

# Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

## 2022 Licensed Minister Renewals

Due: October 31, 2021

2022 License Renewal forms have been sent out via email to Licensed Ministers and Church Board or Leadership Team Chairs. Please be sure to fill out your form and return it to the District Office no later than October 31, 2021. The form is available this year in a PDF fillable format and is also posted on our website: [www.nohcob.org/renewal](http://www.nohcob.org/renewal). 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!

## Next Buckeye Brethren Institute Class: Old Testament Survey Instructor: Tina Hunt

**Class Dates:** October 23, 2021, November 6, 2021, and November 20, 2021

**Class Times:** 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This course will be offered virtually through Zoom.

Ordained Ministers may audit this course for CEUs.

Course Description: This course will provide an overview of the various genre of the Old Testament and its impact on Jesus' ministry, the believer's spiritual development and the life and preaching ministry of the pastor/ministry leader in the Church of the Brethren. Visit [www.nohcob.org/registerBBI](http://www.nohcob.org/registerBBI) to register online or contact the District Office 419-281-3058.

## In This Issue

<b>2022 Licensed Minister Renewals</b> .....	Page 1
<b>Buckeye Brethren Institute: Old Testament Survey</b> .....	Page 1
<b>National Youth Conference 2022 Information</b> .....	Page 2
<b>CEU Opportunities</b> .....	Page 2
<b>Pastoral Placement</b> .....	Page 3
<b>District Prayer Calendar</b> .....	Page 3
<b>CoB Position Opening: Program Manager</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Afghanistan Evacuees and Refugees: How to Help</b> .....	Page 4
<b>Brethren Press Advent Devotional</b> .....	Page 4
<b>BVS Coffee Hour</b> .....	Page 4
<b>District Event Calendar</b> .....	Page 4

# National Youth Conference 2022 Information

National Youth Conference 2022 (NYC 2022) will focus on Colossians 2: 5-7 (NRSV) and the theme “Foundational.” The event will be held July 23 -28, 2022; the registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Online registration will begin in early January. The 2021-2022 National Youth Cabinet met virtually in the winter of 2021 to select the theme. The Cabinet discussed theme ideas relevant to senior high youth, ultimately selecting “Foundational.” The theme scripture from Colossians 2: 5-7 reads, “For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

“Throughout the Bible, God is revealed as a foundation for our lives in many ways. Some examples of this are the cornerstone, the way God can be seen as an anchor for our lives, and how we remain rooted in God in all circumstances,” wrote Erika Clary, 2022 NYC Coordinator. Members of the National Youth Cabinet include Ben Tatum (Virginia), Bella Torres (Atlantic Northeast), Elise Gage (Mid-Atlantic), Geo Romero (Illinois/Wisconsin), Hayley Daubert (Shenandoah), and Luke Schweitzer (Southern Ohio/ Kentucky). Advisors to the cabinet include Kayla Alphonse (Atlantic Southeast) and Jason Haldeman (Atlantic Northeast). The Cabinet is led by Erika Clary and accompanied by Becky Ullom Naugle, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Watch for NYC 2022 updates at [www.brethren.org/yyc/nyc/](http://www.brethren.org/yyc/nyc/) and on social media (Facebook: National Youth Conference; Instagram: @cobnyc2022).

## Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context, January 3 - 13, 2022. This course will take place in Atlanta, GA, with Josh Brockway as instructor. Josh is the director of spiritual formation and co-coordinator for Discipleship Ministries for the Church of the Brethren. This course will explore the ministries of faith based groups in metro Atlanta, exposing students to a variety of styles and strategies for addressing the complex issues of ministry in urban contexts. Anyone taking the course for continuing education credit (CEU) will earn 2 credits. Due to the nature of this course, space is limited. The Academy has five (5) spots available. The registration deadline is November 1.

CEUs for each of these are awarded after the instructor has notified the Brethren Academy of successful completion of the course. Information and registration is available at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/>

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](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1820

## Clergy Tax Seminar

**Clergy Tax Seminar**, January 29, 2022. Students, clergy, and anyone who deals with clergy finances are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar. Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally, comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions. Earn 0.3 CEUs - for the morning session only. This seminar is highly recommended for all clergy and anyone who deals with clergy finances who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs. Registration is \$40 per person. Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 19, 2022. Instructions, Zoom link, and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Information and registration is available at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/>

## Ventures in Christian Discipleship, McPherson College

The October and November **online offerings** from the **Ventures in Christian Discipleship** program at McPherson College will be “Everything You Wanted to Know About Race, but Were Afraid to Ask” and presented by Eleanor Hubbard. Part I of the course will be held Saturday, October 16 at 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST and Part II will be held Saturday, November 13 at 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST. Continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course. During the registration process, you will have the opportunity to pay for CEUs and give an optional donation to the Ventures program. To learn more about Ventures in Christian Discipleship and to register for courses, visit [www.mcpherson.edu/ventures](http://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures).

# Pastoral Placement

## Congregations actively in the search process:

**Ashland Dickey** – seeking full-time Pastor of Next Generation Ministries.

**Bristolville (full-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee ready to interview. **Bill Aikens** serving as interim.

**Painesville (part-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee ready to interview. **John Ballinger** serving as transitional pastor.

