Messner** resigned effective September 30.

Bristolville – Search Committee interviewing. **Ed Agler** serving as Interim Pastor.

East Chippewa – Search Committee formed, working on congregational profile. **Brad Kelley** has resigned effective December 31.

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

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

Dupont – **Solomon Okang** serving as preacher.

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

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

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

Congregations that have completed the Search Process:

Woodworth – **Steve Simmons** installed as Pastor on July 23rd.

District Prayer Calendar

September Prayer Calendar

Churches/Pastors

Marion, Rick Hicks

New Philadelphia, Dave Hobbs

District Leadership

Peace Task Team

Sister Districts

Northern Indiana

South/Central Indiana

National Leadership

Jeff Carter, Bethany Theological Seminary

Church of the Brethren in Rwanda

District Nominations

The District Nominating Committee is asking for your help in identifying individuals gifted to be on the 2024 District Conference Ballot for the following positions:

- **MODERATOR-ELECT**
- **DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS FROM EACH AREA OF OUR DISTRICT (WEST/CENTRAL/EAST)**
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CENTRAL/EAST)**
- **CAMP ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (CAC)**

Details about each position is available on the attached flyer.

**Please see the District Conference
Wrap Up for details of our 2023
District Conference**

Buckeye Brethren Institute

2023-2024 Classes Available

Teaching and Learning in the Church

Instructor: Tina Hunt

Meeting dates: September 15, 29, October 6

History, Beliefs, and Practices of the Church of the Brethren

Instructor: Terry Vaught

Meeting dates: November 3, 17, December 8

Biblical Interpretation

Instructor: Paul Bozman

Meeting dates: January 5, 19, February 2

Introduction to Pastoral Care

Instructor: Tina Hunt

Meeting dates: March 1, 22, April 5

Classes are held at the District Office on these Fridays from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Classes are also available by Zoom.

Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI) is the Northern Ohio District's training program for those considering ministry or working towards ordination. The full program consists of 12 courses over three years. Cost is minimal thanks to the District Student Minister's Fund which supplements the program expenses.

Individual classes can also be taken by clergy for CEU's (1.5 CEU/course). Cost is \$25/course for CEU's. Interested non-clergy are also welcome to attend.

Please contact Paul Bozman, Ministry Education Director, at pbozman78@gmail.com for more information.

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.

Ethics for Set-Apart

The Brethren Academy has set a date for the next training session of *Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course*, created by James Benedict.

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.

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.

District Events Calendar

- 09.05 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering
- 09.06 Western Area Pastor's Gathering
- 09.12 Central Committee Meeting
- 09.13 Central Area Clergy Breakfast at Tim Horton's
- 09.14 Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering
- 09.14 CAC Meeting
- 09.15 BBI Teaching and Learning Class
- 09.15 District Board Orientation Retreat
- 09.16 District Board Orientation Retreat
- 09.19 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering
- 09.21 Nominating Committee Meeting
- 09.22 SYD Reunion Retreat
- 09.23 Inspiration Hills Fall Festival
- 09.29 BBI Teaching and Learning Class

*To see meeting and event times go to our website <https://www.nohcob.org/>

Messenger magazine is looking for writings of up to 200 words on what you are grateful for in your ministry. The editors may publish a selection of the submissions in print or online.

Please send submissions to messenger@brethren.org and include your name

2023-2024 District Board

Chair – Terry Baldwin, Lick Creek
Vice Chair – Mark Pollock, Brook Park
Secretary – Agnes Hayhurst, Reading*

Congregational Commission:

Chair – **Beverly Wengerd, Paradise***
Vice Chair – Mike Huffaker, Sugar Creek West
Secretary – Steve Keib, Maple Grove*
Member – Mark Pollock, Brook Park

Connections Commission:

Chair – Jocelyn Siakula, Hartville
Vice Chair – Dean Foster, Black River
Secretary – Sam Luginbill, Dupont*
Member – Crystal Zellers, Freeburg*

Ministerial Commission:

Chair – Steve Simmons, Woodworth
Vice Chair – Bill Holsopple, Lick Creek
Secretary – Bob Simonsick, Jonah's People
Member – Patrick Bailey, North Bend

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair – David Hobbs, New Philadelphia
Vice Chair – Todd Clemens, Poplar Ridge*
Secretary – Bruce Morckel, Akron Springfield
Member – Charlene Kuhn, Richland

* Denotes newly elected at District Conference

2024 Salary and Benefit Information

The 2024 Pastoral Salary and Benefit information packet will be emailed to pastors, church board/leadership team chairs, and church treasurers by September 1st. If you would like paper copies of the information, please contact the District Office at 419-281-3058.

2024 Self-Allocation Reporting

The Church of the Brethren is discontinuing their process of churches reporting their self-allocation pledges. It is important that our district still receives your pledges, as we work at budgeting responsibly. So we will be sending information to each church on how to report your budgeted pledges to the district and to Inspiration Hills.

District Office Hours

Kris Hawk will be on vacation September 1-9 and the office will be closed during the regular hours that week.

The District Office regular hours are Tuesday—Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. But since Kris is sometimes out for meetings, it is best to contact her to make sure she will be there. Kris can be reached by phone/text at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

Administrative Secretary, Erin Beebe is in the office Monday and Wednesday from 4 pm—8 pm. The rest of her 16 hours/week are flexible. She can be reached at erin@nohcob.org.

Youth Coordinator, Taylor Petersen can be reached at 419-5710612 or taylor@nohcob.org

Peace and Conciliation Advocate, Linda Fry, can be reached at linda@nohcob.org