## 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** – leadership providing pulpit supply.

**Dupont** – leadership arranging pulpit supply.

**Mansfield First** – **Tom Michaels** serving as transitional pastor.

**Silver Creek** – leadership arranging pulpit supply.

Updated 10/05/2021

# District Prayer Calendar

## October

### Churches/Pastors

North Bend, Patrick Bailey  
Owl Creek, Charles Barnhill  
Painesville, John Ballinger  
Paradise, Terry Vaught

### District Leadership

Shalom Team

### Other Districts

Southern Ohio/Kentucky

### National Leadership

Global Food Initiative  
Church of the Brethren in Dominican Republic

## November

### Churches/Pastors

Pleasant View, James Washington  
Poplar Ridge, Ben Polzin  
Reading, Paul Bozman  
Richland, Jim Frado

### District Leadership

District Office Staff

### Other Districts

Middle PA, Southern PA

### National Leadership

Stan Dueck/Josh Brockway, Discipleship Ministries  
Church of the Brethren in Congo

Visit [www.nohcob.org/prayer](http://www.nohcob.org/prayer) for a complete copy of our 2021 District Prayer Calendar.

The Church of the Brethren is looking to fill the position of Program Manager. This position will work with an Advisory Committee to implement the “Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church” program, a Lilly Endowment, Inc.-funded initiative that addresses the practical needs of multi-vocational ministers in the Church of the Brethren. This program will include recruiting and training qualified individuals to serve as Circuit Riders, those who assess ministers’ immediate concerns, as well as Resource Persons, those who provide expertise regarding concerns identified as most common for multi-vocational clergy. Peer groups are also formed to support pastors beyond their program participation. The Program Manager will manage requests for services, schedule service providers (Circuit Riders and Resource Persons) and meet ongoing administrative needs including completion of required reports to the grant provider.

QUALIFICATIONS: Successful Completion of a Ministry Training Program; Knowledge of the Church of the Brethren structure, polity, practices and culture; Affinity with the values and mission of the Church of the Brethren; A collaborative working style; Strong oral and written communication skills; Use of active listening and discernment skills; Able to relate with integrity and respect within and beyond the organization; Excellent computer skills and familiarity with educational technology; Experience with budgets and financial record-keeping; A resourceful nature; Fluency in Spanish and Kreyol welcome. A position description and further details of the grant will be provided upon request. Applications will be reviewed when received and will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. Interested and qualified persons may apply for this position by sending a cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation to: [COBApply@brethren.org](mailto:COBApply@brethren.org)

# Afghanistan Evacuees and Refugees: How to Help

Called to care for the outsider, Brethren have long supported the refugees in our communities. With many thousands of Afghan evacuees arriving in the US, churches are challenged to welcome these strangers that flee persecution in their homeland.

*"The primary truth of faith as we consider... refugees today is that Christ has made another appearance among us, as Himself a... refugee in the person of political dissidents, the economically deprived, and foreigners on the run. We are to join them as pilgrims in search of that city yet to come, with foundations of love and justice whose architect and builder is God."*  
[Church of the Brethren Annual Conference statement, 1982](#)

Church of the Brethren response: Join the effort

**Give to the [Emergency Disaster Fund](#)** to support Afghan resettlement across the country. Grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund are supporting Church World Service in resettling Afghan evacuees and refugees. ([www.brethren.org/give-afghan-evacuees](http://www.brethren.org/give-afghan-evacuees))

**Sponsor an Afghan Family** and support their resettlement. Congregations or groups can work with Church World Service or other resettlement agencies to welcome Afghan people into their community.

[Sponsorship through Church World Service](#)—CWS, the historic and current refugee resettlement partner of the Church of the Brethren, has offices and affiliates in 17 states. Find a **CWS resettlement office** near you.

**Contact Brethren Disaster Ministries** for more information: [bdm@brethren.org](mailto:bdm@brethren.org) or 410-635-8731/800-451-4407, [https://www.brethren.org/bdm/afghanistan-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1nTlbfZuFcsUW-rd39qIqQ8JzT68fIZT8npcNtGfMXyQm7XWsex\\_hsNBM](https://www.brethren.org/bdm/afghanistan-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1nTlbfZuFcsUW-rd39qIqQ8JzT68fIZT8npcNtGfMXyQm7XWsex_hsNBM)

## Brethren Press 2021 Advent Devotional: Do Not Be Afraid

"In the Gospel of Luke, angels proclaimed, "Do not be afraid," to Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. This Advent devotional by Angela Finet, pastor of Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, revisits the timeless texts and the words that envelope the holy story of Advent to reassure us in times of anxiety and darkness. Emmanuel, God with us."

To order, go to <https://www.brethrenpress.com/SearchResults.asp?Search=advent&Submit=GO>

**BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE**  
**INFORMATION**  
**COFFEE HOUR**

Learn about opportunities to serve with BVS through light and casual conversation

**EVERY FRIDAY BETWEEN**  
**OCTOBER 8-NOVEMBER 19**  
**10:30-11:30 AM CST**

Register:  
[tinyurl.com/BVSCoffeeHour](http://tinyurl.com/BVSCoffeeHour)

## District Event Calendar

- 10.7 Central Committee Meeting
- 10.12 Eastern Area Pastors Luncheon
- 10.12 Executive Committee Meeting
- 10.13 Central Area Pastors Breakfast
- 10.23 Women's Retreat (SISTERS)
- 10.23 BBI Class - Old Testament Survey
- 11.3 Western Area Pastors Luncheon
- 11.6 BBI Class - Old Testament Survey
- 11.9 Eastern Area Pastors Luncheon
- 11.10 Central Area Pastors Breakfast
- 11.13 District Board Meeting

*District Conference, August 14, 2021 at Akron Springfield CoB  
Installation of Moderator, Brian Layman and Moderator Elect,  
James Washington*

